



EXTRAORDINARILY BEAUTIFUL.

VICTOR FRAGA, DMOVIES LONDON



POIGNANT MASTERPIECE TURNS
INTO VISUAL POEM.

DAVID SANCHEZ, SPANISH CRITIC



A POWERFUL AND POIGNANT BALLAD
OF LOVE, HOPE, AND HEARTACHE.

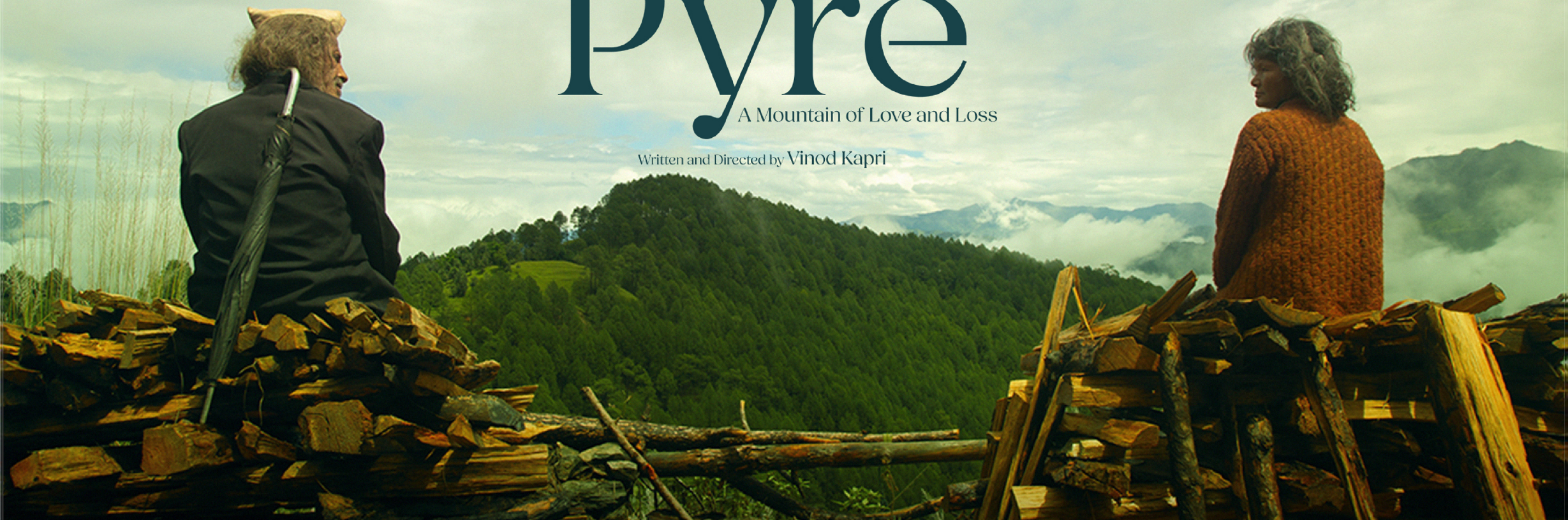
MILANI PERARA, KINO PEAR

Bhagirathi Films Presents

Pyre

A Mountain of Love and Loss

Written and Directed by Vinod Kapri





PROJECT OVERVIEW

Language: Hindi, Kumaoni

Length: 110 minutes

Location: Uttarkhand, India

Log Line: A melancholic ballad of an undying love in a dying land .

SYNOPSIS



In a remote part of the Indian Himalayas, aging couple Padam and Tulsi find their world beginning to erode. Their once lively village is now desolate as more and more families migrate to the cities, leaving the couple to wonder if there will be anyone left to carry out their last rites when their time finally comes. With little hope left, the couple begin to feel themselves wither away beside their beloved village, turning to their childlike bickering as a source of fleeting distraction. One day, to their surprise, Padam and Tulsi receive a letter from their son - a son who they have not heard from in over 30 years. Through this unexpected beacon of hope, their lives change overnight as their once estranged son unwittingly provides them with the will to live on.

