



THE WORLD BEYOND ME

*"An emotive look behind the sex/debt bondage scene in India."
— Elliot Grove, Founder, Raindance*

"Trapped in the harrowing world of sex-debt bondage, one woman's quiet yearning for freedom becomes a testament to resilience and the dreams stolen from her."

+917620839775
ASHWINAGRAWAL2017@GMAIL.COM



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A FILM BY ASHWIN AGRAWAL



THE WORLD BEYOND ME

"BOUND BY SHADOWS, FREED BY DREAMS."

COMING SOON

LIVING BREAD PRODUCTIONS PRESENT THE WORLD BEYOND ME STARRING AMISHA THAKUR NAVEED SHAIKH AVANTIKA SAHNI ASHWIN AGRAWAL DIVA RAICHURA ARADHYA PATEL ANUPAM JOARDAR AND PRAMOD PANDEY MUSIC BY RIWAL ASSOCIATE PRODUCER ZOE SHARPLES CINEMATOGRAPHY SAMYAK BHAT EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SUMAN AGRAWAL FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TILAK DUBEY WRITTEN BY ASHWIN AGRAWAL DIRECTED BY ASHWIN AGRAWAL



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“Amisha Thakur rehearsing a pivotal moment before the camera rolls, bringing Sangam’s character to life with raw emotion”

SYNOPSIS

Sangam is a young woman ensnared in the brothels of Kamathipura, spending her days on the street, waiting for customers. Her life is marked by quiet resilience and a deep inner longing for freedom, which she dreams of through a seashell and a photo of the beach that hangs on her wall. Sangam's goal is to escape her suffocating existence, & she wishes to see the beach even for once, to experience the freedom of the beach she has only experienced as child. This hope remains her sole anchor in a world marred by abuse and violence. The main obstacle in her path is the cruel reality of her circumstances. Controlled by a manipulative pimp and burdened by an insurmountable debt, Sangam is imprisoned in a life she never chose. Flashbacks reveal the harrowing journey that led her here: being sold into this dark world, subjected to beatings, and conditioned to accept her fate. Sangam is imprisoned in a life she never chose. Flashbacks reveal the harrowing journey that led her here: being sold into this dark world, subjected to beatings, and conditioned to accept her fate. The pimp allows her a day at the beach but under watchful eyes, She walks along the shore, feeling the sand beneath her feet and the waves crashing beside her—a stark contrast to the life she must return to. However, like the waves that ebb and flow, her moment of liberation is short-lived. She returns to the brothel, clutching the seashell—a poignant reminder of what she momentarily possessed but can never truly claim. As the film closes, Sangam's dreams of freedom remain as distant as the horizon, but her hope still flickers, albeit faintly. Naina, Sangam's alter ego, who represents her dreams and desires fades at the end leaving viewers with haunting emptiness. Naina also represents the countless girls who disappeared in kamathipura with their dreams since it's establishment in 1795.



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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

One late afternoon in Kamathipura, as I parked my car on the bustling main street adjacent to inner lane 14, my attention was caught by a scene of stark contrast that lingered in my mind long after I drove away. It was 4 PM when I first noticed a woman standing by the roadside. Her posture was one of waiting—a prostitute awaiting her next client. When I returned at 8 PM, to my astonishment, she remained in the exact same position. The weariness etched into her features spoke volumes of a day perhaps devoid of transactions, her eyes imbued with a longing that went beyond the immediate surroundings.

This image struck a profound chord within me. Around her, life moved briskly; people went about their evening—returning from work, heading out to dine, or simply meandering through the streets engaged in light conversation. Here was a vivid tableau of two worlds juxtaposed within mere feet of each other: one, free and fluid; the other, static and confined. The poignant reality of her situation unfolded before me; she was trapped, monitored closely by the ever-watchful eyes of those who controlled her movements. Even if she dared to step over the invisible line that separated her from the bustling street, societal rejection would likely shove her back.

Moved by this powerful visual and emotional encounter, I found myself reaching out to her, a gesture of spontaneous empathy. After several attempts to catch her attention, she approached, and I handed her a sum of money—not as a transaction but as a simple human connection. She accepted it without a word, and we parted ways. This moment, brief yet impactful, galvanized me to tell her story, to delve deep into the themes of freedom and captivity.

