



**Karlovy Vary**  
**International Film Festival**  
Official Selection – Competition



# RALANG | ROAD

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY  
KARMA TAKAPA

## SYNOPSIS

In a small hill town, a series of coincidences related to a mysterious robbery brings four people together. As the day surrenders itself to the darkness of the night, these seemingly mundane events become increasingly dramatic, as the characters coincide with their impending consequences.

Set in the tiny Himalayan state of Sikkim, 'Ralang Road' is an attempt to understand cultural immigration, and lifestyles in a complex social setup.





## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

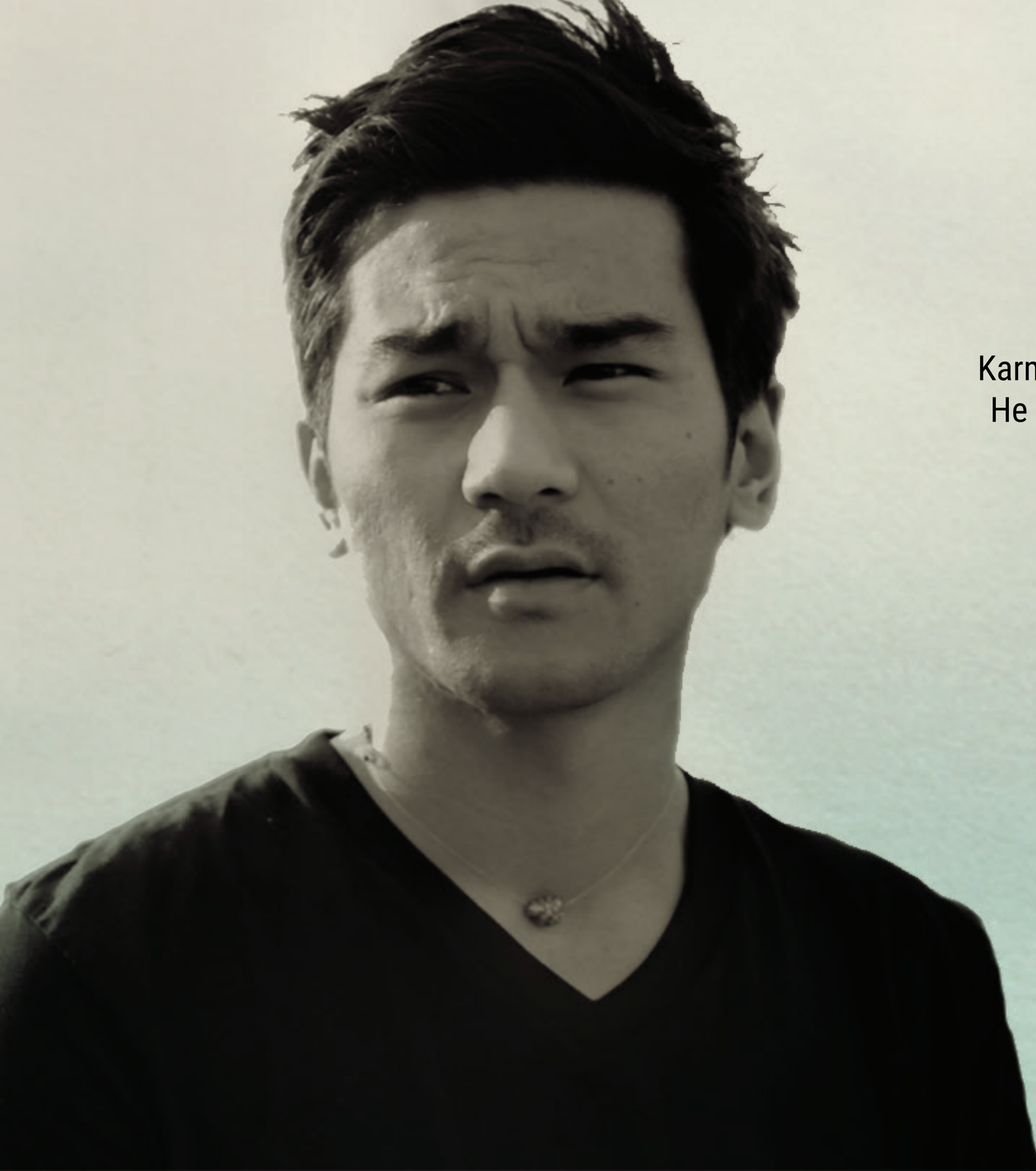
Having spent a good part of my life outside my hometown, I have always felt the need to return, and maybe try and create an expression for all the memories I have had as a child.

Images that define my ideas of the place, of the people, and of nature.

*Ralang Road* is my attempt to create a narrative that is dramatic and mundane, both of which somehow define this place.



STILL FROM THE FILM



## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Karma Takapa graduated from the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, specializing in Direction and Screenplay writing. He co-directed the Chhattisgarhi language feature 'Mor Mann Ke Bharam' (An Illusion of my mind, 2015) that premiered at the 17th Mumbai Film Festival, 2015 winning the Special Jury Prize.