PROTAGONISTS



IN ORDER TO ENSURE A CERTAIN DEGREE OF AUTHENTICITY AND STRIKING HONESTY IN THE PERFORMANCE, THE DIRECTOR TOOK THE BRAVE DECISION OF CASTING COMPLETELY “NON-ACTORS”

IN THE LEAD ROLES OF PADAM AND TULSI. HOWEVER, THEY WERE PORTRAYED BY TWO PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED IN THE REGION, SPEAK THE LOCAL LANGUAGE AND BELONG TO THE AGE GROUP OF THE CHARACTERS. IT WAS AGREED UPON THAT AN “OUTSIDER” WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO REPLICATE THE UNIQUE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF SOMEONE WHO HAS STAYED IN THE REMOTE HIMALAYAN VILLAGES, RIGHT FROM THE PHYSICALITY OF THE RIGOROUS DOWNHILL TREKS TO THE LOCAL LIFESTYLE. AND ALTHOUGH OUR LEAD ACTORS HAVE NEVER FACED THE CAMERA BEFORE OR ACTED ON FILM, THEY BECAME THE CHARACTERS COMPLETELY BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT “PERFORMING”, AND SIMPLY LIVING LIFE AS THEY KNEW IT.

PADAM SINGH KAPRI WHO PLAYS **PADAM SINGH** IS A RETIRED ARMY MAN AND USED TO BE A NATIONAL LEVEL VOLLEYBALL PLAYER. **THIS IS HIS ACTING DEBUT AT THE AGE OF 76 YEARS.**

HEERA DEVI AS **TULSI** IS A WIDOW AND A HOUSEWIFE WHO USED TO BE A DANCER. **THIS IS HER ACTING DEBUT AT THE AGE OF 70 YEARS.**



VINOD KAPRI

DIRECTOR-PRODUCER

VINOD KAPRI, (BORN 15 AUGUST 1972) IS A SENIOR INDIAN JOURNALIST AND FILMMAKER. HE WON THE PRESTIGIOUS INDIAN NATIONAL AWARD FOR THE DOCUMENTARY FILM CAN'T TAKE THIS SHIT ANYMORE (2014). HE MADE HIS FEATURE DEBUT WITH MISS TANAKPUR HAAZIR HO (2015) - A SOCIOLEGAL SATIRE THAT RECEIVED EXTENSIVE CRITICAL ACCLAIM. HIS SECOND FEATURE FILM PIHU, RELEASED GLOBALLY IN 2018 HAS BEEN WIDELY APPRECIATED IN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS SUCH AS VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (CALIFORNIA), FAJR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (TEHRAN) AND INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL (STUTTGART). HIS POWERFUL DOCUMENTARY "1232 KMS" ABOUT THE HEARTBREAKING JOURNEY OF MIGRANT WORKERS DURING THE LOCKDOWN EARNED TREMENDOUS CRITICAL ACCLAIM. RIGHT NOW, HE'S CLOSELY WORKING ON THE POST-PRODUCTION OF HIS NEXT FILM COUPLE OF HEAVEN AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF TWO MORE PROJECTS THE TRUE SURVIVAL STORY OF YOUNG SOLDIER BALDEV SINGH DURING THE 1971 WAR AND A WEB SHOW ON THE DEVASTATING SHEENA BORA MURDER MYSTERY.



MANAS BHATTACHARYYA

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

MANAS IS A YOUNG CINEMATOGRAPHER FROM BENGAL KNOWN FOR HELMING SHORT FLMS WHICH HAVE WON SEVERAL PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL AWARDS. HE IS AN ALUMNI OF SATYAJIT RAY FILM INSTITUTE AND WAS ALSO A PART OF THE BERLINALE TALENT CAMPUS. THIS IS HIS DEBUT FEATURE FLM