"The World Beyond Me" is born of this experience, crafted to explore the profound longing for freedom harbored by Sangam, against the backdrop of Kamathipura's red-light district. This film aims to bridge the visual and emotional dichotomy between the fleeting freedom on the main street and the relentless captivity just a step away. Through Sangam's eyes, we confront the harsh realities of those bound by circumstances beyond their control, and we are invited to reflect on the invisible yet formidable boundaries erected by society itself.



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DIRECTOR-WRITER-PRODUCER-EDITOR - ASHWIN AGRAWAL

Ashwin Agrawal is an award-winning filmmaker with a passion for telling character-driven stories that delve into the often-overlooked issues in society. With a background in acting and a deep understanding of the human condition, Ashwin has crafted narratives that explore the complexities of child abuse, neglect, abandonment, prostitution, and mental health disorders such as body dysmorphia.

Ashwin has directed several short films and one feature film, Broken Mirror, which received critical acclaim and numerous accolades even featuring an article on the film by BDD FOUNDATION UK. His work has been recognized globally, earning him the Best First Time Short Film award at Indie Short Fest LA and an Honorable Mention for Best First Time Director (Feature Film) at the Los Angeles Film Awards (LAFA).

Trained in the Meisner technique by Barbara Merchant from Esper Studio, NY and continually refining his craft through short courses at Raindance Film School, Ashwin is also an accomplished acting coach. His empathetic approach to storytelling, combined with his dedication to highlighting the human experience, makes his work both compelling and impactful. Ashwin's films are not just narratives but a mirror to the society, reflecting the silent struggles and deep-seated issues that deserve attention.

"For me filmmaking isn't just about telling a story, it's about revealing the soul of those who are forgotten. My films strive to give a voice to the voiceless, to shed light where darkness has long prevailed."

-Ashwin Agrawal



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Q&A

1. What inspired you to create *The World Beyond Me*?

- “The inspiration came from a poignant real-life moment. I saw a sex worker standing on the street for hours, seemingly unnoticed by the world around her. That sight triggered a deep curiosity in me—who was she beyond what the world saw? What were her dreams, her memories? This film is my attempt to explore the humanity and the unspoken dreams of women like her, focusing on their resilience rather than portraying them as mere victims.”

2. How did you approach the sensitive subject matter of human trafficking and forced prostitution?

- “I wanted to ensure that the film handled this distressing subject with utmost sensitivity and respect. I avoided sensationalizing or exploiting the trauma and instead focused on the internal world of the protagonist, Sangam. The use of visual storytelling, metaphorical imagery like the seashell, and subtle expressions were deliberate choices to convey her pain and dreams without resorting to graphic depictions.”

3. What was the main obstacle?

- Budget constraints were our biggest challenge. Sometimes it is overwhelming for me to handle so many tasks because I could not hire people due to low budget, sometimes I just sit down and cry but I never give up on making the film I want to make. The biggest challenge was balancing authenticity and sensitivity. We were very mindful of how we portrayed trauma and violence—most of it is conveyed through close-ups of Sangam’s face, focusing on her emotional state rather than the physical acts. Working with a low budget and ensuring that we did justice to the complexity of Sangam’s story also posed logistical and creative challenges, but it was a deeply fulfilling experience.”

4. Best & Worst moment?

"The best moment was when the three of us—me, Amisha, and the AD—were relaxing on the beach after the shoot. We were enjoying the calmness, the vastness, and the freedom that the beach offered. It was such a peaceful and liberating experience, a moment where we could finally unwind after the intensity of filming. But suddenly, as I looked out over the ocean, reality hit me hard. While we were free, Sangam, and so many girls like her, are not. I began to miss Sangam, as if she were a real person trapped in that world. The contrast between our freedom and their entrapment overwhelmed me with sadness. I couldn't shake the thought of the girls still stuck in Kamathipura and other parts of the world, and it brought me to tears. That moment reminded me of the deep responsibility I feel in telling their stories."



