

Official Handle: @theinkstainedhand

Ammi Media Presents
A Silvercord Films and Khan & Kumar Media Production
In association with 39/6 & Kite Rabbit Films

Co-Produced by Red Sea Fund, an initiative of the Red Sea International Film Festival
With support from Visions Sud Est & Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum

And the participation of Take Ten (Netflix Fund for creative equity, India)

The Ink Stained Hand & The Missing Thumb

127 MINS | HINDI | INDIA, UNITED STATES, SAUDI ARABIA | 4:3 | 5.1

WORLD SALES: DIVERSION

Karlovy Vary International Film Festival – Proxima Competition

Asian Feature Film In Competition 2026 – Singapore International Film Festival

Official Selection Dharamshala International Film Festival 2026

Nominated Asia Pacific Screen Awards – Best Screenplay

written & directed by
YASHASVI JUYAL

produced by
SHARIB KHAN, VIKAS KUMAR, VIRAJ SIKAND,
BHAVNA KANKARIA, & NEHA KAUL

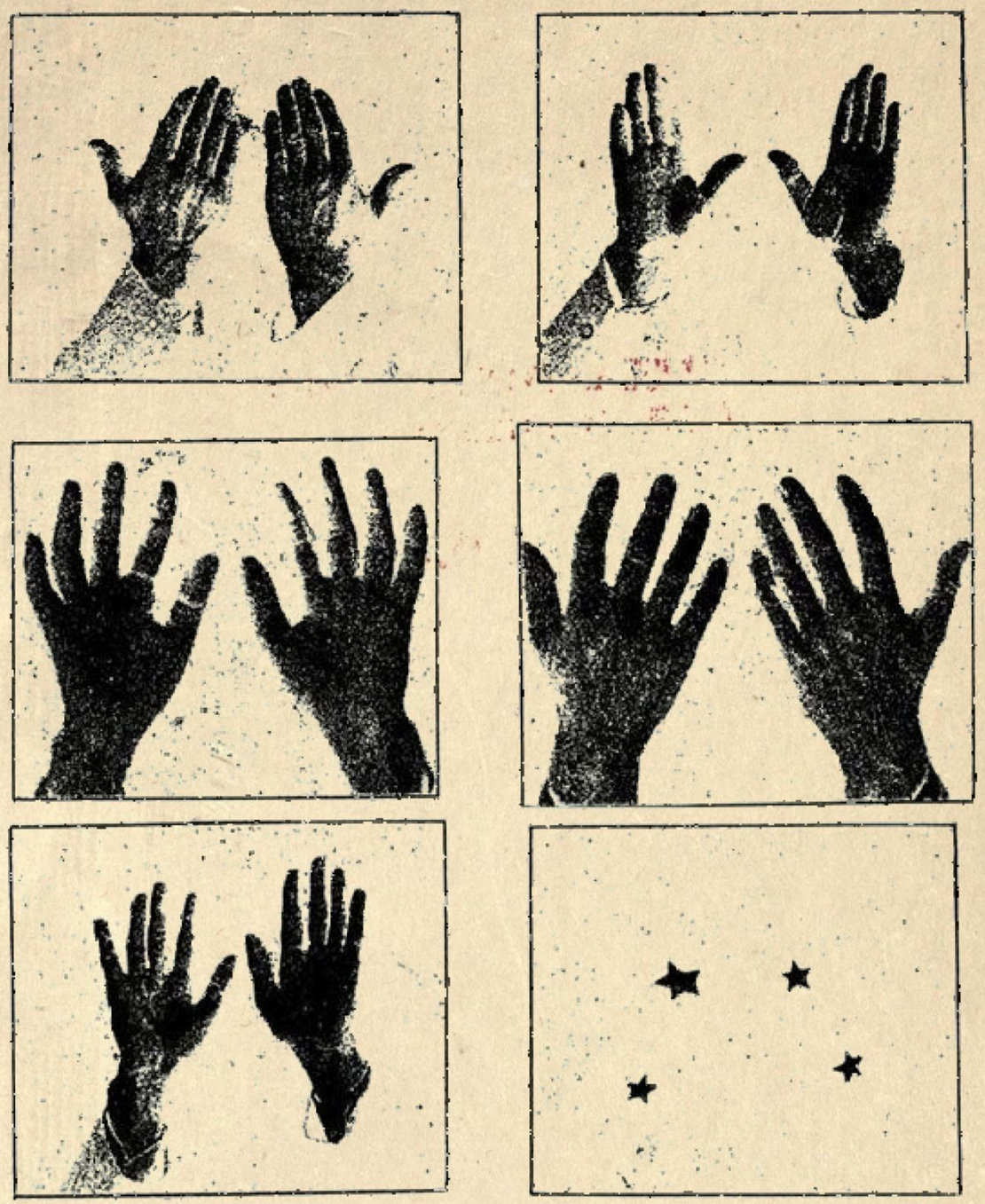
executive producer
SHAUNAK SEN

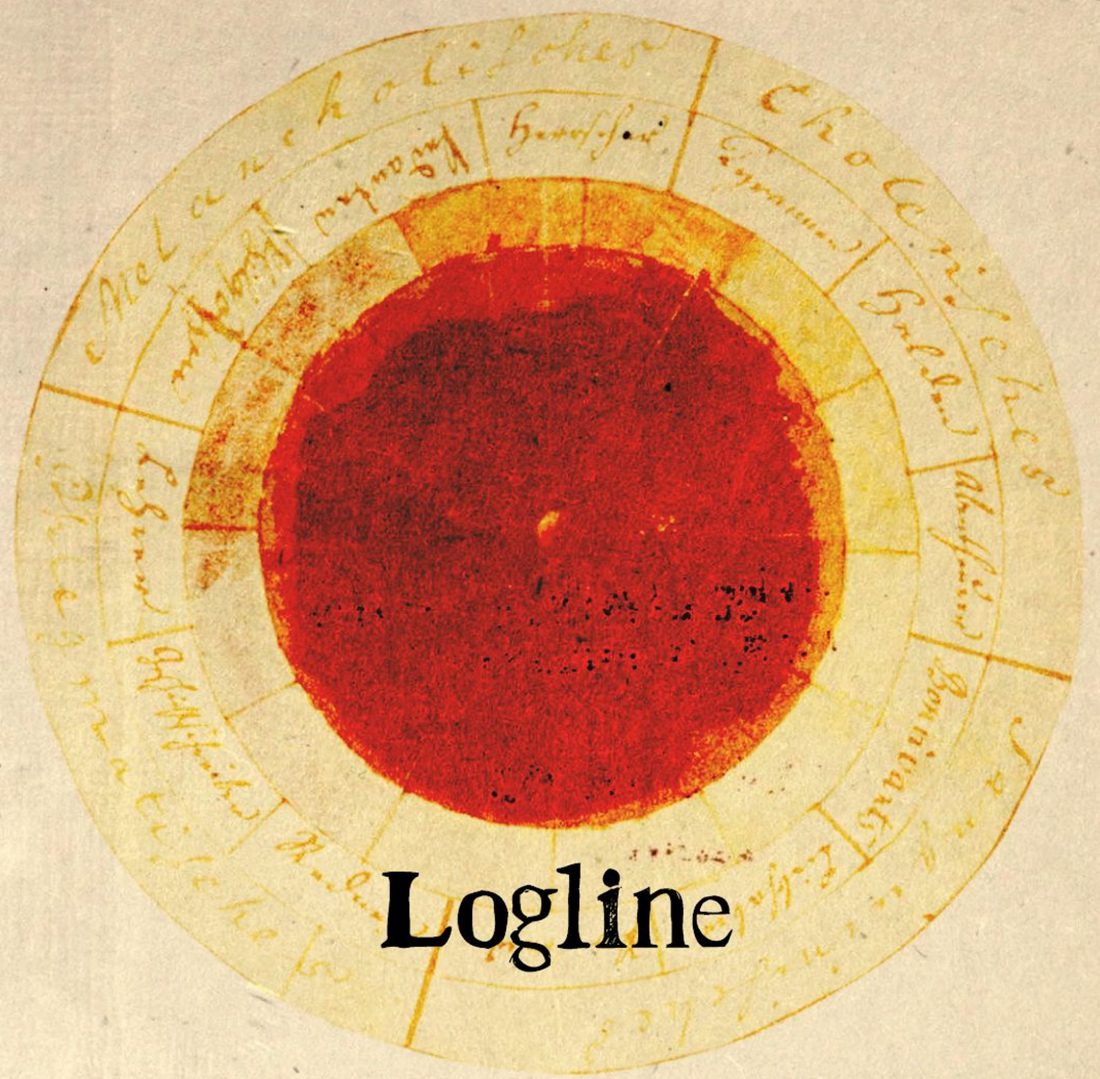
co-produced by
RED SEA FUND, an initiative of the Red Sea International Film Festival
إنتاج مشترك مع صندوق البحر الأحمر، مبادرة مهرجان البحر الأحمر السينمائي الدولي

