

Yaffle Films & Sikhya Entertainment  
Co-producers, Pardesi Films, AKFPL & Dar Motion Pictures

In Association with  
ARTE France

PRESENT

# MONSOON SHOOTOUT

a film by **AMIT KUMAR**



**OFFICIAL SELECTION**  
FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
**MIDNIGHT SCREENING**

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## **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Country of Origin: India/UK/Netherlands

Language: Hindi with English Subtitles

Running Time: 88 minutes

Year of Production: 2013

Genre: Police Drama/Thriller

Sound: 5.1

Screen Ratio: 1:2.35

Format: DCP-D Cinema

Original Shot on: Alexa Digital

## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

**Writer/Director:** Amit Kumar

**Producer:** Trevor Ingman, Guneet Monga, Martijn De Grunt

**Co-Producer:** Anurag Kashyap, Arun Rangachari

**Director of Photography:** Rajeev Ravi

**Production Designer:** Mayur Sharma

**Editor:** Atanu Mukherjee, Ewa Lind

**Executive Producers:** Asif Kapadia, Gitika Aggarwal, Lee Stone & Shahnaab Alam

**Music by:** Gingger Shankar

**Sound:** Kunal Sharma

**Production Company:** Yaffle Films & Sikhya Entertainment

**Co-produced by:** Pardesi Films, AKFPL and DAR Motion Pictures

**In Association with:** ARTE France

**Developed with the support of the BFI**

## **CAST - CHARACTER**

Vijay Varma	as	Adi
Nawazuddin Siddiqui	as	Shiva
Neeraj Kabi	as	Khan
Geetanjali Thapa	as	Anu
Farhan Mohammad Hanif Shaikh	as	Chhotu
Tannishtha Chatterjee	as	Rani
Sreejita De	as	Geeta
Irawati Harshe Mayadev	as	Nishi
R Balasubramanian	as	Slumlord
Surya Mohan Kulshreshtha	as	Builder Tiwari
Prithvi Zutshi	as	Minister
Jayant Gadekar	as	Patil
Omkar Das	as	Taxiwallah

**PRODUCTION COMPANY:**

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## **LOGLINE:**

A rookie cop's moment of reckoning, to shoot or not to shoot!

## **SYNOPSIS:**

MONSOON SHOOTOUT explores the impact that one's choices make on the lives of others. As heavy monsoon rains lash the badlands of Mumbai, Adi, a rookie cop out on his first assignment, faces a life altering decision when he must decide whether to shoot or not to shoot. Each decision takes him on a journey that pits him against a system which demands a compromise of his morals. And every choice has its price.

## **LONG SYNOPSIS:**

Monsoon Shootout explores the impact that one's choices make on the lives of others. As the raging monsoon lashes Mumbai, the commercial and underworld capital of India, the police struggle to keep up with the gangsters who are ever more emboldened.

Adi, a principled rookie cop as his first assignment on the force, joins an elite, anti-extortion unit of the Mumbai police led by Khan, a cop in the 'Dirty Harry' mould. On his first evening on the job, Adi had planned to meet his ex flame Anu and to get back with her, but he misses the date when Khan has set up an ambush for a dreaded gangster.

However, the ambush goes wrong and Adi chases Shiva, a seemingly armed and dangerous criminal into a dead-end alley. Unsure if Shiva is, indeed, the wanted gangster, Adi has a moment of reckoning; whether to shoot or not to shoot.

Whatever his decision is, every decision will take him on a journey that pits him against a system which demands a compromise of his morals. As he lives through the dramatic consequences of each decision, he realizes that every choice has its price... and in doing so, Adi discovers that morality doesn't come cheap.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:**

I'm not great at taking decisions. I agonize over the options, trying to imagine all the possible consequences that could result from each decision. Time freezes for a while. That's where Monsoon comes from. Me.

Then, there's this visual I've had in my mind for years. A man with a gun, standing in the rain at night. Trying to decide whether to shoot someone or not. The moment is almost frozen in time. The pouring rain is the only thing that indicates a passage of time.

One of the first films I saw at film school was Robert Enrico's LA RIVIERE DU HIBOU. I was awed by the power of cinema. A fraction of a second in real life could be expanded to a dramatic length on screen. I knew what I wanted to explore.