ACTRESS - AMISHA THAKUR

Born in Himachal Pradesh India, Amisha at the age of 19 she took a tough decision to quit her regular college to be able to shape her career in better ways and support her mother who single handedly raised her to be an independent woman who can look destiny in the eye with a never giving up attitude. She joined aviation and also completed her degree in English alongside. She understood well at a young age that life is not just about a defined end game and she rather believes in exploring her potential and has the courage to work towards it, and this is what sets her apart. Amisha won Femina Miss India Himachal Pradesh 2022 and made it to top 10 final contest in Femina Miss India 2022. She later joined Meisner Technique classes with Mr. Ashwin Agrawal and landed a role of Sangam after Auditioning for it. Her upcoming work includes a feature film in production "The Ancient Urban Tale" with Mr. Ashwin Agrawal.

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ACTOR - NAVEED SHAIKH

Naveed Shaikh is a dedicated actor and a psychology teacher at NIMS College in Mumbai. Balancing his academic career with his passion for acting, Naveed has pursued roles that allow him to explore complex human emotions and behaviors. He has collaborated with director Ashwin Agrawal on the feature film Broken Mirror, where his performance was informed by his deep understanding of psychology. Naveed is also trained in the Meisner technique, which has honed his skills in delivering authentic and emotionally resonant performances



CINEMATOGRAPHY - SAMYAK BHAT

Samyak Bhat is a Mumbai based cinematographer who has graduated with an MA in Cinematography from the University of York. An independent cinematographer with more than 2 years of experience, he has worked on multiple projects ranging from advertisements, documentaries to short films and a feature length film which has gotten recognition at international festivals. He believes that image making is a process of healthy collaborations and patience. On the days of not experimenting with light, Samyak is usually found practicing music or shooting landscapes.



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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - JULIA VERDIN

Julia Verdin is a British independent film writer, director, and producer with over 40 feature films to her credit. She founded Rough Diamond Productions in 1993 and is renowned for films like *Stander* (2003), *The Merchant of Venice* (2004), and *2 Jacks* (2012). In recent years, she has focused on social impact filmmaking, addressing issues such as child trafficking, domestic abuse, and addiction. Her film *Angie: Lost Girls* (2020) received multiple awards at notable film festivals.

Verdin served on the board of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) for a decade and, in 2015, was honored with the Executive Achievement Award from the La Femme International Film Festival. She is also the founder of Artists for Change, a nonprofit organization that produces films and documentaries aimed at raising awareness on critical social issues.

Her recent directorial work includes *Maya* (2023), a film that explores the dangers of online recruitment by traffickers, and *No Address* (2025), which addresses the homeless crisis in America.

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MUSIC COMPOSER - RIWAL

Riwal is a composer and pianist from France. He is Bafta Connect Member for 2023/2026. He has studied music privately and later attended the Bill Evans Piano Academy in Paris to concentrate on jazz piano/composition. Riwal was then accepted to the prestigious Mannes School of Music in New York City and Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts on a scholarship where he focused his studies on Film-Composition at the world renowned undergraduate Film-Scoring program and graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in Film-Scoring. He attended Santa Monica College in Santa Monica, California and studied classical composition at an applied music program. Riwal has been selected as one of 15 in-residence artists for the first “Emerging Composers Program” organized by the [Ghetto Film School](#) in collaboration with Sony Music and [Konsonant Music](#). After entering the [Spitfire Audio Bridgerton scoring competition](#) Riwal was named one of the 4 runners up out of over 4000 entries. He has composed for “Translation” a feature film selected at Riverside International film Festival in 2023.



ASSOCIATE PRODUCER - ZOE SHARPELS

Zoe Sharples is a British/Irish producer and director of Wishing Tree Films Cyprus. Zoe built a career in media across editorial, talent management, rights and business affairs in London, UK, working for companies including Penguin Random House, ITV Studios and The British Film Institute. She produced the short film, 'Papa', in Cyprus, and is now developing multiple projects across different formats and genres. Zoe is Events Manager for Women in Film and Television-Cyprus, a participant of the 2024 ScreenCraft Works Cross-Border Mentoring Scheme and the prestigious Academy for Women Entrepreneurs in Cyprus.

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Director Ashwin Agrawal guiding Amisha Thakur through an intense scene, ensuring every emotion is captured authentically.



