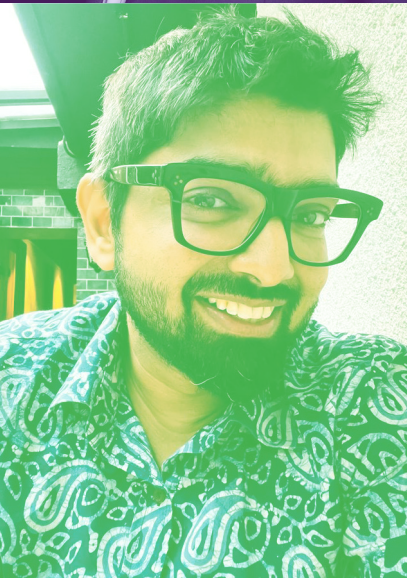




**Screenwriters'
Lab** WAVES
Film
Bazaar
2025



Contents

Kavita	Chintan Bhatt	<i>Malayalam, Hindi</i>	2
Misfits	Manish Sharma	<i>Hindi, English</i>	3
Nazma Ka Tadka (Nazma's Tadka)	Sapan Taneja	<i>Hindi</i>	4
Agli Fasal (Next Crop)	Amitoj Singh	<i>Hindi, Urdu, Awadhi</i>	5
Once upon a December	Arya Menon	<i>English, Tamil</i>	6
White Guy	Niharika Puri	<i>English</i>	7
Yayavar	Darshan Trivedi	<i>Gujarati</i>	8
ZaZiZa	Swati Jha	<i>Malayalam</i>	9



Kavita

Malayalam, Hindi

Chintan Bhatt

Synopsis

Kavita is the story of a young social media influencer who returns to her hometown in Kerala with her cancer-stricken father Bhaskar. They are visiting to attend the engagement ceremony of her cousin and visiting the town she spent 15 years of her life. She gets reunited with her aunt and uncle and cousin. But on this trip, hidden secrets of the entire family which had broken them apart in the first place start to emerge as Bhaskar confronts his own mortality. Amongst this all, Kavita struggles to keep the biggest secret of her life hidden as it may shatter everything she has worked so relentlessly hard for.

Logline

Kavita is the story of a young social media influencer who returns to her hometown in Kerala with her cancer-stricken father. Over five turbulent days leading up to her cousin's engagement, long buried family secrets surface, her own hidden truth threatens to explode, and she's forced to choose between love, ambition, and the cost of her dreams.

Biography

Chintan Bhatt is the Co-founder of Green Chutney films which was founded in 2018. Chintan directs, produces Ad films for the company and has made some award winning ad films. Chintan also wrote and produced the short film *The song we sang* which won the best film award at Iffla in 2020



Misfits

Hindi, English

Manish Sharma

Synopsis

Vipul, 30, is a development worker from Bhopal whose arranged marriage collapses after rumours brand him a brothel regular. In truth, he works with sex workers on health and rights, a calling his conservative family cannot reconcile. Heartbroken, he turns to dating apps and meets Kheer—an Irish-born woman with Indian roots. Their romance blossoms, leading to a proposal. When Kheer introduces her queer parents, the Ahirwars mistake them for relatives raising a child together. What follows is a fragile comedy of misunderstanding—two families bonding while quietly assuming different truths. To protect the harmony, Vipul conceals what he knows, confiding only in his maverick aunt, Baby Bua, who becomes both accomplice and conscience. As secrets strain under the weight of love and belonging, *Misfits* explores how caste, queerness, and modern Indian family life collide. It is a dramedy about truth, acceptance, and the courage to stop pretending.

Logline

Vipul thought finding love was hard. Convincing his parents would be harder. But nothing prepared him for Kheer, NRI daughter of same-sex fathers; and the hilarious, heartbreaking mix-ups that follow when secrets collide and unexpected bonds are made. Vipul must decide to protect the illusion or confront one impossible truth that could shatter it all or bring everyone closer than ever.

Biography

Manish Sharma is a Mumbai-based writer, director, and editor. An Editing graduate from SRFTI and former theatre artist with NSD's Theatre in Education Company, he edited the Filmfare-winning feature *Dhak Dhak* (Netflix, JioCinema). As founder of P se Picture, he has created acclaimed campaigns for leading brands and NGOs. His films, blending humour with emotional depth, explore gender, identity, and social change, and have screened at international festivals. He is currently developing his debut feature — a dramedy about love, secrets, and the messy beauty of family.



