

Anurag

Independent filmmaking is when I have control , creative control towards everything, we are not working with the budget like the industry and not many people. Industry has a lot of people in every department. As an indie filmmaker you have to learn everything, know a lot more , be able to shoot , edit and everything.

First goal is less production cost. And quality high at least you don't go into loss. A lot of money goes into marketing it. Equipment is of high quality and doesn't cost much only if you have the skills. Director should plan everything beforehand . Indie has creative freedom, films are like an art form , you plan it beforehand, access to the audience directly and equipment of better quality nowadays. Also have a lot of responsibility to be able to align to my values. indie filmmakers don't necessarily earn a lot of money, it's like a hobby for them but if they want they can take this to commercial places . Normally in commercial places , making a film costs a lot, only if people had that much money at initial stages to invest in a money that may or may not later earn that much amount to at least recover the cost and even get some profits. Anurag Kashyap once said this very well , in independent space, everybody thinks they're very cool , and they're all unique and better than everybody else because they are not commercial. That's not how it should be because everybody is coming from different backgrounds and just because they're not commercial that doesn't make them better than the other. The budget doesn't always define it as an independent film because initial investment in it is very less , even a Bollywood film could be low budget but becomes mainstream as it could be commercial.

I think every country has their own language and politics of independent filmmaking, we live in a third world country. I find it personally problematic where we spend crores on a masala Bollywood film which does no good to anybody on this planet and where people are going hungry and dying and the Bollywood films are majorly not even educating the people. As an independent film artist I would like to tell people what I felt regarding some topic or would like to share some personal story of mine. Story might be of value to someone else. We find and experiment what works for us. Where if I ask someone else for money , it hampers my creative freedom and it would be like the people investing the money would also like to add their ideas to yours and you gotta do what they have to say.

Film making is also not inexpensive and it requires three or four people for one project. I mean I can do it all by myself but it will take a lot of time for me to first master every skill and then apply it. I mean with my one project that I'm doing all b y myself and is still ongoing, I took the first shot ten years back and it is still not completed. Digital revolution has changed everything, if digital cameras and laptops were not invented then we would not be having this talk right now. Cell phone cameras which can shoot good quality content have changed the power of

having control and skills to be able to create films at your convenience . This is also why nobody still talks about sound, film is not just visuals, sound is very important. If you just focus on the visuals and background sound is very disturbing then that breaks the focus. All good film makers will study sound very well.

There is no one industry , we can choose what industry we want to work with. With these new OTT platforms, everything has changed . It takes a lot of money and people at the core of creating films. With these upcoming ott platforms I can easily sell to YouTube and places to reach an audience and maybe make money out of it. Things are still at a very early stage for film making in India. Cinema history is very new in India and indie films are not even considered in the Indian cinema history. I read somewhere how John Cass used to make films, he himself was an actor , he had one camera, one mic and two people in total used to make films. Through him independent filmmaking in America changes. In India we had a Malayalam film maker John Abraham , he used to go to villages randomly with his can on a bicycle to show people his films . There were people who existed in India who worked in cinema because they loved cinema. Documentary film making in India had no money for a very long time. I have a job teaching so that I get money, which I don't have. Working as an indie film artist is like my hobby. I'm passionate about it. The moment I quit teaching and become a full time film artist, my relationship with my love for cinema changes. Things are now changing for my generation who went abroad to study and then came back and applied what they learned in their film making and the market opened up for documentary film. There is this guy who shot a documentary in Delhi and with whom I worked with won an award in Cannes film Festival. Honest work is now getting noticed. Filmmaking is a little expensive and takes a lot of time. It takes around 2-3 years to make a film and until then you can not survive without the money just because you're an indie film artist , you have bills to pay. So it's always a tedious task to manage everything. Your job and your passion for films and completing your own film. Teaching you guys is not my main objective, it is when I go home and sit down and edit my own film or something I shot or sit down to write a script. If I was working in the industry , this is what I would have done as a full time job and be getting paid in lakhs for just doing this but with 10 people on my head telling me what to do and how to do which would hamper my creative freedom and I would gradually lose my love for my passion. As an indie artist I can not have a goal of having validation from other people

Why did you get into this film making?