with support & participation from
VISIONS SUD EST, and
TAKE TEN (Netflix Fund for Creative Equity, India & Film Companion Studios)

participated in

- Netflix Fund For Creative Equity Cohort, Busan International Film Festival (2024)
- Hong Kong International Film Festival Industry - HAF Work In Progress Project Market (2025)
- NFDC Waves Film Bazaar, Winner Of The Prasad Lab DI Post Production Award, WFBR Recommends (2025)

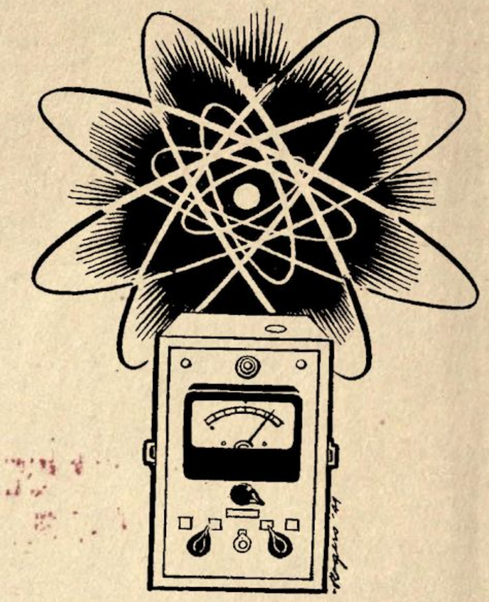




Logline

After Santosh, Rajji's lover and toll booth colleague, dies in a truck accident, he inexplicably returns 24 hours later as a spectral presence. Is it a grief-stricken hallucination, or something far darker?

Synopsis



Rajji and Santosh are toll booth operators in the North Indian town of Nagina. The lovers spend slow days in decrepit booths accompanied by a science TV channel while dreaming of a better future. Just as their job demands them to be on the move often, the infrastructure around them sees continual transformation. When a sudden tragedy spawns a beguiling resurrection, the lives of Rajji and Santosh are also irreversibly changed.





MADE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF UTTARAKHAND, 2003

Director's Statement

The Ink Stained Hand And The Missing Thumb is my debut feature fiction film. The film emerges from my lived experience of migration, memory, and resistance rooted in the Himalayan foothills and shaped by the uneasy presence of accelerated development.

I come from Dehradun, a small town in the lower Himalayas. Historically, it has been a site of settlement for migrants from higher altitudes, drawn by work, education, and the promise of stability. A few kilometres from my childhood home lay a region that felt suspended from time - an enigmatic landscape of water bodies, dense flora and fauna, frequent wildlife movement, and a quiet township that seemed to exist in dialogue with these elements. Family outings to this place have stayed with me as unfinished memories, fragments of a landscape that felt both intimate and unknowable.

I belong to the Garhwali community of Uttarakhand, a community shaped by long histories of migration and displacement often driven by fear of invasion, survival, and economic necessity. From the higher Himalayas, we have steadily moved toward the plains. Returning to this childhood landscape years later, I found it saturated with supernatural lore, animal-linked rituals, and whispered accounts of extra-terrestrial sightings. These mythologies coexist with the land's material reality, forming a layered consciousness that deeply informs my storytelling practice.

Over the last decade, this region has undergone rushed and colossal development. A national highway now cuts through it, reorganising space, movement, and life itself. A few moons ago, at a toll station here, a truck crashed into a toll booth, killing a young migrant worker and injuring several others. This incident stayed with me. Around the same time, I began travelling frequently to Delhi to meet my partner. Repeatedly passing through toll booths, I began to experience them as liminal zones, spaces suspended between destinations. These workers neither arrive at the metropolis nor return home; they exist in a perpetual in-between.