I look at the world around me and see innumerable incidents of violence. People shooting others. Gangs, Police and Nations at War. People killing people seems commonplace.

Where's the morality that we as civilized animals are supposed to have. Does it exist, perhaps even for a fraction of a second, in the most hard-boiled of killers?

All these elements come together as MONSOON SHOOTOUT. A rookie cop grappling with his humanity in a merciless world. Time frozen. Rain. A moment of reckoning.

## **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:**

Amit Kumar graduated in film direction from the Indian national film school, FTII, in Pune. His student film, JUDGEMENT DAY, a single shot short film about a custodial death and its shocking cover-up, brought him a grant for Artist Residency from the Chicago Artists International Programme.

His short film THE BYPASS, produced under UK Film Council and Film Four's Cinema Extreme series premiered at the Edinburgh International Film Festival. It won the Kodak BAFTA showcase, and was the UK entry for the Kodak showcase at Cannes 2004. The film also won 2nd prize at the Turner Classic Movies Shorts Awards at the London Film Festival and was selected as the Best Short Film at the Indian Film Festival in Los Angeles.

Amit previously was Associate director to the BAFTA winning UK director Asif Kapadia on THE WARRIOR, and to the Oscar winning German director, Florian Gallenberger, on his debut feature, SHADOWS OF TIME. He was also the second unit director on Asif Kapadia's FAR NORTH in Norway, and Florian Gallenberger's film JOHN RABE set in China during World War II.

Amit's World War II project, GIVE ME BLOOD, was selected for the NFDC Film Bazaar, the co-production market at the International Film Festival of India, Goa 2012.

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY:**

2012 MONSOON SHOOTOUT

2003 THE BYPASS (short)

## **CAST BIOGRAPHY:**

### **Vijay Varma as Adi**

Vijay Varma started his acting journey as a theatre artist in his hometown of Hyderabad. He worked on numerous plays before he decided to move to Pune for two years to get a formal education in acting at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). After finishing his Post Graduate course, he shifted his base to Bombay in search of acting work.

His first acting job was in Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK's short film titled "SHOR" which was highly acclaimed at festivals and won Best Short Film at the MIAAC Film Festival in New York.

His first feature film which was also the opening film at the NYIFF'12 and IFFLA'12 was the critically acclaimed period drama by director Bedabrata Pain "Chittagong" in which Vijay plays a young revolutionary dealing with a dark past and an uncertain future. He received positive response from critics and audiences for his performance. The film won a Best Debut Director at the National Film Awards, 2012.

He plays the leading role of a rookie cop in MONSOON SHOOTOUT directed by Amit Kumar. His other work includes Priyadarshan's Rangrezz and the upcoming film "Gang of Ghosts" directed by Satish Kaushik.

Vijay is an avid video gamer and follows the mantra of "watch one film every day"

### **Nawazuddin Siddiqui as Shiva**

As a child, Nawazuddin was quick to mimic anyone he just met a few moments before. He always had a keen sense of observation and could predict how a person would act and react in a particular situation.

He attended the National School of Drama (NSD), Delhi. At NSD, he was popular as a humor artist. His character of 'Borkin' for the play Ivano written by Chekov won him accolades as a versatile actor. He kept his passion alive by doing street plays and was in constant endeavor to explore his skills for suitable roles. During his struggle phase, Nawazuddin came to know about his beloved who was married to a man double her age with 6 kids and was restricted from watching Television and taking resort to any forms of entertainment. He was quite disappointed with society's hierarchy and felt women should fight for their emancipation.

His initial days of struggle in Mumbai tested his passion and patience for acting. He did television, short films and small roles in Bollywood movies. He no longer wanted to get typecast and was on the constant lookout for right opportunity to showcase his potential. He got his first breakthrough with "BLACK FRIDAY". This was followed by a series of small yet substantial roles in films like FIRAQ, PEEPLI LIVE, NEW YORK and KAHAANI.

Nawazuddin is now very selective about his roles and believes in moving steadily albeit rebelliously. He is busy working on many interesting projects in Indian and global cinema.

### **Geetanjali Thapa as Anu**

A prominent Indian actress with a versatile body of work, Geetanjali Thapa began her film career with the critically acclaimed film I.D. which premiered at the Busan International Film



Festival. A graduate in Arts and English, she has also to her credit various commercials for leading brands including Garnier, Maggi, Moov and L'Oreal amongst others.

