



# Kabeer Khurana

Filmmaker | Artist | Writer | Educator

[www.kabeerkhurana.com](http://www.kabeerkhurana.com)

## Biography

Kabeer Khurana is a Mumbai-based multiple award-winning filmmaker. It's been his constant endeavour to create conceptual and socially relevant cinema that reflects our times, yet pushing cinematic boundaries with technology and visual language.

His films have received a Filmfare nomination as well as been screened in Croatia, Indonesia, Morocco, USA, Ukraine, Brazil, Singapore, Hong Kong, Poland, Amsterdam and more. Kabeer has directed veterans like Hardik Pandya, Jaaved Jaaferi, Dr Mohan Agashe, Amole Gupte, Darsheel Safary, Shubman Gill, Suchitra Pillai, Jamie Lever, Viveck Vaswani, Kane Williamson and others, apart from assisting and being mentored by filmmakers Saeed Mirza, Zoya Akhtar and Gauri Shinde.

Kabeer's films have released on Amazon Prime US & UK, Disney+ Hotstar and MX Player. He is also the founder of the Indie Film Circuit, a vast community of 3500+ independent filmmakers across India. At present, he is directing commercials for top brands, as well as teaching filmmaking at Mumbai University.

Instagram: @kabeerkkhurana

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## Education

- MFA in Film Production with Directing Emphasis, Chapman University (California) - 2021-23
- BA (hons) in History, Ashoka University (NCR India) - 2017-20
- BArch (1<sup>st</sup> year) in Architecture, Kamla Raheja Institute of Architecture (Mumbai) - 2016-17
- Beginner Program in Method Acting, Jeff Goldberg Studio
- ISC Science, Jasudben ML School (Mumbai) - 94%
- ICSE, Arya Vidya Mandir (Mumbai) - 88.8%
- Grade II in Violin, Trinity College (London)

## Experience

### Teaching

- 2021 to Present: Professor of Film at University of Mumbai's UPG College, teaching filmmaking to undergraduate students of the BA in Film, Television and New Media Production. Taught over 300+ students filmmaking over the last 2 years. Courses I've taught:
- **Fundamentals of Post-Production**
- Editing Approaches
- Film-Video Workflows
- Music Composition
- Colour Theory and Grading
- **Film Appreciation**
- World Film History
- Indian Film History
- Film and Art Movements
- Film Criticism
- Philosophy of Cinema
- Narrative Strategies
- **Production Management**
- Budgeting
- Setting Up a Production Company
- Scheduling and Call Sheets
- Set Protocols
- Conflict Resolution
- Breakdowns
- **Introduction to Direction for Television**
- **Introduction to Direction for Film**
- Basics of Visual Design and Grammar
- Performance and Blocking
- Pre-Production Planning
- Screenwriting
- Basics of Animation and Visual Effects
- Art History and Movements
- Architecture and Design History
- Editing Approaches
- **Introduction to Advertising (MA in Advertising and Journalism)**
- Ogilvy on Advertising

## Filmmaking

- Writer/Director of 17 award-winning short films. Winner of 16 international awards, and over 40+ selections worldwide at festivals in Croatia, Morocco, Indonesia, USA, Italy, Brazil, Hong Kong, Poland, India, Ukraine, Prague, Amsterdam, Singapore and others.
- *Suttabaazi* (2021), starring Renée Sen (daughter of former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen) in her debut, released on Disney+ Hotstar and MX Player. It was a Finalist at the Filmfare Short Film Awards 2021. *Hangout* (2020) released on Amazon Prime US and UK and Disney+ Hotstar.
- Worked with stalwarts like Saeed Akhtar Mirza, Zoya Akhtar, Jaaved Jaaferi, Dr Mohan Agashe, Amole Gupte, Hardik Pandya, Shubman Gill, Kane Williamson, Gauri Shinde, R Balki, Prahlad Kakkar, Viveck Vaswani, Ranjit Dahiya, Jamie Lever, Darsheel Safary, Renée Sen, Suchitra Pillai, Rahul Vohra, Komal Chhabria, Nakul Roshan Sahdev, Gabriel Jenkinson, Emiliano Mazzenga, Anisa Butt and others.
- Mentored by John Badham (*Saturday Night Fever*), Asghar Farhadi (multiple Oscar winner), Martha Coolidge (ex-President of DGA), Saeed Akhtar Mirza (pioneer of Indian Parallel Cinema movement), and K Hariharan (film critic and director).
- Founder of the Indie Film Circuit, a community of 3500+ filmmakers to co-create, network and collaborate. Also run The Nest, a community space in Bandra for film screenings and discussions.

