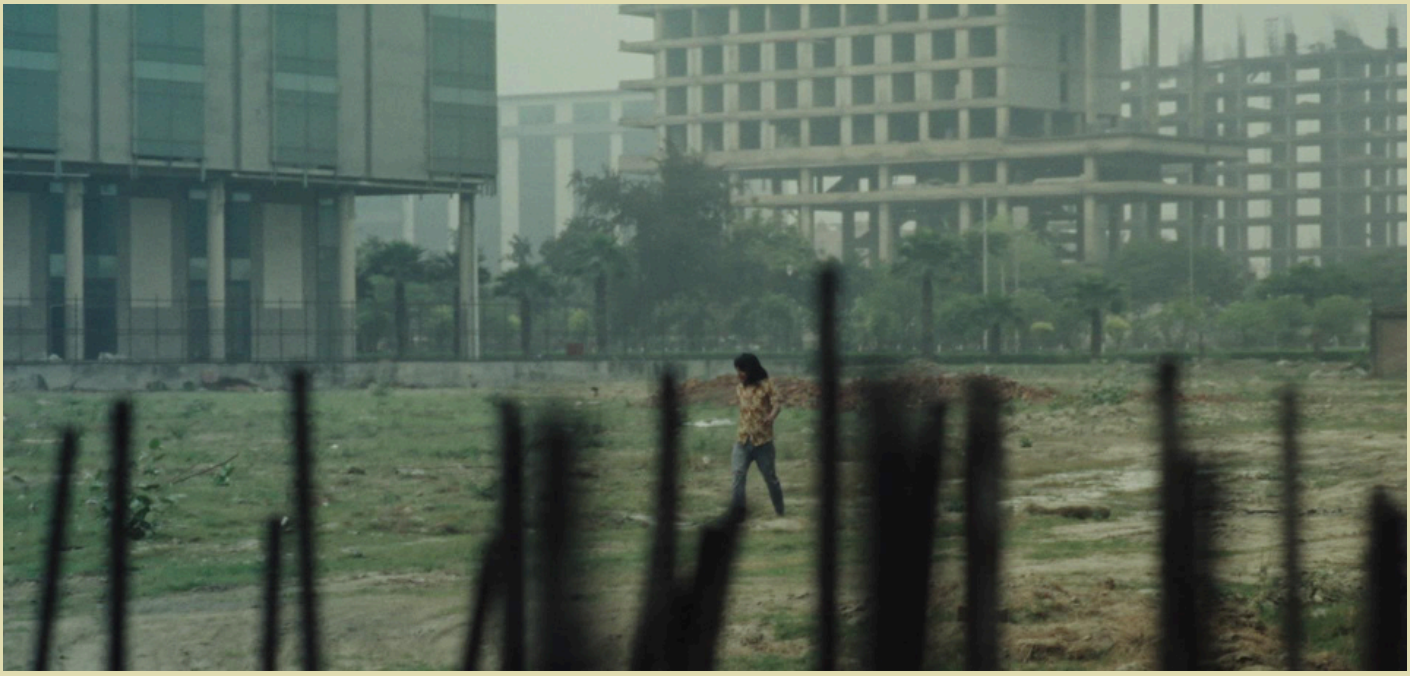
INQUILAB STUDIOS

FUTURE EAST

GOING ROGUE

KHORIYA

FEATURE FILM
Country: INDIA
Languages: Nepali, Hindi



CREATIVE DOSSIER

Writer & Director	Vishwendra Singh
Producers	Niharika Singh Faraz Khan Prayas Deepti
Executive Producer	Ashim Ahluwalia
Production Company	Future East Film, Going Rogue Films Inquilab Studios

LOG LINE

A sudden bird flu epidemic threatens the uncertain livelihood of two Nepali half-brothers and their decrepit poultry farm. One chases a parlour girl escaping home, the other sinks into drink and despair, while their labour for dignity drives them into the city's underbelly, where rivalry and ruin await.

SYNOPSIS

On the scorched outskirts of New Delhi, two Nepali half-brothers struggle to keep their poultry farm alive as a bird flu epidemic closes in.

The younger has just crossed the border from their village, chasing a girl from home he once knew. But she has slipped into the city's underbelly—working long, fluorescent nights in a beauty parlour, always just out of reach.

In a country where Nepali migrants are kept at the margins, their faces marking them as outsiders and objects of ridicule, survival becomes a slow humiliation. The elder brother numbs himself with drink and the care of dying birds, while the younger's longing hardens into restless defiance.

When the flock is slaughtered, the brothers drift into the black market, selling steroids to stay afloat. As debts rise and tempers fray, their small world tilts toward an inevitable reckoning—one born of rivalry, ruin, and the invisible cruelties that feed on those left behind.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Khoriya was not born as fiction, but as a documentary of the half-buried hopes and dreams of migrant labourers nestled on the peripheries of the city and society. Underneath the rubble of metropolitan excess and waste, in an almost sewer-like ecosystem, resilient men and women wearing different faces occupy these shadows and rename them home. In the summer of 2019, I immersed myself in documenting these transient lives that seemingly exist only as fodder for the city's vain needs.

There is an unspoken weight, a quiver in their voice that reveals long-forgotten memories and distant fortunes — a pattern I noticed in almost everyone I spoke to. The seething angst of their eroded identities and deferred dreams eventually dissolved into a singular experience across various migrant communities — of striving for recognition, of the scorn of being overlooked. A sentiment so essential, so universal, not unlike anything expressed in the past, these stories revealed to me a very specific vector of their manifestation, one that, like their efforts, seldom sees the light of day. What emerged was a narrative concerning the uncertain lives of Nepali migrant workers, an essential yet unseen force within India's urban fabric.