It has always been very personal . Like for this movie about dogs, the first shot I took was 10 years back , in kutch I took a shot of a kid bursting crackers in front of a dog. So I decided I would make a film about things that hurt me a lot . It's not an introvert art form and gets very exhausting but very powerful like you can spread a message to a larger audience

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Working as an indie film artist is like my hobby, I'm passionate about it. The moment I quit teaching and become a full time film artist then my relationship with my love for cinema changes. Things are now changing for my generation who went abroad to study and then came back applied what they learned in their film making and the market owned up for documentary film.

Honest work is now getting noticed. Filmmaking is a little expensive and takes a lot of time. It takes around 2-3 years to make a film and until then you can not survive without the money just because you're an indie film artist , you have bills to pay. So its always a tedious task to manage everything. Your job and your passion of films and completing your own film

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Devika Dave

What drove you in this industry ? Why did you become an indie film artist ?

I studied film in college and I was fascinated my this medium and I started working after college and wasn't able to figure out English area of film making and I wanted to spend my time exploring few things for two year and then ended up working in Calcutta as an independent film maker under the artist named Q , and then realized that I this art form of independent filmmaking is far more fascinating .

Was making this decision of becoming an indie film artist dicey ? Were you sure about it ?

I knew that I wanted to be involved in art largely, I didn't know that I will go down to the path becoming a production designer or art director in a film.i took up every possible work that came my way while learning, they paid very less or sometimes I did it for free it helped me get close to what I do now, having said that I can't say that I can do this for the rest of my life either. That's where I'm at.

What genre of films would you like to be a part of ?

I enjoy working in fiction genres because it helps me articulate my work better, but I'm inspired very much by non fiction work and I use them as inspiration for my work, so the scripts that are very realistic have content very similar to real life so that kind of work inspires me.

It's very awesome that you work in a field that you really like.

Yeah it kinda took me a while to figure out what I like and don't like and probably it's gonna take a lifetime to fully understand this medium of work , so I'm still learning.

When I find a new medium and when I get fond of it and I keep practicing until I make something out of it

So the other reason why I m still doing what I'm doing is to maintain doing one thing over a period of time coz that has different results, there were times when I wasn't like sure , like I really like to draw so I wanted to be an illustrator but I will say that it has been more a merit being stuck with the film making with all the up and downs I still feel like quitting half time but it has been like 13 years I've been doing this and it feels good to evolve in this one medium. I still m in touch with other mediums as well like I still like to draw sometimes and maybe sometimes it inspires me with my filmmaking.

How is the process of independent filmmaking different from commercial film making ?

I've done only one or two very large commercial films. The process of creating is similar but I think the thing that makes it different is the intention behind creating what output needs to be . In independent cinema I've seen. More team work more equality people who are doing the work are more clear about their vision , a lot more motivated

What would you like to say from a viewer's perspective

Everything belongs together. Over the period of time people started calling it different names Independent and commercial but at the end it is all cinema, what stories people choose to tell is their own story telling in India and all over the world the categorizing of cinema is very easy. There have been some great big budget films as well with great story and acting is amazing and all those other things as well. So at the end of the day , it is only about the intent.

Is filmmaking a full time job for you ?

Nope, I freelance since like 4-5 years before this I was working throughout the year. Now I try to do projects that I can. So that I'm able to do other things as well and be able to manage my work well. I would not want my work to completely take over my life. Other things like working on yourself are also important that you realize once you grow old.

As an independent film artist , what qualities should one have ?

I believe in this food of thought that there is no easy way to shortcut, from my point of view I've seen people waste a lot of time and money. For people who work with me or would wanna work with me , their understandings and values more to me than skills , skills can be learned through the process of creating or learning to create a film people who are gear to learn and are ready to work hard can go a long way

According to you what is the underrated movie that deserves more credit

There are three films close to my heart: hungry, chapsticks , and sherny . They did get some credit but I believe they deserve more view credits in my duration of work life.

