

Filmmaker, producer, and educator with over a decade of local, national and international experience in feature fiction, documentary, and cross-cultural productions. Founder of Jeevi Films, bridging local stories from the margins and global independent cinema through community-rooted distribution and equity-centered storytelling. Films have premiered at Berlinale, Busan, Cartagena, Adelaide, and CAAMFest, Jogja - NETPAC and distributed theatrically, education, Community screenings and on platforms such as Netflix, MUBI, Hot Star. Movie Saints, and NeeStream. Dedicated educator and mentor with a proven record of teaching and guest lecturing at universities and fellowships, focusing on film production, distribution strategies, and intersectional perspectives in global cinema.

## SELECTED RECENT AWARDS

2025 Best Documentary Film - Audience Award- Chicago South Asian Film Festival

2025 Cross Cultural Filmmaking Award - Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival

2024 Adelaide Film Festival Feature Fiction Award

2024 Antares Film Festival Best Humanitarian Award

## SELECTED INDUSTRY FOOT PRINT

2023 Tallinn's Work in Progress Lab

2023 Shanghai International Film Festival WIP project

2022 Tokyo Gap Financing Market

2020 Hong Kong Asian Film Financing Forum

2020 NFDC Film Bazaar India WIP lab

2020 FIPRESCI India Jury Award

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## TEACHING/MENTOR EXPERIENCE:

### Panelist – Creative Sustainability Summit (FilmNorth & Seed&Spark)

Sept, 2025

Spoke on “Building Creative Sustainability Locally,” exploring cross-cultural filmmaking and community-based distribution models for young filmmakers and /or first time filmmakers

### Workshop at Queermunity, Organized by SEWA-AIFW for Community members

June, 2025

Designed, conducted workshop for community members as per request of a community organization in the Twin Cities. Topic: A body of many lands: Queer Histories and the politics of belonging. 51 members actively participated in the workshop during the pride month.

### Guest Lecture – St. Olaf College (Undergraduate Class)

May, 2025

Delivered lecture on South Asian cinema, migration, and global capitalism. Developed discussion-based sessions linking film production to social justice frameworks.

**Guest Mentor – Mama Papaya Film Sparks Fellowship****April, 2025**

Mentored emerging filmmakers on project development and independent distribution. Guided fellows through pitching, international festival strategy, and collaborative production practices.

**Guest Lecture – University of Minnesota (Graduate Class)****Mar, 2025**

Lectured on Filmmaking Process, global cinema, participatory filmmaking and community-rooted storytelling. Engaged graduate students in analyzing caste, class, gender, and diaspora narratives in film.

**Panelist - Stories Across Borders - Black European Film Festival, MSP****Jan, 2025****Adjunct Faculty – Concordia University, St. Paul****Jan 2024 - Aug****2024**

Teaching Masters Degree Data Analytics program  
Storytelling with Data- Data Visualization & Reporting with Tableau and Excel, Ethical Considerations in Data Analysis,  
Business Intelligence and Decision Support Systems, Digital Transformation and Marketing Analytics

**FILMOGRAPHY:**

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**Works in progress - Post- Production****The Boom | Narrative Short | Producer**

**Logline:** An Indigenous man investigates a mysterious sound echoing through the city that reverberates through space and time.

**FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT SUPPORT**

- Mamá Papaya, Film Sparks Fellowship, 2025
- Tiwahe Grant
- Lake Street lift fund
- Minnesota Film Festival- Runners up

**Why We Dance | Feature Documentary | Producer**

**Logline:** Why We Dance traces the heartbeat of land through footwork, sound and circular movement, revealing how dance becomes a bridge between body and earth, self and community and why reclaiming space matters.

**Un Named | Feature Documentary | Archival Producer****Completed Works****Love Chaos Kin | Feature Documentary, 2025 | Co- Producer**

is a coming-of-age story about white-passing twins Anjali and Meghna growing up in a South Asian immigrant home, reconciling with their complex past and Native American identity while cautiously building an optimistic future with the help of their adopted and birth mothers. Spanning 12 years, the film paints a reflective and playful portrait of a modern mixed-race American family. It illuminates the persistent effort required to establish genuine connections among adoptees, birth parents, and adoptive families - the adoption trifecta.

