

Try running now by Hritik Punjabi

Synopsis

In the face of his father's looming death, Amar - A troubled and bullied teenager - vows to finish his dad's wishlist. His journey leads to a deeper understanding of his father's relationships and his own self-discovery.

The film is set over a day, in the precarious moment when Amar's father is taken off the ventilator.

Running across town to finish his dad's wishes on a ticking clock, he learns more about masculinity, grief and belonging in the Sikh community.

Location and theme

This film is set in Leeds, UK. The visual palette of the film would be hugely enhanced by the different levels - the depth and views would make the city its own character. In addition, Leeds' Sikh community has had a very rich history since the 70's, and the impact can be seen with culture, communities and Gurudwaras all over the city.

The Takeaway

For the 3rd generation of families living abroad, the journey to find belonging and identity becomes longer and isolating sometimes. It is slowly shaped by experiences, cultures, and the fleeting feeling of home that they go through. Grief is one such catalyst that puts us into the journey of self-discovery,

Director's Biography

Hritik Punjabi is a Writer, Director & DOP from Mumbai, India. Having majored in Journalism, he worked in the Industry for a couple of years in Mumbai, gaining experience as an Assistant director and Writer/Director for several independent short films and Music videos. Some of the short films were nominated in festivals such as Shorted (India), the New York Flash Film Festival, and the London Lift-Off Film Festival.

These short films also got him into the *London Film School*, where he worked to polish his cinematography and storytelling skills. *Try running now*, being his graduate short film, Hritik wants to work to tell coming-of-age stories with a little bit of poetic flair and showcase communities and belonging in a very real yet dramatic and entertaining way.

“Films are the perfect way of reflecting life - and it’s up to the writers & directors which kind of mirror to hold up to showcase it in their own way.”

Having picked up on the style of films he’s watched and obsessed over as a kid, and the skill and subtlety he’s picked up living and making films in the UK for a few years, Hritik has multiple projects from feature films to music videos and fashion films that he is slowly developing and is very eager to keep working and keep showcasing them to the world.

Director’s Statement

Growing up, I was always a fan of emotional stories that bring real characters with a dramatic edge to your screens. They make you relate to them almost as if you are living life with them and growing with them.

My intention with this film is to also do something very similar. When I stepped into making it, I decided to contrast the chaos of Amar’s external world with the quiet introspection of his inner journey. The cricket field will symbolize his struggle for validation and belonging, while the Gurdwara and the hospice serve as spaces for introspection and revelation.

Through Amar, we explore how broken relationships can heal through empathy, how the weight of culture can transform into a source of strength, and how identity is constantly evolving.

"*Try running now*" is an invitation to celebrate the resilience it takes to piece together our fractured identities.