PATRICIA ROMMEL

EDITOR

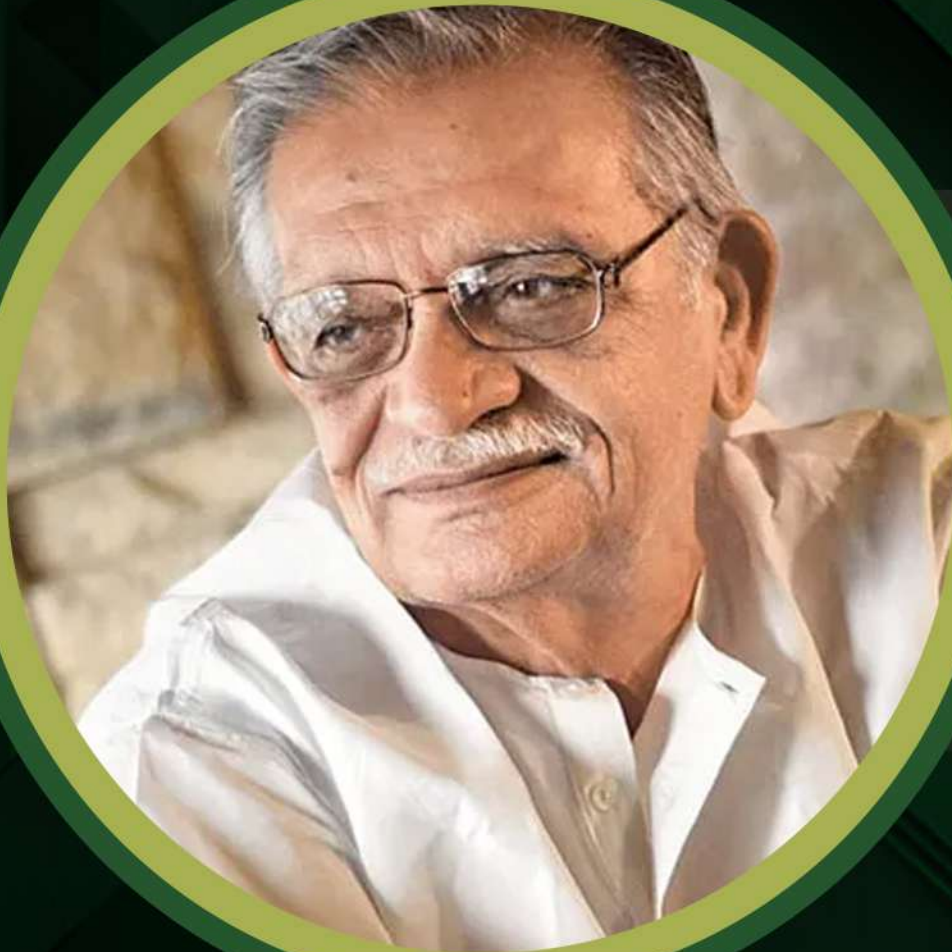
PATRICIA ROMMEL HAS EARNED OVER SIXTY FIVE EDITING CREDITS SINCE SHE BEGAN HER CAREER IN 1982. SHE WAS AN EARLY COLLABORATOR OF DIRECTOR UWE JANSON (VERFOLGTE WEGE, HERZ IN DER HAND) BEFORE EDITING CAROLINE LINK'S BEYOND SILENCE. ROMMEL AND LINK HAVE BECOME FREQUENT COLLABORATOR AND HAVE WORKED TOGETHER AND HAVE WORKED TOGETHER ON NOWHERE IN AFRICA, ANNALUISE & ANTON, AND A YEAR AGO IN WINTER. ROMMEL HAS ALSO EDITED SEVERAL FILMS FOR FLORIAN HENCKEL VON DONNERSMARCK (THE LIVES OF OTHERS, THE TOURIST, NEVER LOOK AWAY), AND ANGELINE JOLIE (IN THE LAND OF BLOOD AND HONEY, BY THE SEA AND FORST THEY KILLED MY FATHER). ROMMEL'S EDITING HAS EARNED NUMEROUS HONORS AND AWARDS. SHE RECEIVED LOLA NOMINATIONS FOR THE LIVES OF OTHERS AND A YEAR AGO IN WINTER, WON GERMAN FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION AWARDS FOR THE LIVES OF OTHERS AND HENDRIK HOLZEMANN'S OFF BEAT, AND EARNED TWO GERMAN CAMERA NOMINATIONS (WINNING FOR OFF BEAT) AS WELL AS TWO FILM PLUS NOMINATIONS (WINNING AGAIN FOR OFF BEAT).



