

THE AUDITION



A PITCH DECK

LaSutra Pictures

SYNOPSIS

In a Mumbai theater rehearsal space, what begins as a seemingly routine audition evolves into an intricate web of revelation and confrontation. Tara, a young actress, arrives to audition for a new play written by Sahira and directed by her husband Deepak, a renowned but controversial theater director. As the audition progresses through a series of increasingly intense improvisations, the lines between performance and reality begin to blur.



SYNOPSIS



Deepak, known for his manipulation of young actresses, attempts to exert his usual control over the situation. However, it becomes clear that this is no ordinary audition – it's a carefully orchestrated confrontation engineered by Sahira. Through the course of the day, layers of shared history emerge: Tara is revealed to be the daughter of Charles, a man who committed suicide after an intense affair with Sahira was thwarted by Deepak's professional sabotage. More shocking still, Tara has a young child whose father is none other than Deepak himself.

SYNOPSIS

The improvisations become increasingly charged as Sahira uses her script to force both Deepak and Tara to confront painful truths. The seemingly simple narrative of a predatory director and vulnerable actress transforms into something far more complex – a story of women recognizing their shared trauma and working together to break cycles of abuse. The arrival of Varun, Tara's supportive partner, triggers the final revelations that force all characters to face the consequences of their past actions.



SYNOPSIS



Set against the backdrop of Deepak and Sahira's own loss of a child, the story weaves together themes of power, betrayal, and the possibility of redemption through confrontation. The confined space of the rehearsal room becomes a pressure cooker where art becomes both weapon and healing tool. Sahira's decision to name their dead child after Tara, and Tara's choice to name her child Sahira, creates a powerful symbol of how women can transform cycles of trauma into bonds of strength.

SYNOPSIS

As the "audition" reaches its climax, the film reveals itself to be not just about exposing abuse, but about how art can be reclaimed from those who would use it as a tool of exploitation. Through Sahira and Tara's unspoken alliance, the story offers a new perspective on female relationships in the entertainment industry, suggesting that the path to justice lies not in competition, but in recognition of shared experience and collective resistance.



THE HOOK

"The Audition" deliberately subverts the tired trope of female competition in the entertainment industry. While initially appearing to pit an older woman against a younger actress, the film reveals a deeper narrative about women recognizing their shared struggles and finding strength in solidarity. Through Sahira and Tara's complex relationship, we explore how women can transform traditional power structures that have historically enabled abuse. Rather than competing for male validation, these characters forge an unspoken alliance that exposes and dismantles patterns of exploitation.

The film examines how women, often positioned as enablers or silent witnesses in cycles of abuse, can instead become catalysts for change. By naming Tara's child after Sahira, the story symbolically represents this passing of strength between generations of women, suggesting that healing comes not through rivalry but through recognition of shared trauma and collective resistance. This offers a fresh perspective on female relationships in cinema, showing how women can work together to break cycles of exploitation, even from seemingly opposing positions.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Audition emerged from a deep-seated need to confront the power dynamics that have long plagued our entertainment industry. As someone who has spent years in theater and film, I've witnessed how the sacred space of an audition room can become a battleground of exploitation. This film strips away the glamour to expose the raw psychological warfare that often plays out behind closed doors.

What draws me to this story is its unflinching examination of how art and abuse intertwine. Through the intense performances we seek to unlock, we often create spaces where vulnerability becomes a weapon. The confined setting of our film – a single rehearsal room – serves as a pressure cooker where these dynamics reach their breaking point. Like a Russian doll, each layer of performance reveals a deeper truth, until the distinction between acting and reality dissolves completely.

The story particularly resonates in the Indian context, where the 'casting couch' has long been an open secret, protected by silence and shame. But rather than create a straightforward exposé, I want to explore the complex psychological landscape that allows such abuse to perpetuate – the ambitions, the justifications, the complicity, and most importantly, the cost to human dignity.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This is a film about performance – not just the kind we see on stage, but the roles we play in life to survive. Through Deepak, we see how power corrupts art itself. Through Sahira, we witness how creativity becomes a weapon of revenge. And through Tara, we explore how the cycle of abuse echoes across generations.

Our approach demands raw, unflinching performances that blur the line between actor and character. We're not just telling a story; we're creating a psychological battleground where art, power, and truth collide. My goal is to make audiences question not just the dynamics they see on screen, but the very nature of performance and power in their own lives.

In the end, "The Audition" is more than a film about the casting couch – it's about the moment when performance cracks open to reveal truth, when power meets its match in justice, and when art becomes both wound and healing."



PRODUCERS' STATEMENT

The Audition represents that rare confluence of powerful storytelling and practical production value. With its single-location setting and small, focused cast, the film concentrates resources where they matter most – on performance and dramatic impact. The intimate scale allows us to attract top-tier talent who are drawn to psychologically complex roles, while maintaining a lean, efficient production model.

The film's exploration of power dynamics in the entertainment industry couldn't be more timely, yet our approach focuses on psychological drama rather than sensationalism. By containing the story primarily within a rehearsal space, we create an intense chamber piece that maximizes dramatic tension while minimizing production variables. This allows us to focus our budget on securing exceptional performers and giving them the time and space needed to deliver powerful, award-worthy performances.

In an industry often driven by scale, "The Audition" stands out as a project where creative and commercial interests align perfectly – a contained yet compelling drama that promises both artistic integrity and production efficiency.



