



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
LA RÉSIDENCE

ROYAL PALACE BAGESHWAR

a film by Mansi Maheshwari

Mansi Maheshwari

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Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

Since 2000, La Résidence du Festival de Cannes has provided each year accommodation and support to 12 selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. These young filmmakers are selected on the basis of their short films, or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Festival de Cannes, to bring their project to co-production status.

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Technical Information

Title: Royal Palace Bageshwar
Screenplay: Mansi Maheshwari
Nationality: India
Genre: Drama, Comedy
Shooting Location: India

Director's Information

Mansi Maheshwari, born in 1998, is an Indian animation director whose work blends humour with emotionally grounded storytelling. She began in fashion, using clothing to tell stories, before pursuing narrative more directly through an MA in Animation Direction at the National Film and Television School, UK.

Her graduation short film **Bunnyhood** premiered at Cannes, winning Third Prize in La Cinef Selection competition, and later screened at Sundance and Clermont-Ferrand.

Drawing from personal memory, her films explore family, reunions, and the quiet chaos of human connection through warmth, absurdity, and character-driven storytelling.

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Synopsis

Set in the early 2000s in India, a family heads to the mountains to escape city chaos during a pilgrimage. What begins as a simple getaway quickly unravels as vehicle breakdowns, roadblocks, and drunk drivers that push them off course, until they arrive at a long-abandoned hotel... The trip turns into an unexpected test of survival.

At its centre is 9-year-old Rocky, who slowly realizes her father is not the hero she believed him to be, but an ordinary man without all the answers. For the first time, she feels truly alone.

Years later, an older Rocky pieces this memory together, beginning to understand how that moment reshaped her trust and her idea of faith.

Statement of Intent

I make this film from my own experience of these holidays. Every year, the trip feels impossible, everything goes wrong. But enduring this chaos with my family has given me a sense of community, of belonging, and a ritual to return to. In this film, I want to capture not only the joy and laughter, but also the frustration, the

moments of doom, and the faith we cultivate that things will work out. I want to translate my memory of pain and delight into something viewers can feel, showing how even the most nonsensical experiences can carry deep meaning and shape who we are.

I wish for this movie to be a mix of live action and animation to bring together my blurry memory in the best way possible.

Synopsis

Au début des années 2000, en Inde, une famille part en pèlerinage dans les montagnes pour échapper au chaos de la ville. Ce qui commence comme une simple escapade se transforme rapidement en une succession de pannes de voiture, de barrages routiers et de conducteurs ivres qui les font dévier de leur route, jusqu'à ce qu'ils arrivent dans un hôtel à l'abandon... Le voyage devient alors un test de survie.

Au cœur de l'histoire, Rocky, 9 ans, réalise peu à peu que son père n'est pas le héros qu'elle croyait, mais un homme ordinaire

qui n'a pas toutes les réponses. Pour la première fois, elle se sent vraiment seule. Des années plus tard, Rocky, désormais adulte, reconstitue ce souvenir et commence à comprendre comment ce moment a bouleversé sa confiance et sa conception de la foi.

Note d'intention

J'écris à partir de mes propres expériences de vacances. Chaque année, tout allait de travers. Mais supporter ce chaos avec ma famille est devenu une véritable addiction. Ce temps passé ensemble m'a

donné un sentiment de communauté, d'appartenance, et est devenu un rituel. Dans ce film, je souhaite capturer la joie et les rires, mais aussi la frustration, les moments de désespoir, et la foi que nous cultivons en l'idée que tout finira par s'arranger. Je souhaite montrer comment même les expériences les plus absurdes peuvent revêtir une signification profonde et façonner qui nous sommes.

Le film sera un mélange de prises de vues réelles et d'animation afin de rendre compte le mieux possible de mes souvenirs flous.

