

HAF 12 A Life Lost and Found (working title)



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: India

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama | HD | Hindi, English | 120 mins

DIRECTOR:

Prateek SRIVASTAVA

PRODUCER:

Nitin UPADHYAYA

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales

BUDGET:

US\$764,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$68,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

After her alcoholic father burns her late mother's photograph, which was her only solace in her lonely, oppressive life, an underprivileged adolescent girl alone sets out to find a copy of it.

SYNOPSIS

During the 1970s, when many people could not afford photos of their loved ones, Roshni (13), an underprivileged village girl, is fortunate to have a photo of her late mother. This photo is her only solace in her lonely, oppressive existence until one day it is too taken away from her when her alcoholic father burns it in a drunken rage.

Determined to find a copy of her mother's photo, Roshni travels long distances, all alone, coming across all kinds of people. Finally, when she reaches Hari Ram, the old Anglo-Indian photographer, who took her mother's image decades ago; to her dismay, he has completely forgotten about the photo. Moreover, he has become blind, grumpy and impossible to get along with. Luckily, Errol, Hari's age-old caretaker, persuades Hari to let Roshni stay in the house. Roshni soon returns the favour by helping Errol find certain photos crucial for a book that Hari has a writing contract for. Later, she also helps revive Hari's name as a writer. But just when things start going great for them all, Errol dies, leaving a gaping hole in their lives.

With the passing years, Roshni, having failed to find her mother's photo, learns photography from Hari in the hopes of finding her mother's negative. Concurrently they form an anonymous, precious bond only to realise they are not alone anymore. But one day, by some quirk of fate, Alice, Hari's estranged daughter, returns from England.

Roshni and Hari both find themselves torn as each must make a choice now; for him - between Alice and Roshni, and for her - between staying and leaving her only true home.

In the end, Roshni does not find her mother's photo, but what she finds during this long, eventful journey is love and a larger goal in her life.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Is it true that whatever happens, happens for good?"

A Life Lost and Found, while not a biopic, is inspired by the real-life story of one of the most acclaimed Indian DoPs, Ravi Varman, whose yearning to possess a photo of his late mother placed him on a path that became his profession and took him places.

I felt an instant connection with Mr. Varman's story because it reminded me of my grandfather. My grandfather died when my father was three and the only way my father visualised him was through his photo. Unfortunately, the photo had been damaged even before I was born. It is sad that most people in those days were not as lucky as my father was.

I have made a few basic changes in the original story to make it more intriguing. For example, changing the protagonist from a boy to a girl makes the character more vulnerable and her journey more interesting, especially in the 1970s when women in society were oppressed under a system of structural hierarchies and injustices. Besides, making the photographer blind forces the young girl to go beyond her limits and make something out of her life. I believe Roshni's journey will inspire other girls like her to build a better future for themselves.

Through this film I want to portray the character of "Life" while touching upon the then contemporary issues (most of which govern our society even today) - prejudices, family, socio-economic development, Anglo-Indian identity crisis and social malpractices. This will create awareness, drive social action and bring about micro-level changes in mind and behaviour of individuals, thus positively impacting our society. In addition, I want to pay my tribute to the art of photography, which enables us to capture life's precious moments that otherwise get erased from our memory.

DIRECTOR

Prateek SRIVASTAVA

Prateek Srivastava studied Science at CSJM University, Kanpur, before enrolling at the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, to pursue his dreams of filmmaking. In 2008, after completing the TV Direction course, he started his career as an assistant to National Award winning director Rahul Dholakia and worked with him on his two feature films before joining Yash Raj Films, the biggest film-making and distribution company in India. Later, he also worked with Vijayta Films, one of the leading film-making companies in India, founded by the legendary actor Dharmendra. So far, he has assisted on about 9 feature films and a dozen TVCs, AVs and music videos in various capacities.

His debut project, *A Life Lost and Found*, has been selected at the 2016 Clinik Production Lab, previously known as Clinik.Kathmandu.

His short, *Qafas* (2012), was screened at numerous festivals and went on to win the Best Film Award at the 2013 Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, India, 2014 VideoMaker Film Festival, Italy, and 2016 Zee Talkies Lighthouse Contest, India. Also, it was nominated for the Audience Choice Award and the Best Film Award at the 2013 Freedom Film Fest, Malaysia, and 2014 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, Australia.

PRODUCER

Nitin UPADHYAYA

Nitin Upadhyaya started his career as an IT Consultant with Wipro in Kochi before leaving it for his love of filmmaking. He has worked as an Executive Producer with one of the biggest film-making companies in India like Balaji Motion Pictures and Dharma Productions and has been a

part of major commercial hits like *Ek Villain* (2014) and *Ragini MMS 2* (2014). In his EP career, spanning more than 10 years, he has worked on approximately 8 feature films and two dozen TVCs, AVs, TV shows, music videos and web series before finally starting his own filmmaking company, ODDBALL Motion Pictures, along with director Tony D'Souza in 2016.

He owns one more film-making company by the name of Cinematically Correct, under which he has already produced 3 short films. His debut production, *Qafas* (2012), was screened at numerous national and international film festivals and went on to win awards in India and Italy besides being nominated in Malaysia and Australia. His another short, *Stained*, was officially selected at the 2012 Show Me Justice Film Festival, USA. And his latest, *An Irrelevant Story* (2013), was screened at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival in Short Film Corner section besides being screened at numerous film festivals.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

ODDBALL Motion Pictures

ODDBALL Motion Pictures, a Mumbai-based film-making company, came into existence through the long-time association of director Tony D'Souza and executive producer Nitin Upadhyaya over several projects that they pulled off together.

We have created a next generation company and constantly strive for excellence. Our key focus is to create out-of-the-box content, with the quality at par with world cinema, that leaves our audiences spellbound and makes us proud, with an underlying intention to lend a helping hand to up-and-coming young filmmakers and talents in the country to realise their dreams.

The company is engaged in the production of multiple aspects of entertainment, including feature film, television commercial, audiovisual, television show, web content and short film.

We are currently producing five feature films: *Captain Nawab* (2017) by Tony D'Souza (Starring: Emraan Hashmi, Saisha Sehgal), *Haadsa* by Kanishk Varma (Starring: Gulshan Devaiah, Sagarika Ghatge), *Behen Hogi Teri* by Ajay Pannalal (Starring: Rajkummar Rao, Shruti Hassan), *Adbhut* by Tejas Dhanraj (Starring: Priyadarshan Jadhav, Manjari Phadnis) and *A Life Lost and Found* by Prateek Srivastava. Besides, we are line producing 2 upcoming web series, *Losing My Virginity and other Dumb Ideas* by Ken Ghosh, and *Boys* by Akarsh Khurana, for Viacom.