

HAF 21 In the Belly of a Tiger



REGION: India

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:

Drama | 35mm, Digital Format | Hindi | 100mins

DIRECTOR:

Siddhartha JATLA

PRODUCER:

Vivek KAJARIA

Amanda MOONEY

Bhavana GOPARAJU

HAF GOALS:

Co-producers, Pre-sales

BUDGET: US\$ 499,000

SECURED BUDGET: US\$ 350,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2017 *Love and Shukla*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

An elderly couple in a remote village in Northern India must decide who will be killed by a tiger to get government compensation to ensure their family's survival.

SYNOPSIS

This story is inspired by true incidents. An elderly couple in a remote village in India is forced to decide who will be killed by a tiger so that they can claim the government compensation necessary for their family's survival. In a single night, in the middle of a forest where they wait for the tiger, they are illuminated only by the memories of the life they have spent together.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In July 2017, the half-eaten body of a 55-year-old woman was found near a forest in Bankati village, one of the impoverished villages around the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve in North India. While examining her body, village officials noticed signs of a disturbing new farmer suicide trend. They suspected that villagers had begun sending elderly family members into the tiger reserve as prey and were then relocating their bodies to surrounding fields to get compensation from the Indian government. Villagers may only claim compensation if victims are killed in a tiger attack outside the reserve, with relatives receiving up to 12,000 Euros. "This is the only way their families can escape from poverty," farmer Jarnail Singh, 60, told *The Times of India*.

Over the past months, I have spent time in these villages. I am making this film so that we may not remember headlines, but instead remember their names; so that we do not compensate death but instead invest in a viable future for these families; so that we no longer romanticise our villages, but take responsibility for their survival. I will insist that the village where we shoot is given an investment stake in any profits earned from the film.

DIRECTOR

Siddhartha JATLA

Jatla's short film, *The Artist* (2012), premiered at Busan International Film Festival (BIFF). In 2017, his first feature, *Love and Shukla*, written with Amanda Mooney, sold to Netflix, premiered at BIFF, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Shanghai International Film Festival and screened in more than 30 other top festivals worldwide, winning the Audience Choice Award (Yalta), Director's Vision Award (Stuttgart) and NETPAC Award. *Love and Shukla* is being remade into a Marathi feature after its Hindi language success.

In the Belly of a Tiger won Busan's ACF Script Development Fund and has been selected by NFDC Script Lab, NFDC Film Bazaar, LIM - Le Groupe Ovest Script Lab, and Script Pool Tallinn.

PRODUCER

Vivek KAJARIA, Basil Content

A prolific producer, Vivek Kajaria is a passionate guardian of Indian Independents. Both *Anumati* (2013) and *Fandry* (2014) won the distinguished National Film Awards and were screened at prestigious international film festivals. *Fandry*, also screened for Golden Globes Selection. In 2014 the President of India awarded KAJARIA the National Film Award (Golden Lotus) for *Fandry*.

Amanda MOONEY, Momo Films

Amanda MOONEY is co-producer, co-writer and editor of Jatla's Hindi debut feature, *Love and Shukla* (2017). She is co-writer of *In the Belly of a Tiger*.

Bhavana GOPARAJU

Bhavana Goparaju is an Independent Filmmaker, Founder of Jeevi Films which previously produced award-winning parallel films like *Maadathy, an Unfairytale* (2019), *Ek Poshla Rupkatha (In Loving Memory...)* (2017), *Mantra* (2016).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Basil Content

Basil Content to its credit has some of India's most path-breaking films including distinguished National Film Awards winners *Anumati* (2013) and *Fandry* (2014). *Fandry*, a true gem in Basil Content's slate, was screened for Golden Globes Selection in 2014. Basil Content has a knack of identifying first features from top talent like Nagraj Manjule.

Momo Films

Momo Films is the production house of Amanda Mooney and Siddhartha Jatla.