His earlier films include a series of short fictions and documentary films, experimenting with narrative forms and exploring spaces, including his hometown in the state of Sikkim.

**FILMS** MOR MANN KE BHARAM / AN ILLUSION OF MY MIND *(77 Minutes, Fiction)*  
YAHIN KAHIN NAHIN / NO WHERE HERE *(26 Minutes, Fiction)*  
PANGTOED CHAAM / WARRIORS DANCE *(18 Minutes, Documentary)*  
THUTSE KYUMA / ORDINARY TIMES *(11 Minutes, Fiction)*  
11 MINUTES *(11 Minutes, Documentary)*



**HEER GANJWALA**  
*PRODUCER*

*AS PRODUCER AND CO-DIRECTOR:*  
MOR MANN KE BHARAM (2015)

*AS DIRECTOR:*  
NIKHIL AND THE MAGIC MARKET (2014)  
THE PILGRIM (2013)  
REETI (2013)



**SONU**  
*CINEMATOGRAPHER*

PUSHKAR PURAN (2016)  
KULA (2016)  
TAAN BHEKRO (2015)  
MOR MANN KE BHARAM (2015)  
VIVAR (2014)



**ANADI ATHALEY**  
*EDITOR*

CANDYFLIP (2016)  
THE UNRESERVED (2016)  
MOR MANN KE BHARAM (2015)  
DAARAVTHA (2015)  
SEEK AND HIDE (2014)



**BIGYNA DAHAL**  
*SOUND DESIGNER*

MANTRA (2015)  
BE ANT (2015)  
ASHA JAOAR MAJHE (2014)  
SHURUAAT KA INTERVAL (2014)  
SHAHID (2012) (AS SOUND EDITOR)  
PEDDLERS (2012) (AS SOUND EDITOR)



**CHRISTOPHER BURCHELL**  
*BACKGROUND SCORE COMPOSER*

REMEMBERING KURDI (2016)  
NINGAL ARANAYE KANDO? (2014)  
CHIKKA PUTTA (2013)  
CHAI (2013)  
RETOUR AUX ELEMENTS (2010)



**ROUSHAN KUMAR**  
*PRODUCTION DESIGNER*

*AS PRODUCTION DESIGNER:*  
TEMPO TRAVELLER (2015)

*AS ACTOR:*  
LALKA PAAG (2015)  
KHOYA (2014)  
NAGRAJ IN MUMBAI (2015)  
XYX (2016)

## FILMOGRAPHY OF THE CREW



**SHUBHAM**  
*as TEACHER*



**SONAM WANGYAL LADIMPA**  
*as MARKER*



**DOMBER MANI PRADHAN**  
*as DAMBER*



**SUDAN GURUNG**  
*as SUDAN*

## MAIN CAST

A blue-tinted photograph showing the silhouettes of several people. In the foreground, a person is wearing a hard hat and a high-visibility vest. Another person in a hoodie stands next to them. In the background, two more people are visible, one of whom appears to be walking. The scene is brightly lit from the left, creating a strong contrast with the dark silhouettes.

QUESTIONS | ANSWERS



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO MAKE THIS FILM?

The film is extensively shot in Rabong town, which is situated in South Sikkim, close to my village. It remains fogged up for most of the year, and that has always triggered my imagination. Rabong is a very small town where you experience a lot of duality. When the sun is out, it is most beautiful and when it isn't (which is most times of the year), it is very cold, foggy and eerie. This contrast has somehow shaped the film.

It also helped that the people here are inherently warm, and that the town is home to some interesting characters.

AS A DIRECTOR, HOW DIFFERENT IS IT TO SHOOT IN YOUR HOME TOWN? DOES IT ALTER YOUR PROCESS?

To begin with, there has been a lot of support and enthusiasm from the people involved with the film, which was encouraging. I was shooting images that have sub-consciously been a part of my memory. So it wasn't very difficult to anchor the film.

The crew have collaborated before as a collective, so the process of shooting carried forward from there.

MOST OF THE ACTORS IN THIS FILM HAVE NEVER ACTED BEFORE, WHAT WAS YOUR PROCESS WITH THEM?

Lot of retakes. Rolling every rehearsal, leaving you with endless hours of practice footage.

The biggest moot point was time, and between their daily life and the shoot, there was hardly anytime to engage with them as actors, so the attempt was to try and find the most naturalised sense of their being within scenes, which would require them to do minimum acting. So the nature of the characters in the film to the nature of their being weren't too far from each other

WHERE DOES RALANG ROAD LEAD TO?

It hopefully will lead to more films that explore the unfamiliar demographic and their socio-cultural situations.

Our collective, HumanTrail Pictures, is looking to explore narratives that form a cinematic expression to stories less told and faces less seen.

# FILM DETAILS

DURATION	112 MINUTES
ASPECT	1:2.39
LANGUAGE	NEPALI AND HINDI
SUBTITLES	ENGLISH

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