Currently part of the high profile untitled Danis Tanovic film opposite Indian actor Emraan Hashmi and LIAR'S DICE by Geetu Mohandas, she is being touted as the next major crossover Indian star. With a flair for languages, Thapa is fluent in English, Hindi and basic Spanish.

## **Tannishtha Chatterjee as Rani**

Born in Pune, Tannishtha Chatterjee is best known for her performance in the British film BRICK LANE (2007), the film adaptation of Monica Ali's best-selling novel of the same name. She was nominated for the British Independent Film Awards as the best actress for Brick Lane. Her other notable roles have been in Academy Award-winning German director Florian Gallenberger's film, SHADOWS OF TIME and BIBAR.

Her first film SWARAJ won a National Film Award. Chatterjee's performance in the German film, SHADOWS OF TIME earned her critical acclaim. It took her to international film festivals like Toronto and Berlin. Thereafter she worked on an Indo-French coproduction HAVA ANEY DEY (LET THE WIND BLOW) directed by Partho Sen-Gupta which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival and won the best film award at the Durban International Film Festival. Following these, Chatterjee acted in films like Strings, Kasturi and Bibar. Chatterjee was nominated for the British independent film awards along with actresses like Judi Dench and Anne Hathaway.

Chatterjee has finished filming Ravi Kumar's upcoming film, BHOPAL : PRAYER FOR RAIN in which she is starring with Martin Sheen. She was the lead in ROAD, movie with Abhay Deol. Chatterjee is often referred by the Indian media as the Princess of Parallel Cinema. Chatterjee was a trained Hindustani classical vocalist, she sang for movies like ROAD, PAGE 3, and her own films. She sang at the Royal Opera House in London with well-known British composer Jocelyn Pook.

Chatterjee was in the jury of the 2010 Asia Pacific Screen Awards. Currently she finished shooting for T series film I LOVE NEW YEAR opposite Sunny Deol directed by Radhika Rao and Vinay Sapru. Tannishtha appeared in Joe Wright's film ANNA KARENINA (2012). Her film DEKH INDIAN CIRCUS won the audiences choice award in Busan International Film Festival. She won the National Film Award for the same film amongst other awards. She is also featuring in a major role in GULAB GANG, a film starring Madhuri Dixit.

## **PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHIES:**

### **Trevor Ingman**

Trevor Ingman has worked in film production for over twenty five years. His company Yaffle Films produced Alexandra Lech's MEAT for the BFI. He then produced the award winning IS THAT ALL THERE IS? a film written and directed by Lindsay Anderson, for BBC Scotland. He co-produced the original WEST END stage version of Ingmar Bergman's SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE at Wyndham's Theatre, in London. Trevor produced Amit Kumar's award winning Cinema Extreme short THE BYPASS for Film4 and the UK Film Council. He went on to produce the feature documentary THE MEERKATS for BBC Films and The Weinstein Company. His company Yaffle Films developed MONSOON SHOOTOUT, with the support of the UK Film Council and subsequently put the financing and co-production together with Anurag Kashyap and Guneet Monga (India), Pardesi Films (Netherlands) and ARTE France.

### **Guneet Monga**

Voted as one of the top 12 women achievers in the Global Entertainment industry by Hollywood Reporter and mentioned by India Today as one of the top 50 Indians changing India, producer Guneet Monga has come to be known for her support of up and coming Indie talent seeking to find alternative audiences which is not restricted by region or geography.

She has helped pave the way globally for contemporary Independent Indian cinema with her films premiering at prestigious film festivals like Cannes, Venice, Sundance, Toronto, BFI : London and more. She is a driving force in seeking to internationalize Indian cinema by working with several of the top international sales agencies for the films she produces.

Some of her credits include; the Oscar nominated short film KAVI directed by Gregg Helvey, GANGS OF WASSEYPUR, PART I & II(2012), AIYYA(2012) and THAT GIRL IN YELLOW BOOTS (2011), SHAITAN by Bejoy Nambiar (2011). She has also Co-Produced DASVIDANIYA (2008) and TRISHNA by Michael Winterbottom (2011).

