



2024  
Film Bazaar  
Official Project  
Catalogue

# Project Catalogue

20 - 24  
November  
2024

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# THE AGE OF DECCAN

## THE LEGEND OF MALIK AMBAR

## Age of the Deccan - The legend of Malik Ambar

India | English, Hindi | Period, Adventure, Drama

### Synopsis

Set in the 16th century India, *The Age of Deccan* is a true story of an Ethiopian Slave who rises to become a Kingmaker. At the onset of Mughal invasion, Ambar emerges as an invincible guardian of the Deccan.

The story covers an eventful century that follows the end of Battle of Talikota, a battle where the five sultanates of Deccan joined hands to defeat the greatest Hindu dynasty, the Vijayanagara. A decade later, as relations between these Sultanates begin to fracture, our protagonist, Ambar, enters this tumultuous world as a slave, only to be remembered as one of the greatest warriors who helped shape the Deccan of today.

While the overarching conflict of the narrative centers on the Mughals' ambition to conquer Deccan India, Ambar's personal journey is one of reclaiming his identity and a sense of belonging. Once realised, he vows his blood to the land that came to claim him as its own.

Perfectly crafted for an episodic format, Season 1 of the series focuses on Ambar's transformative journey—from a slave to a free man, then a mercenary, a warlord, and finally, hailed by many Sultanates as 'Malik'.

### Budget

USD 17,000,000

### No. of Episodes

10

### Production Company

Arka Mediaworks Pvt Ltd

### Present at Film Bazaar

Kishore Kumar Kedari  
Sowmya Jonnalagadda

### Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers,  
Film Lab/Workshop/Fund

### Director(s) Statement

This story is crafted for the world stage, as it explores the adventurous life of Malik Ambar through a setting that spans over multiple decades in medieval India, which is best explored through multiple seasons.

Along with an overwhelming epic world building aspect to the concept, the essence of drama is carefully woven through themes like Protocols & hierarchies of the courtrooms, strategies & measures of medieval warfare; indulgence & abuse of the ultimate power, territorial pride & assimilation and Vengeance & sex.

The series promises an unbiased, gritty and realistic portrayal that is consistent both in writing and making.

### Director(s) Biography

Krish Jagarlamudi, known as Krish, is a celebrated Telugu director, screenwriter, and producer recognized for socially relevant storytelling. His debut, *Gamyam* (2008), won several awards, including the Nandi Award for Best Director. Krish skillfully blends meaningful narratives with commercial appeal, as seen in films like *Vedam*, *Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum*, and *Kanche*, the latter winning the National Film Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration. He has also directed Bollywood films like *Gabbar is Back* and *Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi*. His impactful work addresses societal issues, often with historical and cultural depth.



**Krish Jagarlamudi**  
Director

### Producer(s) Statement

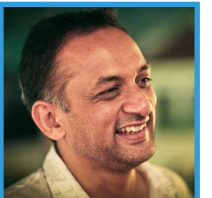
Little was spoken about the world's perception of India during the medieval period that was, 'THE DECCAN'. One such story that is outlier to the popular history, is that of an African slave traded across the seas to find his destiny in the Deccan, and rose to the ranks of a Kingmaker.

This story envisions bringing two continents together in the name of a Protagonist and a world. The story of Deccan through the life of 'Malik Ambar' is a concept that brings the globe under one audience, crossing barriers of region, religion, language and race.

### Producer(s) Biography

Shobu Yarlagadda, co-founder and CEO of Arka Media Works, is a visionary Indian film producer. Best known for producing the globally acclaimed *Baahubali* films, one of India's highest-grossing film franchises, Shobu has been instrumental in elevating Telugu cinema on the world stage. He also serves on the National Committee of Media & Entertainment, CII, and is a member of the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, NY.

Kishore Kedari brings over a decade of experience in film and long-format content production, playing a pivotal role at Arka Mediaworks. He has been instrumental in the success of the acclaimed *Baahubali* franchise and original series like *Parampara*, *Any's Tutorials*, and *Yakshini*.