Which independent filmmaker inspires you the most ?

I was working with Q back in Calcutta , he was my first inspiration in the independent filmmaker area. I learned a lot from him, he was experimenting things in his time and then there was Amit — — — whose work inspired me a lot. Another person to look up to was Kyle fafadia

Jenifer

What motivated you to become an independent film artist?

I studied film in college and that time I was fascinated by the medium and I started working after college to figure out in which film making I should spend my time. Basically I spent a few years exploring, I ended up working in Calcutta for 5 yrs as an independent artist, and realized that this form of independent filmmaking is fascinating for me.

So was this career very dicey at that time?

Were you sure of being successful?

I knew I wanted to be involved in art largely and go down the path of being a production designer or an art director for film. I took every possible piece of work that came my way, so I was learning it being free or paid very less but it just helped me to get closer to what I am now. I can't say I'll be doing this for the rest of my life either.

What genre of film do you like to be a part of and why?

I enjoy working in fiction creations as it helps me articulate my work better but I'm inspired very much by non fiction plays and I use them as an inspiration for my work. Skits that are in a very real setting and films that are very content are very important in your life so I prefer doing things which have a very real outlook.

. It's actually very awesome that you are working in a job that you actually like.

Yeah, I still discover many things that I like or do not like and I think it's gonna take a lifetime to understand this medium and fully learn it.

.when I try new mediums I get very fond of it and think to make more of it.

The other thing that I believe is that I also want to maintain this one thing of time

That has seen results. There were time that I was not sure I really liked to draw as well. It has been more a merit to have stuck with filmmaking with all its ups and downs. It is good to be involved with how the medium changes in a period of time . I still have lots and lots of interests. I still like to draw. Sometimes I work with clay .

How is the process of independent filmmaking different then commercial film making ?

I have done two very large commercial films process of making is similar but the intention changes and the outlook basically in cinema I feel more sense there's more teamwork and equality in independent film cinema people are very clear about their vision .they are more motivated

Can you please tell the viewer the perspective?

Commercial cinema does that we have a over period of time we have set that this is commercial cinema and this is independent cinema eventually it's all cinema and what stories people choose to tell is their own story telling because of the industry we have in India all over the world cinema is categorized very easily I know some very amazing film makers at the end of the day we have got the intent

Is filmmaking a full time job for you ?

No it's actually not but because of the past few years I need to be working throughout the year now I choose the project I can do so that I have time of and I want to relax just for the quality of life and living in a better way in working on yourself those things are important and I have realized it in last few years .

What qualities one should have and what challenges one faces?

Firstly I am not an independent filmmaker I work as a production designer and I don't make my own film I help other people make their films I think there is no shortcut for hard work and I come from a school of thought why I think something makes me happy .in my department we waste a lot of time and material so you must be aware of all the materials you using any time any person works with me as a team that learning is more important than any industrial standards of work so I prefer to work with someone who prefers to work hard and they used the materials mind fully.

According to you, what was a movie that is underrated and deserved more credit?

There are three films that are very close to my heart which were a part of my span of work one is the hungry one is capstick (inaudible) and one is sherni. I think these feelings are very beautifully made and it did get some credit but what should be recognised much more

In general, which Independent movies do you like?

I am bad with remembering names I can message them to you afterwards but I really don't remember

Which independent filmmaker do you like the most and which inspired you?

When I was working with q (inaudible) in Calcutta I learnt a lot from him. Currently the person I am working with in Sherni is very inspiring in the way he makes his films.

Another director to look out for a Sahil kapadia I am really inspired by his work

What's the impact that you wish to give to the audience when you are making a film?

So one of the few things that I learned from my own mentor while people while viewing your films should not notice your work the moment you start working in production design That's the moment you disconnect with what the story is and now what are practice is you should not notice my work at all so the idea is to make the movie seamless And that's the way I work

What will be the message to the budding indie film artists

Hard work does pay off And there's this one thing that I remember That the elders that teach us the craft But the things that you learn on your own are equally important. Have experiences in life, travel a lot and cinema is largely impacted by life. So this gives you time to live other than making films. The colors pictures and patterns are inspired by my own life that I use in my films Just look around and you will find things in abundance keep your eyes open and

Saurabh Saraswat

What drives you towards working in independent films

Pass out from FTII- films and television institute of India

And in depth Of course

Realism and acting in terms of the crafts of cinematography

Did theater before

Inclination towards that kind of acting where film is a house and the actor is a brick in the wall.