DISTRIBUTION: In consideration with PBS POV (Currently in Final round)

- Jogja- NETPAC Asian Film Festival, 2025
- Chicago South Asian Film Festival, 2025
- Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, 2025
- Asian American International Film Festival, 2025
- CAAM Fest, 2025

#### FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT SUPPORT

- Visions Du Reel Rough Cut Lab, 2023
- Chicken and (Egg)celebrator Lab, 2022 (<3% acceptance rate)
- NYC Women's Fund for Media, Music, and Theatre, 2022 (7.46% acceptance rate)
- Brown Girls Doc Mafia sustainability artists fellowship and grant, 2021
- New York State Council for the Arts, 2020
- Center for Asian American Media Grant, 2019
- Jerome Foundation Grant, 2019 (5.63% acceptance rate)

#### PITCHING

- Finalist Tasveer Film Fund, 2022 (3 documentary features selected to pitch for \$15000 prize)
- Production Finance Market, Film London, 2021
- Gotham Project Forum, 2020
- Sheffield Documentary Film Festival, Meet Market, 2020 (9.6% acceptance)
- DOC NYC, Only in New York, 2020
- Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival Filmmaker Retreat, 2018

#### **In The Belly of a Tiger | Feature Fiction, 2024 | Producer**

##### **World Premiere at 74<sup>th</sup> Berlinale Film Festival**

International Co-Production: India-Taiwan-Indonesia-USA

**Logline:** *An elderly couple in a remote village in Northern India must decide who will be killed by a tiger to get government compensation for their family's survival.*

#### *Film Festivals- Selected List:*

- o Won Best Feature Fiction Award, Adelaide Film Festival
- o Won Best Humanitarian award and Best Director award at Antares International Film Festival
- o Won Busan Asian Cinema Fund's Script Development fund
- o Only Indian Fiction Feature selected for Le Groupe Ouest's Less is More script lab
- o 1 of the 5 scripts in the world to select for Script Pool Tallinn

- o Top 6 scripts selected for NFDC script Lab
- o Finalist for Sundance 2022 Development Track
- o Selected for HAF (Hong Kong Asia Film Financing Forum)
- o Finalist for NFDC Co-Production grant
- o Selected for Film Bazaar Recommends 2022
- o NFDC Work In Progress lab
- o Tallinn's Work In Progress Lab

### **Creative Compound | Corporate Film, 2022, 2023 | Executive Producer**

Collaborate with Creative Compound as an Executive producer to make corporate films for clients like Zelis in India.

### **Maadathy, an Unfairytale | Feature Fiction, 2020 | Co- Producer**

**Available on Mubi, NeeStream**

International Co-Production: India- Singapore-France

**Logline:** *This film is a tale about a young girl who grew up in the slave caste group and how she came to be immortalized as their locality, Maadathy.*

*Film Festivals- Selected List:*

- o World premiere in Busan Film Festival October 2019
- o Latin American Premiere in 60th Cartagena Film Festival March 2020
- o Indian Premiere at IFFK (International Film Festival Kerala)
- o North American Premiere at Coalition of South Asian Film Festivals 2020
- o Won Best Feature Film Award, FIPRESCI Jury award, Best Cinematography, Best Actress award at Aurangabad International Film Festival and programmed in few other international film festivals
- o International Narrative Features Competition, Herat International Women Film Festival, Afghanistan, 2020
- o Invitation Screening, IView World Human Rights Film Festival, New Delhi/New York 2021

Independently Distributed Maadathy in North America from Local Theaters, Community Screenings in North America to Universities like Columbia, Brandeis, Yale, St. John Fishers College, Harvard, MIT, York, etc., to name a few

### **Ek Poshla Rupkatha (In Loving Memory...) | Short Fiction, 2017 | Producer**

**Available now in Movie Saints**

International Co-Production: India- Russia

- o Won 6 international awards and 15+ Official selections around the globe including Independent Spirit Award, Best Production Design Award from Monaco International Film Festival, Golden Reel Award for Nevada International Film Festival, Best Foreign Film at International Film Festival Zilant, Turkey to name a few
- o International film festival screenings include International Children's Film Festival, Bangladesh; Chicago International Art House Film Festival, Monaco International Film

Festival, and South African International Film Festival, to name a few.