## Entrepreneurship

- Founder of Bombaykala Books, named by The Hindu as India's youngest publishing venture. The company, along with its sister-concern Curato, published about 11 titles. We were featured in Harpers' Bazaar, Scroll, Mid-Day, DNA, India Today, and others.
- Founder of Navrang: Ashoka University's Film Society, which has over 500+ members currently. Winner of the Ashoka Annual Merit Award (2019).
- Founder of Exposition Pictures, a Mumbai-based avant-garde production house, with an award-winning panel of directors including Ida Ali, Prince Shah, Pratik Kothari and others.
- Founder of Indie Film Circuit, a community for of 600+ filmmakers and enthusiasts to connect, network, collaborate and discuss cinema.

- Creative Director of The Mumbai Art Collective, an organization to create a repository of creative processes through video profiles, interviews, and columns. We were featured in the Dartmouth Journal, India Today, DNA, Mid-Day, and others.
- Founder of Artyculate India, an organization to create social impact through creative expression. Featured on the cover story of India Today magazine on Young Indian Changemakers.
- Creative Director of the Ashoka Literature Festival (2019) which had visiting dignitaries like Yogendra Yadav, William Dalrymple, Prannoy Roy, Ravish Kumar, Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Prayaag Akbar, and others.
- Panel director of Climb Media India Pvt. Ltd., a 22-time National Award-winning production house based in Mumbai, known for classics such as *Gharaonda* and *Ek Anek Ekta*.

### **Writing**

- Written articles on cinema for The Daily Eye (online publication run by Vinta Nanda).
- Written over 30+ published articles on social themes for several magazines/newspapers including DNA, Jalebi Ink, The Teenager Today and Bandra Buzz.
- Recipient of a Bronze Medal at the International Commonwealth Essay Writing Competition (2015)
- Editor-in-Chief of Arya Darpan: Arya Vidya Mandir's school magazine for two consecutive years.
- Junior Journalist for DNA Ya newspaper, winning an award for Best Reportage Feature.
- Written articles on filmmaking and cinema theory, published in India Independent Films (website) and InCulture (website), two online platforms dedicated to the arts, humanities and storytelling.
- Photographed for The Bombay Review magazine (Indo-Pak Project) and Bandra Buzz newspaper.

### **Internships**

- Hope Productions (January-April 2023): Worked as a Director's Assistant to Gauri Shinde, and a post-production assistant to R Balki on Ghoomer.
- Leo Burnett Orchard (July-August 2018): Internship in advertising and copywriting. Worked on activation campaigns for Amazon, Ultimo and Soft Touch.

- Aiji The Odd Product Company (2016): Worked with designer and actress Lekha Washington on her series of exquisite designer furniture and home décor.

## **Guest Speaker and Interviews**

- Expert/Mentor for the 2025 Space Hackathon on Space Engineering, Biology and Art in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America – organised by The Spring Institute (December 2024).
- Chief Guest at Arya Vidya Mandir School, Bandra (West) for their Annual Day (December 2024).
- Screening of The Pawn of Marottichal for the Bimal Roy Memorial Foundation, organised by author and filmmaker Rinki Roy Bhattacharya (December 2024).
- Featured as one among Powerful People: Voices of Change 2024 by The Daily Eye (December 2024).
- Premiere of The Pawn of Marottichal at Marottichal Village, Thrissur District, Kerala (December 2024).
- Speaker at Screening of Death in the City organised by White Walls Screenings (October 2024).
- TedX Speaker at Hiranandani Foundation School (Feb 2024)
- Chief Guest at Frames Film Festival, SIES College (February 2024).
- Speaker at NM College's Film Festival (November 2023) along with Namashi Chakraborty.
- Speaker at the Screening of Suttabaazi at the IndieHabitat organised by White Walls Screenings (September 2023)
- Guest Speaker at Pichhala Steps' podcast (August 2023) on filmmaking.
- Chief Guest at DPS Bangalore on Reel Stars, Real Stories.
- Filmmaker in Focus and also Kabeer Khurana Retrospective at RV University's Teen Indie Film Awards (June 2023). Jury of the Experimental Film Contest, along with Nandita Puri, Dr Piyush Roy, Priyanka Sinha Jha and Dalton Christopher.
- Speaker at the Edutainment Show for their Panel Discussion on Breaking Stereotypes in Cinema: The Role of New Age Directors. Other panelists include filmmakers Giaa Singh Arora, Ria Nalavade and Vidar Joshi
- Speaker at National Center for Performing Arts (Mumbai) (April 2023) for the Mumbai Premiere of Dali.