It is not the medium of an actor, it is the medium of the director and how in front of the camera actor according to the theme of the film he builds his own language of acting

With every project every film brings its own process and so it's very intriguing to me
Independent films there is a lot of time to experiment and to discuss with the director
I was lucky that I started with an International independent film CRD
Next film was Cat Sticks, also an independent film. The process itself took like 2 months And
be prepared for the character along with the director. Growing together with the director
towards the film.
Process is something to look forward to whenever there is some type of transformation
involved Where you get time to prepare and relate to the character with the larger amount of
time available during the making of an independent film

How is your mindset different while working in a Film?

I love to discuss the film and the character with the director and I have been able to work With
the directors who are open to the discussion Off the character and around the Film
I personally like to discuss with the director, understand his vision, and understand the
character of him. Mostly independent films if they are not taking the film from a written text
Then there is a For an open discussion because it's coming from the director he'll narrate
something to me and then I will also add some personal Points from my life and experience. It
becomes that collaboration and becomes a 2 way discussion
And all this happens before the shooting of the film and This is how I personally go with It

What genre of films do you like to be a part of

I don't have any particular Inclination towards any genre. It's not the genre, it's how the film is
treated.

Genre can be any, i love different genre, there is no particular but if i had to choose i might go
with psychological drama

As an actor what is the process of an independent filmmaking the story people don't see on
screen

What are the challenges

Independents are Tight on budget so it's very difficult because we have less number of days to
shoot. Time goes more on preparing for the film rather than actually shooting.

So like in cat sticks I did in 2017 the entire process was of 1.5 months and I Shot for 4 days.
The entire film was shot in 13 days. It's kind of challenging but you have so much preparation
that then It just becomes like a technical thing just to record it now Because we already know
the scenes ,the relationships ,we know the inside of the film. But also sometimes an
independent film the setup is big because the director and auto producer are ready to put in
money like around 75 lakhs but the environment So according to me 1st the set up should be
done light ,sound ,camera and the Actors act and at that time everyone is out.

Any independent artist that inspires you?

Tanmay dhanania ... He was one of my co stars in cat sticks movie

Underrated movies?

I would say my films are underrated like cat sticks. The independent films have less availability and reach. If I talk about one of my films, which I did in 2018 It could not be found On any platform to watch for a long time. Due to the lack of big names and starcast independent films do not get the audience they deserve. It's a never ending struggle. It is difficult for an artist to sustain and survive

How do artist sustain and survive

I cannot talk about it for others but according to my experience I would say take any other project like commercial ads and I even take acting classes. Be open towards other things This indeed is a struggle and a challenge even for mental health. Some of my friends are going through a hard time living in a place like Bombay. It brings on a lot of stress. It is even difficult for me sometimes.

But it's all about hope and never giving up. APNA TIME AYEGA. It is difficult but somehow you have to survive

Impact you wish to leave on the audience?

For me, making them relate To the character Is important . Like one of the movies which I saw where I thought that there was a huge injustice was talvar. I think actors should convey what the films want to. And the films have the power to do that. It can make you empathetic and humanistic.

Any message?

I don't have any particular thing to say it's just that everyone has their own struggles might then own ways of doing their work so I don't have any message maybe at the age of 60 or 70 I might have something to say

Aman Mann

Q1) What drove you towards making independent films?

A- Film Making happened by chance for me as being a literature graduate and having work experience in market research I had absolutely no film experience or background. I was approached by a friend, Shawnak Singh, who was aiming to make a film on the sleeping circumstances of the homeless in Delhi and he desired to have someone on board with a more

theoretical background in order to give inputs towards new concepts & ideas. Therefore, I started going on the shoots of this film, started doing different jobs there like audio and collaborating with my friend who later became the Associate Director of the film & finally the film came to be called Cities Asleep. So, this is how I started in this line and stuck to it ever since.