### **Martijn de Grunt**

Martijn de Grunt has worked since 2010 as a producer. Before his involvement in MONSOON SHOOTOUT he was involved in two smaller productions in India as a co-producer. His company Pardesi Films, based in the Netherlands, enables filmmakers in India to pursue their off-the-beaten-track films, making dreams, that have the potential to reach a global audience. Pardesi Film's main role is creating a successful team of writers, directors, producers and distributors who can help filmmakers take a concept from the synopsis stage to the cinema.

### **Anurag Kashyap**

Anurag Kashyap has become the face of the new wave of Indian cinema at various prestigious film festivals and platforms across the globe.

He made his early mark as a writer with the gritty, raw gangster film SATYA (1998) directed by Ram Gopal Verma. In 1999 he wrote and directed a short film LAST TRAIN TO MAHAKALI that won the Special Jury Award at the 8th Annual Screen Awards.

Kashyap made his directorial debut with PAANCH(2000), a film that has not been released till date due to the objections of the Indian Censor Board. This was followed by the acclaimed BLACK FRIDAY, based Mumbai bomb blasts of 1993. It won the Grand Jury

Prize at the 3rd Annual Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles(2005), and was nominated for the Golden Leopard (Best Film) at the 57th Locarno International Film Festival (2004). In 2009 he wrote and directed DEV.D, a modern day interpretation on Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's classic Bengali novel Devdas. DEV.D received widespread acclaim chiefly due to the film's fearless visual style, its experimental soundtrack and its innovative narrative structure. It is widely considered to be a path-breaking Indian film. In 2012 his GANGS OF WASSEYPUR (I & II) screened in Cannes, Directors Fortnight.

As a producer, Kashyap's body of work has included NO SMOKING (2007), RETURN OF HANUMAN (2007), GULAL (2009), THAT GIRL IN YELLOW BOOTS (2011). In 2010 he produced UDAAN that was officially selected to compete in the Un Certain Regard category at the Cannes Film Festival and in 2012 he produced PEDDLERS which was in Critics Week in Cannes. He co-produced Michael Winterbottom's TRISHNA in 2012. Some of his upcoming films are UGLY (director), MONSOON SHOOTOUT (co-producer), THE LUNCHBOX (co-producer) and HARAAMKHOR (producer).

### **Arun Rangachari, Chairman DAR Capital Group**

Arun Rangachari is the Founder & Chairman of DAR Capital Group; a boutique investment advisory, private equity and investment firm operating in India, the UAE, the United States, Malaysia, Australia and Uganda. With over USD 50 million in assets under management, DAR's private equity investments are focused primarily on the media, entertainment and technology sectors in India. Starting as a journalist with the Financial Express in Mumbai, India, covering the Information technology beat, Mr. Rangachari subsequently worked in Public Relations for 15 years, both in India and Dubai. In India, after working short stints for leading PR agencies, he took up several independent PR assignments, before relocating to Dubai in 1999. After working for three years for two of the largest PR consultancies in the Middle East, he partnered India's Percept Group to set up a joint venture, which he ran for almost five years. He founded DAR Capital Group in early 2007.

## **PRODUCTION COMPANY PROFILE**

### **YAFFLE FILMS**

Founded in 2003 by Chairman, Trevor Ingman, Yaffle Films is a media, entertainment and production company based in the UK. For the past 10 year, they have produced many critically acclaimed films including Alexandra Lech's MEAT for the BFI, the award winning IS THAT ALL THERE IS? by Lindsay Anderson, feature documentary THE MEERKATS for BBC Films and The Weinstein Company, and Amit Kumar's award winning Cinema Extreme short THE BYPASS for Film4 and the UK Film Council.

Ingman also co-produced the original West End stage version of Ingmar Bergman's SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE at Wyndham's Theatre, in London, and Justin Chadwick's The First Grader for BBC Films and the UK Film Council. Yaffle Films developed Amit Kumar's first feature, MONSOON SHOOTOUT, with the support of the UK Film Council, which was subsequently financed and co-produced with Anurag Kashyap (India), Pardesi Films(Netherlands) and ARTE France.

## **AKFPL AND SIKHYA ENTERTAINMENT:**

AKFPL and Sikhya Entertainment are two of India's prominent production houses supporting independent cinema. Spearheaded by writer-director, Anurag Kashyap and producer Guneet Monga, the two associated companies are carving a niche for themselves in both national and international markets.

