



Director - Shally Sanghvi Writer - Shally Sanghvi Executive Producer - Naasheed Ahmed,
Preeti Sarangi Producer - Siddhant Vig Associate Producer - Neha Jauber Director of Photography - Shivan Chakraborty
Editor - Abhinay Pandit Production Design - Shivanal Datta Original Music By - Kamesh Kumar Kannan Sponsor - Nippon Energy

LOGLINE

A female pimp who pimps out men, comes across an abusive client making her relive her terrifying past and forcing her to finally gather courage and fight her own demons.

SYNOPSIS

Step into the hauntingly vivid world of *Pandaal*—a realm unlike anything you've ever known. Just as the goddess Durga brings justice to her devotees in a traditional Pandaal, here, Durga, a fierce and enigmatic female pimp, delivers her own brand of retribution. But this is no ordinary justice—she targets abusers, weaponizing their sins against them in a system she's built to protect and empower her girls.

Behind Durga's commanding presence lies a storm of hidden scars, the remnants of a harrowing past she's never fully escaped. Her world is a sanctuary for those seeking refuge—and a nightmare for those who dare to abuse.

But Durga's carefully constructed kingdom begins to crumble when her worst nightmare comes to life. After pimping out an abusive man to a new client, she's horrified to discover the client's true identity: her own abusive father. Faced with this chilling confrontation, Durga must confront the ghosts of her past head-on.

In a clash of power, pain, and vengeance, Durga is forced to take justice into her own hands once again—but this time, it's personal. With unwavering resolve, she sets out to shatter the chains of her trauma and deliver a reckoning so precise, it will leave even her father trembling.

In *Pandaal*, justice is not blind—it's fierce, feminine, and unrelenting.

About the Team:

- **Naosheen Ahmed, Executive Producer:** Naosheen brings a unique perspective to *Pandaal*, shaped by her multicultural upbringing in India and Saudi Arabia. Passionate about challenging stereotypes and amplifying underrepresented voices, she is committed to crafting narratives that inspire and provoke thought.
- **Shaily Sanghvi, Director:** Based in Los Angeles with over 8 years of experience in the entertainment industry. A Magna Cum Laude graduate in MA film and Media from New York Film Academy, Shaily has directed more than a dozen films and music videos. She has been working with DharMann Studios for over a year, contributing her talents to their meaningful and widely viewed productions.

Her short film “Pirouette,” an award-winning drama on 35mm, uses ballet as a powerful metaphor for the circle of life and has received multiple awards and nominations garnered awards from the "Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival", "The IndieFest Film Awards", "Synergy Film Festival", and "Cannes International Film Festival" among others.

In yet another compelling directorial venture, "Jasmine Flowers," Sanghvi crafts a poignant short film that delicately portrays the journey of an elderly Indian widow navigating societal taboos. This impactful work has garnered widespread acclaim and a host of accolades, including awards and nominations at esteemed festivals such as the "California Women's Film Festival", the "Indian Film Festival of Melbourne", and the "Nevada Women's Film Festival".

Shaily's background in psychology profoundly influences her storytelling approach. She believes that human behavior thrives in the gray areas, where no one is entirely right or wrong. This philosophy is at the core of her work, as she strives to depict the complexities and nuances of her characters, making them deeply human and relatable. This approach is evident in her other films, such as "Pandaal," "Alive," and "Haze Grey," all of which are inspired by true stories.

Before her successful career in Los Angeles, Shaily began her illustrious journey in India. She started under the mentorship of Ekta Kapoor, the Queen of Indian Television, and quickly ascended the ranks, collaborating with various renowned production houses. Shaily served as the Associate Creative Producer for Monozygotic Solutions, the production house led by the famous Roadies twins, Raghu and Rajiv. Her impressive portfolio includes roles as Associate Creative Director for Flipkart MiniTV, where she worked with stars like Mallika Dua and Akash Gupta, and the Disney show "Imagine That" with SOL Productions.

Currently, Shaily is immersed in the pre-production of her next film, which she is both writing and directing, set to begin filming in November 2024.

Director Statement

Pandaal is a story that is incredibly close to my heart, as it draws inspiration from true events. Writing the script was an emotional rollercoaster because it was essential to do justice to the experiences of someone who bravely opened up about their past trauma and journey to transform it into art. Seeing their teary-eyed joy at the end of the narration was a deeply cathartic and humbling experience.

The journey of creating **Pandaal** has been nothing short of extraordinary, especially as we brought an Indian brothel to life—right here in Los Angeles! From casting to

production design, every department went above and beyond to immerse the audience and hide the fact that it was actually filmed in LA. We even conducted extensive dialect training with the cast to ensure no accents would break the authenticity of the performances. After months of scouting, a year of writing, and nearly another year of post-production, it all feels worth it.

This is a story that needs to be told—not just because abuse is an important topic to address but because it’s time we stop waiting for someone else to save us. Like Durga, the protagonist, we must take matters into our own hands.

Durga is a layered character—both fearsome and vulnerable. She is the abused child, the daughter who couldn’t protect her mother, and the girl who was always silenced by her father. **Pandaal** is her answer to these traumas. It is a story of pain, resilience, and ultimately, triumph.

DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

PRODUCER



Shaily Sanghvi

Naosheen Ahmed

Siddhant Vig

LEAD CAST AND CREW

- Naosheen Ahmed as DURGA
- Almanyia Narula as RANI
- Jai Jhala as SUNIL
- Anupam Dhyani as FATHER

- Writer: Shaily Sanghvi
- Cinematographer: Shivam Chakraborty
- Editor: Abhinay Pandit
- Composer: Ramesh Kumar Kannan
- Production Designer: Shivani Datla
- Makeup Artist | Hair Stylist: Ashley K Hernandez, SJ Morningstar, Linda Parker
- Wardrobe : Niharika, Nimisha Nair





BEHIND THE SCENES







Production Notes:

- Setting: Pandaal is set in a vibrant yet gritty urban backdrop that mirrors the protagonist's internal struggles. From dimly lit alleyways to the stark contrasts of her secluded sanctuary, the film's visuals are designed to immerse viewers in a world that is both haunting and hopeful.
- Inspiration: The story draws inspiration from real-life accounts of women who have faced insurmountable odds yet emerged as symbols of resilience.
- Filming Location: Los Angeles, California

Themes:

- Resilience and empowerment
- Social justice and redemption
- Inner strength in the face of adversity

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