

GEETA, A short film about Modern Day Slavery.

Log Line

After coming to US to work as a housemaid Geeta, slowly realizes that although she is in the land of opportunity, her financial, personal and social freedoms are slowly being taken away from her.

Synopsis

Inspired by true events. Geeta has been brought to the United states as a housemaid by an Indian couple with the promises of giving her the American Dream. After moving to America, the new environment surpasses her ideal because of her poor socio-economic upbringing. However, it is not long until Geeta slowly realizes that although she is in the land of opportunity, her financial, personal and social freedoms are slowly being taken away from her new life.

There are no obvious signs of violence in this modern-day household, but Geeta enslaved by mental abuse. As a result, she has to make a choice of whether she should go back to India and accept the life engrossed with poverty or stay in the US in this beautiful cage?

Purpose and Creation

Geeta was created for Creating Media For Social Change Class at University of Southern California and was mentored by the esteemed faculty at USC; **Michael Taylor (Producer of Successful Hollywood Films like Bottle Rocket (Directed by Wes Anderson, Starring Owen Wilson), Phenomenon (Starring John Travolta) and another faculty was Professor Jeremy Kagan (Director of Roswell, starring Martine Sheen).**

Geeta is created to address the horrifying issue of modern day slavery. Today around 25-30 million people in the world are victim of modern day slavery. Slavery in this era has taken unrecognizable forms and it may or may not involve obvious violence. In the real life, I see exploiters who are really exploiters but they don't realize that they are,

and I think if they see this film, I think they will be able to identify themselves. That was the whole point.

Writer & Director- SOHIL VAIDYA.



Sohil recently finished MFA Film Production Program from the University of Southern California where his focus was Directing. He has been awarded James Bridges Directing Scholarship and Edward Thomas Troutner Cinematography Scholarship for his achievements at USC. His last student fiction film 'Geeta'; based on the issue of Modern Day Slavery, screened at multiple film festivals across the U.S and won awards. He has just

finished directing a feature film with seven other directors after getting selected for the feature film class at USC.

His very first memories of falling in love with motion pictures are when he saw Jurassic Park as a kid in a small theatre with his father. The power and the impact of moving images fascinated him as a child and made him pursue filmmaking in the future. After finishing his masters in India, he took the initiative to make a documentary named 'Diaries of Unknown' to tell the story of 15 million homeless people without any document of existence, living across India who are not even recognized as a part of the population by the Indian government. This documentary screened at various national and International film festivals and stirred conversation amongst the audiences about this issue.

Sohil is amongst the pioneers in starting a film festival in Pune for the underrepresented voices in Indian cinema called Smita Patil International Film Festival. To push his knowledge about craft forward and to learn to communicate with larger audiences he thought of applying to USC. His family encouraged him to take this big step, though raising finances was a huge hurdle.

While absorbing completely different culture while living in L.A he tries to bring his distinct sensibility cause of his different cultural background into his filmmaking. Stanley Kubrick, P.T Anderson, Andrei Tarkovasky and Satyajit Ray are some of the directors who have deeply influenced him. Sohil

wants to bridge the gap between east and west with the universally relatable, visually compelling and unique stories.

www.sohilvaidya.com

Principle Cast and Crew of ‘Geeta’

Writer/Director	Sohil Vaidya
Cast	Komal Daga, Shefali Deshay, Kapil Talvalkar
Producer	Ryan Connolly, Andrew Reid
Cinematography	Auden Bui
Editing	Sikander Sidhu
Music	Raashi Kulkarni
Production Sound	Nicky Guirre
Post Sound	Lauren Kleeman
1 st AC	Enrico Targetti
2 nd AC	Nancy Lin
Gaffer	Nancy Lin