

National Film Development Corporation Presents

ISLAND CITY

A film by Ruchika Oberoi

India | Hindi (English Subtitles) | Comedy-Drama | 111 Minutes

Cinemascope 1:2.35 | 5.1 | Release Date 2nd September

Winner FEDEORA award for Best Debut Director at Venice Days, 72nd Venice Film Festival, 2015





The film follows three comic-dramatic stories set in Mumbai. The first is about a diligent office worker who wins the office 'Fun Committee Award', which entitles him to a whole day full of fun. He is most reluctant to leave the safety of his cubicle but he has to. Prescribed fun modules have to be completed and non-compliance is not an option...

The second story begins with a domineering head-of-the-family, Anil, who is on life support. Seeking some relief, his family decides to buy a TV, which Anil had banned. Now every night the family plugs

into a popular soap whose hero, Purshottam, is a man ideal in every way and they are smitten. Then suddenly, comes the news that Anil is better and may be home soon. Will they have to let Purshottam go?

The third one centers on Aarti whose repetitive existence is slowly making her more and more mechanical and numb. Deep inside ferments a disconnect and unease that she is unable to articulate to anyone. Then one day there arrives a most intimate letter and everything changes...

Island City stood out for its surrealistic vision of a quasi-modern world which is also rooted in the realities of everyday life.

- 72nd Venice Film Festival FEDEORA Award Jury

Indian film director Ruchika Oberoi's first feature film is as much a modern odyssey through Mumbai as it is a successful foray into Absurdism. Island City reveals a new emerging talent, sharing more than a few similarities with Paolo Sorrentino's universe and sense of humour. The film's first story focuses on a diligent office worker working in an Orwellian firm. The second story shows a family relieved to see its tyrannical pater familias bedridden in hospital and in a coma, while the third story focuses on the striking effect of an anonymous love letter sent to a lonely woman. Those three films, two black comedies and a tragicomic tale of love, show an ever-changing country in a time of uneasy transition, both economically and socially, where East sometimes meets West in the most bewildering ways.

- Agnès-Catherine Poirier (Film Critic)

The unique flavor of modern life in Mumbai is skillfully captured in the sly tragi-comedy Island City, which won best director laurels for filmmaker Ruchika Oberoi on its bow in Venice Days, before starting on a brisk festival life. Three very different stories coyly overlap in this sure-footed Hindi-language first feature, which entertains without deeply involving the viewer in the rather surreal characters' dilemmas. Alienation is the common theme, but it is handled lightly and perceptively.

- Deborah Young, The Hollywood Reporter



AWARDS AND FESTIVALS

- **FEDEORA Award** for Best Debut Director, Venice Days, 72nd Venice Film Festival 2015
- **Best Screenplay Award**, New York Indian Film Festival 2016
- **Special Jury Award**, BIFFES, Bengaluru International Film Festival 2016
- **Best Director Award**, ImagineIndia International Film Festival Madrid 2016
- **Best Actress Award** for Tannishtha Chatterjee, ImagineIndia Intl Film Festival Madrid 2016
- World Premiere - Venice Days, 72nd Venice Film Festival 2015.
- 51st Karlovy Vary Intl Film Festival, Czech Rep 2016
- 31st Warsaw Intl Film Festival, Poland 2015
- 26th Stockholm Intl Film Festival, Sweden 2015
- Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Estonia 2015
- 37th Cairo Intl Film Festival, Egypt 2015
- 15th Transilvania Intl Film Festival, Romania 2016



DIRECTOR
Ruchika Oberoi

Ruchika Oberoi is an English Literature graduate from the Delhi University and an alumna of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune. She was a Producer-Director for several years of a popular inter-
sessional on MTV India, 'Filmi Fundas'. She worked as Associate Director on 'Chhutkan Ki Mahabharat',
a feature film produced by the Children's Film Society of India, which won the National Award for
Best Children's Film in 2004. 'Island City' is her debut feature film.

