

## WIP B Between the Hooks



**COUNTRY/REGION:** Germany

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:**

Documentary | Digital Format | English, Sinhalese, Tamil, German | 90mins

**DIRECTOR:**

Ibrahim NASH'AT

**PRODUCER:**

Florian SCHEWE

**WIP GOALS:**

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

**TOTAL BUDGET:** US\$336,975

**SECURED BUDGET:** US\$125,950

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2019 *Home Away from Home*

2018 *A Moment with the Wind*

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

A small Sri Lankan fishing village skyrocketed to fame as an international kitesurfing hotspot. We follow the journeys of its two co-existing worlds: kitesurfing and fishing.

## SYNOPSIS

*Between the Hooks* tells the story of a small Sri Lankan fishing village that skyrocketed to fame as an international kitesurfing hotspot, revealing stories from its two co-existing worlds: kitesurfing and fishing.

Dilsiri, a local kitesurfing enthusiast and entrepreneur, is trying to maintain a sustainable tourism model. But in the absence of any governing regulations, the village is overcrowding with international investors, thus endangering his model. Dilsiri is torn between fighting the ever-changing authorities and mediating disagreements between the kitesurfing schools and the fishing society.

Emmanuel's family, which heads the fishing society, is split between generations—a change-averse grandfather, an accommodating father and a rebellious kitesurfing son.

Supported by his father, Sachin has carved a new path for himself as a kitesurfing coach, to his grandfather's disapproval. While COVID-19 never stopped Dilsiri from his battle, Sachin is forced to give up his dreams and learn his family tradition.

From astonishing shots of the modern kitesurfing world to calming sceneries of traditional fishing, the film navigates the story of how one village's harmony becomes endangered. How can one lagoon be the home to such a diverse range of interests?

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I was raised to pursue a traditional career as a professor in pharmaceuticals. I took many steps towards reaching my family's goal. However, I knew my passion lay elsewhere. The first time I picked up a camera at the age of 21, I quickly changed track to pursue a career in film. It was unacceptable to my family initially, but they gradually started to be proud of me.

I first went to Kalpitiya as a kitesurfer, and there I met Dilsiri. We instantly connected over the similarities in the journeys we'd taken to pursue our passions. I was especially taken by his desire to rebuild and give back to his community. Later, I was introduced to Sachin, whom reminded me of the time when I wanted to leave pharmaceuticals. Because of his dedication, I wanted to follow him as he carved himself a path while respecting his family's traditions. After spending some time in the village of Kudawa, I was surprised to discover how much we have in common, though we came from what appeared to be different cultures. Connecting with the villagers made me, without a doubt, ready to spend a few years telling their story.

## DIRECTOR

### Ibrahim NASH'AT

A documentary filmmaker based in Berlin, Germany. Nash'at's career spans across various companies, formats, and styles, including TV programmes and documentaries, music videos, video journalism, and independent short documentaries. He has worked with international television networks and online platforms such as Deutsche Welle, Al Jazeera, Business Insider and AJ+.

## PRODUCER

### Florian SCHEWE

Schewe studied directing at the Film University in Potsdam-Babelsberg. His documentary *We Were Rebels* (2014), on which he also served as an associate producer, toured film festivals worldwide, including DOK.fest Munich, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) and Montreal World Film Festival. It also won Best Documentary at Brooklyn International Film Festival and received Germany's prestigious Grimme Award. In 2017, he co-founded Berlin-based production company Film Five GmbH.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### Film Five GmbH

An award-winning production company based in Berlin. Its productions have succeeded in taking home a variety of prestigious awards; *Koka, the Butcher* (2018) won best short at the Oscar-qualifying Big Sky Documentary Film Festival and St. Louis International Film Festival in addition to a successful tour on the film festival circuit. Feature documentary *No Gold for Kalsaka* (2019) screened at Montreal International Documentary Festival, Panafrican Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou, Durban International Film Festival and IDFA.

### RMG 247 Productions GmbH

A Berlin-based subsidiary of Rolling Media Group (Lebanon, Qatar) and co-production company for *Between the Hooks*.