

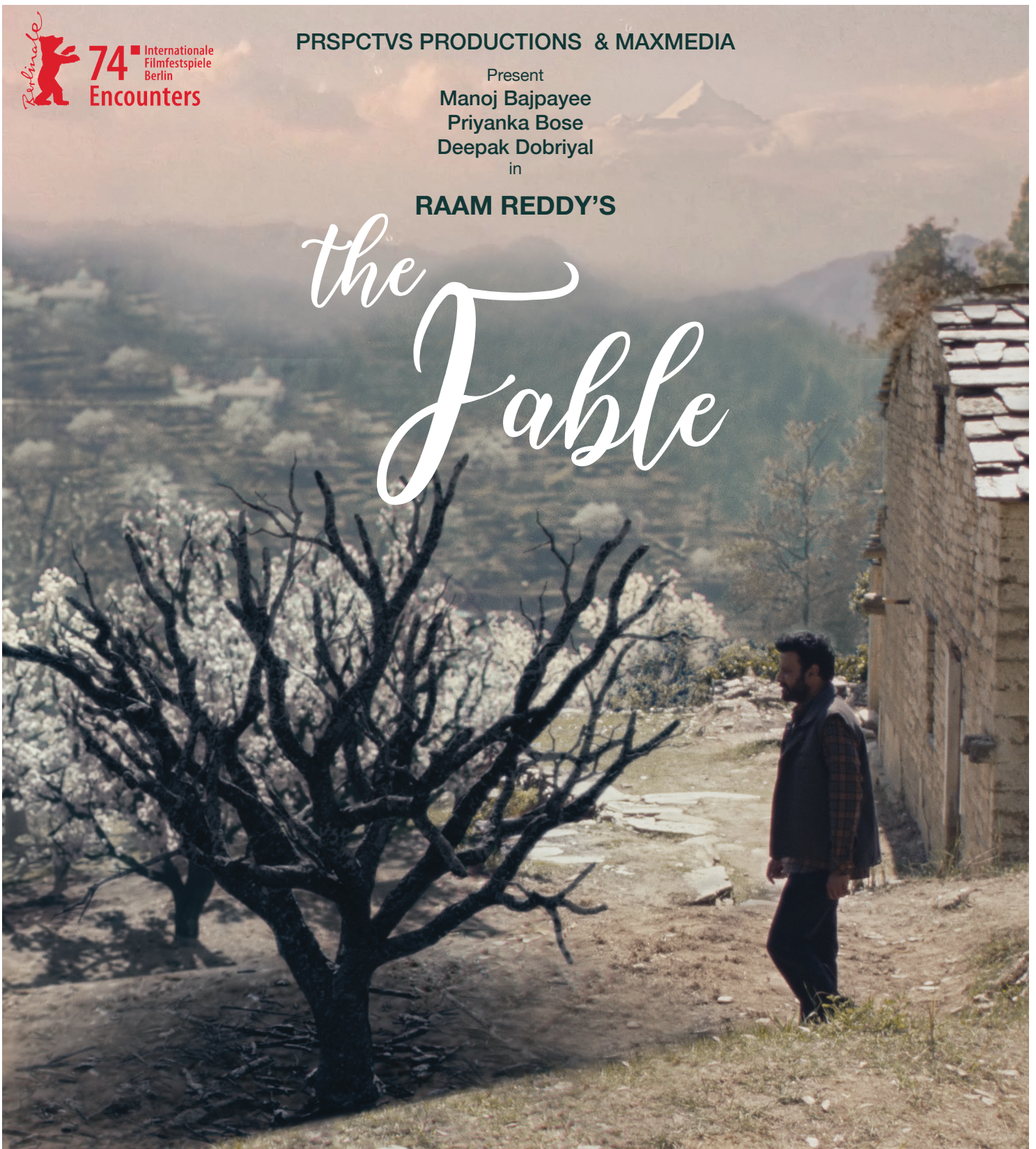
PRSPCTVS PRODUCTIONS & MAXMEDIA

Present

Manoj Bajpayee
Priyanka Bose
Deepak Dobriyal
in

RAAM REDDY'S

the Fable



*I don't like my old home anymore. The land of the Almighty is far more beautiful.
Who will take my yearning heart there?*

