



an empty lot productions and raw color studios production

PAYASAM

and other careful processes



director's note

In eighth grade, I had at least 6 girlfriends without my parents' knowledge. Though there was something thrilling in the secretive texting and hidden handholding, I was afraid of what my parents would do if they found out - a pattern quintessential to the South Asian dating experience.

But over time, despite my family's oppositional opinions on everything, I realized some underlying truths:

- Everything our parents want for us comes from a place of utmost love.
- They consistently challenge their own deeply-held values for us.

This film is an ode to those truths. This is for my mom and dad.

(I don't lie to them about my dating life anymore).





AKSHAY RAVI | WRITER/DIRECTOR

Akshay Ravi is a writer, director, and producer raised in the stunning, grandiose city of Naperville, IL. He graduated from USC's Zoom School of Cinematic Arts in 2020. Having grown up writing and performing in theatre, including an iconic turn as an anthropomorphic clock, Akshay is passionate about crafting narratives that represent underrepresented voices, advocate for social good, and hopefully make you laugh a little. Akshay is currently working as a Production Coordinator at Blur Studio.



ROHAN PALLA | PRODUCER

Rohan Pallal is a 2022 graduate from the USC School of Cinematic Arts studying Film & TV Production. Born and raised in Hyderabad, India, Rohan is passionate about sharing more South Asian stories with the world and recently directed the first Telugu language USC student film. He's also worked with several social impact organizations such as the March For Our Lives, LLS, and UNICEF with an aim to spark relevant conversation through storytelling. In 2018, he was awarded Best Feature Story from the National Scholastic Press Association for his documentary on Kentucky's Pension Crisis.



ALYSSA CALLAHAN | PRODUCER

Alyssa Callahan is a writer and producer currently working at Anonymous Content. She graduated from USC's film school in December 2019 and has worked on films that have garnered the attention of NFMLA, DUST, and more. Alyssa strives to find the humor in all situations, especially as a means to call attention to issues she's passionate about. She hopes to one day combine her love of writing and producing and become a comedy TV showrunner. For now, she enjoys collaborating with friends on independent short film projects!



MATT MARTINEZ | PRODUCER

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Matthew Martinez's passion for film started at a young age. Upon graduating high school, he moved to Santa Barbara where he produced dozens of music videos and sketches, before founding the Raw Color Film Collective with a group of fellow students from the city college and university, and moved to Los Angeles. The Raw Color Film Collective focuses on narrative short films telling stories from a variety of backgrounds and genres to depict the experience of the contemporary Gen Z filmmaker.



JOHN LAVERMAN | DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

John Laverman is a cinematographer, filmmaker and aspiring retiree. He graduated from USC's School of Cinematic Arts in 2020 and currently lives in Los Angeles with his cat, Boris. When he's not busy crewing on a film, he can be found rollerblading LA's streets.



DHRUV GOEL | COMPOSER

Dhruv Goel is a Los Angeles based composer and music producer. He is a featured composer on the GRAMMY® nominated album 'Shuruaat'.

Dhruv has composed and produced music for many award-winning films and TV shows, including working as an orchestrator on the TV show *Mira*, *Royal Detective* (Disney). His music can also be heard on TV shows such as *Haunted* (Netflix), *Little Women: Atlanta* (Lifetime) and *Guy's Grocery Games* (Food Network).

Dhruv has worked at **Hans Zimmer's Remote Control Productions** as an additional composer and vocalist on movies such as *Todo Mal* (Traziende Films) and *Sky Hunter* (Spring Era Films Co).





SURAJ PARTHA | "SIDHARTH"



REN HOLLY LIU | "RACHEL"



RISHI MEHTA | "ARJUN"



SHAVYA SAMALA | "SOWMYA"



USHA RAVI AND RAVI NATARAJAN | "PARVATI" AND "KRISHNAN"



starring Suraj Partha, Rishi Mehta, Shavya Samala,
Usha Ravi, Ravi Natarajan, And Ren Holly Liu

writer/director Akshay Ravi

producers Alyssa Callahan, Rohan Palla, Matt Martinez

co-producers Raja Natarajan, Sangeetha Krishnan, Nicole Mccullough, Rita Konopasky

associate producer Sruchi Patel

1st assistant director Rohan Palla

director of photography John Laverman

production designer Brenda Garcia

editor Kirsten Hoang

sound designer/mixer Alex Bologna

composer Dhruv Goel

gaffer Michael Haggerty

1st assistant camera Marlon Galdamez

sound recordist Loring Shelton

2nd man sound Ian Overton

key grip Jacob Bennett

grip Carson Ryan

grip Dimitri Fouras

colorist Fio Karpenko

art director Maria Takigawa

production assistant Lupe Nieto