In observing stories of migrant lives especially from marginalised communities in India, I noticed how humour is often overlooked or dismissed. Yet humour, abstraction, and experimentation are central to everyday survival. Humour becomes a weapon of protest, a way to endure discomfort, oppression, and precarity without surrendering dignity.

This film is deeply personal. It is about love, resistance, and the fragile idea of home. It reflects on how socio-political forces erode community life, particularly in a country where urban planning often fails to account for safety, humanity, and care. The Ink Stained Hand And The Missing Thumb inhabits liminal spaces between tradition and futurism, movement and stillness, memory and loss to ask what it truly means to belong.



Yashasvi (b. 1996, Uttarakhand, India) is a filmmaker whose practice spans fiction and non-fiction cinema, working across writing, directing, and producing.

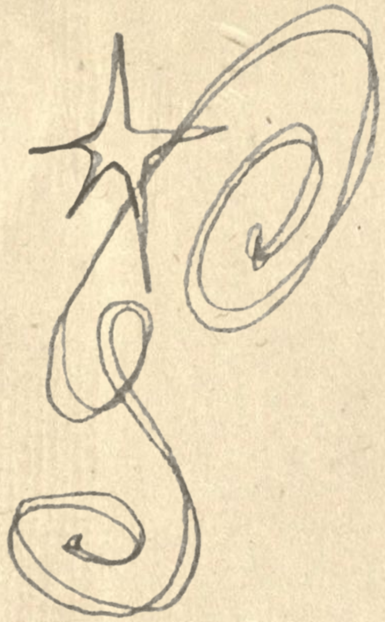
His short fiction film THE LAST RHODODENDRON (2021), now streaming on MUBI, received the Gender Sensitivity Award at the Dharamshala International Film Festival (2021). His short documentary RAINS DON'T MAKE US HAPPY ANYMORE premiered at Visions du Réel (2025) and screened internationally at the Festival Internacional de Documentales de Buenos Aires (FIDBA), Beijing International Short Film Festival (BISFF) and Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, among others & won Best Short Documentary at the Oslo Film Festival (2025).

Yashasvi is an alumnus of Doc Producing South and was recently selected for the Red Sea Lab – Directors Program with Spike Lee. He is a recipient of Visions Sud Est, the Red Sea Fund and the Netflix Fund for Creative Equity - TakeTen (India).



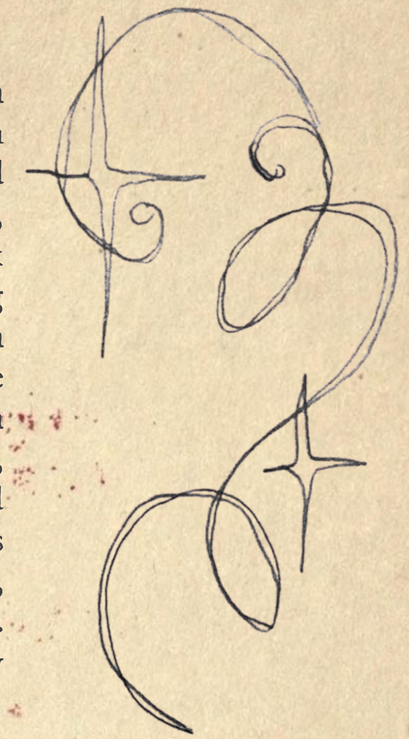
About the Producers

VIKAS KUMAR & SHARIB KHAN are producers and longtime creative collaborators committed to championing authentic, culturally rooted storytelling. Vikas Kumar, an accomplished actor and founder of Mumbai based Khan & Kumar Media, and Sharib Khan, a tech entrepreneur and founder of New York based Ammi Media, bring together complementary strengths in storytelling, production, and strategic development. Their debut short film as producers, Sonsi, won the National Film Award and qualified for the 2022 Oscars. They co-produced Songs of Forgotten Trees, which premiered in the Orizzonti section at the 82nd Venice Film Festival (2025), where Anuparna Roy won Best Director. Together, they have built a diverse slate of films and documentaries that foreground intimate, socially resonant narratives that connect across cultures and generations.