SCREENINGS AT BERLIN

| | | |
|------------|-------|------------------------------|
| 15.02.2024 | 21:30 | CINEMAXX 7 (PRESS SCREENING) |
| 16.02.2024 | 16:30 | AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE |
| 17.02.2024 | 09:00 | ZOO PALAST 1 |
| 18.02.2024 | 13:00 | CUBIX 7 |
| 18.02.2024 | 13:00 | CUBIX 8 |
| 24.02.2024 | 12:30 | COLOSSEUM 1 |

WORLD SALES

MAXMEDIA

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PUBLIC RELATIONS AT BERLIN

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A sincere request:

As a storyteller, it is my hope that audiences will appreciate the depth of suspense and surprise that this film has to offer. In that regard, I would kindly request that writers and commentators refrain from giving away plot points that would diminish the surprise factor for audiences to follow, especially their interpretation of the very end.

Thank you for your time and I'm delighted to be able to share *The Fable* with you!

Raam Reddy
Writer and Director

A happy family live as owners of a vast Himalayan orchard, until a series of mysterious fires bring into question who they really are.

// SYNOPSIS

Spring of 1989.

Dev, a soft-spoken man, owns a sprawling estate of fruit orchards. He lives with his family in a colonial bungalow high up in the Indian Himalayas where even birds fly low to avoid getting lost in the clouds.

He spends a lot of his time building human-sized bird wings which he often straps on his shoulders to glide over the orchards for a quick morning flight.

One day while walking through his estate, he comes upon a single mysteriously burnt apple tree. A few days later, he discovers more burnt trees.

Layers of society begin to unravel, as the workers in the orchards fall under suspicion by Dev and his manager. Doubt also falls on a group of meditative nomads. A corrupt sheriff enters the fray, while loyal men camp out in the orchards, keeping a vigilant watch to hold fires at bay.

In spite of all efforts a massive fire erupts a week later, engulfing an entire mountainside of the orchard. Struggling for answers, Dev turns to both guns and silence.

The slow burning of the orchards forces Dev to see the truth of his disillusioned comfort, eventually leading him to see himself and his family for who they truly are.

// DIRECTOR'S NOTES

My first novel, "It's Raining in Maya" was written as a work of magical realism when I was 19. With "The Fable," my aim from the start was to apply some form of that style to the big screen. As for setting, no place on earth is more magical than the Himalayas. I grew up on a coffee estate in the hills of South India similar to the estate in the film, where I witnessed much the same social organization, particularly those of class disparity and feudal inequity.

Thinking back about the many characters I knew as a young man, I remain fascinated by the complex relationships between owner and manager, owner and workers, and owner and trespasser. Blending story with setting brought me to the first draft of my screenplay. Within the framework of the real and the fictional, I worked at positioning elements of magic realism to seem entirely naturalistic. In this world, a man clamping on a set of wings and jumping off a cliff like a bird, or the telepathic communication between two lovers, or communication of a boy with leopards, felt perfectly natural to me, given the inherent mysticism of those mountains.

Having grown up surrounded by nature, I was always fascinated, and in some ways disappointed, with the notion of "ownership." As a child I would wonder, what exactly defines ownership? What power do certain pieces of paper have to shape the boundaries between public and private property? How caught up are we in our own minds to not realise that ownership is not a real thing, but just an idea, a convenience. I thought this was an interesting idea to apply to a film.

Who are the real owners of the land in the Theen Pahad Estate? The locals who have lived on it for generations, or others who were given the land by the government of colonial invaders? I found this an interesting premise to build a spiritual allegory of dis-identification.

In our universe, human beings are insignificant in front of the forces of nature. Small sparks in a dry forest - whether man made or natural - are enough to reduce an entire estate to ashes. I felt the need to remember our place in the universe. Either we learn to be free, and unfettered, or we remain small and insignificant. Ultimately, the choice is ours.

When I was 7 years old, an older cousin of mine pulled me aside on a quiet afternoon, and told me, "Raam, when you're 12 years old, you'll grow wings." I'll never forget that moment. My child-mind gripped onto that notion like a shipwrecked sailor to a bouy in the ocean. I counted down the days, then the years. I really, truly believed it. Of course, I turned 12, and nothing happened. That's when I wrote one of my earliest poems. It was titled "Flying", and ended with these lines "To fly is but a dream, a dream one of the kind, but the sky is needed not, for it is a state of mind."

// ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Raam Reddy, 34, is a writer and director who studied Direction at Prague Film School. In 2009, Raam wrote and published an English-language magic-realism novel titled "It's Raining in Maya." His debut feature film Thithi, an Indo-US production, won Golden Leopards for Best Film and Best First Feature at the 2016 Locarno Festival. The film has since won over twenty awards at various film festivals including Palm Springs, Shanghai, Marrakech and Mumbai. It was also invited to the New Directors/New Films program at The Museum of Modern Art in New York. The film was a commercial success, running for close to 100 days in theatres in India while also streaming worldwide through Netflix. In February 2016, Raam Reddy was included in the Forbes 30 Under 30 list of achievers. The Fable is his second feature film.

// CAST

MANOJ BAJPAYEE plays **DEV**

An acting stalwart who is one of the finest exponents of method acting in India, In an illustrious career that has extended over 25 years and over 100 films, he has immortalized characters of all shades and diverse genres. An alumnus of the esteemed Barry John Acting Studio, Manoj's film journey began with a minor role in the 1994 crime drama Drohkaal. He played a minor role as a dacoit in "Bandit Queen" (1994) by Shekhar Kapur. His performance in the film Satya (1998) won critical acclaim and established him as a celebrated actor in Indian cinema. Bajpayee has a diverse filmography that includes both mainstream and independent films.

Accolades followed in the form of Asia Pacific Screen Awards, and multiple Filmfare and National Film Awards. He recently won India's fourth-highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri, for his contributions in art; and was touted the most popular Indian OTT actor in 2021, and is currently one of the hottest actors in the country. He is the lead of what critics have cited as India's most popular TV show.

PRIYANKA BOSE plays **NANDINI**

Priyanka Bose is an Indian actress who works in both International and Indian productions. She is a part of Amazon's epic fantasy TV show The Wheel of Time created by Rafe Judkins, where she plays the significant role of Alanna Mosvani. She is a lead actor in the film Agra that premiered in Cannes Director's Fortnight 2023. She played the role of Dev Patel's real mother in Lion, directed by Garth Davis, starring Nicole Kidman. Earlier in her career, she was the lead actress in the 2010 film Gangor directed by Italo Spinelli.

DEEPAK DOBRIYAL plays **MOHAN**

Deepak Dobriyal is an Indian theatre and cinema actor who performed several Hindi adaptations of plays by Shakespeare, Brecht, Eugene O'Neill, Dario Fo and appeared in over 500 performances on socio-political themes. He has received recognition for his role in Omkara as "Rajju" and as a side-kick to the protagonist "Pappi" in Tanu Weds Manu, a role he reprised in 2015 sequel and again received critical acclaim. He also plays a key supporting role in the films Hindi Medium and its sequel English Medium starring Irfan Khan.

HIRAL SIDHU plays **VANYA**

Hiral Sidhu is currently pursuing a degree in psychology and resides with her family in Goa. Along with being an advanced level horse rider, she is a national level basketball player and has a red belt in kickboxing. She was recently awarded the title of "Woman of the Match" in the All India Kickboxing Championship. She is also a model. The Fable is her first major role in a feature film.

AWAN POOKOT plays **JUJU**

Awan Pookot, now 10 yrs old, has a passion for performing. Despite his young age, he has worked on several films and commercials and has gained a reputation as a rising child star in the Malayalam film industry. He is known for his work in Minnal Murali (2021) and Jimmy Ee Veedinte Aiswaryam (2019).

TILLOTAMA SHOME plays **RADHA**

She made her film debut as Alice in Mira Nair's feature film Venice Golden Lion winner Monsoon Wedding in 2001, and played Deepa in Shadows of Time (Schatten der Zeit), directed by Florian Gallenberger. She played a nun in the Australian film The Waiting City by Claire McCarthy. She starred in a film "Sir" that premiered in Cannes Critics Week 2018.

// KEY CREW**SUNIL BORKAR**, *Cinematographer*

Sunil Borkar is a cinematographer and visual effects artist based in Mumbai. Born in a farming town in northeastern Maharashtra, Sunil is an animation major who has worked as a 2D animator, VFX artist and VFX supervisor before making the shift to cinematography. His film and television credits include Netflix's Sacred Games and Eternally Confused & Eager for Love, Amazon's Afsos, Disney+'s Saas Bahu Aur Flamingo and Viacom18's Baazaar, in addition to several commercials for brands such as Samsung and Google. The Fable, marks his debut as a lead cinematographer.