- Chief Guest at Jai Hind College (Feb 2023)
- Chief Guest at SIES College Nerul (Feb 2023)
- Conducted a 32-hour Script to Screen lecture series at UPG College, Mumbai, covering performance, visual language, editing, sound, screenwriting, pre-production, experimental cinema, film philosophy and genres, industry and set protocols, marketing and distribution.
- Conducted a filmmaking course for children of McNulty prize-winning social enterprise focusing on leadership education, Aspire Education. (June 2022)
- Featured in a Documentary on Representation in Hollywood for Streetsmart, directed by Ryan Deeb.
- Guest Panelist at Table Talk with Jo, alongside Darsheel Safary (actor) and Suchitra Pillai (actor) for the launch of *Dramayama*. (February 2022)
- Speaker at Bandra Film Festival on my short *Suttabaazi*. (June 2021)
- Workshop on History of Filmmaking at UPG College, Mumbai. (June 2021)
- Speaker at Talks&Talks with Neeraj Pandey (*Mirzapur*), Subodh Solanki (FTII professor) and Siddhartha Sharma (acting coach). (May 2021)
- Filmmaker Panelist at 6<sup>th</sup> Indie Meme Film Festival, hosted on Filmocracy.com. (April 2021)
- Guest Speaker at Surf to the Horizon. (April 2021)
- Jury Member at Director's Cut competition of Paper Planes Festival (NMIMS's Intercollegiate Cultural Festival). (March 2021)
- Talk on Cinema for the Department of Philosophy, OP Jindal University. (February 2021)
- Panelist on Short Films, Big Pursuits, moderated by Suchin Mehrotra. (February 2021)
- Interviewed by NewsX along with Renée Sen for live television. (January 2021)
- Talk on the Art of Visual Storytelling for BookAWorkshop.in. (January 2021)
- Guest Speaker at Junoon, JML School (Mumbai)'s TEDx inspired platform. (November 2020)
- Talk on Deconstruct: What is a Film? At Sir JJ College of Architecture. (October 2020)
- Film Screening and Discussion on my short film *Hangout*, at Quorum Club, Gurgaon. (October 2020)
- Panelist on Luxury.co talk with Team Hangout. (September 2020)
- Instagram Takeover for Seven Magpie Productions. (August 2020)

- Guest Speaker at Frameboxx School of Animation and Visual Effects, speaking about the Art of Short Filmmaking. (July 2020)
- Guest Speaker at Quarantine and Chill with White Walls Screenings. (March 2020)
- Guest Speaker at CEPT University (Ahmedabad) on filmmaking. (August 2020)
- Guest Speaker and Design Jury at World University of Design (Haryana). (2019)
- Chief Guest at Christ University (Bangalore). Spoke about the making of my short film Religion for Dummies. (July 2018)
- Featured in a documentary by Sushruth Chilakapati, entitled *Expressions and Impressions*, featuring 5 Indian artists. (2020)
- Interview with Raga Man: LA-based fashion company. (July 2020)
- Guest Speaker at Jesus and Mary College (Delhi University). (2019)
- Guest Speaker at Ashoka University Informals. (2018)
- Panel Discussion on Acting for Cinema at White Walls Screenings. (2018)
- Press Meet at the International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala. (2018)
- Shared stage with Padmashri Karuna Mary Braganza for a talk on Inclusiveness and my short documentary *Project Oneness*. (November 2015)
- Speaker on Creativity for Change at Free A Billion. (2016)
- Director Interactions at White Walls Screenings.
- Conducted animation workshops at the American School of Bombay and Ecole Mondiale World School for Toon Club India.

## Filmography and Accolades

***The Pawn of Marottichal (2024)***, starring Dr Mohan Agashe and Maahir Mohiuddin  
 Writer and Director

In the quaint Marottichal rife with severe alcoholism, an ordinary man Unni tackles the illicit habit by replacing it with the game of chess and turning the village into 'India's Chess Village,' transforming it for a brighter future.

***Death in the City (2023)***, starring Jaaved Jaferi, Rashi Mal and Raghav Diwan

Director

A psychological thriller on a man suffering from schizophrenia who begins to imagine a series of unfortunate events that take him down the spiral of madness.

