

DANNY GOES AUM

Duration: 103 minutes

Country: India

Language: English

Exhibition Format: DCP with 5.1 surround

Festival Screenings:

- **Best Feature Film (Jury) at the Washington DC South Asian Film Festival**
- **IndoGerman Filmweek, Berlin**

Logline:

A spiritual and emotional journey of a burned out British video editor Danny, as he travels to the same beach town in Goa (India) where his hippie parents had met back in the 70's during the heydays of hippiedom.

Cast:

Anjali Patil:

Anjali has acted in acclaimed films like Newton, With you Without You, Delhi in a Day, among others. She has won the Best Actress National Award and also the Best Actress Award at IFFI Goa.

Andrew Sloman:

British singer-songwriter-actor who lives in Japan.

Marianne Borgo:

Veteran French actress who has worked in films from around the world.

Divya Sharmaa

Avinash Kuri

Eunice Wlcek

Crew:

Writer-Director-Producer: Sandeep Mohan

Production Company: Windcolour Studio Pvt Ltd

Editor: Pavan Bhat. *Pavan has edited The Chello Show(The Last Film Show), the new film by Pan Nalin*

Cinematographer: Subhash Maskara

Associate Producers: Sachin Gandhi, Anjali Patil, Abhilash Nanda

Background Score: Vivek Philip-Andrew Sloman

VFX: Abhilash Nanda

Sound Design-Mix: Priyabrata Panigrahi

Mix: Anish Poduval

Colourist: Himanshu Kamble(Bridge Postworks)

Director's Note:

If there is one place in the world where I feel instantly at peace, it's Goa. The place and its quiet beaches, especially on the southern edge of Goa, have opened me to innumerable stories and experiences with travellers and lost souls from all over the world. *Danny Goes Aum* originated from my childlike curiosity to understand as to what makes these travellers come all the way from their distant land here.

While sitting around lost at home in Mumbai waiting for the covid lockdowns to be lifted, I found it difficult to motivate myself to write my next film. Many of my day dreams during that tough phase involved seeing me travel to Goa again, something that looked extremely impossible then. But one day I woke up feeling good because I had this dream that I was a Hippie reborn who had passed away in the early 70's! I mean I was born in 1974 afterall, so it's quite possible. I needed to have a starting point as a storyteller - a personal reason to tell this story.

Over the years, I have developed warm friendships with some frequent travellers here, some ex-hippies, artists, spiritual seekers who frequent India at least for a few months every year. I have heard stories from old hippies about how they used to come here overland during the late 60's and early 70's. To imagine the spirit of adventure of these people to travel long distances in those days by bus or minivans through the tough terrains of Europe and US to India via Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan was incredible. Inspired, I dug in deep and immersed myself in that era as I wanted to get the hippie vibe into this contemporary film that I wanted to make. Beatles had been to India in the late 60's. Rumours about George Harrison having been to Goa made me listen to his songs and I still turn to his music for inspiration, especially his collaboration with the Indian maestro Ravi Shankar. Then there are beautiful stories of Steve Jobs, Allen Ginsberg and countless others who

have travelled to the east which have always piqued my interest. Was it just the exoticness of the mystical east that attracted them to go on this journey? Or was it something else?

Danny Goes Aum is my way of saying thank you to this beautiful space in the world where lost people, confused people, burnt out people arrive in search of something indescribable. Though the film takes on the point of view of a Westerner, it mirrors the life of many Indians like me too who live in cities nowadays, looking for some kind of a higher purpose in life.

This is a film that I had to make - a deeply personal film where I have tried to transfer the energy that I feel while roaming around this quiet place, to the audience. The process of making the film had to be as hippie as the vibe of the film. If the film can open up the new age audience to the spirit of the 'peace and love' generation, I would consider this humble attempt of making this film a success.

Production Details:

Danny Goes Aum was shot by a shooting crew of 5 - the DOP, location sound recordist, boom man, an assistant director, and the Director. The film was shot entirely guerilla-style in 27 days. Most of the film has been shot in natural light. We decided to shoot the film linearly. Except for the lead actor who plays Danny, the other actors were given only their part of the screenplay, making the whole process exciting for them. No rehearsals were conducted since I am not in favour of over-rehearsing with actors and wanted to achieve a very natural feel.

Director's Bio:

With roots in Kerala, born in Jabalpur in Central India, and having lived in various cities in India, Sandeep Mohan is an independent filmmaker who currently resides in Mumbai. He has written and directed Love, Wrinkle-free (2011), Hola Venky (2014), Shreelancer (2017), Nirmal Anand ki Puppy (2021), and his latest Danny goes Aum (2022) which he has also produced. Sandeep's films are known among the independent cinema loving audience for their engaging character-led stories. Travelling on the path of pure independence has been at the core of his filmmaking philosophy. It is the absolute freedom that comes with this approach that has allowed him to keep making films that he believes in without losing the direct connection with his inner voice. He is also the founder of an experimental indie-distribution concept which he calls 'The Great Indian Travelling Cinema'.