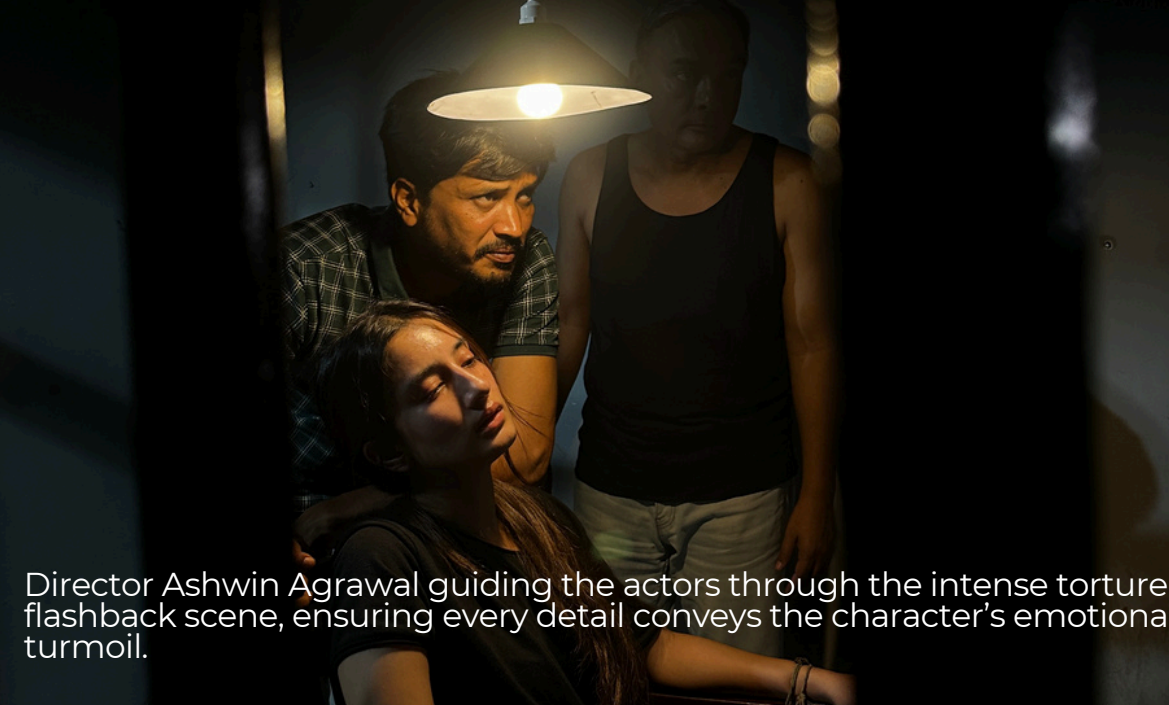
Sangam (Amisha Thakur) enjoying her temporary freedom at the beach in the film.



Sangam waits for her customer on the streets of Kamathipura in the film, while to the right, normal life carries on for people oblivious to the plight of those like her.

