

WIP R Two Friends (Dostojee)



REGION: India

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Drama, Children | Digital Format | Bengali | 110mins

DIRECTOR:

Prasun CHATTERJEE

PRODUCERS:

Prasun CHATTERJEE

Ivy SHEN Yu-Hua

Soumya MUKHOPADHYAY

Prosenjit Ranjan NATH

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales, Festival Screening

BUDGET: US\$ 256,000

SECURED BUDGET: US\$ 150,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

The innocent friendship between two boys crosses the barriers built by religion and society, but when the relentless fate separates them, how do the boys face the first farewell?

SYNOPSIS

The aftermath of Babri Mosque demolition in India, 1992-93, found its violent echoes even at the remote village in a border district of West Bengal where the story of the film begins to unfold. A story of friendship between two little boys belongs to two warring religious communities. Palash (8) is the son of a Brahmin while Safikul (8) is the son of a Muslim weaver. The innocence of Palash and Safikul receives its sustenance from nature. The greenery of the village, the river and the vast stretch of paddy fields playfully rebound with the echoes of the voices and the laughter of the boys. However, their relentless fate arrives quietly, and separation becomes the destiny of their friendship. How the boys face the farewell and spread wings to fly again.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Born and brought up in a cosmopolitan city like Calcutta, I have spent almost twelve years of my life in the remote villages of West Bengal adjacent to India-Bangladesh border. Throughout this journey, I have genuinely felt that the fine threads of our social fabric are being destroyed bit by bit every day by discriminatory politics. Not just in our country, but this is also the reality that happened everywhere. Looking around us, we can see the entire world plagued by the menace of religious polarisation. An individual from one community casts aspersions on individuals of other communities when the religious identity of a human being turns out to be their sole identity. Our story tries to capture this very narrative through the innocent eyes of two little boys. In these tough times, our only hope is to try and be "humans" first. *Two Friends (Dostojee)* is my expression of love and respect for humanity and my silent protest against communal polarisation.

DIRECTOR

Prasun CHATTERJEE

Prasun Chatterjee was born in suburban Calcutta. His family immigrated to India from Bangladesh due to the communal tensions after the India-Pakistan partition. Without any experience of filmmaking, he managed to shoot his first short film, *Shades*, in 2017, which was selected in numerous film festivals. With a Bohemian soul, he has spent time wandering near the India-Bangladesh border in search of meaning. He has experienced the lives of the villagers, their emotions, economy, communal polarisation, and innocence very closely. All these experiences manifested in his mind as the story behind *Two Friends (Dostojee)*, which becomes his first feature film.

PRODUCER

Prasun CHATTERJEE

(same as director)

Ivy SHEN Yu-Hua

Ivy Shen Yu-Hua, the Taiwanese producer, has experience in film production, distribution, and international sales/acquisition. She was selected in 2019 Busan Asian Film School (AFIS) and Film Bazaar Producer Workshop.

Soumya MUKHOPADHYAY

Soumya Mukhopadhyay graduated in Economics from Presidency College, Kolkata. He produces and directs films and is experimenting with different forms of audiovisual art. He established and managed Cherrypix; India's leading boutique production and post-production studio.

Prosenjit Ranjan NATH

Prosenjit Ranjan NATH is the first time producer. He is a computer engineer who owns a Calcutta based software company.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Kathak Talkies

Kathak Talkies is a Calcutta-based film production company, founded by Prasun Chatterjee in 2017. The company produced the short film, *Shades* (2017), which selected in numerous film festivals. *Two Friends (Dostojee)* is the first feature film produced by Kathak Talkies, selected in NFDC's "Film Bazaar Recommends" viewing room section and working in post-production stage now.