**Shobu Yarlagadda**  
Producer

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**Kishore Kedari**  
Co-producer/  
Creative producer

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## Chauhan's BNB - Bed And Basera

### Chauhan's BNB - Bed And Lodging

India | Hindi | Arts, Music and Culture, Urbanization, Family Drama, Comedy

### Synopsis

*Bed and Basera* follows the wild misadventures of Kashi, a coy homemaker from Allahabad, who, in a fit of optimism (or sheer madness), proposes to convert the antique family home into a bed-and-breakfast business just in time for the 2018 Kumbh Mela. But this isn't your average family business. Their BnB-wedged between power outages and nosy neighbours-becomes a revolving door for eccentric guests. And if you thought the guests were the only misfits, wait till you meet the family.

Rani Devi, the firecracker grandma, thrives on gossip, while Prithviraj Chauhan, the grandpa, still thinks he's royalty, testing for poison with silver cutlery and dressing like he's starring in a historical epic as he hunts for a hidden family treasure.

With zero business experience, Kashi steps up to run the family's BnB, finding confidence she never knew she had. She juggles her husband Kumud's grumbling about antiques-which he's secretly selling off piece by piece-and her teenage daughter Krishna's unpredictable phases.

To top it off, there's Rajkumar, the envious neighbour bent on shutting them down, cancelling permits like it's his life's only mission.

By the end, the long-sought treasure is finally revealed added by a perfect twist to this heartwarming, comedic tale of family, faith, and resilience.

#### Budget

USD 1,966,833.34

#### No. of Episodes

7

#### Production Company

Taar Films  
Bellboys Productions Pvt Ltd

#### Present at Film Bazaar

Ujjawal Dubey  
Shivangi Singh  
Anshul Kumar

#### Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers,  
Content Buyers/ OTT  
Platforms/ Broadcast

## Director(s) Statement

As someone who spent 18 years in Allahabad (Prayagraj), this project is deeply personal to me. I've witnessed the vibrant community life and the conjunction of culture and progress that defines the city. Through *Chauhan's BNB: Bed And Basera*, I aim to capture the positive essence of this duality, portraying the Chauhan family's journey with authenticity and humour. The themes of love and family resonate strongly with me, and I believe they strike a universal chord, transcending age and location.



**Shivangi Singh**  
Director

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## Director(s) Biography

Shivangi Singh is the Co-Founder and Director of Bellboys Productions Pvt. Ltd. and Taar Films. A meditative filmmaker and writer, she has directed documentaries like *Beyond the Shadows*, *The Fallen Stars*, and *Jal Sanjhi*, and is currently editing her latest comedy series *6 O'clock*. Trained under Satyanshu Singh and FTII, Shivangi is recognized by the FYCV community for her profound connections with her subjects. She has collaborated with author Divya Prakash Dubey for Audible India and helmed 100+ corporate films for brands like HPCL, SBI, and Indian Oil, working with agencies such as Crayons Advertising, Paramin Advertising, and Adwit India.

## Producer(s) Statement

As the producer, I see this project as a blend of tradition and modernity, centered around the Kumbh Mela. The story, set in Prayagraj, brings together a family running an BnB business with Indian cultural values, infusing humour and relatable dramatic themes for both Indian and international audiences.

Having been the official photographer and filmmaker of Kumbh 2019, and a part of the official film released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I bring personal experience to this project. Documenting the Kumbh introduced me to countless stories, enriching my understanding of the traditions and values that this series seeks to portray.



**Ujjawal Dubey**  
Producer

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## Producer(s) Biography

Ujjawal Dubey holds a Master's in Documentary Film from the University of the Arts London, and is also a Gold Medalist in BFA from Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University. He is the founder and MD of Bellboys Productions and Taar Films.

Ujjawal has collaborated with organizations including IndianOil, Hindustan Petroleum, Tata, multiple State Governments, and the Armed Forces. He has produced multiple series for the Government of India like *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*, *#StandwithKonkan*, etc.

His award-winning work has been featured in National Geographic, DD National, The Hindu, and Telangana Today, with over 100+ work published nationally & internationally.