SUBHAJIT SINGHA

EDITOR

SUBHAJIT SINGHA IS AN INDIAN FILM EDITOR. AFTER GROWING UP IN A SMALL TOWN OF DOOARS INTOXICATED WITH THE MOVIES, FOLLOWED BY A COURSE IN FILM SCHOOL, EXCLUSIVELY FASCINATED BY SCRIPTED STORYTELLING, AND A BRIEF CAREER AS AN ASSISTANT EDITOR, HE HAS QUICKLY BECOME A SOUGHT-AFTER EDITOR IN FEATURE FILMS-KNOWN FOR BRINGING A CHEST FULL OF LOVE, CRAFT AND CREATIVITY TO FILMMAKING ACROSS GENRES, AND FOR BEING A TRUE STEADY HARD COLLABORATOR IN THE CUTTING ROOM. SUBHAJIT'S FIRST FEATURE FILM AS AN EDITOR, 'CINEMAWALA (A FAREWELL TO CELLULOID)' WAS RELEASED 2016. SUBHAJIT IS KNOWN FOR HIS MINIMALIST APPROACH TO CREATE EMOTIONAL AND ENGAGING SEQUENCES. BURNISHED NARRATIVE ARC ALONG WITH SUGGESTIVE TIMING CREATES BRIDGE BETWEEN THE WORLD OF WORDS AND THE WORLD OF THE MOVING IMAGES IN HIS WORKS; HE OFTEN SAYS "EDITING IS POETRY". HE ALSO TALKS ABOUT HOW HE GETS EXCITED DEALING WITH THE TINY WITTY MOMENTS AND SUSPENSION CREATED DURING THE INTERACTION OF CHARACTERS; FATHOM OF CLAUSTROPHOBIA OR VASTNESS CREATED WITH JUXTAPOSING OTHER THAN MEANINGLESS SHOTS. HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR BIG SCREEN STORYTELLING IS MATCHED ONLY BY HIS TOTAL DEDICATION TO THE CRAFT OF FILM EDITING, HIS NERDY TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND HIS UNDISPUTED LOVE OF GRAPHIC NOVELS.



GULZAR

LYRICIST

GULZAR IS AN ACCLAIMED INDIAN POET, LYRICIST, AUTHOR, AND FILM DIRECTOR, RENOWNED FOR HIS PROFOUND CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN CINEMA AND LITERATURE. BORN SAMPOORAN SINGH KALRA, HE ADOPTED THE PEN NAME GULZAR AND BECAME A SIGNIFICANT VOICE IN HINDI-URDU POETRY AND SONGWRITING. HIS CAREER IN THE FILM INDUSTRY SPANS SEVERAL DECADES, BEGINNING AS A LYRICIST FOR ICONIC FILMS LIKE *BANDINI* (1963), AND HE LATER GAINED ACCLAIM FOR HIS DIRECTION OF FILMS SUCH AS *MAUSAM* (1975) AND *AANDHI* (1975). GULZAR IS CELEBRATED FOR HIS EVOCATIVE LYRICS, OFTEN BLENDING DEEP EMOTIONS WITH SIMPLICITY, AND HAS WRITTEN MEMORABLE SONGS FOR FILMS, COLLABORATING WITH LEADING COMPOSERS LIKE R.D. BURMAN AND A.R. RAHMAN. HE IS ALSO A RECIPIENT OF NUMEROUS PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS, INCLUDING THE PADMA BHUSHAN, DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD, AND SEVERAL NATIONAL FILM AWARDS AND FILMFARE AWARDS. ADDITIONALLY, GULZAR'S WORK IN TELEVISION, PARTICULARLY HIS CREATION OF *MIRZA GHALIB* (1988) AND *JUNGLE BOOK*'S (1993) THEME SONG, CEMENTED HIS LEGACY AS A VERSATILE ARTIST ACROSS MEDIUMS.