**Mantra | Feature Fiction, 2016 | Associate Producer**

**Available now on Youtube +, Prime, Previously on Netflix, Hotstar**

**Logline:** An Indian business owner struggles to keep his company afloat amid global competition while trying to make up for lost time with his family.

*Film Festivals- Selected List:*

- o World Premiered and Won Best Feature Audience award at South Asian Film Festival presented by HBO 2016
- o Official Selection at JIO MAMI Mumbai Film Festival 2016
- o Official Selection for Indian Panorama, International Film Festival, Goa 2016

Theatrically released across India by PVR Cinemas

**Founder & Chief Editor, Indian Mutinies (Digital Magazine)**

Founded Digital Magazine, Indian Mutinies to cover stories of modern unsung revolutions within India in the 21st century with the team of journalists & researchers.

One of the news stories of the public school in Warangal district got attention of a Multi-National Energy company's CSR Unit's attention which changed the destiny of the school building infrastructure like Bathrooms for teachers and students, Drinking Water facilities, Benches, library, School kit for every student which increased the admission rate of the school to 35% the next academic year and since 2017 to till date, all the resources are still being used.

**Script Writer – Maiya**

**Lyricist – Priya Premalo Prem**

**Poetry publication- Saaranga, pratilipi, Outlook India**

**OTHER EXPERIENCE**

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**Script Mentor- Nisa Directed by Ambarien Alqadar**

**Screening Committee Member - Black European Film Festival, MSP**

Aug - Nov 2024

**Teaching Assistant – Institute of Health Informatics Graduate School**

2021, 2023

**EDUCATION**

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**University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

PhD in Health Informatics (ABD)

**Film North**

Bootcamp, Cinematography

**Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan**

**Kakatiya University, Warangal, India**

Bachelor of Engineering, Electronics & Instrumentation

MEMBER	RECENT LABS
<b>Brown Girls Doc Mafia</b> <b>BitChitra Collective</b> <b>Film North</b> <b>Documentary Producers Alliance</b> <b>Asian American Doc Network</b> <b>Women in Film India</b>	<b>Above 8 Distribution Lab</b>

**AREAS OF TEACHING & MENTORSHIP INTEREST (Not limited to):**

- Directing for Fiction and Documentary
- Producing for Independent and International Cinema
- Editing & Post-Production Workflow
- On-Set Production Management and Crew Coordination
- Working with Actors: Directing Performance
- Script Supervision and Continuity Practices
- Story Structure and Script Analysis
- Writing the Short Film / Feature Film
- Screenwriting for Social Impact and Identity
- Documentary Writing: Ethics and Narrative Construction
- Adaptation: From Real Life to Screen
- Documentary Production: Ethics, Aesthetics, and Method
- Global South and Diaspora Cinema
- Community-Based and Participatory Filmmaking
- Feminist and Decolonial Documentary Practices
- Visual Ethnography and Research Methods
- Introduction to Global Cinema
- Postcolonial and Transnational Film Studies
- Queer and Feminist Film Theory
- Film and Society: Politics of Representation
- The Intersection of Technology, AI, and Storytelling
- Independent Film Distribution and Impact Producing
- Data Strategy for Film Distribution and Audience Mapping
- Producing for Streaming Platforms and Hybrid Distribution
- Co-Productions and International Film Financing
- Film as Healing: Trauma, Movement, and Land
- Creative Sustainability and Collective Production Models