## Chekavar

India | Malayalam, Tamil | Period Drama, Action

### Synopsis

16th-century Kerala – an era of feudal brutality. The Lord of Palayi defies the King, refusing to pay taxes and slaughtering the King's swordsmen. To retaliate, the King seeks a Chekavar—a warrior unmatched in the martial art of Kalaripayattu – to lead his army against the lord. The King sends a message to Koma Kurup Chekavar of the Thacholi house. Bedridden, Koma Kurup declines, lamenting that since the death of his brother, the legendary Thacholi Othenan, no one in the family can take on such a mission. But Ambadi, Othenan's teenage son, discovers the King's message. Defying his mentor Kandachery Chappan, he secretly accepts the mission, determined to face the challenge alone. Outraged, Chappan calls it a suicide mission and tries to stop him. But Ambadi is resolute, declaring, "A Chekavar lives and dies by his sword." Moved by Ambadi's courage, Chappan joins him on the treacherous journey through forests and rivers. Together, they face fierce wild animals, a flooded river, and deadly assassins. To calm Ambadi's nerves, Chappan recounts tales of Othenan's valour. Finally, at Palayi Fort, they devise a plan of attack. Ambadi confronts the master swordsman– the Lord of Palayi himself. Overcoming all odds, he emerges victorious, proving himself a true Chekavar.

#### Budget

USD 2,381,000

#### No. of Episodes

8

#### Production Company

Alif Talkies Productions

#### Present at Film Bazaar

Abhilash Vijayan

Nithin Lukose

#### Looking for

Financers, Content Buyers/

OTT Platforms/ Broadcast

### Director(s) Statement

From childhood, I've heard stories from the northern ballads of Kerala, which celebrate the extraordinary deeds and tragic lives of brave, skilled warriors. These tales strikingly resemble the lives of Samurai. Yet, the true potential of these folklore narratives—blending history, philosophy, folklore, fantasy, and thrill—remains largely untapped. My Diploma Film at film school explored similar themes. The sensational success of shows like *Shogun* and *Blue Eye Samurai* demonstrates a clear international appetite for such stories. With *Chekavar*, I aim to create a distinctly Indian visual tapestry, drawing inspiration from the exceptional films in this genre.



**Abhilash Vijayan**  
Director

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### Director(s) Biography

Abhilash Vijayan holds a Diploma in Direction and Screenplay Writing from FTII, Pune, with an exchange at La Fémis, Paris. His short film *Dwand* (The Dual) was selected for 20 international film festivals, winning 4 international and 24 national awards. His documentary *That Elephant from the Bridge* premiered at Dok Leipzig. The short fiction *Chaver* premiered at the International Student Film Festival in Beijing, was nominated for the Blencong Award at Jogja-NETPAC, and won four Kerala State TV Awards, including Best Director. His feature screenplay *Spirogyra* was selected for NFDC's Screenwriters' Lab and Co-production Market.

### Producer(s) Statement

Weapons speak their own language, much like human emotions—a truth that folk heroes like Thacholi Othenan, Ambadi, and Unniyarcha would undoubtedly affirm. *Chekavar* tells one such tale, worthy of being passed down through generations. This narrative is perfectly suited for the longer format. Northern ballads resemble the "Panchatantra"—from one central narrative, countless others branch out. This structure offers rich potential for multiple seasons of the series. *Chekavar* will transcend language barriers, its fusion of action, history, and fantasy holds universal appeal. A period drama of this magnitude has the power to rekindle interest in works based on northern ballads.



**Nithin Lukose**  
Producer

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### Producer(s) Biography

Nithin Lukose, a Sound Recording & Design graduate from FTII Pune, has worked on films like *Thithi* and *Curry & Cyanide*. He established Alif Talkies Productions in Cochin. His directorial debut, *Paka* (River of Blood)—produced by Raj R. and Anurag Kashyap—premiered at the 2021 Toronto International Film Festival, with further screenings at Pingyao, Red Sea, and Palm Springs. The film is now streaming on SonyLiv. His second feature, *The Partner*, was selected for NFDC Co-Production Market and Hong Kong Asian Film Forum. His web series, *Cold Case One - Pullakandam Murder Case*, was recently chosen for Red Sea Foundation's series lab 2024.