At the core of their philosophy lies the belief in delivering meaningful cinema mirroring Indian society and thus, they pay great importance to stories that need to be told, despite their geographic barriers and language. They seek to see great content through from its inception, development, production to the final release.

The two companies include a team of Writers, Producers, Directors, Line Producers, Marketing and Public Relations professionals. While Sikhya is a full service production firm, AKFPL is a game changing producing banner. Together, they seek to create new age content that transcends boundaries, while at the same time assisting supporters of good content in any area where it may be needed.

The films backed and presented by AKFPL and Sikhya, have been validated with selections at some of the most prestigious International film festivals including Cannes, TIFF, Sundance, Pusan and Venice in addition to many others.

Films released under AKFPL and Sikhya's banner are UDAAN by Vikramaditya Motwane (2010), the two-part GANGS OF WASSEYPUR (2012) and THAT GIRL IN YELLOW BOOTS both by Anurag Kashyap (2010), SHAITAN by Bejoy Nambiar (2011) amongst a host of others. International co-productions include the well-received TRISHNA by Michael Winterbottom and the upcoming Danis Tanovic feature film. Other upcoming titles include PEDDELERS, HARAAMKHOR, TASHER DESH, SHAHID, THE LUNCHBOX and VAKRATUNDA MAHAKAAYA.

## **PARDESI FILMS**

Pardesi Films, based in the Netherlands, enables filmmakers in India to pursue their off-the-beaten-track film making dreams, that have the potential to reach a global audience. We see our main role as creating successful teams of writers, directors, producers and distributors who can help filmmakers take a concept from the synopsis stage to the theatres. Our role is primarily focused towards the development process including the financing and structuring of the preproduction or a full production of a film.

## DIRECTOR'S Q&A:

### How was your journey to get monsoon produced.

The journey to produce Monsoon Shootout started after the success of my short, the Bypass, produced by Trevor Ingman and Asif Kapadia (Senna) . I had originally pitched two ideas to Asif during our time together on his debut feature, The Warrior- one was Bypass, the other was Monsoon. Even then, I was really passionate about Monsoon, but Asif had suggested I submit The Bypass for the Cinema Extreme competition. Luckily I trusted him and The Bypass got made.

When I was heading for the Premiere at Edinburgh, Asif suggested I have a feature idea ready in case someone asks me what I want to do next. I had the idea for Monsoon in two parts. And then on an overnight coach, I got the idea for a third part and this made Monsoon complete. I pitched it at a pitching contest at Edinburgh Film Festival. It was the first time I ever pitched and I never finished the pitch in my 2 mins. But Nik Powel, head of that jury told me whatever you do, don't change the title! Someone from the UKFC, I forget the name, heard the pitch and suggested I come to London and pitch it to the UKFC.

I pitched it to Jenny Borgars, who was the head of the Development fund at the UK Film Council. She loved it and took it on. But I needed a producer and Trevor came on as producer when I had no-one else. So, Trevor's Yaffle films developed it with the UKFC. When she left, Tanya Segatchian and Lizzie Franke kept the project going. Several years and several drafts later, it was Emma Clarke at the New Cinema Fund of the UK Film council who championed it, and Lenny Crooks offered to bring the NCF on board with almost fifty percent of the budget.

Anyhow, the UK film council shut down and while that was initially a shock, it came as a blessing in disguise for us. Because we had no option but to work the Indian way as far as the spend went. For the two years while Trevor was hunting for finance, it was by and large the same story- 'okay we love Amit's short film and the script but...let's cast some star in it'. Now, I wanted to make a certain kind of film. , and for that, I needed to cast whoever fit the roles, without worrying about the star angle. Fortunately, I had a producer like Trevor, who was on the same wavelength. He had always been very supportive of me right from the start. Even through our low phases when it seemed like Monsoon would take forever to get going, he'd never lost hope. He believed in the project and was determined to see it through. So, even though it took much longer, he backed me to the hilt and we carried on hunting for the right partners who would give us the freedom to make it the way we wanted to.

Then, Trevor, who'd worked with Francois Sauvagnargues of ARTE on The First Grader, convinced them to come on board. Even after Francois left, Judith Louis and Isabelle Huige have supported us totally.