Q2) How do you think the process of independent filmmaking is different from commercial filmmaking?

A- Independent filmmaking begins as a 'label of love' and in this we can speak about the challenges one faces and the qualities required. You start with an idea that you wish to pursue, be it fiction or documentary; you start with a small core crew and you just see where and how the works and ideas take you forward. In this era especially, independent filmmaking is the easiest it's ever been as however cliché it sounds but you just need to have the desire to make the film and the belief in the story you are telling and how it's being told along. Even though one might be limited in the technology being used and the size of crew it is still feasible to make things like demonstration reel for instance in order to give a glimpse of your concept in order to get funding. However, commercial filmmaking is a very clearly designed process wherein there are established protocols, funding patterns, set schedules followed by finalised scripts and actors and dictations and set time period for finishing the film. It's not like independent filmmakers don't focus on the aesthetics and technicalities of the process, yes they do however, in the first attempt one might not get exactly what they desired, still the main focus is the concept and from there on relying on anything that can elevate and add value to the film.

Q3) What is the process of filmmaking when it comes to commercial films which narrate real life stories?

A- They have a similar protocol like rigid timelines given by whoever is funding the film however the level of research is different as the story is almost being provided to the filmmaker. Independent fiction films also have proper timelines which one attempts to stick to; however independent documentaries are much more flexible as the story relies on where the eventual research takes you.

Q4) According to you what qualities one should have in order to become a filmmaker and what are the challenges one faces?

A- The main challenge is the credibility and ability to find the funding, especially in India where the infrastructure for the same is still in the process of improvement. This is where you really require the quality of persistence in your creativity and belief in the story you are telling and knowing that it's worth telling it and finally the creativity for knowing what you can get funded out of your ideas.

Q5) What aspects do you enjoy the most about your profession?

A- I personally really enjoy the creative process of discovery. For instance, for both of our documentaries we were a group of people from the same college who started work on these films together, we researched, we explored different places so all of that becomes really

interesting especially when it is with people with whom you get along well. Secondly, there are certain fine 'moments of magic' while shooting. In other words there will be some normal shots and shooting days however they are those few days when you really discover something special or shot something interesting, that's quite the thrill and such moments are really to be on the lookout for which reconnect you with the concept of the story and belief in the process once again.

Q6) According to you which is an underrated film which deserves more credit?

A- This is always a difficult question to answer. However, I feel instead of one film, I believe that there is a lot of exciting work happening in non-fiction in India which does not get as much attention as fiction. For instance, films like *Writing in Fire* & *A Night Of Knowing Nothing* etc. What the non-fiction end is achieving and creating in the past decade is particularly interesting and definitely deserves more attention and credit.

Q7) What's the backstory of your film?

A- Shawnak was in the UK and he got really fascinated by the animal-human interactions in the city and came back to India to explore the same in Delhi. While he came here with this broad concept, the circumstance of the Kite birds in the city fascinated him and made him inquire about what this bird means to Delhi's atmosphere and ecology. Then he found out about these two brothers who never finished school and ran a soap dispenser factory, were looking after the birds and had a wildlife center of their own in North Delhi. It was an amazingly cinematic space in a basement on the side in a small room where they looked after these amazing raptors. Overall in the process such discoveries were fun and these leading us to the story and trying to keep it going was a wonderful experience.

Q8) Would you like to share about the Cannes Experience?

A- It was an enormous honor to get such an award and it's always a bit surreal because as the people making the film, we have no distance from it so we can't assess properly how good it is or not. Therefore you only have the opinion of others but you can't always believe that either. But now we can't wait to share the film with everyone.

Q9) What impacts do you wish to leave with your work?