## Indi/Pendent

India, United Kingdom | English, Tamil | Musical Comedy Drama, Coming of Age

### Synopsis

Indi/Pendent is a musical comedy drama about two queer cousins from across the world navigating identity, ambition and family under one chaotic roof in London's Southall. Reggie D (35) is a bisexual British-Indian musician who's lost her spark after being dropped by her label and music partner. Stuck in a soul-crushing job at a karaoke bar, she's desperate for another break. Enter starry-eyed Bama (25), her cousin from Chennai, who arrives for a summer business course having escaped an arranged marriage proposal. But Bama's summer doesn't go as planned and we soon discover what she is really running from—her own burgeoning queer identity.

Despite having no music industry experience, Bama decides to take on the role of Reggie's manager, learning on the go in her own headstrong way. Reggie, meanwhile, must take Bama under her wing, messily attempting to play the role of queer big sister through her coming out journey. Together, they bumble through London's wild, unpredictable music scene while becoming each other's found family.

#### Budget

USD 3,000,000

#### No. of Episodes

6

#### Production Company

Stray Factory  
Corsaire Films

#### Present at Film Bazaar

Drishya Gautham  
Nicolas Chevaillier

#### Looking for

Co-Producers, Distribution  
Partners, Content Buyers/  
OTT Platforms/ Broadcast

### Director(s) Statement

Indi/Pendent is inspired by my relationship with my older Canadian cousin and how we found a queer family within our traditional musical Tamil family. This is a story about being the "outsider"—stuck between two worlds, never enough for either. It is about the constant battle between individuality and community, between fitting in to society and staying true to yourself.

An ode to the thousands of hours I spent watching TV comedies growing up, *Indi/Pendent* is a blend of awkward buddy comedies like *Broad City* and the larger-than-life whimsy of musicals like *Crazy Ex Girlfriend* and *We Are Ladyparts*.



**Drishya Gautham**  
Creator

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### Director(s) Biography

Drishya is a Tamil writer-producer based in Goa and a 2024 alumna of Serial Eyes Berlin. She has commissioned series across four Indian languages as a Development Executive at Amazon Prime, and developed series as an in-house Creative Producer at leading digital production houses, including co-creating the SonyLiv comedy *Meme Boys*. Her debut short *B. Selvi & Daughters* was nominated for three Film Critic's Guild awards. She is currently developing a supernatural drama on immigrant alienation at the Midpoint Shorts program and a commercial feature film on reproductive rights, which is in pre-production with an acclaimed South Indian cast and crew.

### Producer(s) Statement

*Indi/Pendent* is a truly organic co-production, offering a bold celebration of cultural identity in an international setting. Drishya builds from her own lived experiences, bringing a grounded authenticity to the project. Her talent for exploring themes of gender and sexuality through a lens of comedy and hope adds a fresh, accessible dimension. With a keen ear for music she's inherited from her musical family and her background in fashion and costumes, Drishya creates something uniquely contemporary—blending tradition and modernity from both Diaspora and mainland Indian influences. This fusion reflects the power of co-productions, where mutual learning uncovers shared truths, creating stories that transcend borders.



**Mathivanan Rajendran**  
Producer

### Producer(s) Biography

Mathivanan Rajendran is a Goa-based producer specializing in international co-productions and impact-driven media. He is the producer of the award-winning Indo-Dutch Coproduction *Nasir*, with other credits including *Nirvana Inn*, *Humans in the Loop*, *Taak*, and *B. Selvi & Daughters*. An EAVE Producers Lab alumna and BAFTA Breakthrough 2022 honoree, he currently leads a media accelerator in Goa.

Born and raised in Germany to a French father and American mother and married into an Indian family, Nicolas Chevaillier is a culturally fluid storyteller who lives between Berlin and Mumbai. He directed and produced feature film *Victor's History*, which premiered at MAMI, co-created a thriller series for Audible, and was Lead Writer on a drama series for Disney+ Hotstar. Nicolas has worked with some of the most exciting Indian production companies and is currently developing projects for the European market.