JUHI AGARWAL, *Production Designer*

Juhi Agarwal is a graduate of the Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology in Bangalore, and is an illustrator and textile artist by training. She has had her work published nationally and internationally by L'Oréal Paris, WWF, Oxford Medical Journal amongst others. She has worked extensively as a production designer on commercials for brands like Coca-Cola, Whatsapp, Titan, Britannia etc. The Fable marks her debut as a production designer.

TESS JOSEPH, *Casting Director (Professionals)*

Tess began casting with Mira Nair's 'Namesake' and has gone on to work with Joe & Anthony Russo, Wes Anderson, Garth Davis, Ramin Bahrani, Sam Hargrave, Ang Lee, Lucy Liu, Sooni Taraporevala, Neil Burger and Doug Liman. In 2020 she joined The Academy's Casting Directors Branch. Her keen eye for young talent has brought us actors like Sunny Pawar (LION) and Adarsh Gourav (WHITE TIGER). Tess and her team were instrumental in casting Kubbra Sait in Foundation, Priyanka Bose in Wheel Of Time and mostly recently she has worked with Riz Ahmed and Aneil Karia on HAMLET, and Dev Patel's debut feature MONKEYMAN among others.

GURPAL SINGH, *Casting Director (Non-Professionals)*

Gurpal Singh was the casting director for the Indo-Dutch co-production *Naukar Ki Kameez* directed by Mani Kaul and the Indo-french production "*Jaspal*" directed by Narinder Singh. Gurpal was the star of India's candid camera show called *Chuppa Rustam*, and has acted in many large film productions such as *Mubarakan* and *Prem Ratan Dhan Payo*. Gurpal also in the cast of *The Fable* playing the part of Dev's neighbor and confidant Dr.Jogi.

VARUN GROVER, *Dialogue Writer (Hindi)*

Varun Grover is an Indian writer, comedian, poet and filmmaker. He is the writer and executive producer of the Netflix show *Sacred Games*. He is also a writer on films like *Masaan* (Cannes 2015) and has been lyricist for films like *Gangs of Wasseypur*, *Newton* and *RRR*. He won the award for Best Lyricist at the 63rd National Film Awards in 2015. He is also the co-creator of *Aisi Taisi Democracy*, a political satire show, and is known as one of India's top stand up comedians. His debut feature *All India Rank* was the closing film at the 52nd International Film Festival Rotterdam.

SIDDHARTH KAPOOR, *Editor*

Siddharth Kapoor is a Film Editor based in Mumbai. He is a graduate from MIT Institute of Design, Pune. A kind of post-production "generalist", he has a keen sense of various departments of post production like sound design, colour grading and visual effects. He has worked on projects for Netflix, Sony, Facebook, Amazon, Lakmé, Shein, Liverpool FC. *The Fable* is his debut film as an editor.

NITHIN LUKOSE, *Sound Designer*

Nithin Lukose graduated from the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune in 2014 with a PG diploma in Cinema. He has been a part of many internationally acclaimed films. He was the Sound Designer for *THITHI* (2016). Nithin was the production sound mixer for Hollywood directors like Bennet Miller and Julie Taymor when they shot in India. His first feature film *PAKA (River of Blood)* 2021, was selected to NFDC Film Bazaar WIP Lab 2020 and won the best film. It was also invited to the Toronto International Film Festival 2021. He won the Director's Vision award at 19th Indian Film Festival Stuttgart.

VARUN RAMANNA, *Vfx Supervisor*

Varun Ramanna is a Vfx supervisor, creative director, technologist born and based in Mumbai, India. Apart from an extensive credits in TVCs, he has built and operated Hotstar India's performance capture system which has since produced more than 500+ hours of in-house, real-time content for broadcast. Together with Wolves Visuals, is developing a cutting-edge, multiplayer, virtual event platform powered by the Unreal Engine and WebGL. His clients and collaborators include Star, Hotstar, Disney, Viacom, Coca-Cola, Netflix and many others.

SACHIN LOVALEKAR, *Costume Designer*

Sachin is one of the most reputed costume designers of the Indian and Marathi film industry. He made his debut with the critically and commercially successful Marathi film *Dombivli Fast* (2005). He won the National Film Award for Best Costume Design for his work in the Marathi movie *Cycle* (2016). Some of his notable movies include *Paan Singh Tomar*, *Court* and *Killa*.

//ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANIES

PRSPCTVS PRODUCTIONS

Prspctvs Productions is a film production house based in Bangalore, India. The house was co-founded by Raam Reddy & Pratap Reddy in 2011. The company has produced all of Raam Reddy's works, which includes 12 short films, his Locarno-winning debut feature film Thithi (2016) and his second feature film The Fable that will be premiering in the 74th Berlin International Film Festival. The production house prides itself in assembling a small crew of brilliant technicians and craftsmen from different parts of India and around the world and bringing them together on ambitious, genre-defying projects. With large scaled independent cinema as the corner stone of their mission, Prspctvs aims to grow into a production house handling larger and larger productions, while maintaining artistic autonomy, attempting to create free-spirited, and fearless cutting-edge indie cinema.

MAXMEDIA

Maxmedia is a unique synthesis of film/tv/content production, distribution, entertainment technology, and strategy advisory company. Founder Sunmin Park and Co-Founder J. Ethan Park have produced multiple award-winning films with world premiers at top film festivals including Cannes, Berlinale, Venice, Sundance, Locarno, and Toronto collaborating with a network of international partners and multinational clients such as Samsung, LG Media, Prisa/Sogecine/ Canal Plus Espana, Microsoft Xbox and more in conjunction with US studios and distributors worldwide. Their select producing credits include Alejandro Amenàbar's The Others, starring Nicole Kidman; Chen Kaige's Chinese epic, The Emperor and the Assassin starring Gong Li; Emilio Aragon's A Night In Old Mexico, starring Robert Duvall; Roger Spottiswoode's Shake Hands with a Devil; Katsuhiko Otomo's Mushishi starring Jo Odagiri, as well as Ms. Park's directorial debut Too Pure, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2002. The company also produced Moon-saeng Kim's 2004 technologically groundbreaking multilayered composite animated feature Sky Blue (aka Wonderful Days); Raam Reddy's 2016 first feature, Thithi, and his second feature, The Fable 2024) starring Manoj Bajpayee. On the strategy side, Maxmedia has acquired several hundred feature titles for conglomerate clients in Asia and Europe. On the distribution advisory side, Maxmedia represented Open Your Eyes, which was made into Vanilla Sky directed by Cameron Crowe, starring Tom Cruise, distributed by Paramount Pictures, Alejandro Amenabar's Sea Inside for US distribution with Fine Line (Warner Brothers), which won Best Foreign Picture Oscar in 2005, Juan Carlos Fresnadillo's Intacto remake with Buena Vista, and Alex de la Iglesia's Ferpect Crime with Ben Stiller's Redhour at 20th Century Fox. Maxmedia & partners also invest in entertainment tech.

// FILM INFORMATION

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| TITLE | THE FABLE |
| LANGUAGE | HINDI & ENGLISH |
| PRODUCTION COUNTRIES | INDIA & USA |
| DIRECTOR | RAAM REDDY |
| SCREENPLAY | RAAM REDDY |
| PRODUCTION YEAR | 2024 |
| RUNNING TIME | 119 MIN |
| ASPECT RATIO | 1:1.66 |
| FORMAT | 16MM FILM COLOR, 4K DIGITAL |
| EXHIBITION FORMAT | SCAN DCP (ASPECT: FLAT) |

// CREDITS

A PRSPCTVS PRODUCTION
IN COLLABORATION WITH MAXMEDIA
A RAAM REDDY FILM "THE FABLE"

STARRING

MANOJ BAJPAYEE - DEV
PRIYANKA BOSE - NANDINI
DEEPAK DOBRIYAL - MOHAN
HIRAL SIDHU - VANYA
AWAN POOKOT - JUJU
TILLOTAMA SHOME - RADHA

DIRECTED BY
WRITTEN BY
PRODUCED BY

RAAM REDDY
RAAM REDDY
PRATAP REDDY
SUNMIN PARK
J. ETHAN PARK
GANESH BABU SHETTY
JUHI AGARWAL
SUNIL RAMKRISHNA BORKAR
JUHI AGARWAL

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
CO-PRODUCER
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
PRODUCTION DESIGNER
CASTING DIRECTORS
PROFESSIONALS ACTORS
NON-PROFESSIONALS ACTORS
COSTUME DESIGNER
MUSIC BY
EDITED BY

TESS JOSEPH
GURPAL SINGH
SACHIN LOVALEKAR
RAAM REDDY
RAAM REDDY
SIDDHARTH KAPOOR
VARUN RAMANNA
NITHIN LUCKOSE
VARUN GROVER

VISUAL EFFECT SUPERVISOR
SOUND DESIGNER
HINDI DIALOGUES

// CONTACT INFORMATION

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