**Capri Loans IPL Campaign TVCs (Commercials) (2023)**, starring Hardik Pandya, Shubman Gill and Kane Williamson, aired on JioCinemas during IPL Season  
Director and Producer

**Outtaspace (Music Video) (2023)**, starring Sameer Hadker and Noyrika Bhatija  
Writer and Director

**Wallpaper (2022)**, starring Gabriel Jenkinson and Aish Pandit  
Director

A coming-of-age sci-fi film on 25-year-old Kimo as he goes through multiple stages of grief, only to finally move on from his ex.

**Dalí (2022)**, music by Emiliano Mazzenga (Student Oscar finalist)  
Writer/Director

An animated musical on the passionate yet tempestuous relationship of Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Dalí and his wife Gala, whom he considered his muse and the true auteur of his work, even signing her name on his paintings in the 1930s.

### Winner

Flatlands Dance Film Festival (Illinois) (2022)  
Depth of Field International Film Festival (2021)  
European Cinematography Awards (Amsterdam) (2020)  
Global Film Festival Awards (Los Angeles) (2020)  
IndieX Film Festival (2021)  
International Independent Film Awards (2021)  
Montreal Independent Film Awards (2020)  
Tagore International Film Festival (2020)  
Virgin Spring Cinefest (2020)



### ***Antidont (2021)***

Director

A dystopian short film on two individuals from opposite ends of the political spectrum who are stuck together in a dungeon, trapped in a bloody contraption. One of them suffers the consequences of their ignorance.

### ***Moonstruck (2021)***

Director

### ***Sizzle (2021)***

Director

A comedy on a newly hitched man who must learn how to cook in a single evening before his fiancée arrives for dinner.

### ***Cuddles (2021)***, starring Jamie Lever and Viveck Vaswani

Writer/Editor/Director

A poetic conversation ensues between two strangers at a park, who were once united by a common tragedy.

### **Official Selection**

Washington DC South Asian Film Festival (2021)

kidzCinema Film Festival (September 2021)

### ***Dramayama (2021)***, starring Renée Sen, Darsheel Safary and Suchitra Pillai

Writer/Director

College can be a tough place for teenagers. Diya is wrangling with her life as an influencer, Romi is battling a sense of self-worth, while Shakespeare is further complicating things. Is this a tragedy or a comedy? For a teenager stepping into adulthood, it is a mix of both.

### ***SuttaBaazi (2020)***, starring Renée Sen, Rahul Vohra and Komal Chhabria

Writer/Director

19-year-old Diya is a rising social media star, and clandestine smoker. Her household is a pressure cooker, and the whistle is about to blow. This is a story about the cracks within our families and the bonds which bridge them.

## **Winner**

Filmfare Short Films (2021) Finalist

IndieMeme Film Festival (2020)

Bandra Film Festival (2020)

***Hangout (2020)***, starring Anisa Butt and Arjan Singh Aujla

Writer/Director

Romi is an idealistic, uninspired musician. Alia is a vocal social activist. A conversation between them about the world they inhabit inspires Romi to write a song. Hangout is about the power of union between two who are worlds apart.

[Amazon Prime Video](#)

***Karma Café (2019)***, starring Amole Gupte and Nakul Roshan Sahdev,

Written by Saeed Mirza

Concept/Director

An estranged lover enters a curious café where he will be served only what he deserves. This leads to a cathartic unraveling of his past.

## **Screenings/Official Selection**

Listed in Top Indian Short films by Web Shorts and Candid Tech

Cortokino Film Festival (2020)

MAAC-24FPS International Animation Awards (2019)

Shorted.in Short of the Day (2019)

BAM! Film Festival Texas (2019)

DPTV Online Film Festival (2019)

***Religion for Dummies (2018)***, starring Nakul Roshan Sahdev

Writer/Editor/Director

A trippy, satirical stop-motion short film depicting the fraudulent religious cults and practices in India.