**Nicolas Chevaillier**  
Co-Writer &  
Producer

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## Just Like Her Mother

India | Hindi,English | Drama, Mystery, Coming of Age

### Synopsis

Circa 2007. 17-year-old Mekhola embarks on a quest to find her missing mother, Subhashini, who disappeared from their Delhi home four months ago. After finishing her 12th grade exams, she returns home to realize the investigation is not going as her dad made her believe. Clutching tightly to an anonymous present that she is convinced was sent by her mom, she takes matters into her own hands. Backed by her loyal friends Siddhesh and Ahilya, they go on an adventurous hunt for the truth hidden in nostalgic totems - grainy home videos, black & white photos, fading letters, and buried chronicles of an 80s revolution.

Through this journey, Mekhola revives her digital blog- a safe sanctuary for her overdramatic rants and thoughtful introspections. As she unravels what really happened to Subhashini, she rediscovers her own identity, and sparks transformations in her friends and family. The series delves into complex themes like the impact of selective memories, the notion of an 'ideal' victim, and whether words can hurt more than actions. It is a timeless saga on the fight for freedom, love, and justice, raising profound questions on individual and social change.

#### Budget

USD 2,089,324

#### No. of Episodes

8

#### Production Company

Civic Studios Productions Pvt. Ltd.

#### Present at Film Bazaar

Roohi Bhatia  
Akshata Samant  
Akshada Bhalerao

#### Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers,  
Content Buyers/ OTT  
Platforms/ Broadcast

### Director(s) Statement

*Just Like Her Mother* is a coming-of-age journey of a young woman, Mekhola, embarking on a quest for unspoken truths, navigating a world steeped in patriarchy, which pushes her to reassess ideas of family and identity. My visual treatment will blend timelines, where Mekhola's rebellious Y2K-era energy will be grounded with intimate yet foggy family memories, and flashbacks of her mother within real historical events. The show will offer a genuine voice to the intergenerational experience of women and girls finding their own rhythm in pursuit of a gender just world.



**Ruchika Oberoi**  
Director

### Director(s) Biography

Ruchika Oberoi is a Mumbai-based director and screenwriter, whose debut feature film, *Island City*, premiered at the 72nd Venice Film Festival (2015) and won the FEDEORA Critics Award. The film toured over 30 international festivals, including Karlovy Vary and Tallinn Black Nights. She wrote the story and screenplay for Zoya Akhtar's segment in *Lust Stories* (Netflix), nominated for Best TV Movie/Mini Series at the 47th International Emmy Awards. Recently, she directed *Dahaad* (Amazon Prime Video), the only Indian show to have its world premiere at Berlinale 2023. Ruchika studied at Delhi University, Mumbai University, and FTII, Pune.

### Producer(s) Statement

*Just Like Her Mother* is an intimate yet socially aware story that brings together adventure & family drama with a youth-led lens. The series breaks stereotypes around motherhood, friendship, and victimhood, making it relatable to diverse viewers. Interspersed with true events of the Indian women's rights movement that mark the landmark Domestic Violence Bill 2005 (which turns 20 in 2025), the story has a unique historical depth. In a world rife with gender-based violence, the show will start conversations about patriarchy within youth. It aspires to be India's answer to global streaming sensations like *Outer Banks*, *Ginny & Georgia* & *Ms. Marvel*.



**Anushka Shah**  
Producer

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### Producer(s) Biography

Anushka Shah is CEO of Civic Studios, a Mumbai-London-based production company that creates entertainment for social change (incubated at MIT Media Lab, USA). Her roster includes a variety of socially-driven projects, including *Christmas Karma* (directed by Gurinder Chadha), *In The Shadows* (biopic of boxer Ramla Ali), *Family Aaj Kal* (SonyLiv), *Schirkoo: In Lies We Trust* (animation feature; premiere at Rotterdam 2024), *Little Thomas* (feature starring Rasika Dugal, Gulshan Devaiah), an untitled Arabic-English film (boarded by Shudder Films, BFI, BBC), *Vakeel Babu* (Amazon miniTV), *Ye Saali Naukri* (MXPlayer), and additional projects in development with talent like Pan Nalin and Hitesh Kewalya.