MYCHAEL DANNA

MUSIC COMPOSER

MYCHAEL DANNA IS AN ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING FILM COMPOSER RECOGNIZED FOR HIS EVOCATIVE BLENDING OF NON-WESTERN TRADITIONS WITH ORCHESTRAL AND ELECTRONIC MUSIC. HIS WORKS INCLUDE THE OSCAR AND GOLDEN GLOBE WINNING-SCORE FOR ANG LEE'S "LIFE OF PIE", ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATED FILM "MONEYBALL", EMMY AWARD WINNING-SCORE FOR MINISERIES WORLD WITHOUT END.



AMRITHA VAZ

MUSIC COMPOSER

AMRITHA VAZ IS A VERSATILE COMPOSER, SONGWRITER, AND MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST KNOWN FOR HER EMOTIONALLY RESONANT WORK ACROSS FILM, TELEVISION, AND ADVERTISING. SHE GAINED RECOGNITION AS THE SCORE PRODUCER FOR THE ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING FILM SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE AND LATER TRANSITIONED INTO SCORING PROJECTS INDEPENDENTLY. AMRITHA'S BACKGROUND IN NEUROSCIENCE, ANTHROPOLOGY, AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEEPLY INFORMS HER ARTISTIC APPROACH, BLENDING SCIENCE WITH CREATIVITY. WITH A PASSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, SHE OFTEN CONTRIBUTES TO PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES. HER MUSIC IS KNOWN FOR ITS CROSS-CULTURAL INFLUENCES, COMBINING TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY ELEMENTS TO CREATE A UNIQUE SONIC LANDSCAPE.

PRODUCER



BHAGIRATHI

BHAGIRATHI FILMS PRIVATE LIMITED IS AN INDIAN PRODUCTION COMPANY KNOWN FOR CREATING CONTENT THAT HIGHLIGHTS SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL ISSUES. ONE OF ITS MOST NOTABLE PRODUCTIONS IS THE AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY **CAN'T TAKE THIS SHIT ANYMORE (2014)**, DIRECTED BY VINOD KAPRI. THIS FILM PORTRAYS THE LIVES OF RURAL WOMEN IN INDIA WHO RETURN TO THEIR PARENTAL HOMES DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF TOILETS IN THEIR MARITAL HOUSEHOLDS, EXPOSING THE HARSH REALITIES OF SANITATION ISSUES IN THE COUNTRY. THE FILM WON THE NATIONAL FILM AWARD FOR BEST FILM ON SOCIAL ISSUES AND GARNERED INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AT VARIOUS FILM FESTIVALS.

BHAGIRATHI FILMS ALSO CO-PRODUCED **1232 KMS**, A DOCUMENTARY FOCUSING ON THE STRUGGLES OF MIGRANT WORKERS DURING INDIA'S COVID-19 LOCKDOWN. THIS FILM CAPTURES THE HEART-WRENCHING JOURNEY OF LABORERS TRAVELING BACK TO THEIR VILLAGES, EMPHASIZING THEIR HARDSHIPS AND THE SOCIETAL NEGLECT THEY FACED.

THE COMPANY'S DEDICATION TO ADDRESSING PRESSING SOCIAL MATTERS HAS MADE IT A NOTABLE NAME IN INDIAN DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING.

CO-PRODUCER



FOUNDED IN 2019, **CALCUTTA CINEVERSE** IS AN INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION HOUSE BASED OUT OF MUMBAI AND KOLKATA, INDIA AIMED TOWARDS TELLING POWERFUL AND PERTINENT STORIES THAT TRANSCEND BORDERS.

PYRE IS THEIR FIRST FEATURE FILM WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR AND FILMMAKER VINOD KAPRI. THEY ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH VINOD ON HIS NEXT.

THEY ARE ALSO PRODUCING AMIT MASURKAR'S NEXT FILM TENTATIVELY TITLED "THE MIST" WRITTEN BY PUBALI CHAUDHURI; SASHI KIRAN TIKKA'S NEXT TITLED "BUDDY" AND "FAT CHAPATI" AN INDO-UK CO-PRODUCTION, A BRITISH GANGSTER COMEDY WRITTEN BY KAIZAD GUSTAD AND TO BE DIRECTED BY A RENOWNED BRITISH FILMMAKER (SOON TO BE ANNOUNCED).

