

# THE FIRST FILM

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Aspect Ratio: 1.66:1

Country: India

Year: 2023

Language: Hindi

Subtitles: English, French, Spanish, Finnish, Japanese (optional)

Sound: 5.1 / Stereo

Running Time: 19 minutes

Frame Rate: 25fps

Genre: Drama, Coming of Age, Youth Narrative / Children, Human Rights, Uplifting, Historical

Director-Producer: Piyush Thakur

## Director's Filmography

2012: The Real Millionaire | 20 Min | Drama | India

## Synopsis

### Short Synopsis

In a small town in 1960s India, where cinema is forbidden for women, a 14-year-old embarks on a quest to watch her first film.

### Long Synopsis

In a small town in 1960s India, deep-rooted in orthodox traditions, cinema is believed to corrupt young minds, and women are forbidden to watch films. Devi, a 14-year-old girl, is obsessed with films and dreams of watching one in a theater. Her neighbor, Mohan, a 14-year-old mute cinephile boy, narrates stories from his favorite films to her at night. When an unforeseen incident shakes their world, Devi has one last chance to pursue her dream. The First Film celebrates friendship, courage, and the magic of cinema.

## Director's Biography

Piyush Thakur is an alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). His student short film **The Real Millionaire** was nominated for the International Grand Prix at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival and traveled globally to more than 75 film festivals, winning multiple awards. He was selected from India for the International Student Film Camp in Serbia.

After FTII, he worked as an assistant director to Sanjay Leela Bhansali on the film **Bajirao Mastani**. He was also selected for the Kyoto Filmmakers Lab in Japan and Platform Busan at the Busan International Film Festival.

His latest short film, **The First Film**, had its world premiere at the Festival de Cortos de Bogotá - BOGOSHORTS in Colombia and was recognized as a 'Short Film Market Pick' by the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival and 'Film Bazaar Recommends' by NFDC Doc Film Bazaar. It won **The German Star of India – Audience Award** at the Indian Film Festival of Stuttgart and **Best Short Narrative International Award** at the Nepal Human Rights International Film Festival.

## Director's Statement

The period from the early 1950s is considered the 'Golden Age' of Indian Cinema. Movie theaters were flooded with iconic hits, and the newly Independent nation was discovering new fantasies through films.

I have been inspired by many stories told by my grandparents, who, like me, were obsessed with films. The magic of being transported to another world and experiencing it up close has always excited me, both as an audience member and a storyteller. I began to ponder: How far would a cinephile go to watch a special film?

**The First Film** is about recreating the magic of watching films, an emotion that binds us all.

## Film's Trailer

<https://youtu.be/78gAvRHnEqY>

## Film Reviews

**Short Film Review: A Heartwarming Snapshot of Dreams Blooming in the Sinkhole of Social Conservatism**

<https://www.highonfilms.com/the-first-film-2024-short-film-review/>

**Short Film Review: The First Film by Piyush Thakur**

<https://asianmoviepulse.com/2024/08/short-film-review-the-first-film-2023-by-piyush-thakur/>

## In the Press

**Interview: An Interview with 'The First Film' Filmmaker Piyush Thakur**

<https://northeastfilmjournal.com/mami-2024-an-interview-with-the-first-film-2023-filmmaker-piyush-thakur>

**The 20 Best Asian Short Films of 2024**

<https://asianmoviepulse.com/2025/01/the-20-best-asian-short-films-of-2024/2/>

## Social Media

### Film's Social Media Handles:

Instagram: @tff.film

Facebook: @tff.film

### Director's Social Media Handles:

Facebook: @piyushdthakur

Instagram: @haathwalathakur

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