## Modern Times

India, United Kingdom | English, Tamil | Love and Border, Family Drama

### Synopsis

Welcome to the living room of a modern, immigrant, South-Indian family where the daughters are overachievers, the father won't let them go, the mother keeps tempers in check (mostly her own) and the son-in-laws.... well, the son-in-laws are not from South India and bear testament to the complicated, mirror-like fate of father and daughter(s), who seem to be permanent immigrants, in life, in time and world-over. When the entire family reunites after a decade, we come to understand that each one of them is trying to live their life, despite the fact that home is an ephemeral concept bound by apocryphal freedoms.

#### Budget

USD 6,000,000

#### No. of Episodes

6

#### Production Company

Avani Films

#### Present at Film Bazaar

Anu Vaidyanathan  
Karuna Siddharth  
Safiya Jalonon  
Ashish

#### Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers,  
Post Production Partners,  
Sales/Sales Agents,  
Distribution Partners, Film  
Lab/Workshop/Fund, Film  
Festivals/Programmers,  
Content Buyers/ OTT  
Platforms/ Broadcast

### Director(s) Statement

*Modern Times* is a dramatic series with two interweaving timelines. The two main characters, Sita and Vaithy, form the center-pieces of this story about an immigrant family. Having faced the devastation of immigration, separation from loved ones, and a loss of agency in an increasingly polarized world, they try to emerge with their backbones intact. The palpable resilience of the subaltern women in this story requires *Modern Times* to have its own language, tonally and structurally. The timeline set in the past in an elegiac representation of a pre-independent India and the one in the present is a fast paced, saturated world whose bustle matches its emptiness. This contrast enables the characters and their conflicts to emerge and engage the audience towards a nail-biting finish.

### Director(s) Biography

Anu Vaidyanathan is an engineer, filmmaker and comedian. She has a PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering and is the first Asian to complete an Ultraman triathlon (10K swim, 420K bike, 84.4K run). Her best-selling memoir *Anywhere By Home* published by Harper-Collins went to the adaptation market at the Mumbai Film Festival in 2016. She studied filmmaking with career courses at the National Film and Television School (NFTS) in Beaconsfield and has had feature scripts at the final rounds at Hubert Bals and Sundance.



Anu Vaidyanathan  
Director

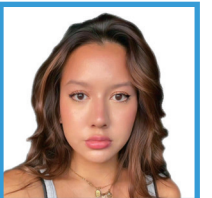
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### Producer(s) Statement

As a portrait of immigrant families, *Modern Times* combines the character awareness of John Cassavates' films with storytelling that no longer dwells in a monoculture of the English language. The pilot episode, *Trifles*, introduces the audience to a constellation of characters who epitomize Tolstoy's famous line 'Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way' as the leads Sita and Vaithy grapple with lives that seem to mirror each other in the twilight of their independence from whatever holds them back. We're confident that *Modern Times* is undeniable and universal in the themes it explores; of belonging, of endurance and toying with the idea of the subaltern being working immigrants, who can now turn back at the world and talk in English.

### Producer(s) Biography

As an independent production company, Avani Films has made great strides in the making and distribution of films. Our core ethic is to bring to the screen unheard voices with the least likelihood of representation. The production company focuses on narrative fiction, our cache of a dozen shorts presently playing in film festivals worldwide, has crafted an eclectic array of fiction and nonfiction shorts that have fetched numerous accolades across the globe. Our debut narrative fiction piece *Split*, and our comedy short *Blimp* was in competition at the legendary Lighthouse Intl. Film Festival in 2023 and 2024. We have also had award-winning short films play in festivals in Europe, India and the UK.



Safiya Jalonon  
Producer





## Pondi-Cherie

India | Hindi, English, Tamil, French | Arts, Music and Culture, Love and Border, Romance, Drama

### Synopsis

Michelin starred chef 'Max' Le Mettez learns that his mentor Shankar has passed away and left him his restaurant. Max returns from France to idyllic Pondicherry and runs into cancelled food blogger and Goan-Christian, Andrea Rodrigues who sees Max's struggling restaurant and decides to 'redeem' herself online by helping him compete at the Bastille Day Competition. As spices mix in the kitchen, so do emotions.