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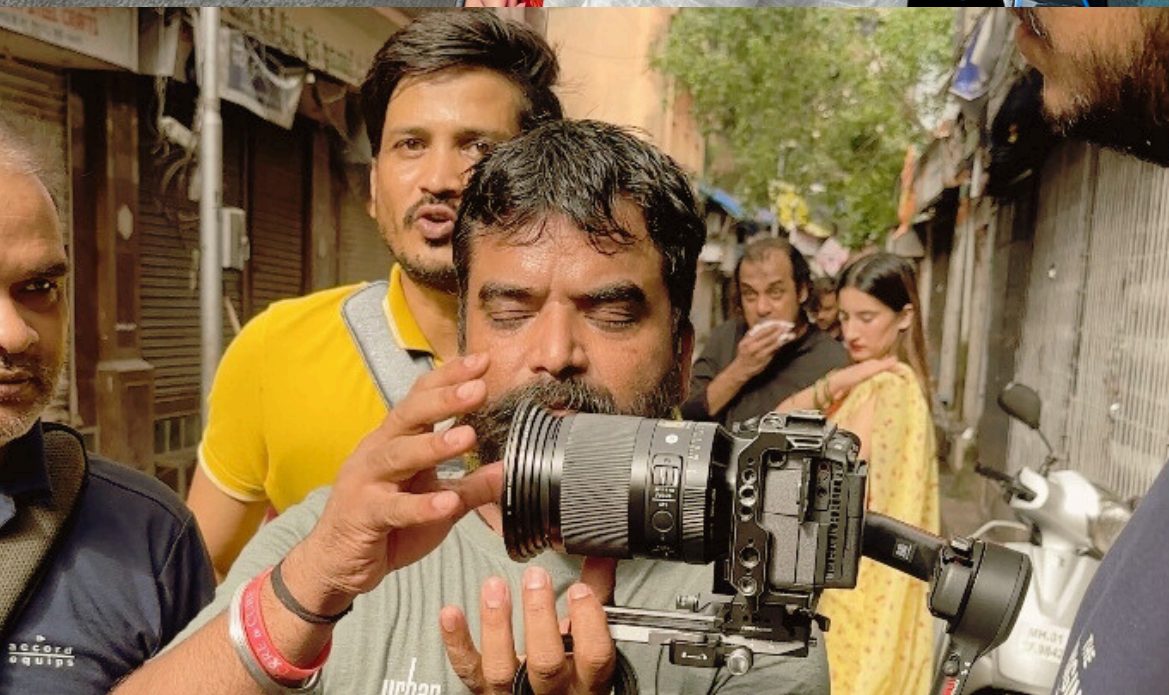
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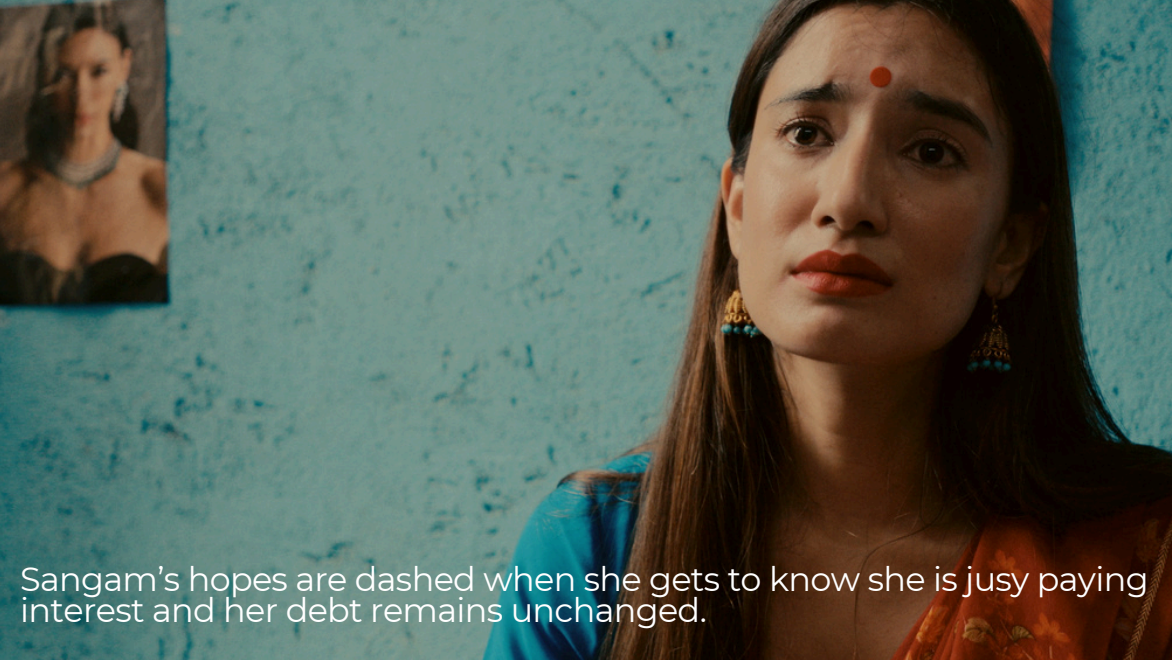
Director Ashwin Agrawal guiding the actors through the intense torture flashback scene, ensuring every detail conveys the character's emotional turmoil.



