



featuring ANABEN PAWAR

# TESTIMONY of ANA

directed & edited by SACHIN DHEERAJ

produced by JANANI VIJAYANATHAN SACHIN DHEERAJ director of photography ROHIN RAVEENDRAN NAIR  
assistant camera ALPESH SINGH JADEJA associate producer UTSAV CHADHA line producer ROSHAN SAROLIYA  
sound mixing MORGAN HONAKER production sound NILESH JATWA sound design SHREYANK NANJAPPA  
production assistants UMESH BHOYA HIRALAL DESHMUKH SANTOSH CHAUDHARY  
editing supervisor ANNE LEWIS graphic design by UTSAV CHADHA CLARA HILL LEÓN  
production assistants RAMESH DHOOM AKASH CHAUDHARY PRITHVI BHOYE  
translation by LAXMAN BAGUL SAHIL BHOYE NILESH PAWAR  
colorist MAHAK GUPTA grading studio BRIDGE POSTWORKS

KINOSTREET



AUSTIN  
FILM  
SOCIETY



The University of Texas at Austin  
Radio-Television-Film  
Moody College of Communication



**SYNOPSIS**

An Adivasi elder, accused of witchcraft by her neighbours in rural India, uses faith and perseverance to survive several monstrous attacks. Living in an area beset by widespread logging, her refusal to be driven off the land sets up a conflict deeply rooted in patriarchy and capitalism waged on women's bodies—the witch-hunt.

**RUNTIME** 24'

**COMPLETION DATE** November 2020

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN** India

**SHOOTING FORMAT** Digital

**SCREENING FORMAT** DCP

**ASPECT RATIO** 2.39:1

**SOUND** 5.1

**LANGUAGE** Dangi

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Ten years back, during my undergraduate studies in Gujarat, I first came across the term "Witch-Hunting." I read that "a mob killed an old woman for feasting on people's souls" in a local newspaper. I was probably too young at that time to conceive what I read. However, that story etched itself at the back of my mind. Three years ago, I again came across an article about "Witch-Hunting." But this time, I wanted to do something about it. Especially after all the filmmaking resources that I knew I had at my disposal.

So I decided to go to Gujarat again to do some fieldwork. I met with some journalists and social justice lawyers who got me in touch with Ana, one of the only few survivors of "Witch-Hunt" attacks in rural Gujarat. When they briefed me about what the villagers did to her, I was shocked and couldn't stop thinking about it. There were a few news articles that covered her story in 2017. I still was on the fence about whether I should make a film about her or not. Questions like "Who am I to tell her story?" and "Why am I entitled to make this film?" kept bothering me. But once I met her in person, I was struck by how fearless and strong her voice is. I felt those news articles weren't enough. I felt people needed to hear her voice. Those questions started to fade away, and there was a sense of urgency that crept up on me, and just a single question emerged, "If I don't tell her story, then who will?"

She was hesitant to tell her story first, so I had to show up every day at her house until I gained her trust. Slowly she agreed to have a conversation with me. I had to only work with her memories because the incident happened in 2017. So I decided to reconstruct them through a lyrical assemblage. My goal in reconstructing these memories is to present to people the evidence of what happened to Ana and revive among generations to come to the memory of her resistance that today is in danger of being erased. Preserving this memory is essential. My project aims to make Ana's story be heard without any hesitation or fear. I hope that this one story will speak on behalf of a lot of unheard and oppressed voices.

## DIRECTOR BIO

Sachin is an award-winning filmmaker who studied at The University of Texas at Austin as part of their MFA program in Film & Media Production. His work has been screened at prestigious film festivals such as Hot Docs, Raindance, EnergaCAMERIMAGE, and Krakow. He strives to tell stories that demand an urgent conversation and seeks to engage with people, places, and communities that are slowly disappearing. He aims to affirm their existence through cinema by preserving their lives and memories.

His pre-thesis film, TESTIMONY OF ANA, won the National Film Award (Swarna Kamal/Golden Lotus) for the Best Non-Feature Film issued by the Government of India and won the Best Short Documentary Award at the Oscar-qualifying 13th International Documentary & Short Film Festival of Kerala. The film also secured distribution on reputed platforms such as MUBI and Kinoscope.

He is a recipient of the prestigious President's Award for Global Learning at UT Austin and the Austin Film Society Grant in 2020.

Sachin won the competitive Panavision New Filmmaker Program Equipment Grant and the UT Graduate Continuing Fellowship (an award given to support the final year of an outstanding graduate student) to implement his MFA thesis project, MEN IN BLUE.



**SACHIN DHEERAJ MUDIGONDA**

+1 916 218 0796

sachin@kinostreetfilm.com

www.kinostreetfilm.com



WORLD PREMIERE  
**28th Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival**

EUROPEAN PREMIERE  
**61st Kraków Film Festival**

U.K. PREMIERE  
**29th Raindance Film Festival**

WINNER  
**68th National Film Awards of India, Swarna Kamal,  
Best Non-Feature Film**

WINNER  
**13th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of  
Kerala (IDSFFK), Best Short Documentary**

**DIRECTOR, EDITOR** Sachin Dheeraj  
**PRODUCERS** Sachin Dheeraj, Janani Vijayanathan  
**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY** Rohin Raveendran Nair  
**PRODUCTION SOUND** Nilesh Jatwa  
**ASSISTANT CAMERA** Alpesh Singh Jadeja  
**SOUND DESIGN** Shreyank Nanjappa  
**SOUND MIXING** Morgan Honaker  
**COLORIST** Mahak Gupta  
**ASSOCIATE PRODUCER** Utsav Chadha  
**LINE PRODUCER** Roshan Saroliya  
**GRADING STUDIO** Bridge PostWorks  
**EDITING SUPERVISOR** Anne Lewis  
**TRANSLATORS** Laxman Bagul, Sahil Bhoje, Nilesh Pawar  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNERS** Clara Hill León, Utsav Chadha  
**PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS** Umesh Bhoja, Hiralal Deshmukh, Ramesh Dhoom,  
Santosh Chaudhary, Pruthvi Bhoje, Akash Chaudhary

Produced by

---

**KINOSTREET**

---

In association with



The University of Texas at Austin

Generously supported by



AUSTIN  
FILM  
SOCIETY