Nazma Ka Tadka

Nazma's Tadka

Hindi

Sapan Taneja

Synopsis

In a bustling Mumbai neighbourhood, Shakir, a middle-aged tailor, clings to rigid routines after his wife Yasmin's death. His only respite is Nazma ka Tadka, a YouTube cooking channel run by Nazma, a woman quietly rebelling against societal pressures. Shakir's tenuous bond with his brother-in-law Bilal collapses after a bitter fight over money. Meanwhile, Nazma's joy in making videos with her young neighbour Mehak is cut short when gossip and family coercion force her to stop. Bilal drifts between odd jobs, aspiring to be an actor but his restlessness and grief make him unable to hold on to anything. Months later, Shakir encounters Nazma on a bus, prompting small but significant acts. Shakir is successful in cooking one of Nazma's dishes. Nazma makes a visit to Mehak and rekindles her resolve. Bilal returns to work and is invited for dinner by Shakir that signals the quiet beginnings of repair.

Logline

Three individuals—a grieving tailor bound by routine, a young man struggling to make ends meet, and a woman seeking purpose through YouTube videos—grapple with how to live in the face of need, loneliness, and loss.

Biography

Sapan Taneja is a filmmaker and writer based in Mumbai with over eight years of experience across documentary, fiction, and experimental formats, including 8mm and 16mm film. His work has been showcased at festivals such as Oberhausen, MAMI, and the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK). As a founding member of Nazaria Arts Collective, he collaborates with youth from low-income communities through fiction and non-fiction filmmaking workshops. His practice is community-rooted and led by collective authorship. He is a Writers Ink and Docustan Lab alum, and in 2025, he was a Flaherty Film Seminar fellow.



Agli Fasal

Next Crop

Hindi, Urdu, Awadhi

Amitoj Singh

Synopsis

In Malihabad, the mango capital, caretaker Kallu digs a grave for Naqvi matriarch Khalida in their orchard, amid rumors of her estranged son's return. Kallu drifts from his wife, disturbed by her occult practices. The son prays at the grave, sharing a mango from its tree with Kallu. The orchard faces pruning. Kallu eats the mango alone, later awakening metaphysically to meet Khalida's soul. They merge into Kallu's body; she confronts her son, who hesitates revealing his departure. Flashback shows Kallu's daughter died in an accident, buried unmarked, straining his marriage. Kallu bargains with Khalida: help her find closure, and his daughter rests beside her. They uncover truths. Khalida aids Kallu's reconciliation with his wife. He saves the tree from pruning and buries his daughter. Eating a mango together, they meet their daughter's spirit in the graveyard. Kallu steps back, letting his wife embrace her, waiting for the next harvest.

Logline

A feudal family's mango orchard has transformed into a graveyard. The last matriarch is buried beneath a ripe tree, the fruit of which lands upon the caretaker of the graveyard, a seasoned steward of the family. As he consumes the mango, a magical story of grief, friendship, and second chances emerges from its nectar.

Biography

Amitoj Singh is a screenwriter and filmmaker based in Mumbai, India. He is a graduate of Film Direction and Screenplay writing from FTII, Pune. He is currently working with director Sudhir Mishra as an associate. Hailing from Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh, he did his Bachelor's in English Literature from Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi. He also worked as a copywriter and a translator. He was a part of the Doc-Commune program at PSBT. He speaks English, Hindi, and Punjabi fluently. He is also a poet and a lyricist, having written songs for some short films.



Once upon a December

English, Tamil

Arya Menon

Synopsis

A woman discovers old letters from her missing twin sibling at their Ooty boarding school, uncovering adolescent love, trauma, and long-concealed truths that shape both past and present identity.

Logline

A woman stumbles upon letters from a missing sibling, written at a boarding school between 1997 and 2001. The letters reveal startling new truths about her forgotten past, and force her to question her own identity.

