



EKCINEMAWALA.COM

# ASHUTOSH S. SHANKAR

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

### Address:

B-16, Geetanjali Society  
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**Nationality:** Indian | **Date of birth:** 7th January, 2000

## EDUCATION

### FERGUSON COLLEGE, PUNE

BA in Psychology | 2018 - 2021  
Semester GPA: 9.00

Junior College Education | 2016 - 2018

### APG LEARNING SCHOOL (DIGITAL FILM MAKING)

Certificate Course in Film making  
July to September, 2018  
Led by Shivaji Kachare & Mahesh Limaye

### LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL

Primary & Secondary Education | 2006 - 2016

**Nominated as the Best Outgoing Student**

## INTERESTS

Films, Dance, Writing & Humans

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- FELLOWSHIP - THE QUEER MUSLIM PROJECT SCREENWRITING LAB, 2023
- KASHISH FILM FESTIVAL QDRISHTI GRANT, 2023
- SOHO HOUSE X OWN ACADEMY MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME, 2024.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### FILM MAKER

Film maker, director, editor, writer

### WRITER & DIRECTOR

**SHORT FILM - TARA (under progress)** winner of Kashish Film Festival QDrishti Developmental Grant.

### DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT

**THE VIRAL FEVER'S VERY PARIVARIK** directed by Vaibhav Bundhoo

### POST PRODUCTION DA

**RANA NAIDU** directed by Karan Anshuman

### DIRECTION INTERN

**SOHUM SHAH FILMS' (UNTITLED)** directed by Aadesh Prasad

### FIRST AD

**ABP Majha "Vaari Vidhansabhechi Nighaali"**

## SHORT FILMS

### TARA (IN PROGRESS - UPCOMING)

A dalit trans woman puts herself out in the dating pool of Bombay as she tries to navigate through her queer & caste identity



Produced by Tasveer Films (Rita Meher), Visual Lotus Films (Neeraj Churi)

Winner of Kashish Film Festival's QDrishti Grant, 2023

@tara.shortfilm

### AAJ SAKHE (UPCOMING) - PITCH

Aaj Sakhe takes you on a musical journey of Shubhangi to find her missing note. A story that will stay with you for a long time. A story that resonates emotions, desires and everything in between.



[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YonHnKq2f\\_JT5q0Bq74Ltm3l6P2KFnnG/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YonHnKq2f_JT5q0Bq74Ltm3l6P2KFnnG/view?usp=drive_link)

### ONE STANDING NIGHT (2019)

On 6th September 2018, the Supreme Court of India made a historical judgement by scrapping section 377 of the Indian penal code that once had criminalized gay-sex.

This film revolves around the night before section 377 verdict.

A story of two men living in love, fear and everything in between



Official Selection: Queer & Allies Arts Festival 2019  
Official Selection: Bangalore Queer Film Festival 2020  
Official Selection: Pune Queer Film Festival 2020  
First Place: Symbiosis School of Economics  
First Runners' Up: SimCuts 2019 Film Festival

WATCH



## MY VISION

Cinema, especially Indian cinema has always been a huge influence on me in my growing years. I grew up watching films like Jane Tu Ya Jane Na, Jodha Akbar, 7 Khoon Maaf, Devdas, and the list is endless. However, that one film that made me want to truly commit in understanding and exploring more about cinema was Ram-Leela back in 2013. I started taking music, actors, direction and everything that takes to make a film seriously.

Eventually, I was introduced to world cinema and other contemporary film makers like Konkana Sen Sharma, Vishal Bharadwaj, Imtiaz Ali, Anand Gandhi and Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

Across the ocean the films that reached right into my heart were films like Call Me By Your Name, La La Land, the Nolan, Fincher and Chazelle universes and very lately the Ryan Murphy universe.

As a child (I must be 12-13), I used to write short stories during school hours and convert them into scripts which I used to shoot by gathering all my friends from neighborhood using a 'Sony Cyber Shot' and edit them on Windows Movie Maker (It was a life-saver back then). This 'hobby' eventually became my one true passion and now something that I cannot live without.

I also identify myself as gay and hence, queer representation in films and arts is a subject that highly resonates with me. So, along with making films I feel the need to change the narrative of the system of representation in our country. (It does sound like a piped dream at times, but what's the harm in "not throwing away our shot"). Ryan Murphy, through his 'Half & Half studio' intends to create a system where 50% of any series under production would have a directorial-ship by women or folks from the lgbtiq+ community. It has been an inspirational step taken by a person in power, which makes us believe that it's not impossible to express ourselves authentically after-all. Thus, through my channel/production studio (whenever that happens) I would like do something similar if not equivalent in our country.

We are a land of millions of people, with a million stories and conflicts. I want to tell these stories through my lens with dignity, sensitivity and respect.

## CONTACT



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