Eventually, Minnie Vaid, who'd rooted for our script when Trevor had submitted it to an Indian corporate, came into the picture. She was then working with Martijn, a Dutch producer looking for a good Indian project. She put us in touch and we got on well. Martijn was very sharp and related to the project in terms of his aesthetics too.

But, we still needed an Indian producer to get it into production. Then I bumped into Guneet Monga. I'd known her from before, we were planning to collaborate on a project, but it hadn't quite worked out. She knew about MS and asked me why we were not shooting, I told her about Trevor and Martijn and that we needed an Indian Producer. Without a moment's hesitation, she said she'd come on board. I told her to take her time, read the script and then answer but she said she was on anyways. Her gut instinct was right she read the script and called me back that night. She said she discussed it with Anurag Kashyap and they were on. One concern I had was that Anurag is obviously a director with a distinct vision what if our visions for the film differed?

I needn't have worried. He had seen the Bypass and said that obviously I knew how to make a film, so I should just go ahead and make Monsoon my way. That was it. He was always around if I needed any advice, but he totally let me do my own thing.

Then, Guneet and Shahnaab got Arun and Vivek Rangachary of DAR Motion Pictures on board and they were into it totally right from the start.

Guneet is like a force of nature. Her optimism meant that any roadblocks we ran into just by sheer dint of optimism, she found a way around. She had to make a lot of compromises during the journey, but never let me feel like she's doing me a favour. The other thing that helped greatly was Michael of Fortissimo, whom Trevor and I had earlier met during the Goa Film Festival, but Guneet now presented the project to. He loved the project and came on board even before we had started shooting! His presence was very reassuring and it gave me a confidence to stick to my vision.

During the shoot, I had a huge pillar of support. My mate from FTII, Rajeev Ravi, who shot *The Bypass* too. His visual sense is in perfect harmony with mine...and so is his narrative sensibility. His no-nonsense style makes sure that things get done. During the journey to finance Monsoon, each year, when we thought we would manage to raise the money, he put aside five months for our shoot. But we wouldn't manage to raise the finance and he'd sit around doing nothing!

So, eventually, after this long journey, we managed to get the right partners, the right crew and the right cast. And Monsoon Shootout was born.

## **Tell us about your background.**

I was born in India, but spent my childhood in Africa where my Father, who is an Engineer, was posted.

This is where my tryst with cinema started. As a seven year old, I used to play this game I called 'Continue' with my older brother, Anish. It involved me narrating a 'film' where he and I were the lead characters. We went through various adventures together, only interrupted by mundane things like lunch and dinner! Which is why we'd promise to 'continue'! Somehow, it was this childhood game that led me to believe that I was destined to make films at some point in my life.

Eventually, I came back to India. Drifted through hotels and Multi National Bank jobs before realizing that in that world, my own ideas didn't really matter. Anyone else could have followed the procedures and done the job as well as I could. When I was eventually gone, I wouldn't have affected this world at all. That's when I decided to take my belief about my destiny in films a bit seriously. My uncle, Surya Mohan Kulshreshtha, a theatre stalwart, (and the only other 'arty' person in my whole clan!) encouraged me. My parents, Yogendra Kumar, an engineer and Indra Kulshreshtha, a former dress designer could not quite understand my crazy wish to quit my job at the bank and the whole idea of a secure, middle class existence. However, they accepted my decision and with their total support, I plunged into the world of cinema!

Film school exposed me to cinema of the world and taught me the basics of my craft. Whilst I was finishing off my graduation film at Film School, in one of those chance meetings that have a tremendous impact on one's life, I met Asif Kapadia, who was in India looking for help in terms of equipment and crew for his graduation film, Sheep Thief. We hit it off and I ended up helping out on that. This began a long, wonderful and fruitful journey together. I then worked with him on The Warrior as the Associate Director (Creative right hand man). This was a great experience and certainly shaped my approach towards actors and performance.

I then worked with Florian Gallenberger, the Oscar winning German director on his debut feature, Shadows of Time. It was a very cherished time together. We talked and worked together very closely almost every waking moment. It was a very inspiring experience. It also gave me a lot of confidence in working with actors and recognizing the truth in performance.

I subsequently worked on their other features, Far North in the Arctic and the World War 2 epic, John Rabe in China. And was as much a learning experience as it was fun!

While on Shadows, I won the UKFC Cinema Extreme short film programme and got to make The Bypass. This was the starting point for Monsoon Shootout.