A- This is always difficult for documentary filmmakers. We actually believe that we highlight an issue and that maybe creates some change. But people have stopped believing in this philosophy. We definitely wish to inspire and inform people but making actual tangible change is a heavy burden for a film which it can't and shouldn't take and it is also a little idealistic to think that a film will create a significant difference. Therefore, now we just look for are we doing justice to the story; how we are making it; is it aesthetically inspiring and finally what does it actually end up doing to the audience & how does it move and inspire them. Finally, we focus on the power of the filmmaking process

Q10) Any message you wish to convey to budding filmmakers?

A- I would say you have to be relentlessly curious; have to constantly read and watch things and continue to inspire and feed yourself creatively. You need to have relentless persistence throughout all of the difficult moments because there will be lots! Sometimes they will seem beyond your capabilities but always remember when you keep working at it, eventually over the course you will become the person who can make the film who you weren't in the beginning of the process. Making films has never been busy but if the story is powerful enough, it will definitely come through. In today's day and age, there is enough technology and equipment to work with therefore the only limiting factor can be your idea and persistence, it can make and break your film.

Q11) What does a day in your life look like?

A- It's very different at different stages. Sometimes I just have to keep working on an excel sheet. On shoot days we are all present there; sometimes I have to coordinate with the co-producers. Currently, there is a lot of administrative work in order to wrap up with the film and also talking to people to let it out to the world soon.

Arya Rothe

I would say so for me at least, it's not like that one decisive moment that makes you kind of see that, okay now I want to be an independent filmmaker, but I always had a drive to explore tell your stories

You were actually inclined towards it during your childhood?

Not really in my childhood but I used to watch a lot of things when I was a kid because we had a film archive in my city so they used to have a lot of screenings and there was a film club also for kids to go and watch all these officials from the time every Sunday. So I used to go for this film club, there I actually generated a lot of interest in me towards cinema and then as a child I used to do theater and all of these kinds of activities. I wanted to keep an low image be off screen and tell my stories, of course looking back, I did not think cohesively, I just thought lets learn more about this thing So I went to this design school because at bachelor level there was no film making course that was there in India, if it was available it was out of the league financially.

Went to shrishti met anurag, studied together. Now that you've mentioned, we ask him because we didn't notice before. Study together for 4 1/2 years. He's made very good films, we worked together on Almost each film throughout our college days, so the first one actually co directed by both of us

After that there was a Kind of option to join the industry or you know go in the commercial word, where you start by being an av or join advertisements (2.47) or something like this after college I tried an internship in Delhi and felt I wanted to make films manually but I had no idea how to and didn't have the slightest confidence about how to go about it .So then I went For

my masters and I started studying documentary cinema as part of the masters that happens in Europe. It's called documents

It broadened my Knowledge broadened the way I thought about cinema. It became So much more global than before and so much more trans cultural, people of different lives studied the history before I ask so much more based on.

So yeah, so after those years that I started after those years, my house mates back then were Cristina from Romania and Isabella from Italy. A study that after college is over we should make our first film together. So we are not alone in this process because then after college I really had to go back to the safety of How do I make a film, okay I studied but then what so we thought let's be together in this And he found an collective in 2016 called no cut collective you guys can check it out. And then. I started making my first film. Materially trying to figure out how do I make a film when i dont have money from home and i don't have this enormous confidence that i know how to tell a story (5.07) and what I really want to transit, first you need to reach a length and then get some amount of attention to become more at ease not in the sense of how you want to be an film , what is the part that you are exploring all of this remains urgent to me but you are more at ease in terms of you understand the timeline, the kind of steps that need to be there for the next film so it becomes slightly little less lost in terms of the process but in terms of your exploration as a filmmaker you are always on something, you are like oh my god i found this, what to do with it now but that excites me

So is this like you developed interest over a period of time like like it just happened with the flow and it's not that you were focussed that you have to do this only

I am not like like crazy, you know there are some directors who at the age of 22 make a film and they have this potential and talent in the foreground of it so I am not this exceptionally talented person so I had to find like a whole plan, it is a long route but i feel by the end of it is also sustainable because i definitely know this is what i want to continue with so it is irrespective of failure and success, I want to do this because this is the best way to find out about me and my relationship with my surroundings by being an independent filmmaker, this process took a longer time but I like it, now i'm happy about it

This is just inspiring for us that we can follow up with whatever you are doing right now because I think as creative people it's a very tough decision to make like where do you wanna go?