Vincent Delcour and Sophie Rodrigues are former lovers in 1999 turned bitter rivals who decide to settle their mysterious feud once and for all in the same competition. Vincent's diligent right hand man Ajith and Sophie's niece Isha, are inadvertently pulled into this fight. Ajith aspires to escape to France while the free spirited Isha is more occupied with tracking down a French Con-artist Oliver Fontaine who scammed her.

Romance doesn't escape Isha's openly gay brother Nikhil who is restoring a French heritage hotel and develops a passionate romance with the spoilt owner from Delhi - Samar Dhingra - who is still in the closet.

This mishmash of idyllic European tranquil and desi chaos of Pondicherry forms the centre-stage for four crisscrossing love stories, all of which will culminate at the epic week-long French Bastille Day competition.

#### Budget

USD 5,183,108

#### No. of Episodes

8

#### Production Company

Troika Productions

#### Present at Film Bazaar

Sanjeevkumar Nair  
Akarsh Khurana  
Adhaar Khurana  
Niharika Puri

#### Looking for

Co-Producers, Financers,  
Distribution Partners,  
Content Buyers/ OTT  
Platforms/ Broadcast

### Director(s) Statement

I love food. It's one of the things that defines me. And I love watching content about the love of food. I also love France. I played a chef in a film I shot in Paris, and briefly lived my dream. *Pondi-Cherie* came along and ticked so many boxes. On a visit to Pondicherry, I thought to myself that it would be good to shoot something in the lanes of the French Quarter, and here we are now. This series is familiar yet unique, funny yet heartwarming, modern yet old school, and I can't wait to sink my teeth into it.



**Akarsh Khurana**  
Director & Producer

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### Director(s) Biography

Akarsh Khurana is a theatre and film actor, director, and writer. He has written screenplays for a few feature films, including the very successful *Krrish*, on which he was also a direction assistant. He has directed lots of web sketches, cineplays, a television movie *Real FM*, three web series (including *Mismatched*), and three feature films including *Karwaan* and *Rashmi Rocket*. He also co-wrote two seasons of TVF's hugely popular web-series *Tripling*. Akarsh is also one of the leading theatre producers in India, he has produced over 80 plays in the last 23 years, of which he has directed over 30.

### Producer(s) Statement

The stories in *Pondi-Cherie* present love in its many forms and how it gives wings to dreams we never knew we were capable of. In a content landscape overcrowded with thrillers and true-crime, *Pondi-cherie* tips its hat to K Dramas and evergreen romantic comedies.

Imagine a place where love's navigation system is as reliable as a tourist map with missing street names. Our *Pondi-cherie* is like a romantic rollercoaster through the quirkiest streets of love. Think *Love Actually* meets *The Hundred-Foot Journey*, with a dash of chaos and a sprinkle of spice. Join us on this hilarious and heartwarming journey through the flavors of Pondicherry!



**Sanjeevkumar Nair**  
Producer

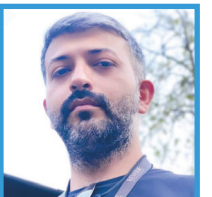
(+91) 9820778003  
sanju@  
troikaproductions.com

### Producer(s) Biography

Sanjeevkumar Nair aka Sanju has produced acclaimed titles big and small which include *Khufiya* (2023), *Laal Singh Chadha* (2022), *Mast Mein Rehne Ka* (2023), *Manto* (2018), *Sonchiriya* (2018) and Akarsh's *Karwaan* (2018) and *Mismatched* (Seasons 1-3).

Adhaar is an Actor, Director and Screenwriter who directed the TV Film *Dhumrapaan* and the acclaimed web-series *Jugaadistan* (with Akarsh) and wrote JioCinema's hit series *Cadets*. Sanju, Adhaar and Akarsh together are the founders of Troika Productions.

*Pondi-Cherie* is a collaboration between Troika and Head over Reels Productions, represented by Bhavana Mounica, Ruchi Sharma and Niharika Puri (Lead writer of the series).