## **Winner and Screening**

11<sup>th</sup> Int'l Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (2018)

Global University Film Awards (Hong Kong) (2018)

Tallgrass Film Festival (2018)

41<sup>st</sup> Asian American Int'l Film Festival (2018)

11<sup>th</sup> Four River Film Festival (Croatia) (2018)

Southern Shorts Awards (2018)

Szczecin Film Festival (Poland) (2018)

Singapore South Asian International Film Festival (SGSAIFF) (Singapore) (2018)

Minikino Int'l Short Film Festival (Indonesia) (2018)

TimeLine Film Festival (Italy) (2018)

Kala Ghoda Arts Festival (2018)

The International Cine-letter Film Festival (Morocco) (2018)

Aakruti Int'l Film Festival (2018)

Zlaty Vocí Film Festival (Prague) (2018)

AnimArte! Film Festival (Brazil) (2018)

International Festival of Short Films on Culture and Tourism (India) (2018)

Art All Night Trenton: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Film Festival of New Jersey (2018)

Newark Int'l Film Festival (Croatia) (2018)

***Strings (2018)***, starring Nakul Roshan Sahdev and Yashika Shinde

Writer/Editor/Director

A young woman rediscovers the music in her life when she meets the man who joins the broken strings of her heart.

**Official Selection**

Aakruti Int'l Film Festival (Mumbai) (2018)

***ism (2017)***

Writer/Editor/Director

A high-concept short on the education system. Education can weigh the mind down to parochial, narrow constructs. Moving beyond the 'ism' is liberation and true education.

**Official Selection**

Festival Internacional de Cinema Escolar de Alvorada (FECEA) (Brazil) (2017)

Special Jury Mention at Corti a Ponte Film Festival (Venice) (2017)

***Project Oneness (2016)***, starring Saeed Mirza and others

Writer/Director

People from various walks of life, strata, religion and age are asked common questions on love, death, happiness. Their answers are surprisingly similar. If our thoughts don't differentiate, why do we?

**Official Selection**

Fiorenzo Serra Film Festival (Italy) (2019)  
10<sup>th</sup> China Microfilm Conference (2018)  
Festival Internacional de Cinema Escolar de Alvorada (FECEA) (Brazil) (2017)  
6<sup>th</sup> National Science Film Festival (India) (April 2016)  
Ozark Shorts (USA) (2016)  
Dyiatko International Children's Film Festival (Ukraine) (2016)  
Corti a Ponte Film Festival (Venice) (2016)

## **Commercials**

### ***National Stock Exchange (2 films) (2024)***

Co-Director

### ***AcadAlly Ed-Tech Films (40 films) (2023)***

Creative Post Producer

### ***Capri Loans TVCs (3 films + reels) (2023)***

Director/Producer

### ***Aspire Circle Corporate Film (2017)***

Editor/Director

### ***Chaka Chak Mumbai Corporate Film (2016)***

Editor/Director

### ***ProfTuff Protein Shake commercials*** - dir. Rohan Chavan

Creative Producer

### ***Bank of Baroda commercial*** - dir. Ganesh Chavan

Animation Director

## **Crew Member**

### ***Ghoomer (feature film)*** - dir. R Balki

Post-Production Assistant (for Distributor's Cut)

### ***Lux Cozi TVCs*** - dir. Gauri Shinde

Director's Assistant

### ***VIM Bar TVCs*** - dir. Gauri Shinde

Third Assistant Director

**Manipal Hospital TVCs** - dir. Gauri Shinde

Third Assistant Director/ Director's Assistant

**IndusInd Bank TVC** - dir. Kireet Khurana

First Assistant Director

**Flowers Go Away (short)** - dir. Kanishka Aggarwal

2<sup>nd</sup> First Assistant Director

**Everyone Sees A Man (short)** - dir. Tommy Huang

First Assistant Director

**Escaping Eden (short)** - dir. Conrad Rabinovitz

First Assistant Director

**Goals (short)** - dir. Ali Haji

First Assistant Director

**The Story of Nukkad (mini-series)** - dir. Kireet Khurana

First Assistant Director

**T for Taj Mahal (feature film)** - dir. Kireet Khurana

VFX Supervisor and Assistant Director

Trailer launch at India Pavilion of Festival de Cannes (2018)

**Ghost Stories (feature film)** - dir. Zoya Akhtar

Production Assistant

### **Selected Features**

[VoyageLA Magazine](#)

[ShoutoutLA Magazine](#)

[HerCampus Feature](#)

[Vogue Feature](#)

[Homegrown Magazine](#)

[Cinestaan on Dali](#)

[Suttaabaazi in Indian Express](#)

[Scroll on Suttaabaazi](#)

[NDTV on Dramayama](#)

[Film Companion on Karma Cafe](#)

[Platform Magazine](#)

[The Hindu on Bombaykala](#)

[India Today on Artyculate](#)

[Scroll on Bombaykala](#)

[Mid-Day on Bombaykala](#)

[India Today on Bombaykala](#)