Biography

Arya A Menon is a Producer known for Hardik Mehta's *Famous In Ahmedabad*, winner of Best Non-Feature Film at the National Awards (2015). She served as Series Producer on India's first Netflix original *Sacred Games* (2018–2019) and *Decoupled* (2021). She was Director's Assistant to Vikramaditya Motwane on *AK vs AK* (2020) and produced *Ctrl* (2024). Credits include *Wade* (Upamanyu Bhattacharyya–Kalp Sanghvi), *I See You* (Manjari Makijany), *Kiss* (Varun Grover), and *Kovarty* (Rohin Nair), spanning documentary, fiction, and animation. She co-runs Odd & Even, a Mumbai-based production company.



White Guy

English

Niharika Puri

Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Rannvijay “RV” Manget, a Punjabi teen who moved to 1980s Birmingham as a child, struggles with identity and belonging. Caught between his father's strict traditional values and racist culture, RV faces constant bullying for his turban and skin color. In rebellion, he secretly embraces Western pop music, distancing himself from his heritage. When a rare skin condition causes RV to turn completely white, he suddenly gains acceptance and privilege. This transformation creates a complex identity crisis as he hides his true heritage behind a facade of whiteness. He forms Kamikaze Desi, a band blending British rock and Bhangra pop, attempting to bridge his two worlds. As RV manages family tensions, a secret romance with fellow musician Sahiba, and his band's rising fame, Kamikaze Desi provokes conflict within both communities. The story culminates in a rebellious performance where RV confronts societal norms and defines his own bicultural path.

Logline

When vitiligo turns a bullied Punjabi teen white in 1980s Birmingham, newfound privilege and acceptance come to the cost of his identity ... until music offers redemption.

Biography

Niharika Puri is a screenwriter who began her career in 2015 with Eros International's writers room. She went on to work as a Creative Associate on short-form sitcoms such as *Date Gone Wrong*, *Tumse Na Ho Payega*, and *My Name is Sheela*. In 2019, she joined Nadiadwala Grandson's digital division as a Creative Development Executive, before transitioning to full-time freelance writing in 2020. Her credits include *Code M* Season 2 and *Shekhar Home* (BBC's Indian adaptation of Sherlock Holmes). She continues to develop a diverse slate of projects across genres and platforms.



Yayavar

Gujarati

Darshan Trivedi

Synopsis

Tejas, a young professor, deliberately loses his way in Kutch desert and faces trials of thirst, heat, and fear, until a mystical musician and a surreal night change his perception of reality and materialism forever.

Logline

A professor, lost in the desert of Kutch, stumbles upon a mysterious musician who shatters his ego and transforms his attitude towards his life

Biography

Dr. Darshan Ashwin Trivedi is an Indian Film Director, Writer, Producer, Educator, M&E Industry Consultant, Researcher, and Entrepreneur. Darshan is known for his Gujarati films *'Mrugtrushna'* and *'Mara Pappa Superhero'*. Darshan holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and Law from Gujarat National Law University. Darshan is an adjunct faculty at MICA. Darshan believes in creating relatable content.



ZaZiZa

Malayalam

Swati Jha

Synopsis

Zahhad, a quiet transman carrying hidden wounds and Ziya, a defiant trans-woman shaped by violence dream of what was never meant for them, a family. Through illegal hormone prescriptions, kitchen-table surgeries, broken hospital beds, and nights filled with rain, dance, and whispered prayers, Ziya and Zahhad stitch their own world together. But the fight for life comes at a brutal cost, Zahhad's pregnancy becomes dangerous, their bodies revolt. The couple must decide how much of themselves they are willing to lose to bring new life into the world. It's the story about a breast less father who gave birth to a child and the mother with a penis who puts plastic nipples over her flat chest to cajole the baby to sleep. *ZaZiZa* becomes a love letter to all those who have built families from the ruins and a defiant testament that motherhood, fatherhood and love are acts of pure rebellion.

Logline

Zaziza is a near-fictional story inspired by real events that shook India — the first known public transgender pregnancy where a 21yr old man delivered a baby successfully after conceiving the child in his womb for 9 months.

Biography

Swati Jha is a documentary filmmaker and former journalist. She recently directed a documentary on the struggles of widows of farmers in Maharashtra, highlighting the agricultural debt crisis just miles away from India's financial capital. She has worked with leading dailies such as The Asian Age, The Indian Express, Deccan Chronicle, and The Free Press Journal. Holding a PhD in Sociology from the University of Mumbai with a strong focus on gender studies, she is currently creating and writing a TV series for a leading production house, based on Independent India's biggest scam, for a major platform.