On Island City

*Control, the loss of agency and the heroism of resistance, however insignificant or futile...
at some level each of the three stories connect with these themes. Shifting between the absurd, comic and tragic,
they allowed me to explore, in a light-hearted as well as deeply emotional way,
several contradictions and take them into make-believe territory. There is also the idea of a systemic
movement away from the natural, more and more into the artificial... alienating, liberating, oppressive.
And somewhere within all these themes, there also lurks the machine...*

CAST

| Artist | Character |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Vinay Pathak | Suyash Chaturvedi |
| Amruta Subhash | Sarita Joshi |
| Tannishtha Chatterjee | Aarti Patel |
| Chandan Roy Sanyal | Jignesh |
| Sameer Kochhar | Purshottam |
| Uttara Baokar | Ajji |
| Ashwin Mushran | COO Anil Sharma |
| Sana Amin Sheikh | Vaidehi |

CREW

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Director | Ruchika Oberoi |
| Screenplay | Ruchika Oberoi |
| Cinematography | Sylvester Fonseca |
| Film Editor | Hemanti Sarkar |
| Sound Design | Niraj Gera |
| Music | Sagar Desai |
| Art Direction | Krishnendu Chowdhury |
| Costumes | Anirban Haldar and Rajesh Kumar |
| Casting | Mansi Multani |

Gayi Baat Gayi, etc. He's also been seen in some of the mainstream Bollywood features like *Rab Ne Bana di Jodi*, *Aaja Nachle*, *Badlapur*, *Jism*, *Hum Dil de Chuke Sanam* etc. There are more critically acclaimed films in his kitty than a commercial blockbuster. *Antardwand* and *Gaur Hari Dastan* to name a few.

TANNISHTHA CHATTERJEE

Tannishtha Chatterjee is known for her work in films like *BRICK LANE* (for which she was nominated for the Best Actress in the British Independent Film Awards), German Director Florian Gallen Berger's *SHADOWS OF TIME*, *DEKH INDIAN CIRCUS* (for which she won the National Film Award) and her more recent work In Canadian film *SIDDHARTH* which was in Venice and Toronto in 2013 and *MONSOON SHOOTOUT* which premiered in Cannes in 2013. Her other notable works include *ROAD MOVIE* which premiered in Toronto, Joe Wright's *ANNA KARENINA*, *BHOPAL - A PRAYER FOR RAIN*, *BOMBAY SUMMER* (for which she won the Best Actress in NYIFF). *PARCHED*, directed by Leena Yadav and *ANGRY INDIAN GODDESSES*, directed by Pan Nalin are other significant films of Tannishtha's which premiered in Toronto 2015.

AMRUTA SUBHASH

After graduation from the National School of Drama, Amruta has acted in more than 25 films. She won the National Award for her Marathi film *ASTU* in 2014. She is a trained singer and dancer and has acted in musicals like *TEE FULARANI*, based on My Fair Lady in which she played the character of Eliza Doolittle. Her film *KILLA* won the Crystal Bear at the Berlin Film Festival. *ISLAND CITY* premiered at the Venice Film Festival 2015 and her film *PSYCHO RAMAN* premiered at Director's Fortnight, Cannes Film Festival 2016.

VINAY PATHAK

Vinay Pathak is a theatre graduate from the State University of New York with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He started his career doing only theatre until Deepa Mehta offered him a cameo in the first of her trilogy *FIRE*. He appeared in her last, the Oscar nominated *WATER* as well. He turned a household name with a sleeper hit of the year *BHEJA FRY*, and turned producer with his home production, *DASVIDANIA*. He's known more for his off beat movies like *Khosla Ka Ghosla*, *Johnny Gaddar*, *Mithya*, *Raat*



NFDC
cinemas of india

PRODUCER
National Film Development Corporation

The National Film Development Corporation of India is the central agency established to encourage the good cinema movement in the country. The primary goal of the NFDC is to plan, promote and organize an integrated and efficient development of the Indian film industry and foster excellence in cinema. Over the years NFDC has provided a wide range of services essential to the growth of Indian cinema. The NFDC (and its predecessor The Film Finance Corporation) has so far funded/produced over 300 films. These films, in various Indian Languages, have been widely acclaimed and have won many National and International awards.

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