The film also spotlights the dregs of career options Nepali workers are often offered in India, specifically in army recruitments. An absurd proposition of potentially physically donating one's life to the service of a nation apart from one's own. I naturally, deeply resonated with this, having once stood among countless aspirants chasing the perceived ideals of courage and honour.

Through Khoriya, I attempt to navigate the fragile boundary between aspiration and survival — the intricacies of a system that threatens to consume carefree spirits. It is, at its core, a metaphor for the universal human struggle to find one's place in an ever-evolving world. Ultimately, this story seeks to reflect the timeless human desire to belong — a poignant exploration of the delicate threads that bind our lives, offering an intimate experience for audiences who have independently carried the weight of their own dreams and confronted the challenges of forging their path in a world out of their control.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Vishwendra Singh is an Indian filmmaker based in the national capital, Delhi. Working extensively at Future East Film between 2016-2019, assisting filmmaker Ashim Ahluwalia, he has been part of various feature films and an episodic series: the gangster epic *Daddy* [2017], the horror anthology *Field Guide To Evi*l [2018] by Alamo Drafthouse (US) and Netflix's (India) OTT series *CLA$$* [2023]. His first short film, *Hauah*, in his native Braj language, was awarded and showcased at the New York Indian Film Festival (US), the Dharamshala International Film Festival (India), the Jagran Film Festival (India), Nottingham Arts Mela (UK). Along with long-format fiction projects, Vishwendra also works in advertising, directing and producing brand commercials.



PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY

Niharika Singh is a film actress and producer from India. She began her career as a model in her teens, winning the Miss India Earth title in 2005, later expanding her interest in cinema at the Film and Television Institute of India.

Niharika made her acting debut with the film "Miss Lovely", which premiered at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival. In 2016, she was selected for Berlinale Talents. Her career expanded toward social advocacy after spending more than two decades in the entertainment industry & she has widely spoken on panels at The New School, Harvard, Columbia, and Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Niharika joined Future East Film in 2019 as a partner, overseeing the development and production of long-form projects. She co-founded Future East Digital with filmmaker Ashim Ahluwalia, turning producer with the international Netflix series "CLA$$" (2023).

She is currently directing a non-fiction film and producing projects that challenge societal norms and interrogate social structures in the Indian subcontinent.

"Khoriya" by Vishwendra Singh leads Future East's 2026–27 slate. Next is Ashim Ahluwalia's "Unidentified Actress", an India-UK-Germany co-production currently in production, followed by Rayit Hashmat Qazi's Kashmir-set "Sawdust" and "Heroic Frenzies", an India-Italy co-production set in 16th-century Italy."

Faraz Khan founded Going Rogue in 2016. Since then, they have produced award-winning commercials and content for brands and agencies. He produced an independent full-length feature film "Shoebox," which premiered at DIFF in 2021.

Prayas Deepti started "Inquilab Studios" with the idea to support indie projects and make a niche space for Independent films. He's produced Kabir Mehta's short "Nitty Gritty Punjab Police," which played at Kassel Dokfest, New Orleans, and others. He also co-produced Rajesh S. Jala's first feature, which had its world premiere at the Busan International Film Festival in 2023 and was part of the Hong Kong Asian Film Fund & Marche du Film.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Khoriya is an intimate exploration of identity—its fragility, its endurance, and its ceaseless pursuit of dignity. Set amidst the restless sprawl of Delhi NCR, a city that constantly reinvents itself through its countless tongues and faces, the film turns its gaze toward the Nepali migrant community—resilient souls navigating the shadows of urban invisibility. Within the city's intricate mosaic of belonging and exclusion, their stories echo softly yet powerfully, demanding to be seen.

Against the vast backdrop of India's recruitment culture—where millions nurture the dream of serving the nation despite meagre means—the narrative unfolds with quiet, unflinching grace.

Director Vishwendra Singh enters this world with uncommon tenderness. He renders his characters not as symbols or victims, but as complex, breathing beings—shaped by circumstance, yet never defined by it. His upbringing in an army household infuses the film with a rare authenticity, bridging personal memory with collective experience. The result is a work that feels at once raw, intimate, and deeply human.

As producers, our intention with Khoriya goes beyond bringing a single story to the screen—it reflects our commitment to creating space for narratives that rarely find support within either mainstream or arthouse frameworks. Stories like this are often deemed "too marginal," "too specific," or "not Indian enough," and consequently fall through the cracks of the industry's gaze. We see this as both a loss and a challenge. Through Khoriya, we reaffirm our belief that cinema must also belong to those who exist on its peripheries—the unseen, the unheard, and the unacknowledged.

Having collaborated with Vishwendra over the past decade, we have complete faith in his vision and in his uncompromising creative spirit. Supporting him and stories like Khoriya is, for us, an act of artistic conviction—a step toward nurturing filmmakers who bring truth and tenderness to places often ignored.

We believe Khoriya speaks in a universal tongue—of hope, of resilience, and of the quiet courage it takes to exist amidst adversity. It is a story not bound by geography, but by the shared human desire to be seen, heard, and remembered—a story that insists on being told across borders.

DIRECTOR'S PREVIOUS WORK

Title: **Hauah**

Short Film, 23 mins

Languages: Braj/ Hindi

FILM TRAILER LINK

Title: **Khoriya**

Feature Film, 76 mins

Languages: Nepali/ Hindi

TRAILER : https://vimeo.com/1221413829

Password : Khoriya@26

