Brotherly

Overview

Credits

Specifications



A deeply personal film inspired by true events, "Brotherly" follows two brothers grappling with mental illness and the complexities of euthanasia. When one brother makes a life-altering decision, the other must confront his own beliefs and navigate the emotional turmoil of their shared journey.

Adapted from a screenplay that won the Writers Guild of Canada prize at SODEC's Cours Écrire ton Court (Sprint for your Script) competition, this powerful drama explores timely and challenging subjects through the unique lens of South Asian Canadian brothers in middle age.

Director Biography - Gavin Seal





Gavin Seal is a Writers Guild of Canada prize-winning filmmaker whose work tends to explore his pluralistic Indian-Québécois-Canadian identity through characters who challenge expectations.

His films have screened internationally at Oscar-qualifying festivals including Fantasia, Hot Docs, Reelworld and Just for Laughs. He is an alumnus of the TIFF Lab, Berlinale EFM's Toolbox, and EAVE Access programs.

Director Statement



"Brotherly" is inspired by my own brother asking me to help him be euthanized in Switzerland after decades of suffering from treatment-resistant depression. He wasn't eligible at the time, but going through the process still haunts me today.

Now, my own country (Canada) is legalizing medically assisted dying for people suffering from mental illness and my province (Quebec) has the highest rates of ethical euthanasia in the world.

As I continue to struggle with my own position on this topic, I've tried to capture my feelings of going through it with my brother in the hope of posing the question to audiences. I hope that this film will make it a little bit easier for anyone else who is also suffering in silence to heal by inciting conversation around this complicated taboo with dignity, compassion and empathy.