

JUZE

Production Notes

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Boribmol, a village in Goa with a large immigrant population, is ruled by an abusive, thuggish bully, Juze, known as the 'Slum Landlord'. His appetite for violent intimidation keeps his immigrant workforce submissive, even when his roving eye extends to their women.

Santosh, a 16 year old boy, is not intimidated. His determination to continue with his classes remains constant in spite of regular beatings from Juze. As events build to breaking point, Santosh's passive resistance evolves into the determination to confront Juze and finally achieve freedom from fear.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Since my childhood, I've seen a 'Juze' in every village in Goa. These slum landlords abuse their power and exploit the defenceless and unprotected - immigrants often being the most vulnerable.

Originally a Portuguese colony, Goa has always been a rich and fertile state, which attracts immigrants from outside. Even before liberation in 1961, a large number of people from other states in India went there in search of jobs and the chance to make a living. Like immigrants everywhere, they took jobs that Goans wouldn't do – mainly as casual labourers.

Inevitably Goans - the locals - saw themselves as better educated and looked down on the new arrivals.

In my film, Santosh is a local, but with no family other than his ailing grandmother, he is vulnerable, unprotected and on the same level as an immigrant. He is the victim of exploitation, violent maltreatment, and is treated as an outsider by the other villagers. His passive resistance to these injustices provokes more aggression. Bruised and disillusioned, he reaches the point where until he can no longer take it.

Even today, you see a lot people, mostly immigrants, serving prison terms because they were pushed to a point where they took drastic action, even killing their oppressors.

Santosh is clever enough to understand that it is a question of what he has to kill and not who. His fear. And I wanted to show that no matter big and powerful these 'Juzes' are, they all eventually fall.

Such a tyrant existed in our village and I witnessed his rule and his fall and it was this memory that influenced my story.

BIOGRAPHIES

Miransha Naik - Director / Producer / Writer

A native of Goa, Miransha Naik completed his filmmaking studies at Whistling Woods International, Mumbai, specialising in screenwriting. In 2012, he began working as a writer at Gitanjali Creations, a Mumbai-based production house before making short films under his own banner, Thin Air Productions. JUZE is his feature film debut.

Naik cast the film using mostly non-professional actors from Goa; although Prashanti Talpankar who plays 'Tai' had previous experience while Rushikesh Naik (Santosh), Sudesh Bhise (Juze) and Ranav Narote (Abdul) were in a short film he made one year prior to JUZE. Otherwise, auditions were held all over Goa from which a short list was selected to participate in a workshop from which final cast were chosen for the respective roles.

Olivia Stewart – Creative Producer

Olivia Stewart has been involved in a number of award-winning films both as a Producer and as a Mentor/Script Consultant. Her films include Terence Davies' DISTANT VOICES, STILL LIVES (Directors' Fortnight, Cannes 1988), THE LONG DAY CLOSES (Official Competition, Cannes 1992), THE NEON BIBLE (Official Selection, Cannes 1995) and THE HOUSE OF MIRTH; Mark Herman's BRASSED OFF; Mike Figgis' THE BROWNING VERSION and Todd Haynes' VELVET GOLDMINE (Official Competition, Cannes 1997); and, more recently, via her collaboration with the BINGER FILM LAB Amsterdam and the NFDC India, Scott Graham's SHELL (Torino Film Festival 2012 – Best Film); Ritesh Batra's THE LUNCHBOX (Semaine de la Critique, Cannes 2013), Kanu Behl's TITLI (Un Certain Regard, Cannes 2014), and CHAUTHI KOOT (Un Certain Regard, Cannes 2015).

Jacques Comets – Creative Producer / Supervising Editor

Jacques Comets has worked as editor on the films of Bernard Stora, Laurent Heynemann, Raoul Peck, Christine Pascal, Joel Farges, Petr Vaclav, Djamshed Usmonov, Ramadan Suleiman, Pablo Aguero, Tsai Ming-liang, Samuel & Frédéric Guillaume, Tonie Marshall, Massoud Bakshi, Dima El-Horr, and Pavel Giroud, among others.

He has often served as supervising editor, working with directors across the globe, including Morocco (Narjiss Nejjar), Palestine (Annemarie Jacir), Colombia (Maria Gamboa, Ruben Mendoza), Lebanon (Lamia Joreige), and Vietnam (Nguyen Hoang Diep).

Comets co-heads the editing department of La Femis, the French national film school.

Thierry Lenouvel / Ciné-Sud Promotion – Co-producer

Founded by Thierry Lenouvel in 1993, Ciné-Sud Promotion initially represented art house films and in 2001, the company moved into production. Lenouvel has since produced over 30 films which have won more than 200 international awards. His most recent credits include Fejria Deliba's D'UNE PIERRE DEUX COUPS (Our Mother); Cesar Acevedo's LAND AND SHADE (Semaine de la Critique, Cannes 2015 – Caméra d'or); Chico Teixeira's AUSENCIA (Panorama, Berlin 2015); Sepideh Farsi's RED ROSE (Toronto 2014); Nguyen Hoang Diep's FLAPPING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE (Venice 2014 – Critics Week Award).

Other credits include William Vega's LA SIRGA (Directors' Fortnight, Cannes); Juan Andres Arango's LA PLAYA (Official Selection, Cannes); Simone Bitton's WALL (Directors' Fortnight, Cannes; Sundance – Jury Prize); Sembene Ousmane's MOOLAADE (Un Certain Regard, Cannes 2004 – Grand Prix); Pjer Zalica's FUSE (Locarno 2003 – Silver Leopard); Yamina

Bachir's RACHIDA (Un Certain Regard, Cannes 2002); and Fatmir Koci's TIRANA YEAR ZERO (Official Selection, Venice 2001; Thessaloniki 2001 – Golden Alexander).

Derk-Jan Warrink & Koji Nelissen / Keplerfilm – Co-producers

Derk-Jan Warrink and Koji Nelissen established Keplerfilm in April 2016. Prior to this, they worked at several Dutch production companies and were involved on award-winning films, including Yorgos Lanthimos' THE LOBSTER (Official Selection, Cannes 2015 – Jury Prize), Michaël R. Roskam's BULLHEAD (Best Foreign Film nominee, Academy Awards 2012), Eskil Vogt's BLIND (Sundance 2014 – World Cinema Screenwriting Award; Berlin 2014), and Hany Abu-Assad's PARADISE NOW (Berlin 2005; Best Foreign Film nominee, Academy Awards 2006). With a strong focus on developing and nurturing talent, Keplerfilm's business is telling stories, whether funny or sad, always deeply human and with a heart, and aiming to intellectually entertain the audience.

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MAIN CAST

Rushikesh Naik	Santosh
Sudesh Bhise	Juze
Prashanti Talpankar	Tai
Gauri Kamat	Maria
Barkha Naik	Maya
Pranav Narote	Abdul
Sarah Driver	Shabana

MAIN CREW

Written, Directed & Produced by	Miransha Naik
Associate Producer	Vinit Chandrasekharan
Creative Producers	Olivia Stewart & Jacques Comets
Co-Producers	Thierry Lenouvel, Derk-Jan Warrink & Koji Nelissen
Script Mentor	Ashwini Malik
Cinematographer	Abhiraj Rawale
Production Designers	Pronita Pal & Ravi Shah
Supervising Editor	Jacques Comets
Editors	Siddhesh Naik & Suzana Pedro