Amisha Thakur delivering a powerful line during filming on a street adjacent to Kamathipura, capturing the raw intensity of the moment



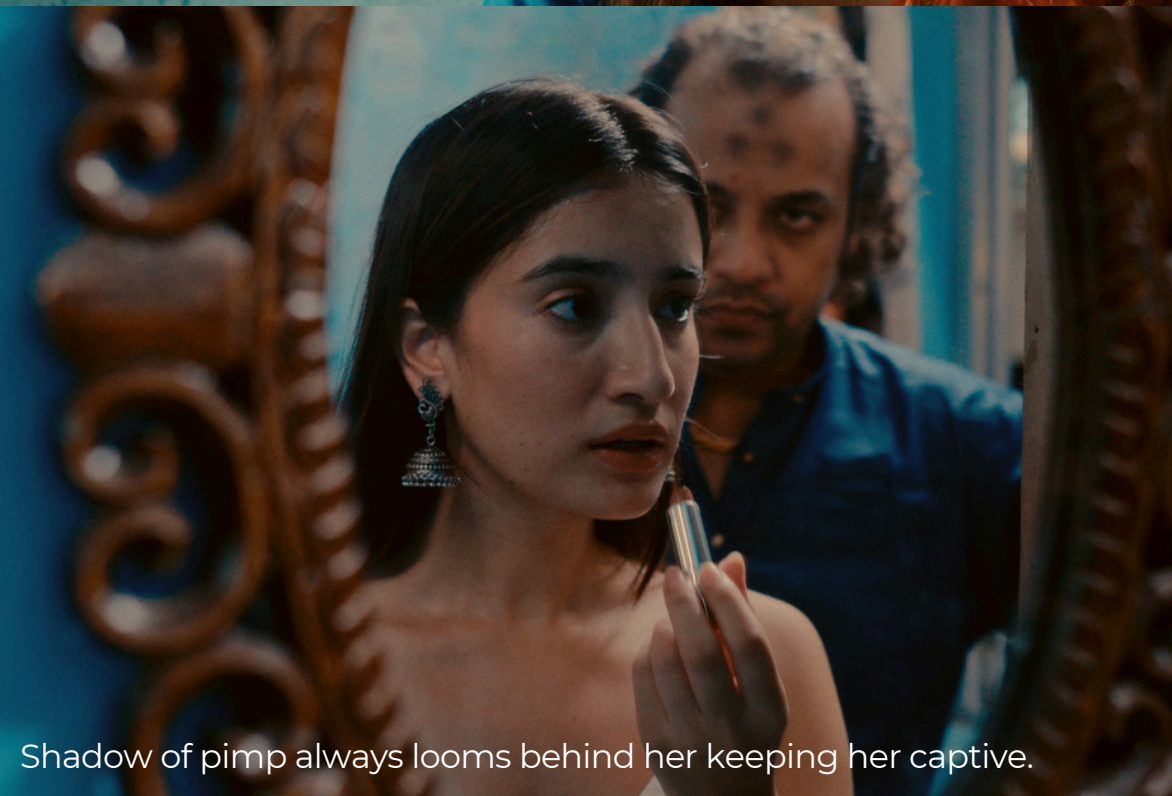
A crew member carefully placing an ND filter on the camera, preparing for the perfect shot under challenging lighting conditions.



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Sangam's hopes are dashed when she gets to know she is just paying interest and her debt remains unchanged.



Shadow of pimp always looms behind her keeping her captive.



Sangam enjoys her freedom at the beach.



Sangam is back to daily routine.



Sangam realising the moment of freedom has come to an end.



Sangam Looking after her alter ego who is always nervous a sign of strength here standing her ground even when faced with oppression.

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Trailer Link

<https://vimeo.com/livingbreadproduction/theworldbeyondmetrailer>

Technical Details

Format

4K sony fx30,16:9, monoscopic, 25fps, Color & B&W, stereo sound , DCP,MOV,MP4

Codec

H.264 ,Prores

Resolution

PAL (1920x1080px) &(3840X2160)

Audio

48kHz sound PCM (uncompressed exclusively) / WAV/ AAC/320

Contact -

Ashwin Agrawal (Director & Producer)
Embassy B-410 First Crossroad Lokhandwala
Market, Beside Dlh Orchid Tower, Andheri West,
Mumbai, Maharashtra state, India.
400053

Email: AshwinAgrawal2017@gmail.com

Phone :- +917620839775, +918459647058

Thank You!

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