VIRAJ SIKAND is a producer from Uttarakhand, India, known for his collaborations with filmmaker Yashasvi Juyal. He produced THE LAST RHODODENDRON (2021), which won the Gender Sensitivity Award at the Dharamshala International Film Festival and screened in International Competition at the Mumbai International Film Festival (2022). In 2025, he executive produced RAINS DON'T MAKE US HAPPY ANYMORE, which premiered at Visions du Réel.

BHAVNA KANKARIA is a writer, director, and producer working across fiction and non-fiction storytelling, with a focus on contemporary South Asian narratives. She has collaborated in writing and development with filmmakers including Pan Nalin, Dar Gai, and Archana Phadke. Her early work includes a docu-series with The Swaddle, examining how technology intersects with social realities in India, and music videos exploring grief and feminine longing. Kankaria has worked with production companies including Jugaad Motion Pictures, Meralta Films, Roy Kapur Films, and Silvercord Films, and is currently also producing a sports documentary series exploring celebrity culture, caste, and social media in a country obsessed with cricket. Her work centers intimate human stories shaped by shifting cultural landscapes in South Asia.



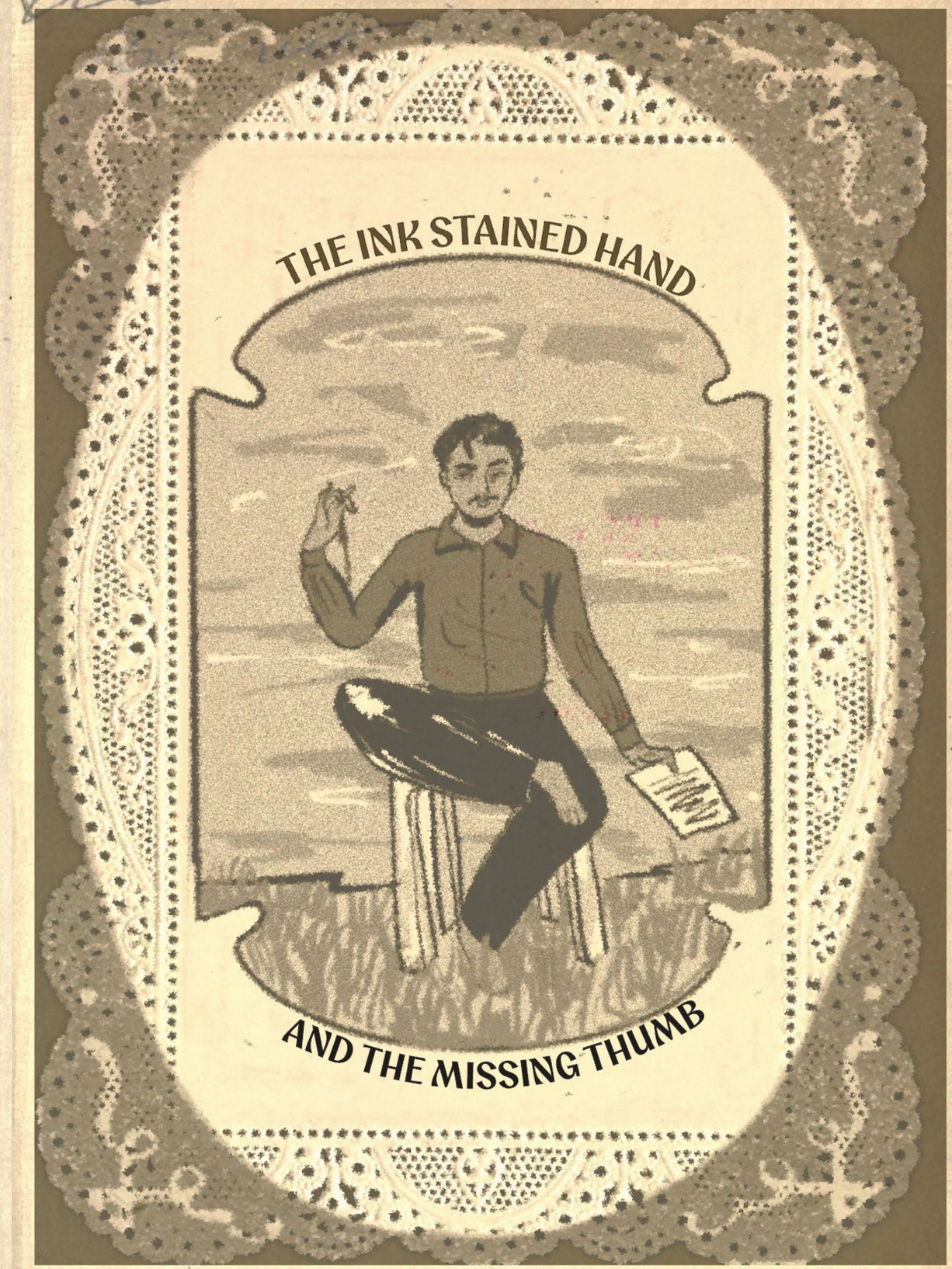
NEHA KAUL is a producer and film structuring and strategy consultant based in India, working across studio, platform, and independent filmmaking ecosystems. She has worked with leading companies including Disney Studios India, UTV Motion Pictures, and Netflix, and has led 300+ campaigns for some of the most critically acclaimed South Asian films and series of the last two decades. Her work has been associated with significant international recognition, including Payal Kapadia's Cannes Grand Prix winning All We Imagine As Light, Rohan Kanawade's Sundance Jury Award winning Sabar Bonda, the Academy Award winner The Elephant Whisperers, the International Best Drama Emmy winner Delhi Crime, The White Tiger, P.K., The Jungle Book, Dangal and several others. She is currently partnering with filmmaker(s) Richie Mehta, Tiger Baby (Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti), Roy Kapur Films (Siddharth Roy Kapur), Rock Honey Films (Karla Bookman) and is known for championing South Asian stories on the global stage.