So I would tell you guys don't think it as a side keep switching, in last 2-3 years after making this first film, it was great we went to festivals, we got a few awards, all of this was there but at the same point of time I was quite broke, so then for a couple of years I worked for netflix

It's more correlated with each other it's not like you're an independent filmmaker, commercial world is _____(8.11) you might not be able to make films that all of these commercial directors direct but you might find your place in one of the films, whole purpose for commercial is you have some kind of money coming in, it is not like you are an independent filmmaker you will never get commercial films

What type of genre of films do you like to be a part of

I only make documentary films, my stories divert towards marginal communities, I am deeply invested in human stories, I look for human stories that audience can relate to irrespective of their background, my hope is to find association with the audience

Difference in independent film making and mainstream film making

Everything is different honestly, in a commercial there is already a set up, you are expecting a certain kind of set up, you already have a producer who is expecting a certain kind of outcome, you have a big distributor say netflix who are also producers, when they are giving you the project they are already thinking of the financial gains the film should make, the target audience, demographic of people it should be shown to and they have studied it, they are very thorough about it so you need to come to terms with that already that you are not doing this so that your vision is put across you are essentially doing this understanding the audience

When you are doing independent cinema you get to put yourself as a filmmaker, as a filmmaker you want to be but you are doing this to understand what is the audience that you are catering to how do they watch the film and there are few other people who align themselves with you

But in a commercial world often, i mean there are commercial directors who themselves really like what they say they are doing and that's why they are very good at it so I would not move past that if you are more leaning towards alternate cinema then chances are that in a commercial world you're not going to like what you are doing but at that point of time you need to understand that you are not doing this to make this an alternate film or to broaden your vision as a film maker you want to be but you are doing this to understand what is the audience you are catering to how do they watch the film what is the life that they live, for example rifle and a bag it's not a film you come home to and watch it is a very specific film for film festivals where people go there to watch, its a difference experience from when they are watching on Netflix it is the exact opposite that is what my learning has been earlier, when I was in college I used to think that independent cinema also lets you do everything you want to do which it gives you more freedom but you're still thinking about the audience, in a commercial way you are thinking about the audience in a very different spectrum the way both are the system for which both work is entirely different in commercial you already know who is going to do what and the money for it is already given, there are set parameters to your job, it is refined sometimes it can change but you know this is the job you are expected to do, in alternate

cinema there are not always a lot of people there's not always a lot of audience, one person ends up doing 2-3 things and that's why collaborations and a bit difficult because then you have a lot of fights so i would barley think of making and alternate film which is more of a set up of figuring it out, you should have an knowledge about it in working towards a closer proximity whereas in a commercial spectrum everybody knows what they are supposed to do, in independent cinema it is very difficult to replace people you work with

So do you think, yeah, do you think there is more creative freedom? (15.57)

Personally, for me, yes, I do have friends who believe the concept of creativity in commercial cinema is wanting to be creative also. In that scenario we do find commercial set up to be creative, for me definitely independent cinema because you are actually, the thing about independent cinema is and i keep oscillating to is that every time I make a film which might not be like a commercial film but it changes me as a person, it adds something to my value system, adds something to me being as a person and for me it's important to be that person, to go through experiences where you have evolved, that i think has happened lesser in commercial cinema

So as an Indian maker, what qualities one should have and what are the challenges faced