**Adhaar Khurana**  
Producer

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## RESET

India | Tamil,Hindi,Telugu,Kannada,Malayalam | Science and Technology, Urbanization, Dark Humour, Mystery Thriller

### Synopsis

Aditi joins TellTell, India's leading social media platform, to escape her controlling mother and pursue her dream of writing a comic. But this dream opportunity quickly becomes a nightmare when she is crudely propositioned by a senior employee. Upon filing a complaint, Aditi is only horrified further to learn that the employee in question had allegedly committed suicide, days prior to their encounter! Aditi's 'false' complaint ends up threatening everything she has worked for.

Meanwhile, Pranav, a jaded copywriter with filmmaking ambitions, makes an unexpected discovery in an abandoned factory. He finds a mysterious, broken smartphone that is haunted by the ghost of a dead fashion influencer. Seeing it as an opportunity to make a documentary, Pranav begins investigating her death with the 'aid' of her obnoxiously loud and unintelligible ghost.

Aditi's and Pranav's quests ultimately converge, putting them in the crosshairs of a mystery hacker group called RESET. They discover that these 'ghosts' are actually the resurrected profiles of dead users and the one responsible is TellTell's new AI-powered mentor app. The duo is unwittingly sucked into a battle between RESET and TellTell's ruthless CEO Kunal Chaturvedi, where they must choose sides while simultaneously trying to pursue their dreams.

#### Budget

USD 5,011,905

#### No. of Episodes

9

#### Production Company

Wallwatcher Films

#### Present at Film Bazaar

Bharat Mirle  
Guhapriya Sivasubramaniam  
Nandakumar

#### Looking for

Content Buyers/ OTT  
Platforms/ Broadcast

### Director(s) Statement

The threat of technology has long fascinated storytellers, and with AI advancing rapidly, this future feels closer than ever. Having grown up during the internet boom in India, I believe the usual tech-dystopia narrative needs urgent refreshing - enter *RESET*. What happens when an ultra-sophisticated AI is unleashed upon a society that is struggling to reconcile its traditional roots with its modern aspirations? The results can be chaotic and frightening, but it can also be twistedly funny! This also perfectly sums up *RESET* - A uniquely relatable show that examines the tipping point between the present and an absurd data-driven future.



**Bharat Mirle**  
Director

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bharat.mirle@gmail.com

### Director(s) Biography

Bharat Mirle is an award-winning filmmaker from Bangalore, India. His short documentary, *175 Grams* was the winner of the Sundance Short film Challenge, and was screened at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival. In 2017, he completed his first fiction short *Vaahana*, which was the winner of the 2018 Jakarta International Humanitarian and Cultural Award. His feature film debut, *The Road To Kuthriyar* was featured as part of Film Bazaar Recommends at Film Bazaar 2020 and had its world premiere at the 2021 Busan International Film Festival.

### Producer(s) Statement

What happens when the premise of the story has strange apparitions colliding with deep tech, but is treated with sardonic humour? *RESET* is a unique clutter-breaking story. It's fun yet thrilling; whacky and unsettling yet remarkably assured. It is compelling because it is structured as a mystery thriller, but also repeatedly proffers subtle digs at huge corporations and its workplace culture and more importantly, the pressure to succeed in the data-driven world of social media. The audience demographic of this show is broad-based, from Gen X to Gen Z and is an authentic and fresh representation of urban India.



**Pushkar Gayatri**  
Producer

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### Producer(s) Biography

Pushkar & Gayatri are a husband-and-wife filmmaker duo from Chennai. After debuting with the quirky dark comedies- *Oram Po* and *Va- Quarter Cutting*. They wrote, directed *Vikram Vedha* in 2017, and recently made their debut in Hindi with the Hrithik Roshan-Saif Ali Khan starrer, *Vikram Vedha* (Hindi). They are the Writers / Showrunners / Producers of the show *Suzhal-The Vortex*, on Amazon Prime Video, which has been listed in 'Top International Shows of the Year 2022' by the Variety Magazine and by Movieweb. They are also the creative producers of *Vadhandhi* on Amazon Prime Video, also met with global critical acclaim.