About the EXecutive Producer

Shaunak Sen is an Academy award nominated filmmaker and writer based in Delhi.

His film 'All That Breathes', received nominations at the 2023 Academy and BAFTA awards. The film won a Peabody Award, in addition to awards at Cannes, Sundance, BFI London, IDA and Cinema Eye, and 24 other film festivals. Cities of Sleep (2016), his first feature-length documentary, was shown at various major international film festivals and won 6 international awards.

Shaunak has been on the jury for the Sundance, Berlin and Zurich Film Festivals. He recently produced the fiction feature Shadowbox (Dirs. Tanushree Das, Somo Sahi), which premiered at Berlinale in 2025. Shaunak was part of the prestigious Bellagio Residency program in 2025. He has received grants from Sundance, Tribeca, IDFA, and Catapult. He also holds a PhD. in Cinema Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.

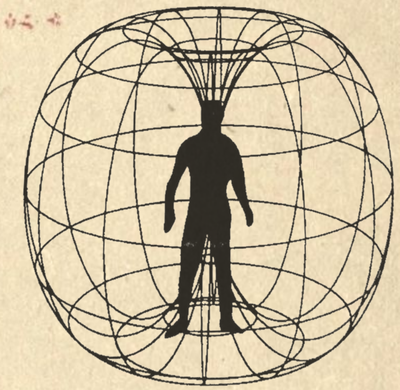


Cast and Crew



Written & Directed by **Yashasvi Juyal**
Cinematography by **Dipesh Manral**
Sound recording & design by **Ankit Thapa**
Production Design by **Shikha Bisht**
Costume Design by **Ayushi Mall**
Edit by **Viraj Selot**
Music Composition by **Nishant Ramteke**
Color by **Mahak Gupta**

STARRING:



Dheeraj Kumar as *Santosh*
Bhumika Dube as *Rajji*
Sudarshan Juyal as *Professor Pluto*
with the support of
Bella Sharma as *Ritu*
Madan Mehra as *Tiwari*
Nand Lal as *Diluter*

सं.
No. IG28-10750

अनुक्रमांक
Enrolment No. ID1050156

हेमवती नंदन राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय
HEMWATI NANDAN NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE

प्रमाणित किया जाता है कि
This is to certify that *Rajji Meghwal*

को निर्धारित पाठ्यक्रमों को पूरा करने और
after having passed the prescribed courses of study in the

December 2002 की परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण करने पर स्नातक उपाधि
examination is hereby awarded the Degree of

Bachelor of Science (Physics)

प्रदान की जाती है।

श्रेणी / Division *First*

कुलसचिव
Registrar

कुलपति
Vice Chancellor

दिनांक / Dated January 25, 2003

The Ink Stained Hand & The Missing Thumb

written & directed by yashasvi juyal

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