Money is a big challenge, arguments with your team mates is one of the big challenges, writing a story for funding, it not about just money you might have a rich father rich friend to put in the money but you also need some kind of visibility, say Netflix is already producing your film they are already taking care of all the visibility, it becomes easier, here in an independent project you might make a film that if has not been pitched about it has not been talked about in the community, it might remain invisible, it might not do as well as it can, so you have to make a very strategic plan and sticking to that plan becomes difficult because of the financial challenges but you have to find a way to meet it, you have to find good places where you can pitch your project, you need to write a lot about the project, you need to take a lot of time out of your irrespective of the hours, irrespective of what else is going on, thats how it is for me and once you make the film then what is the life that film would have is something that we don't think earlier but we have to, think about where you would possibly first screen it, what are the other films screened in that festival are there any work shops that can lead you to it, you have to do all of this research and you have to pave the way for your film in independent cinema that you wouldn't do it commercially you are not expected to do that, here you have to kind of make sure that you set your film on a right path and keep following it no matter what and the biggest hurdle i see for independent cinema is to finish the film to give yourself deadlines, there is nobody who is telling you that you need to finish this by midnight and send me the cut otherwise something something there is no pressure like that so entire drive is internal and it is very hard to maintain that drive but you have to maintain it if you want to see you film through, irrespective of coming close to giving up, unless and until there is a deadline

we don't really work no, so in independent cinema you can always do it tomorrow but that doesn't really help you so you need to have this self discipline entirely and building that self discipline takes time but you if you want to be an independent filmmaker you have to manage for sure

The good part, the good parts are a lot, if you get to travel with your film you meet a lot of people and in film screening the conversations, so your film is just one part of the experience, then you have the audience who are trying to think what you have done, you have long conversations with them you find out about many different directors who are directed towards what you are doing, every time I recognise that one part of myself, and that feels like a big discovery, what you get out of independent cinema is not tangible it's not always in terms of finances or fame but it widens your knowledge about yourself and that the world that you live in and for me it is one of the biggest things I like about it, it surprises me everytime. The qualities you should have, one is curiosity, go with an agenda in your mind, specially in documentary films, have the curiosity to find out more and more it something that keeps you in the project, if you are very hell bent on this is my first idea and it has to be executed like this then most likely it's not going to and then you get lost in the process and then you feel hopeless to be curious, have flexibility to change your ideas, have the flexibility to say okay what your teammate is saying is also good, rather than just convincing each other that my idea is better than yours, listen to each others ideas and try to figure out a common part, these are also the ways to remain into the project and other is some for of discipline

Has it ever happened that you have a couple of ideas and you can't decide between them

Always, it happens always, why am I telling this story, this idea is also good that is also good, it is a constant struggle, it also happens you are excited about 2 ideas and then both ideas are shit nothing works it always happens

How do you resolve this come out of it

One thing is to, don't do this alone, if you sit in a room and keep asking why not, why is this not good, talk to people, don't try to convince them of ideas just pitch your ideas and see what is generating more interest, just say it to your friends, random people, tell people who understand your concept, just tell it as a story, see which idea is generating more interest, often you yourself are more interested in that idea, a lot of times we believe that both the ideas are the same but while we are narrating something we don't realize what the other person senses Anurag is very good at doing that, I remember he used to pitch his ideas to multiple people that's how I realized that you can do this or sometimes you record your own voice and you try to structure something out

There are multiple ways to get over it actually, when you are lost in an idea you find ways to structure it, in that structure you find what you wanted, you have to write multiple drafts, there is a project i've written down and the current draft I am at is the 37th draft, sometimes you don't need that but sometimes you really do need it

In this film there were so many elements that I wanted to put in and fit in and make sure they work and they would just not work, I kept writing it and I kept realizing what are the areas in which people are reacting more, I try to work around that also that helps sometimes

What is an underrated movie that deserves more credit?

Wow I don't have a film like that in my mind I think all of documentary cinema deserves a lot more attention than it does, whole of documentary genre deserves a lot more credit and documentary films from india

What is the impact you wish to leave on the audience through your films

I wish the film doesn't get over when the film ends, it doesn't have to be positive or negative, it can be bold, it can be anything but as long as you remember the film, the feeling is not something that I am concerned about, it generates questions, and it makes you feel any of the emotions that you take home, this is the impact I focus on

What would be your message to the emerging filmmakers?

My message is, don't try to copy anybody, it is great to be inspired by filmmakers but only if they take you towards what you want to see, if you try to copy and fit in somebody else's shoes then you'll be lost and confused, there is a difference between the filmmakers you like and filmmakers you have become, take inspiration try to see what works for you and try to find your own connection.