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN TELLING STORIES WHICH REPRESENT THE LIVES OF THE MARGINALIZED AND THE OTHERED IN OUR COUNTRY. DESPITE HAVING ONE OF THE BIGGEST FILM INDUSTRIES IN THE WORLD, THEIR STORIES HARDLY FIND SPACE ON OUR SCREENS. MY DECADES OF EXPERIENCE AS A DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER AND A JOURNALIST HAVE HELPED ME FIND COUNTLESS TRUE STORIES WHICH ARE STRANGER THAN FICTION.

INDIAN FILMMAKERS GENERALLY VISUALIZE THE HIMALAYAS AS THE PRISTINE MOUNTAINS WHICH MAKE GREAT LOCATIONS FOR SHOOTING PICTURESQUE SONGS- BUT AS SOMEONE WHO'S GROWN UP NEAR THE MOUNTAINS, I CANNOT HELP BUT TELL A STORY THAT ALSO FOCUSES ON THE MERCILESS AND HARSH CLIMATE AND THE GROWING PROBLEM OF MIGRATION IN THESE REMOTE HILLY VILLAGES.

THIS FILM IS BASED ON THE TRUE STORY OF A COUPLE WHO LIVE IN A REMOTE VILLAGE IN MY HOME STATE OF UTTARAKHAND. I KNOW THEM PERSONALLY AND THIS IS MY HUMBLE ATTEMPT TO AUTHENTICALLY REPRESENT THEIR LIVES AND HOW LOVE SURVIVES DESPITE THE ODDS.

HOPEFULLY, THIS FILM WILL BE ABLE TO DO JUSTICE TO THE STORIES OF COUNTLESS SUCH PADAMS AND TULSI'S AROUND THE WORLD, WHOSE LIFE STORIES ARE MORE CINEMATIC THAN THE FICTIONAL ROMANCES CINEMA CAN CONJURE.

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PRODUCER'S NOTE

AS A COLLECTIVE OF PASSIONATE, INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS WE WANT TO TELL RELEVANT AND IMMEDIATE STORIES WHICH ARE INDIAN IN ESSENCE BUT ARE UNIVERSAL IN APPEAL. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT AT ITS VERY CORE- COUPLE OF HEAVEN IS A LOVE STORY THAT TALKS ABOUT THE TRIUMPH OF HUMANITY AGAINST ALL ODDS. IT ALSO SHEDS LIGHT ON THE ACUTE PROBLEM OF MIGRATION AND THE LACK OF COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE REMOTE MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS OF THE HIMALAYAS. IT'S A STORY OF SURVIVAL AND HOW HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS CAN FIGHT HARSH WEATHER, DESERTED VILLAGES AND NEARLY INACCESSIBLE TERRAINS. WE HAVE BRAVED THE ODDS OF HARSH WEATHER, INHOSPITABLE GEOGRAPHY, AND A NON-SHOOTING FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT TO SHOOT THE FILM ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET AND A GRUELING SCHEDULE. BUT WE WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS BECAUSE OF COOPERATION FROM LOCALS WHO WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO HELP US OUT. EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH THE PROJECT INCLUDING OUR STELLAR INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL-AWARD-WINNING CREW TO OUR "NON-ACTOR" LEAD CAST BECAME EMOTIONALLY INVESTED IN THE FILM BEYOND THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY. BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE ALL BELIEVED THAT THIS IS A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD.

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**CLICK HERE TO
WATCH THE TRAILER**

PASSWORD : Pyre2024

A photograph of two elderly individuals sitting on a rocky outcrop. On the left, a woman with long grey hair wears a colorful patterned headscarf and a plaid shawl over a red and black striped skirt. She rests her chin on her hand. On the right, a man with long grey hair and a beard wears a tan flat cap and a dark jacket. He is looking towards the woman. The background is a vast, dense forest covering rolling hills, with mist or low clouds hanging in the air. The overall tone is contemplative and serene.

THANK YOU