MEET THE PRODUCERS

SUNITHA RAM



Sunitha Ram is a producer who brings her unflinching eye for detail and expert production craftsmanship to realise film's vision. Her productions have taken place in all corners of India and abroad giving her a unique global experience and expertise. She was the Co Producer "After the Wedding" A Julianne Moore Billy Curdup, Michelle Williams starrer, Executive Producer on 'Dahaad' a series for Amazon Prime Video & Netflix 'The Archies', Directed by Zoya Akhtar – e period musical spectacle.

Production service campaigns include DiOR 2023 for North 6- Paris, Incredible India, Rajasthan Tourism, and scores of others. She spent her formative years as Producer with Prahlad Kakar at Genesis Films, Bombay.

MEET THE PRODUCERS

LAURENS C POSTMA



Laurens Cornelis Postma is a versatile INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKER OF DUCH ORIGIN known for his work as a director, producer, theatre director, author, and actor. He has HAD a prominent presence in India and the UK for a long time, and is a fellow of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Laurens has collaborated with notable actors like David Cronenberg, Malcolm McDowell, Perizad, and Jackie Shroff.

He has directed films such as "Exitz" and "Interview," working with talents Lucky Aly and Apache INDIAN. Laurens created the Facebook series "Tech Probe," featuring Danish Sait, and founded 'YoYo Films' in 1996, known for high-quality TV programs and films. He also served as the Senior Vice President Production for Kaleidoscope Film Entertainment Ltd, producing films including 'Maqbool,' 'American Daylight,' and 'The Rising' with Aamir Khan.

THEME EXPLORATION

At its core, "The Audition" is a complex exploration of power, truth, and the thin line between performance and reality. The story uses the intimate setting of a theater audition to unravel a web of personal histories, where art becomes both a weapon and a means of revelation. Through the intense dynamic between a manipulative director (Deepak), his playwright wife (Sahira), and a young actress (Tara), the screenplay examines how power can be wielded through artistic authority, and how this power often intertwines with personal exploitation. The themes of betrayal, loss, and revenge play out across generations, embodied in the revelation that Tara – the daughter of a man who committed suicide due to Sahira's rejection – has a child fathered by Deepak himself. This cyclical nature of betrayal and hurt is particularly poignant as it's set against the backdrop of Deepak and Sahira's own loss of a child, making the entire 'audition' a carefully orchestrated confrontation where theatrical performance becomes a vehicle for exposing painful truths and possibly finding redemption through confrontation.

THEMES

Duality of reality and illusion

Secrets and deception

Isolation and solitude

Intrigue and suspense

The power of curiosity

Human vulnerability

Perception vs. reality

Survival and resilience



DEEPAK

A respected but predatory theater director whose power is built on manipulating young actresses. His loss of a child and subsequent impotence fuel toxic behavior patterns. Now confronting his past actions.





TARA

A talented young actress whose father committed suicide after an affair with Sahira. She has a child with Deepak and represents both victim and vehicle for justice.





SAHIRA

A playwright who lost her child and watched her marriage crumble. She orchestrates this entire "audition" as elaborate revenge, using her art to confront her husband's betrayals.





VARUN

Tara's supportive partner and fellow drama school graduate. His arrival triggers the final revelations. His presence represents possibility of a healthier future beyond the cycle of abuse.



FILM TREATMENT

MUSIC & SOUND

"The Audition" requires a minimalist sound design that mirrors its theatrical setting and psychological complexity. The score should be sparse and tension-driven, using primarily strings and piano to create an unsettling atmosphere that blurs the line between diegetic and non-diegetic sound – much like the film blurs reality and performance. The sound design should emphasize intimate moments through careful use of silence and amplified natural sounds (breathing, chair movements, rustling papers), while incorporating subtle references to Indian classical music during emotional peaks. The crying of Tara's baby serves as a recurring motif – a haunting reminder of the cycle of betrayal and generational trauma that runs through the story.



VISUAL TREATMENT

The cinematography of "The Audition" employs an intimate, claustrophobic approach within its single-location setting. The camera work shifts between documentary-style handheld movements during improvisations and more composed, theatrical framing during confrontations, while close-ups capture microexpressions and unspoken tensions. The lighting transitions subtly from natural rehearsal-room illumination to more dramatic theatrical lighting as the lines between performance and reality blur, mirroring the psychological descent of the characters. whiplash eye close up



TONE

The Auction maintains a taut psychological tone that gradually intensifies like a pressure cooker. Beginning with the measured atmosphere of a professional audition, it slowly descends into increasingly dark psychological territory as layers of pretense are stripped away. The film blends naturalistic drama with theatrical elements, creating an unsettling tone where reality and performance become indistinguishable. Like a thriller set in broad daylight, it builds tension through emotional revelations rather than artificial devices.

Copy

Suspense

Intrigue

Eerie beauty

Constant unease

Persistent sense
of mystery

Heart-pounding

Emotionally resonant

Enigmatic

FILM TREATMENT



AUDITION



FILM TREATMENT



AUDITION





AUDITION

LOOK AND FEEL REFERENCES

The Audition embraces a naturalistic yet carefully composed visual style reminiscent of Iñárritu's ***Birdman (2014)*** and Aronofsky's ***Black Swan (2010)*** in its rehearsal space scenes, and Fincher's ***Panic Room (2002)*** in its claustrophobic framing. The film employs a muted color palette dominated by theatrical blacks, grays, and warm woods, punctuated by natural light streaming through high windows. The rehearsal space should feel both familiar and increasingly oppressive, with the quality of light shifting subtly as the story progresses.

AN ASPIRING ACTRESS



THE CHARMING DIRECTOR



TWO WOMEN WITH INTERTWINED FATES



THANK YOU

lasutra
PICTURES