

Press Kit

TAAK

Written and Directed by
Udit Khurana

stOriculture

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IMAGINED FUTURES

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A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a dark short-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is sitting on a bed or couch in a dimly lit room. She is looking off to the side with a serious expression. The room has a textured wall with a framed portrait of a man, some religious posters, and a small shrine or altar. A long fluorescent light fixture is visible on the ceiling.

ABOUT THE FILM

Taak (Hindi Title) | **Tracker**

Genre: Techno Noir

40mins, Hindi, India, 2024

Director: Udit Khurana

Producers: Mathivanan Rajendran, Ishan Hendre,
Shilpa Kumar

Former wrestling champion Shalini works as a bouncer at a Delhi nightclub where, after a fatal security lapse, invasive smartwatches are introduced. As tensions rise and personal lives are increasingly monitored, Shalini must navigate the dangerous waters of suspicion and surveillance.



PRESS RELEASE

Taak takes audiences deep into Delhi's nightlife, exposing the collision between technology and personal privacy. The film follows Shalini, a former wrestler and single mother now working as a bouncer, and her young recruit, Komal, who is from Shalini's village and is adjusting to life in the city. When a security breach prompts nightclub management to enforce mandatory smartwatches for tracking employees, Shalini and Komal find themselves caught between complying with intrusive surveillance measures and resisting to maintain their personal freedom.

Having premiered at the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival and screened at the Dharamshala International Film Festival, Taak has struck a chord with audiences. Through the lens of its characters, the film addresses the ethical dilemmas posed by data collection and constant surveillance, with a focus on the disproportionate impact surveillance has on women in patriarchal societies.

SYNOPSIS

When a security breach shakes the foundations of a Delhi nightclub, the management enforces a new policy: mandatory tracking smartwatches for all staff members. Senior among the staff is Shalini, a bouncer who is a single mother. They are told that the smartwatches are tools for safety and efficiency. However, the watches soon reveal a darker purpose—constant surveillance. As the smartwatches begin to intrude on personal lives, harvesting data and controlling movements, the nightclub faces opposition from Komal - a young recruit from Shalini's village who is extremely resistant to wearing the smartwatch.

Berated for her team's incompetence, Shalini must ensure that her colleagues wear the smartwatch or face severe consequences.

In a world where every move is tracked, Shalini and Komal's fight becomes one of autonomy, dignity, and the right to be unseen.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“Taak” explores surveillance, technology, and human dignity in Delhi’s nightlife. The film is inspired by my own experiences, and reflects the paranoia and struggle for belonging in a city shaped by migration. Through Shalini’s character, I examine the ethical and psychological impacts of invasive surveillance technologies.

I created the film to provoke dialogue on the implications of unchecked surveillance and the fight to reclaim privacy and humanity. When smartwatches are enforced on the nightclub staff, promising efficiency but raising safety concerns, Shalini and her colleagues face dehumanization. They’re reduced to data points. The smartwatch becomes a symbol of control, and Shalini must fight to retain her and her colleagues’ humanity.

Rooted in my observations, especially of women in patriarchal systems, “Taak” questions the normalization of surveillance and its ethical costs. With a predominantly female crew, we aimed for authenticity, drawing from the diverse perspectives and real-life experiences of the women collaborators on the team.



Udit Khurana

Director

Udit Khurana graduated from Hansraj College, Delhi University, with a degree in Mathematics. His journey in storytelling started in a university theater environment and naturally progressed to filmmaking. After training at L.V. Prasad Film Academy, Chennai, Udit worked as the cinematographer on numerous documentary and fiction projects, collaborating with directors from diverse regions and languages.

His notable projects include 'Ghaath' (Berlinale 2023), 'For the Love of a Man' (Venice International Film Festival 2015), and 'Chronicles of Hari' (Busan International Film Festival). Recently, he worked on Netflix's 'The Hunt for Veerappan' and 'Mithya', a FIPRESCI-nominated Kannada feature film. For his work, he was selected as an Emerging Talent at the Berlinale Talents Camera Studio in 2023.

CREDITS

Director and Writer

Udit Khurana

Cast:

Jyoti Dogra
Ambika Kamal
Anoop Ghosh
Kapil Pal

Executive Producer

Neiza Silveira

Director of Photography

Tarkash Mehta

Editor

Bhamati Sivapalan

Colorist

Mahak Gupta

Sound Recordist

Anand Raju G

Sound Designer

Varun Venugopal

Re-Recording

SV Koteswar Rao

Costume Designer

Sanya Malkotia

PRODUCERS' NOTE

AT ITS CORE **TAAK IS A SOCIAL COMMENTARY EXPOSING** ETHICAL DILEMMAS OF SURVEILLANCE AND PERSONAL PRIVACY IN A TECH-DRIVEN WORLD.

The film uses a speculative noir treatment to examine the societal implications of surveillance technologies, framing it not just as an issue of privacy, but as a question of individual agency and the need for systemic responsibility in the digital age.

Using the workplace as a mirror to society, Khurana spotlights the tension between our fundamental right to privacy and the reach of tech with unprecedented data collection and retention powers—raising questions about our responsibility in navigating this landscape.

STORICULTURE IMPACT FELLOWSHIP

The Storiculture Impact Fellowship provides creators funding, expertise and tailored support through a vast network of creative professionals and thematic experts to realize projects around the core areas of ecology, gender and technology

The inaugural edition of the fellowship focused on Digital Societies. Edition II, which is ongoing, centers on Equal Opportunities.

Storiculture is an impact-focused media company working with a community of creators & partners to reimagine media.

'Taak' is housed under the Museum of Imagined Futures, which is a platform focused on critical issues at the intersection of art, technology and society.

The company's other properties include Earthbound, Immerse, Creator[Rooms] and ProducerLAND.



MATERIALS*

Poster | Stills

CONTACT

For more information, press inquiries,
or interview requests -

Ishan Hendre | Producer

ishanhendre@thestoriculturecompany.com

+91 8600021333

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root.ax

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www.museumofimaginedfutures.com