Trailer Link:

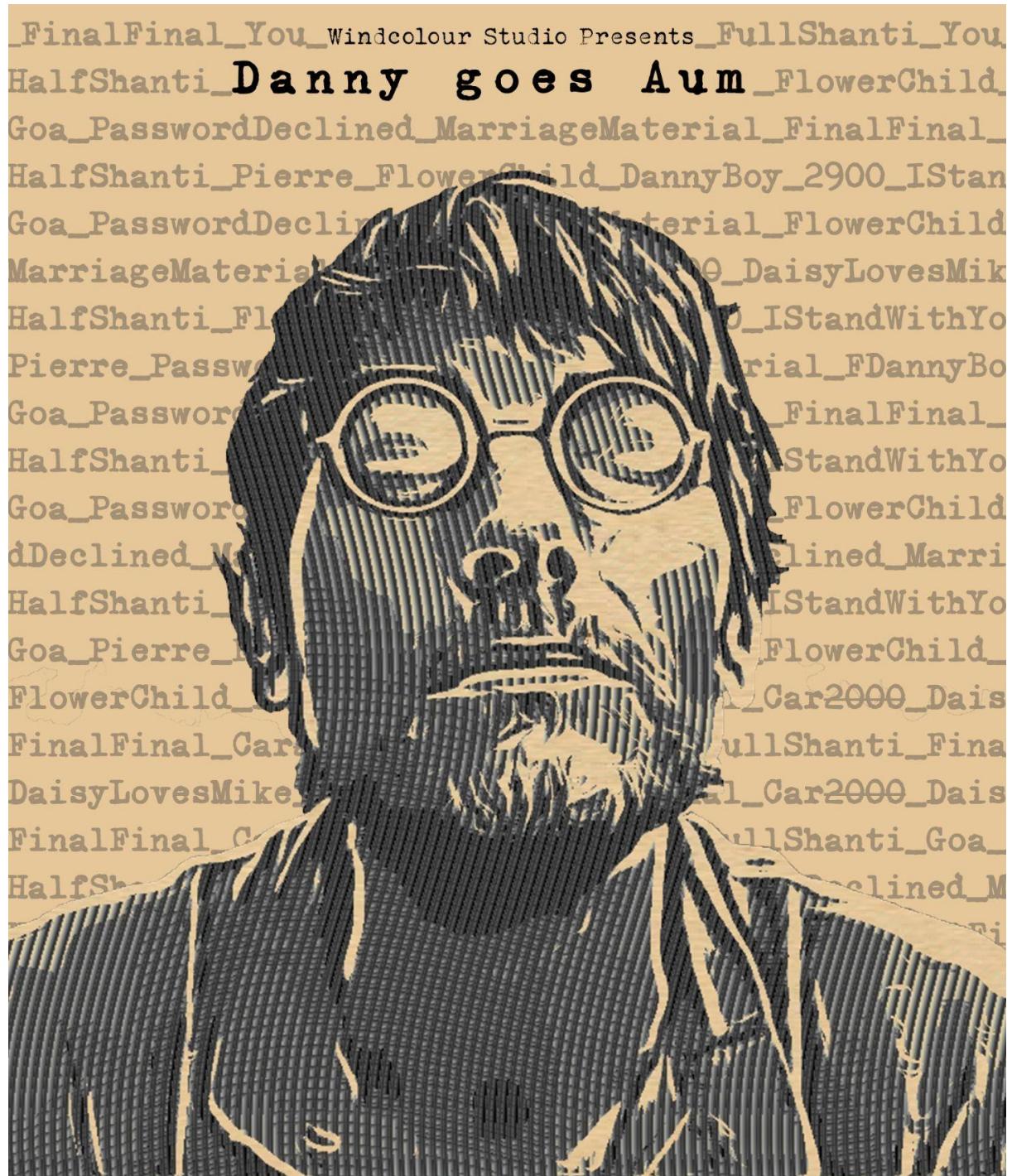
 [Danny Goes Aum - Trailer 1](#)

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Poster:



Andrew Sloman | Anjali Patil | Marianne Borgo | Divya Sharmaa | Avinash Kuri | Eunice Wlcek

Screenplay: Sandeep Mohan | Editor: Pavan Bhat | Cinematographer: Subhash Maskara

Sound Design: Priyabrata Panigrahi | Sound Mix: Anish Poduval

Background Score: Vivek Philip – Andrew Sloman | VFX: Abhilash Nanda

On Location Sound: Arjun Shresth | Colourist: Himanshu Kamble

Associate Producers: Sachin Gandhi, Abhilash Nanda, Anjali Patil, Cauvery Adiga, Neena Kiss

Poster Design: Motley Advertising

A Film by Sandeep Mohan

Stills from the Film:

