

12

INTERVIEWS
1 eBOOK



2014





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Contents

Preface

Foreword

Interviews

01. *Rajni Basumatary*
02. *Anuraag Saikia*
03. *Nituparna Rajbongshi*
04. *Niyar Saikia*
05. *Santanu Hazarika*
06. *Kopil Bora*
07. *Geetali Baruah*
08. *Khanjan Kishore Nath*
09. *Kenny Basumatary*
10. *Manas Sarkar*
11. *Ranjan Engti (Engticode)*
12. *Karabi Sarma*

The Guys Behind the Interviews

The Appendix

Preface

Greetings to all!

We at Creativica are now filled with unbounded joy as we blow the candles on our first birthday. And we all want you to be a part of this celebration! It was only 365 days back when we launched Creativica open to public with tiny hopes of showcasing the common artistic and literary talent of this region and here we stand today – with over 250 published contents and more than 130k website views, we are only expanding and spreading our dream of CREATIVITY! On this first anniversary, we take great pride in bringing forth to you “**TALKS 2014**” – an eBook containing 12 interviews, one for each month of the year, of eminent personas from this north-eastern region of India. We thank you all for enlightening us and being role models for all our readers in the respective fields.

Foreword

It's been a year since a little e-baby called Creativica was born. With the care and love which it received from its makers and readers, the ezine has successfully completed a full axis of 365 days. Ever since its inception, Creativica has always been on a journey of self improvisation and innovation. It can be easily named as one of the best e-magazines in the northeast due to its interactive website response system as well as its quality articles. On its first anniversary and release of its e-book "TALKS 2014", I give my best wishes to all its team members and hope it soars only higher and higher.

- Sanghamitra Goswami, Journalist

Dedicated to beloved *Ruptrishna Nath*



(1992-2014)

“Your end, which is endless, is as a snowflake dissolving in the pure air.”

This eBook is dedicated to our beloved member Ruptrishna Nath, who left for her heavenly abode, leaving us all in deep shock and grief. A St. Anthony’s alumni with a keen interest in journalism and photography, she was the first editor of Creativica and an active team member. We can now only hope that she had found peace in the clouds. We miss you!

INTERVIEW

RAJNI BASUMATARY

01



“Rajni Basumatary is a Boro filmmaker currently based in Delhi. She has been a well known writer and a producer. Her recent directorial debut, Raag, an Assamese film, brought big laurels and acclamation to her name as the film received 12 nominations for the Prag Cine Awards 2014.”

Hello Rajni Basumatary, Creativica welcomes you!

Thank you very much.

Tell us about Rajni Basumatary as a little girl who grew up to be a producer/director.

I am the ninth and last child of my parents. My father was a farmer and a church pastor. We were not well-off in our childhood and my parents had difficulty in providing us with enough materials in life. But we always had guests at home for almost every meal to share with. So we had a happy, normal household to grow in and nurture our imaginations. I have always been interested in the art of story-telling- in all forms- be it through writing, or images. I loved reading books and watching films, even at a young age. I started writing short stories for magazines and dailies. First in Assamese, then in English. I happened to know a couple of film makers and theatre artistes. Many of them commented that my writings were suitable for screens and stages. That is what inspired me to write screenplay initially. And my first production, Anurag happened.

Your education?

After my schooling and +2, I left my home-town Rangapara and moved to Guwahati for my higher studies. I studied Assamese literature in Handique Girls' College. After my graduation, I did my diploma in International Airlines and Travel Management from Guwahati Institute of Management. In 1995 I moved to Delhi in search of better opportunities.

Tell us about your venture, Manna Films.

I did all kinds of odd jobs including assisting an editor at a publishing house and producing stories for television channel. In between, I wrote the script of Anurag and produced the film along with another co-producer. Forming of Manna Films was a natural extension of my work. It's a small production house with a tagline, 'we make films that sever their purpose.' It's one-stop-shop for audio-visual solutions for corporate houses and social organizations.

Your film Anurag received 7 Assam State Film Awards! What does it mean to you?

Anurag was written by me and produced by myself and Anjali Daimari. It was directed by the national award winning Director, Bidyut Chakravarty. Anurag was a turning point in my life in more ways than one. The fact that I mustered courage to produce a feature length film without any practical knowhow of filmmaking confirmed that I indeed loved this art form enough to give up a conventionally comfortable life. It also reaffirmed that with a little bit of dedication and practice I could become a good story-teller on celluloid. And most importantly, the appreciations Anurag received gave me confidence to think ahead on the same line. That is why I think, Anurag is the mother of my latest film Raag.

Tell us about your works and other achievements.

We at Manna Films produce corporate films and organizational films. A bunch of creative professionals work with me on project basis. These projects have ensured me, I have food in my stomach to be able to think of my primary passion i.e. cinema. I can't claim to possess talent like those who can turn ashes to gold. But I am sincere and honest at my personal space and professional space. Thankfully, my husband Shirish Jain, who is a police officer resonates with me.

Your recent film, Raag, came into the theatres and was highly acclaimed by the audience. But, it was replaced in a week with the YRF production, Gundaay. We have seen this being done to other Assamese films too. Your take on it.

Raag was received very well by the audience; especially in urban areas and by mature audience who have taste for art and music. Unfortunately, it was unceremoniously elbowed out from the cinema halls of Assam as they had to make way

for the Bollywood film 'Gundaay'. I feel that exhibitors and distributors must exhibit some patience towards Assamese cinema, or any regional cinema for that matter. Second week is a must. The logic is simple: big Bollywood films have ample budget hence they promote their films aggressively for months even before the film hits the screen. So, the opening at the box office is usually good and the pickup is faster. But a regional film is dependent on 'word-of-mouth' publicity and it takes time to spread. The producers of regional cinema have to have greater sense of ownership, fighting spirit and dedication towards their films. It's not enough to just produce a film. They need to fight the forces that come between your film and your audience.

Any upcoming projects?

I have a complete script for a film on witch-hunting in Boro society. It's a malaise that has disturbed me very deeply for a long time. What is worse is that even some of the so called educated people and religious leaders participate in 'getting rid of evil spirits' such as daini. I would like to make a small film on the subject and go from village to village to show that film to convey the message of condemnation towards the evil practice in the society in rural areas, especially in Boro dominated places. I would also like to collaborate with social activists to address this issue through visual medium.

What is your future vision of Assamese cinema?

Regional cinema is cyclical. It travels through good times and bad. Last one decade has not been a good period for us. Fortunately though, there have been a few films that have brought back the hope, films that have attained commercial success, such as Munin Baruah's Ramdhenu and films that have brought home accolades, such as Jahnu Baruah's Bandhon and Manju Bora's Ko:yad. I believe, we are on the way to a revival. But we need a strong film policy - a policy that will make a regional film exhibition compulsory upto second week.

Message to the readers.

Human values are deteriorating. There is disrespect for life and nature. Our redemption lies in our love for anything artistic and creative.

Thank you for giving us your valuable time. Creativica wishes you the best and plenty of success in years to come!

It was entirely my pleasure!

INTERVIEW

ANURAAG SAIKIA

02



“Anuraag Saikia is the shy, sweet and funny boy-next-door. Hailing from Moran, this young lad has achieved a lot when it comes to the professional front. He was recently awarded with the Rajat Kamal for Best Music Direction in Non-feature film category for Assamese film Yugadrashta.”

You have been in Mumbai for almost 6 years now. Tell us about your journey and experience over this period.

Well just reduce 3 years from that 6.

Seriously!

Yup! I was in Chennai for two years. Then I came to Mumbai, three years back.

Okay. Three years of working and living in Mumbai. How has it been?

Great!

2014 has been a good year for you so far with the Best Music Award for Shinyor at Prag Cine Awards and then winning The National Award for Yugadrashta.

Yes.

It is a cliched question and it must have been asked to you already a number of times but how does it feel to have received one of the most prestigious awards in the country?

Anuraag: Every award is like an inspiration. But of course, when it comes to National Award it's something different. Feel excited. So nervous! To receive the award from the president himself. It's just like a dream.

A dream that has come true for you indeed.

Ya. Because I never expected this at this age. Of course, I work hard but National Award was something I never imagined at this age.

Everybody is so proud of you, especially your parents... They had accompanied you to the National Awards ceremony in Delhi?

Ya, my parents were there.

What was their reaction?

[Grins]

I guess that smile does sum up their reaction.

You had met Kabir Suman at the ceremony who received the National Award for Best Music direction for the Bengali feature film Jatishwar. And even he remarked that it feels great to see someone as young as you walk away with a National Award in hand. How was your experience of meeting him and interacting with him?

I was thrilled to meet him because to meet such a big personality is a very big thing for me and also to interact with such personality whose music we have been listening from our childhood is a dream come true.

I believe you are the youngest from Assam to have received the National Award. Do you mind me asking how old are you?

I was born in '88 December.

At 26, you are quite successful in your career.

I don't think I am as successful. Because till now sometimes I have to borrow from my friends for my telephone bill. This successful tag is given to me by some people who love my work. Like you.

Your inspiration in the music industry. Someone you look up to?

I am always inspired by my parents because I belong from a musical family.

Oh. I didn't know that! Can you tell me a bit more about your musical lineage?

My dad is a research scholar who also received the Pratima Pandey Award for his contribution towards Assamese folk music and my mom is a radio artist. She is a folk singer.

Wow! Music seems to have been in your genes.

Of course apart from them, I am inspired by Michael Jackson, Sting, Hans Zimmer, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.

Yugadrashta is a biopic with a storyline set in the Sattras of Majuli. Did you require to do some research or extra home-work in composing music for the film? Was it different from the kind of work you usually do?

I am always inspired by Folk Music. Of course I did lots of research work, interacted with folk musicians from Majuli and Upper Assam. This is all because of them for which I got this award. I went to places, recorded and then mixed it in Mumbai. Of course I have to take the name of another gem of a National Award winning Sound Designer, Amrit Pritam who is the one to take my music to that level from where I can give you this interview. Note that, Amrit Pritam is the sound designer partner to Oscar winning Resul Pookuty.

I was about to ask you about your association with him.

Anuraag: Ya. We did a couple of good projects. We did the Logo Music and Sound for the INOX theatre. We did the same for Nadiadwala and Grandson Logo. Amrit & Resul did the sound and I did the music. Now we are working on a film called "Aasma" by Sudipto Sen.

Are there any other upcoming projects that you would like to share with us?

Ya. I am working on a project for Anurag Basu, Akarsh Khurana, Sudipto Sen, Pradip Kurbah, Bitopan Kashyap. Till now this much seems to be a lot for me. Other than that I am reading a couple of scripts coming my way.

You have worked in the Mumbai industry and also in the regional industry... What qualitative difference do you find when it comes to the functioning of the Assamese film industry and Bollywood?

It's the same. The only thing it differs in is in two words. For Assam it's Emotional and in Bollywood it's Professional.

Another film from the North East that has earned recognition at the National Film Awards is "Ri" by Pradip Kurbah. In fact, it is the first Khasi film to have received a National Award. You have composed the original background score for that. How was it working with Pradip Kurbah?

Pradip Kurbah is a package of film making. When I first saw the film, I felt like watching a Japanese or a German film. So nicely shot and edited. It does not look like a regional film. I expect more from this film maker in the coming days.

Finally, your piece of advice to young aspirants in the music industry.

Don't Drink and Drive! [Laughs]. Come on. I am young too. How can I advise? Not from me.

Thank you so much Anuraag for your time. And Congratulations on winning the National Award for best music direction. We wish you all the best for your career and may you bag many more awards in the times to come.

Thanks. Thank you so much for giving me this honour.

INTERVIEW

NITUPARNA RAJBONGSHI

03



“One of the most prominent cartoonist and journalist of Assam. Since 1997 he has been associated with cartooning and many of his cartoons have been published in various leading newspapers, magazines, websites nationally and internationally.”

Hi Nituparna, Creativica welcomes you!

Thank You!

Tell us something about your early life.

Well, I was born and brought up in a very small town of Assam, Sorbhog (known as the dairy abode of the state) in a lower middle class family. My parents led a very simple life. My life in my small town was full of adventures pertaining to my age and I really liked to spend my days amidst natural environment. Another interesting thing to let you know is that I used to act as a vendor of home grown vegetables in our local markets to meet the necessary expenditures of home. So, basically it was a life full of varied thrilling experiences which has a profound influence on my present life.

How did you decide to be a full-time cartoonist?

To be frank, I didn't have any strong interest in drawing in my childhood. Being the child of an army personnel, my initial aspirations were to fulfill my father's dream. Naturally, my dreams were very easy going and were related to what I had seen in my locality. Those dreams included some craziest things like becoming a bus conductor, a footballer, a cricketer, even sometimes a thief and so on! But, from childhood as I have grown up seeing buses and trucks moving through the highway in front of our house, I really liked to draw those vehicles. However, with time I had developed an interest in learning Martial Art, which was an obvious Bruce Lee effect! But, as my parents were concerned about me being a spoiled child; they sent me to a fine art school instead of martial art. And with that, my dreams had started changing. Gradually, the politically active ambience of my locality and the problems of common people have given rise to a peculiar sensitivity within me. I wanted to depict those common people's conditions in my drawing. During those days of early teens, while going through various art exhibitions of some esteemed painters, I was quite surprised to find that their works were far from common people's understanding. Moreover, they were beyond the common people's reach. This made me decide that I must take such a medium of drawing which will directly convey the thought of masses everywhere and will also spread awareness among the masses regarding the vital issues of society. Thus, I have found that cartoon is the medium which has such the strength to represent the masses and this is how I started practicing as a full time cartoonist.

Anyone who inspires and inspired you a lot in your career?

Although I have taken cartoon as a profession, it's actually a sense of responsibility towards people that has inspired me to become a cartoonist. So, basically it is the sorrow, dissatisfaction and overall plight of the common people that has inspired me to draw cartoons.

Apart from a cartoonist, you are also a staff-reporter of a leading newspaper in Assam, how do you manage these two professions at a time?

Actually, for me both the professions are complementary to each other and thus maintaining both of them has never become a problem for me. I find time for cartooning within my busy schedule as a staff reporter and this is how it is going on.

Most of your cartoons reflect the current affairs of politics, any reason behind concentrating on political affairs?

To be precise, whatever we are doing or wherever we are, our lives are more or less related to politics or are influenced by political decisions. Although many of us opine that we want to stay away from politics, but in reality one can't avoid the same because right from the price of essential commodities up to the taxes that we pay, everything has direct or indirect relationship with political policies. On the other hand, politics is not only about one party or the other; it is about the entire system of our societal governance. Thus, any positive or negative dimension of a political issue has relation with

our common lives and hence they find a special place in my cartoons. However, although political issue based, many of my cartoons have the other dimension of social wellbeing too.

What do you feel, how much a cartoonist is responsible for the society?

Very much! Every cartoonist should have a strong sense of social responsibility to bring the vital social issues into light.

Do you think that a cartoon can motivate the masses positively as well as negatively?

Yes, Definitely. In this regard, I would like to mention that, cartoon is never a joke. Cartoon is the voice of the masses. So, misrepresentation of a particular issue or lighter representation of a serious issue may mislead people to a significant extent. So, we should be careful in this regard.

You've also been awarded for your excellence, how much it is important for you and your career?

For me, more than an award, people's affection and acceptance is much more important. So, instead of high profile galleries and visitors and also awards, when I get a chance to go among the masses, to interact with them, to draw and exhibit among them, I find it more rewarding!!

A good topic, a well drawn cartoon and a good caption – do you think these three things are the key points of being a good cartoonist? Which of these three things comes in to your mind first before you start to draw a new cartoon?

Yes, these three are the key points of a good cartoon to a certain extent. But as a whole, the representation should be such that it has an impact on those who see it.

For the second part of the question, my answer is that it depends on the situation whether the issue or the caption or the picture of a situation comes first to my mind.

How do you keep yourself up-to-date on all current affairs?

I always try to gather every single bit of information from the day to day affairs and dealings with common people by talking and listening to them. Apart from that, I regularly follow almost all print and electronic media to keep myself updated.

You held a solo cartoon exhibition in 2007 at State Art Gallery (Guwahati) and also started the first ever mobile cartoon exhibition in Assam and North Eastern India, how the public responded to it?

Yes, It was quite positive.

What is your opinion on how much of our North Eastern India's people are aware of cartoons and cartoonists?

Frankly speaking, the level of awareness is still at its budding stage. People still think cartoons are jokes. For this, some of the cartoonists are also to be blamed who use cartoons to represent some adult joke and such lighter things. But, as a whole, we need to be more and more serious on this.

You'd also published your own cartoon collections in 2010 entitled Aarchi (The Mirror); have you ever come up with an idea of creating an exclusive comic strip?

No!

The last but not the least, where do you see yourself five years from now?

I would always love to stay as simple as I am today, even with more and more success as a cartoonist!

Thank you for giving us your valuable time.

It's my pleasure! Thank you Team Creativica and all its readers for giving me an opportunity to exchange our thoughts.

INTERVIEW

NIYAR SAIKIA

04



Niyar Saikia is just thirteen, but she already has a major Hollywood film in her kitty. The film *Sold*, directed by Oscar winning filmmaker Jeffery D. Brown, is yet to be released in India but it has been declared a favourite of the crowds and the critics alike at various film festivals.

Hello, Niyar Saikia. Creativica welcomes you. First of all tell us a little bit about yourself?

I am Niyar Saikia from Guwahati, Assam. I study at Maria's Public School and I am in class 9. I love my family, chocolates and books more than anything else. I am the only child, so I get all the love and good stuff. I dance too. I am learning Sattriya under the guidance of Nrityacharya Jatin Goswami. I basically dance around the house and create havoc. I used to sing too, but not now. My father's name is Probin Saikia and my mother's name is Roshmi Rekha Saikia. They are both musicians. My dad is a music director and my mom a singer, so yeah, music runs in my blood. I love listening to all kinds of songs but I am not into heavy metal stuff. I prefer folk songs, country music, soft and soothing songs. But I hate those cheesy, romantic songs. I can always listen to old Assamese and Hindi songs as long as my mood is perfect. I am learning all kind of folk dances under the institution named 'PANCHASUR'.

I love the rain and the winter season. I 'love love love' acting. I love eating whatever my mother cooks. I love KFC and McDonalds. I LOVE HARRY POTTER. I really do. I like to write stories. I love to laugh and make people laugh too. I wish to play the piano someday. I love clicking photos of myself. I am pretty much honest with everything. I love earrings. I love all my friends. I hate people who sugarcoat. I hate bitter gourd and fish. I need to stop here or I'll go on and on.

How did you bag the lead role in such a high profile Hollywood film?

I bagged the role through audition. I was informed by Vidyawati Phukan, she is an actress with whom I have worked in a film called 'Aai Kot Nai' by Manju Borah. She asked my mom to take me to the audition. Also, at my theatre school 'SEAGULL' there was an announcement about the audition and where it was going to be held. It was on a weekday, and I was not in the mood to go, because that would mean that I had to miss school and that too for a film audition as I am still not so much into films as of now. I prefer theatre to films. I went anyways. In the audition there were people of my age, some elder to me, some I knew, and some strangers. The casting directors, Tess and Dyu, came in and selected four girls randomly, on the basis of our physique, as per the requirements of the role. Both of them were very sweet. They called the four of us for a screen test the next day. We went, we did some acting and our acts were recorded. These videos were sent to America for the director to shortlist. There were almost 1000 videos. A few months later they called me to Mumbai, saying that I was shortlisted. I went, did some scenes and came back. On returning from Mumbai, they informed me that I was selected. Then there were workshops and rehearsals. That's pretty much it.

Was there any kind of objection from your parent's side, since the film deals with such a sensitive issue?

No. There were never any objections, because they knew the film is for a good cause. They had the belief that this film is going to create a mass awakening and help all the girls out there who are victims of human trafficking. They told me to take this whole thing as a challenge and to just go ahead with it, without any worry.

How was the experience of working with veteran actors from Hollywood and Bollywood?

It was such a wonderful experience. It was an honour for me to work with such legends like Seema Biswas, Sushmita Mukherjee and Madan Mohan (A famous Nepali actor). I can't tell you how down-to-earth and phenomenal these people are. I learned so many things from them. I literally had goose bumps when I had to do a scene with Sushmita Mukherjee, because she is just ferocious and can eat anyone up in front of the camera. I really love her, because she is just too sweet for words. Then I guess, I don't need anything to say about Seema Biswas. I really respect her and love her. She is so calm and dedicated; no one can divert her mind from work. She has got such endless, beautiful stories to tell. Madan Mohanji is like the Amitabh Bachchan of Nepal. He is very famous. Yet, being famous doesn't strike him. He is old, but I can't tell you, how funny he is. Then there was Tillotama Shome and Ratnabali Bhattacharyya. They are wonders. They helped me out in so many ways. They taught me so much about theatre. Then there were the actors and technicians from Hollywood. To be honest I had no idea about who Gillian Anderson or David Arquette was. And then when I googled them, I was like "OMG! They are THEY". I didn't get to know Gillian Anderson but yes David Arquette, I got to know him more. He is very serious about his work. Also, there was Parambrata Chatterjee.

Yeah so, I guess all my co-actors, like Neerja Naik, Sierah Royin, Himangshu Tyagi, Saksham Dayma; they were all amazing. I had the honour of working with all of them and I am so glad that I got the opportunity.

During the shooting of the film, did you even realize that you are a part of something very big and important?

Yes, I did. At the beginning I was not sure, I was confused and nervous. Later, I started to get the feel of it. I knew that this film was more than 'Big', more than 'Important'. I did for all the girls who are the victims of trafficking and I took the whole thing as a challenge. The whole cast and crew was so supportive. I always had fun while shooting. The whole unit became like a family. The director Jeffrey D Brown and the producer Jane Charles were so supportive and they helped me so much. And I thank them and love them from the core of my heart.

Have you ever faced the camera prior to doing this film?

Yes, I have, so I guess this made the process a little easy. I have done Assamese films and two Hindi films. One of them was a short film 'Main Ganga', which won the best short film award at the New York Film festival. It was directed by Jayashree Saikia. The other was by Jahnu Baruah, which eventually never got released. The name of the film was 'Butterfly Chase'. I have also done T.V. serials, but I prefer theatre and I just love doing it.

Now that you have started off in such a grand manner, would you consider acting as a profession in your future?

I would love to have acting as a profession but I also have this great desire of being a doctor.

How has been the reaction of your friends and dear ones towards you, now that you are quite famous?

My friends are like, "Niyar Saikia, the Hollywood star", but they know I never wanted this kind of stardom. They tease me a lot but they have strictly told me to be down-to-earth and not to forget them. I love them all. They don't talk much about my Hollywood venture, but they have helped me a lot. They just want free tickets to see the film (laughs). My relatives are like going crazy, they tell each and everyone about me. They are really encouraging and they love me very much. 'Maa' and 'deta' doesn't really talk about it but they are really excited about all this.

When will the people of North East get to see the film?

Hopefully in the first half of 2015. I hope everybody likes it, because there is so much hard work involved in the film.

Since the film is directed by Oscar winning director, Jeffrey D. Brown, do you have any secret Oscar dream that you want to come true?

For now, I want to walk the red carpet at the premiere of the film. I do dream about walking the red carpet at the Oscars, wearing a gown and posing for photographs, signing autographs and all, but winning an Oscar? No. It's just a stepping stone. You can't expect an Oscar right now.

Your favourite movie stars.

I LOVE SHAH RUKH KHAN. He is more than a favourite. I have grown up watching his movies. Among the Assamese movie actors I like Jatin Bora, Prastuti Parashar, Kapil Bora, Rabi Sharma, Zerifa Wahid. I totally adore Chetana Das, Arun Hazarika, Mridula Boruah. I admire Kajol and Vidya Balan. Apart from that, above all, I just can't stop loving the entire cast of Harry Potter. They are my REAL favourites. I can read the book and watch the movie over and over again. I also am a huge fan of Johnny Depp.

Any upcoming projects.

No, there are no upcoming projects right now. I would love to do theatre, but at the moment, I would like to concentrate on my studies.

Team Creativica wishes you all the best!

Thank you very much.

INTERVIEW

SANTANU HAZARIKA

05



“Taking the word ‘doodle’ seriously in his life, he started reflecting it in his art and finally hit the jackpot when his entry got selected in the Red Bull Doodle Art contest and he now will be representing India in Cape Town for the next round.”

Hello Santanu! Creativica welcomes you!

Hello Creativica, glad to be a part of this.

Firstly, heartiest congratulations to you from Creativica on being selected. You may deliver your vote of thanks now..

Thank you. Really appreciate it. This was only possible because of the immense support from each and everyone who appreciated my art from the time I started. My parents, my friends, my teachers, everyone, thank you for believing in me. I would also like to thank red bull for this great opportunity to show case my art in such a big global platform.

Though Google defines ‘doodle’ as scribbling absent-mindedly, all these sketches do not seem to spring out without much thought. Can you describe to us the ideas involved behind your selected doodle?

Well, there wasn't any preconception about the doodle. Technically, doodling is supposed to be something which is made when the mind is preoccupied by something else. The doodle that I made is basically the cumulative of various interpretation and analogies that I'm studying right now about Hinduism. Right now I'm heavily influenced by the Hindu art forms like Hindu calendar art. If you look at them, these calendar arts are somewhat like doodles (laughs), immensely detailed with endless symbolisms with each object having a deeper concept and imagery. This doodle shows a man embodying the universe itself of which he himself is the creator. He lives within 'Maya', he uses every means possible to understand and be certain about the uncertainties of nature, science being one of his tools. He realises Maya and sees through it, he seeks enlightenment, he wants to define Adi Seesha Ananta, the primal the void and the infinite, the six headed snake. He transcends and realises 'Prakriti' or nature, reaching out to a formless deity on top surrounded by four lotuses in the form of candles, illuminating it. That is just a small overview. There are other symbolisms in the doodle, but I leave that to you to decipher (laughs). I started off with a point in a light bulb in the bottom and ended up with this form.

Wow! That was completely beyond my bulb for sure! Though doodle is a newly coined term, when did you start sketching this genre of art?

I started doodling when I was in class 5.. I think. Just random things on my notebook, just mindless scribbling. Becoming an artist was the last thing in my mind. But slowly as I got older, I got better at channelling my thoughts through art. It had no boundary..no limitations. I could draw whatever I imagined, and that inspired me. You can draw a whale flying, a monkey with three heads, even a man with no soul, it didn't matter if these things are possible or even existed, just the fact that you can put in down on paper and see them visually, is the thing that inspired me the most.

I'm sure imagination helps a lot. What are your weapons of choice?

I mostly use pen and paper, fine-liners to be precise. But currently I'm experimenting with various mediums like soft pastels, acrylic, brush, digital media, spray paints and even tattoo machines. Shaman

Being an engineering student, were your parents supportive about your doodling?

Yes! They have always been supportive of whatever I did. Especially my mother. I owe all my achievements to them.

That's lovely..What do you think about the future of doodling in India, as a profession?

It's very hard to say. See, India has a very unpredictable market. Here artists are not given so much importance. You have to the very best to make a living out of it. There is a future but it will take time and a change, in general, in people's mindset. Appreciation is what we all need.

Where do you draw your inspirations from? What importance does books and movies hold in it..

I'm inspired by everything around me, nature, people, emotions everything. But mostly I'm inspired by visual media. Works by Salvador Dali have always questioned my imagination, and this has always inspired me. Movies specially the ones by Alejandro Jodorowsky, played a very important role in getting me inspired. I like to think of movies as work of art rather than just entertainment. Currently I'm drawing my inspiration from Hinduism- spirituality actually not religion, as I'm doing a in-depth study on Hinduism, I'm getting inspired at every step. Oh and yes! I'm also a huge anime fan!! Kanpai!!! (laughs)

Kanpai to you! Bottoms up! Well, my final question to you now.. So Cape Town finally! How's the feeling??

Awesome! This one word says it all. First thing I'm going to do is click a selfie with sharks (*laughs*). I will only get a few days to stay there so I will keep on exploring and exploring and make the most out of it.

Creativica wishes you all the best!

INTERVIEW

KOPIB BORA

06



“A great actor, a great presenter, a fine gentleman and recently, award winner of Filmfare East 2014 Best Actor for the movie Dwaar, Mr. Kopil Bora talks to Creativica about his journey and experiences so far in the film industry.”

Hello Kopil Bora. Creativica welcomes you!

My pleasure. Thank you very much Team Creativica.

As we all know that you are one of the most talented and versatile actor in this industry, could you tell us about your film career and its success?

See, I started my carrier as a theatre actor, my first play was “An Inspector Call”, then I did a play called “Romeo and Juliet” at Cotton College and also played “Purukh” by Arun Sarma and by god’s grace, one-day I met Mr. Bidyut Chakraborty, a very talented film maker. He introduced me as a debutant in his movie “Gun Gun Gane Gane” and that was my career’s turning point.

Well, about success, I will be successful when my journey will get over in this film industry, still a long way to go. I’m very positive of my works and always look forward.

Recently you were awarded one of the most prestigious award in this country, The Filmfare Awards East for the movie “Dwaar”. What were the thoughts that came to your mind when you finally held the award and got called in the dice to receive it?

First of all, it was really surprising and like a dream come true. I could not believe that it was me. But I must say, I am so happy for the award, because there were many other equally talented competitors in the ceremony. From my childhood, I've grown up watching Filmfare Awards either in magazines or on tv. It was a privilege to receive an award like Filmfare.

My role of a mentally challenged person was appreciated by all and yes it was really an honor to represent Assam in the award ceremony.

Sir, How many of your films have received national awards?

No, sorry I've not received any national award yet, although Filmfare Awards is my topmost achievement at national level till date.

Assamese film industry has lost its grip over its audience and has failed to attract people in multiplex or cinema halls. We found that about 30 percent of people aren't even aware about a new movie. How does it effect your career and the industry at large?

I won't say industry has lost its grip, the thing is our Assam government has to patronize our film industry. We need more mobile theatres, so that it can reach every corner of Assam or wherever it needs to be reach. I still remember those days when people came to watch movies in cinema halls from different villages, towns and cities. People didn't have T.V., computers, laptops, cell phones or whatever gadgets we have today. But yes, grip has lost a bit these days, but I hope that our film industry will shine again when we will make good movies, productive movies which will definitely attract the people to cinema halls. And as you know, few good and productive movies have released since the past two years, so I can say and hope, we will fight together against the bad days.

A professional actor/actress has good theatre experience. Does this involvement make your acting more natural on screen?

Theater is the real platform for acting to learn and feel it. Cinema and theater has lots of differences between them, in theaters we just get one chance to perform the role, there aren't any retakes. But in cinemas, we feel more confident to

deliver our dialogs and act. Cinema is related to technology and by using technology, we can present a story in a different way, probably much more beautifully. We learn about different kinds of shots, continuation, improvisation, angles performed in different places and whether as per the script's demand. An actor/actress needs to work hard for both theater and cinema, both are different and not replacements of each other. An actor/actress should be well aware of the depth of the story and the role he/she is going to play.

As a senior actor in this industry, what will be your suggestion and opinion towards the new comers ?

(Laugh), I don't think I'm senior enough to suggest someone, I'm still a learner, but yet I would like to urge the new comers that acting is a very difficult profession, it's not only all about glamour and money, it's a very bold and difficult task with lots of negative comments from people. You always have to be positive. You've to make acting as your passion. After completing your higher education, I will suggest you to take admission in a good acting institute. Involve yourself in school dramas, road plays, watch good films, observe the acting and dialogue deliveries, etc. A role speaks for every individual when it is depicted properly according to the script. So overall we work for society and this form of art is just marvelous. I wish them all the best.

Who is your God father or you can say your inspiration in this industry?

I can't name just one person. I have met and saw acting of many people in my life that inspired me a little or a lot. Like Mr. Balraj Sahini, Sanjeev Kumar, Amitabh Bachan, Nasiruddin Shah... you know the list of persons I will never be able to answer this question exactly, because I can't name one person (laughs) as they are legends, I also learned from my co-stars like Zarifa Wahid with whom I started my carrier as a debutant.

How do you see a regional (Assamese) actor/actress getting chance for a Bollywood Movie like Mr. Adil Hussain, Sima Biswas?

(Laugh) Adil Hussain and Sima *baideu* are inspiration to all the film lovers and actor/actress in Assam. Both have a very good theatre background as well. A passion for acting will take you to the height of success, just we need to focus and give a little time to this form of art and also grab the opportunity when it comes to us.

What are the upcoming projects you are working on presently?

Presently I'm working on a movie called 'Kotha Naadi' (The River of Fables) by debutant director Bhaskar Hazarika with co-stars Adil Hussain, Sima Biswas, Asha Bordoloi. I hope, this movie will receive positive response from the audiences, let's see what happens.

Sir, can we expect to see you in Bollywood Movies?

Ya, hope so, I would like to do a Bollywood project. But presently I'm busy with my schedules, so let's see when I can make out time for a Bollywood Movie (*sigh*).

Who is your favourite Co-star ?

OMG!! (laughs), I can't name a particular co-star, all my co-stars were very friendly and equally talented. Umm!! Zarifa Wahid, Asha Bordoloi, Rimpi Das, Tanvi are few of them whom I can name as my favorites and close ones.

What difference you find in Assamese film industry compared to other regional film industries in India?

I believe that there is a huge difference in this industry compared to other regional industries in India. Because the market in this region is small and for this we don't find any exposure. Our industry is running in financial shortage, therefore, our movies are technically weak. Our government should support film makers and actors in the industry to make a good productive movie.

My last question is "What kind of Locations you generally enjoy doing your shootings in and also prefer for your future projects?"

Locations do make a difference. Locations don't mean depicting glamour out here. A story always demands something new and creative, thus a location should be changed upon that. Shiv Prasad Thakur's 'Abhir Bhairav' was one such film which was shot totally in London (UK).

Thank you so much for your precious time sir. Team Creativica wishes you all the success in life.

My pleasure! I also wish the team of Creativica all the success for your newly launched e-magazine...thanks a lot!

INTERVIEW

GEETALI BARUAH

07



“A well established graphic designer, she presently is working in a leading publishing house based in New Delhi. She has worked in various regional, national as well as international projects. In this interview, she shares with us her passion for designing and journey of her designer career so far.”

Hello Geetali, Creativica welcomes you!

Thanks for having me here.

Tell us about your graphic designing career and education. What made you decide to be a graphic designer?

I started my full time career from 2009. I did some part-time design jobs before that when I was a student. I am a graduate in Advertising from Kamala Nehru College, Delhi University and I have a three years design and animation diploma from arena animation, South Ex, New Delhi.

I never decided to be a Graphic Designer; instead I was destined to be one. I am an artistic person by birth who likes to express whatever I see and feel around me. I may express through a poem, a painting or an article. The mediums vary but the art of expression remains. I love to play with colours and that pulled me into this profession.

I remember, from the very time I started understanding myself, I was always fascinated by the kind of work my uncle Mr. Amulya Baruah did (he is an established graphic designer of international repute in London) becoming a designer in 60's and 70's. Belonging to a small town Digboi in those years meant you only have limited access to the outside world. But he broke free and did it!. All these together made me a Graphic Designer.

Are you satisfied with your work as a Graphic Designer?

I feel I can never ever be satisfied with the work I do as a designer. This is so because I have realized that design keeps on evolving with more and more experience. So when I seat to see the work I have done till now, I see lots of imperfection which could have been done in a better way. I try to correct those in my next project but again, when I evolve as a designer, I see some more scope of improvement. As a result, complete satisfaction is impossible. However, I am satisfied that I am doing the kind of work that I enjoy doing.

Do you think a graphic designer should also be a good painter or sketcher?

How often you draw?

You don't need to be Leonardo or Picasso to be a graphic designer, but yes, I honestly think you need to be an average sketcher or a painter to be a graphic designer. If someone has the inborn trait of expression through art, then it definitely helps in meeting the commercial need of expression when you design anything for the client. However, the power of observation is far more important than the talent of drawing because as a designer one has to be productive with new ideas. If you keep drawing what Leonardo drew, then that painting will never be your original work. So no use being a sketcher or a painter without originality. So learn to observe as much as possible and then draw it out! I draw and paint whenever I get time out of my busy schedule.

How will you describe your work and what & who inspired you the most in your career?

My work is FUNNNNNNN and always NEW!!

I am inspired by three people in my life, my father Lt. Baikuntha Baruah, mother Lakhpriya Baruah and my khura (uncle) Amulya Baruah...

My parents inspired me to be a good and an efficient person in whatever I did...

And I am inspired by one and only Mr. Amulya Baruah to be a designer. Like I said before, I always wanted to do what he did and I always wanted to be like him. I believe he is the first Assamese who has achieved international acclaim as a graphic designer on global platform. I have heard the stories of his struggle in.

As a graphic designer, how much are you aware about your social responsibilities and how?

I have been aware of my social responsibilities from the very first day of my career.

I have always hated the concept of everyone calling himself/herself a graphic designer without even knowing what designing means! Drawing a shape and filling some colours into it does not mean you are a designer. Sorry for being harsh, but I feel one should have clear idea about this as almost every institute misleads students and somehow jeopardize the careers of youngsters.

I was called to speak in few seminars in Arena Animation, Panbazar, Guwahati. I have always said this to the students. I feel it is my moral responsibilities to show them the real picture that many a times institutes fail to show. It is better to be warned than left alone later when you actually need to begin the career.

I feel bringing in such awareness in students is also a major part of my social responsibility as a working designer who knows what the industry demands.

Which was your favorite and most challenging project so far and why?

Every project is challenging as it's very difficult to understand the client's mind and give a product accordingly that will satisfy the demand. In recent time my favourite projects were to design the book cover for a book title 'Holy Smoke, It's a Godman!' and the only coffee table book on Narendra Modi 'Being Modi'.

And my most challenging project was for a Saudi Arabia NGO, 'Students India'. I designed an illustrated book for them which was my first freelance work and had to be done and co-ordinate completely over the internet.

What do you love most about graphic designing?

The scope to think endlessly, both logical and weird....The scope to explore and express... both good and bad!

And also it's a profession that needs no office room. You can design from your bed, dining table etc... It's a profession that has no age bar or retirement age...

It keeps you alive as you always play with colours and beautiful images.

Which are the applications/software you use most often during a designing project?

I work mostly on Photoshop, Illustrators, Indesign, Corel and Quark.

Have you ever tried any open source graphic designing software such as GIMP, Inkscape? Do you think open source graphic designing software can replace paid software in the near future because they are absolutely free of cost?

No, I have not tried any of the open source designing software till now. Since I have not worked on them, it is hard to say whether they are good or bad, but I am pretty sure that any such software will have hard time in beating the key players like Adobe, Corel etc. Absolutely free may at times fail to deliver the up-to-date needs of a profession like graphic design whose needs are always growing. Paid software companies have experts who keep on adding new features to the software in their new versions. That might be missing in the free software!

The designing industry isn't static, everyday new techniques and trends pop up, how do you keep yourself up-to-date with such techniques and trends with your own way?

I read a lot over the internet and whenever possible I attend seminars like the one FICCI does yearly... I try to stay in touch with industry seniors...

How will you differentiate between print based projects and screen based projects? Which one do you prefer most?

I mostly work for print based projects. I prefer it more...but no particular reason why I prefer it more... I believe it's just a matter of choice!

I think there is more flexibility in screen based projects as that can be changed more often and moreover there is scope of instant correction and re-upload without incurring much monetary loss. Whereas, in print if something is printed and then an error is found, one will have to exhaust or dispose that total quantity and then re-print, which at times may lead to huge monetary loss too...

What is your opinion on present print media industry of North East India? How much has the designing industry evolved in the region compared to the past?

I was in The Sentinel Newspaper in Guwahati from 2009 to 2011. At that time I did not see much improvement in print media industry. But again I started to like a few new magazines coming up, which had freshness in design and the articles. I think print media industry is way behind in North-East compared to other parts of India. It has a long way to go!

What can one learn as a professional graphic designer that can't be taught in institutions?

In institutes you learn what your teacher teaches! But as a professional graphic designer, you learn so many things from so many people around you. Like from your seniors, clients, boss etc.. You learn that everyone expects different things out of you and trust me, most of the time they expect the most cliché and weird things. You learn to change their choices for the better and convince them to accept what is actually a good design. You learn to fight to bring in the good design!

What is your biggest dream regarding graphic designing and how near are you to realizing it?

I do not know...

I have a dream to have a design consultancy firm named 'Creator's Avenue' one day. Although I have a Facebook page of that name, I am still far from realizing it in reality. One day I hope to have lots of clients who will run after my design consultancy firm..lolzzz

Any suggestion for graphic designing students?

Yes, do not just learn the tools, but learn to observe and create ideas. Do not take up the profession just because your friend did, instead judge yourself whether you are in the right profession or not?

It was nice talking to you. Creativica wishes you all the best!

My Pleasure and I wish team Creativica a bright future and let this be the website with maximum clicks from viewers from all around the world.

BTW I like the name 'Creativica'...sounds CREATIVE!

INTERVIEW

KHANJAN KISHORE NATH

08



Hailing from a village in Assam, Khanjan Kishore Nath is yet another inspirational example of a dynamic personality who has proved that making dreams come true cannot always be marred by shortage of finance. He made the first ever crowd-funded film of Assam called Saknoia, which has won accolades all over.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Basically I would love to introduce myself as a “village filmmaker”. I was born in a hilly village of Karbi Anglong called Baithalangso in the year of 1985. There, I spent 16 years of my life. Those years were the best years of my life. It gave me vast experience about life, nature and people. I think I am very down to earth, and can connect extremely well with village life and villagers.

Education details – schooling, college and after.

I completed my schooling in my village Baithalangso. After that I came to Nagaon, which is a small town, to pursue further studies. I wanted to study arts but my father forced me to join Science stream. So I took up Science ; but due to lack of interest, I failed in it. Thus I lost three years and again joined Arts. After getting done with H.S., I came to Guwahati. I wanted to study Literature as a major subject but again my father forced me to join BBA. And so, I took admission in BBA in NERIM. I passed out in 2009. After that I went to Mumbai to pursue film making course. I joined the Zee Institute of Media Arts, for a course in Direction. But before doing this course, I had already made three short films.

The institute gave me an environment which inspired me a lot. After completing the course I came back to Assam and completed Masters in Communication and Journalism from Gauhati University.

What initially interested you into film making?

When I was a school boy, I used to watch Bhaona (traditional form of entertainment in Assam) in my village. But it did not attract me due to its unorganized manner. In our village there was a cinema hall made by bamboo. We were not allowed to go there. But there, for the first time, I watched the Assamese film "Haladhiya Sarai Bao Dhan Khai" by Jahnu Barua in big screen. I was completely surprised to see the big, moving pictures! May be that was the first time, when I felt an interest towards film making. When I used to come to Nagaon, every Friday I used to watch films in the cinema hall and gradually my interest towards films began to rise. During that time an organization held a film festival in Nagaon and I got the opportunity to watch all the films screened. Actually that was the turning point for me. It changed my entire perception of films. It gave me the chance to understand what films actually mean and brought me to the field of realistic films.

What does film making mean to you?

For me film making is not about just making some visuals. This is the one of the most creative ways of art. I have some stories to tell which I can construct through camera only. I can't write a story through pen. So for me this is the easiest way to tell a story.

What inspires you? How do you define your work?

I think the first inspiration comes from our own hearts. There are lots of people and lots of small incidents which have inspired me. My village, my people and my culture have always inspired me a lot. Every small incident that happens in my life also inspires me. Whenever I think of some concept, the first thing that comes to my mind is my village. That's why I always go to my village. The green Tika hills, and the Barpani River inspire me emotionally all the time. The works of legendary filmmakers like Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Akira Kurosawa, Wong Kar-wai, Kim Ki duk and others help me to understand the medium of cinema. Their magical style of cinema-making teaches me the art.

My works are very simple and straight forward, as well as village oriented. I think my work reflects my life. Cinema is also a part of life. It reflects our society, thoughts, culture etc. My cinema is not different from all these. For me, I don't want to define my cinema as an Assamese cinema. Yes, my films are in Assamese language, but I would love to say that my approach of film making is world cinema only.

Please brief your work profile as a film maker from inception till date.

My Works

Movie Name	Category	Year
The Quest (Surjya Sandhan)	Short Film	2006
Twilight (Oporahno)	Short Film	2007
The Horizon (Khuj)	Short Film	2008
If	Short Film	2010
The River Flows (Saknoia)	Short Film	2013

Achievements

All the short films were selected for various film festivals like the Indian Film Festival Stuttgart/Germany, Madurai International Short Film Festival, Vibgyor International short Film Festival, National Student Film Festival, Cinemela Film Festival etc.

01. "The Bicycle" was selected for FILM BAZAAR organized by International Film Festival of India (IFFI 2011).
02. "The Bicycle" was invited to PRODUCER'S LAB organized by International Film Festival of Rotterdam 2012
03. "If" won best student film award in Global Short Film Festival 2012 in Bangalore and Won Best Director, Best Cinematographer & Best Actor in R.A.I.T Film Festival at D.Y. Patil University.
04. "Saknoia" was selected for various film festivals such as Indian Film Festival Stuttgart/Germany, Baghdad International Film Festival, Iraq, 5thCMS International Children's Film Festival 2013, etc.

How did the concept of "Saknoia" come to you?

From my personal point of view, "Saknoia" is not really an exceptional film, except from one point. The exceptional point is that it is the first ever Assamese crowd funding film. The concept of "Saknoia" is very simple. Before deciding the finance for the film, I had fixed the location and arranged requirements for production. I didn't have a single penny, so I decided not to invest money; and that was why I selected the particular concept. I used the villagers as actors in my film.

How did you come up with the idea of crowd-funding? And how was the response?

I really wanted to make the film but I didn't have funds. Also, nobody wants to invest 20 thousand rupees for a short film.

But I wanted to make it anyhow. So I made an appeal on Facebook, asking people to donate bucks for my film. I “inboxed” my friends on Facebook. The concept of crowd-funding is not new in the field of cinema. Films of such kind have been made earlier in India and abroad. But in Assam “Saknoia” has been the first step.

In the initial stage people did not show interest towards my appeal. Some people even doubted that I might use the money to run some kind of business. Still some people supported me. I got funds from people belonging to Assam, Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Aurangabad and Dubai. I think I received great response from the people.

What kind of impact has “Saknoia” made in your life?

“Saknoia” is a special film for me for various reasons. Earlier I made short films without any proper distribution, marketing and promotion. “Saknoia” is not only the first ever crowd funding film in Assam, but also the first Assamese short film that was properly distributed online. “Saknoia” was picked up by Pocket Films from Mumbai for distribution. In terms of promotion, this short film got good response from the media also. Not to forget, this film gave me an opportunity to attend a prestigious film festival in Germany, from where I learn a lot.

Current projects?

Right now I am working on my next short film “Apunsir”. It is in Karbi language. This is going to be the first ever Karbi short film. After this I am going to start my first feature film “THE BICYCLE” (CHOR). Hopefully the project can go on floor in April this year.

How has your work experience been?

For me film making is not about glamour. During these years I have learnt a lot of things regarding film making. Sometimes it gives pleasure, and sometimes it gives me sorrow. Till now I have been making short films without any financial support. This gives the advantage of zero barriers from the producer. Most importantly, the results and the responses always give me immense pleasure when my films are screened in festivals.

Your future plans?

Future is always uncertain. Still we plan a lot. Right now my complete concentration is on my Karbi short film. After that, shooting “The Bicycle” (Chor) will be the main priority. This project was already selected in Film Bazaar in International Film Festival of India 2011 and also invited to International Film Festival of Rotterdam 2012. There are some other ambitious projects in my mind. I am planning to make a film on Humen Barguhain’s controversial novel “Subala” and another Karbi feature film. Hope everything will go according to my plan.

How would you rate your journey so far?

I have been a student of cinema till now. I am trying to learn more about cinema, as much as possible. Till date I have been able to learn just the "A B C.." of cinema . The world of Cinema is vast. I am just a newborn baby in this world.

Any message for aspiring film makers?

I am also an aspiring filmmaker from Assam. So I don't have that much experience or knowledge to give any message. I would like to say that language is not a very crucial factor for a good film. We can go everywhere in this world with a film of our own language. For that we just need a really good concept.

INTERVIEW

KENNY BASUMATARY

09



The name Kenny Basumatary is synonymous with Local KungFu. The film has won hearts of people not just in Assam, but all over the country. But Kenny is a lot more than the extremely talented guy who acted in and directed the film. He is nothing short of a Polymath. He is a trained martial artist, has written a book, got into IIT, and then left it to pursue his own dreams.

Hello Kenny Basumatary. Creativica welcomes you! From what I heard, you had a gratifying childhood amongst comics. Please tell us more about little Kenny.

I was a loner as a kid, with no friends till class VI. So I used to read all the time – Tinkle, Amar Chitra Katha, Indrajal, Archie, Asterix, Tintin – whatever I could lay my hands on. Whenever I used to go to somebody's house the first thing I used to ask was whether they had any comics. My birthday gifts also were usually books and comics.

You landed a dream seat at IIT- Delhi that lakhs of Indian teens spill sweat over, but then you gave it up with a “Humse Naa Ho Payega” attitude. Was it the pressure or that your interests were waving in another direction? Also do tell us about your opinion regarding the ‘doctor/engineering only’ option being picked by today’s teens or forced on them by their parents.

I sweated and toiled for two years to get in. When the results came out – my rank was ST-25 – I thought okay that's it, life is made. But little did I know that I would have to grind my arse in equal measure, if not more than during the HS years. The very first textbook I laid my hands on in IIT Delhi – an Applied Mechanics text – shocked me. My eyes nearly popped out when I saw all the super long formulae. In exams, we were actually given formulae sheets but I still couldn't apply them.

I spent most of my time in music, drama etc. At the beginning of every semester I would resolve to do well, but gradually that determination started wavering and the backlog of failed courses started piling up. I must have set new records in failed courses. Looking back, since I never wanted to be an engineer anyway and always wanted to go to FTII, I should have gone to Kirorimal College instead and done lots of plays there. But at that time there was no internet, so there was no way of knowing how to go about things.

It's understandable that parents would want their children to have a safe, secure life. And it's true that many children are forced into doing engineering, but one must also keep in mind that the kind of happy ending they show for Madhavan's character in 3 Idiots is a very exceptional one. If a person wants to make their mark in a risky field, they had better be very very good and not just think that they're good because of a few likes on Facebook. Otherwise, stick to a normal life path that'll pay your rent and put food on the family table.

After this, you moved to Mumbai and Bollywood Nonsensex happened. Tell us about it. What were your other initial ventures in Mumbai?

I've acted in about a dozen ads till now, written dialog for Fired, a Rahul Bose horror film that hasn't been released, done small bits in Luv Ka The End and Shanghai.

Then, in 2011, you came out with your novel "Chocolate Guitar Momos". How did it fare?

The first print run of 5000 copies has sold out. The second run's out now.

How is it different from Chetan Bhagat's material? And has it really been influenced from your personal life experiences?

Why why why? Why compare with Chetan Bhagat, of all the people? If I had a couple of lakhs to spare on a PR budget and some marketing gyaan, I probably could sell some more copies too. There are several great writers in India – Amitav Ghosh, Siddhartha Sarma, Swati Kaushal – just off the top of my head. They're fabulous writers but they don't go about selling themselves like many of these MBA authors, which is what most people tend to get to know about. Whenever I look at the top 10 shelves in bookstores and see some books with really horrible writing and ghastly dialog, I feel like grabbing people by the collar and telling them, "These books are crap!"

Chocolate Guitar Momos is almost all fictional, apart from the incident of the girl at the bus stop and a few other events.

The next step that you took, as we all know, has changed your life completely and made you a star overnight. Local Kung Fu! When you made it, did you ever imagine that the film would go on to become such a cult among the Assamese movie going public? Tell us about your experiences and lessons with this zero-budget film.

I did expect that the film would go on to become popular, but not to the extent that every young person in Assam seems to have seen it. I would probably have to write a whole book on the experience of making the film. But I'd like to say I've been very lucky to have so many things come together in my life – like having a mama who teaches Kung Fu, being friends with his students, having parents who bankrolled it and a brother who's a professional musician, friends who guided me in technical matters, cousins who are natural actors, etc. The most important lessons that I've learnt are to have a tight script and to not compromise on finding good actors.

Assamese films don't get much running time in theatres. What, according to you, is the root cause of the problem?

Most Assamese films are still stuck in the 80s. Sensibilities and techniques need to be modernized. Also, there doesn't seem to be much support from the government. Raag, which was produced by the state government itself, was bullied out of theatres in the second week by some distributor of Gunday sitting in Kolkata. It was very surprising that the sorkar couldn't protect its own film.

Ok. Now the last one on LKF: You have earned terrific fame as a filmmaker for LKF. You even made it to the first regional Filmfare Awards. Response from the audience had been more than overwhelming. But, it also seems that they have bracketed you within this genre only and somewhere your image seems to be stuck with LKF. Does it bother you? Or do you take it as an advantage?

I don't have any image that I know of. I've made only one film.

What were your works post-LKF?

Confessions of an Indian Teenager on Channel V – 9 episodes. An educational short film for children, called Myna & Asterix. And also some music videos.

Who do you attribute to, as a source of your inspiration?

Among writers – P G Wodehouse, Helen Fielding, Frederick Forsyth, Lee Child, Steig Larsson; Actors – Gary Oldman, Boman Irani, Om Puri; Directors – Edgar Wright, Bong Joon-Ho, Jae Hyung Kwak, Spielberg, David Fincher, James Cameron, Dibakar Banerjee, Shimit Amin.

Can you tell us about your role in Priyanka Chopra starrer - Mary Kom?

I play her husband Onler's friend Jimmy. The real life Jimmy is Mary's manager. I'm the occasional comic relief.

Any more upcoming projects?

I'm acting in Tigmanshu Dhulia's Yaara, starring Vidyut Jammwal, Amit Sadh, Vijay Varma and Shruti Hassan.

Team Creativica wishes you all the best!

Thanks.

INTERVIEW

MANAS SARKAR

10



“Manas Sarkar an RHCE (Red Hat Certified Engineer) as well as security consultant and software & web developer. He worked in numerous significant projects.”

Hello Manas, Creativica welcomes you!

Hello Team Creativica.

Tell us about your education and career in web development.

I have done my Masters in Information Technology as well as two certification courses in DNIIT and RHCE. I am associated with the IT industry from the last 8 years and currently working in a research project as a System Analyst at Bioinformatics Infrastructure Facility, College of Veterinary Science, Guwahati. I started my professional career as a freelance developer and IT security consultant in the year 2006, just after completing my graduation.

What made you decide to be a web developer?

I am addicted to computer and Internet. From my college days itself, I used to browse lot of websites and was a regular reader of computer magazines like Digit and Chip. The more I learnt about new technologies, the more I got addicted. I

was fascinated about how the web pages are getting displayed from a remote server machine, how the contents are so nicely placed with eye-catching images and animations, how our queries are responded by web applications, etc. The passion to give life to my ideas in the form of software or web application pushed me towards being a web developer.

For a long time you have been in the field of web development; tell us about your experiences in the industry, specially in North East India.

The time when I started my career as a freelance developer, there were only a few IT firms which were offering web development service in North East India. At that time minimum charge for developing a website was something around 25 to 30 thousand. But with the years, the scenario has changed a lot. Now in Guwahati itself there are so many web development firms. Now some of the firms are offering web development service for as low as 2000 bucks only. Competition is very high in the market. But from the perspective of job seekers the scenario is more or less the same. There are so many web development firms but comparatively the number of openings is very less as there are no giant players in the market. I hope in near future some of the reputed IT companies will start their operation in North East India and will create more and more opportunities for the new web developers in North East India. This region has a large pool of well qualified work force.

You are a web developer as well as a security analyst. How tough and challenging is it to make a website vulnerable free?

Security is only a state of mind. Nobody can develop a 100% secure system. While we are discussing this topic here, someone in some part of the world might be developing a new attack for your website. You actually can't even guess at which point your application will be attacked and what new vulnerability someone might have discovered, because web applications can be accessed from any corner of the world through Internet. It's really a tough task to be always updated with the latest vulnerabilities and their countermeasure. The only thing you can do is check your application regularly to find out vulnerabilities and update all your application with latest security updates. Being a security analyst is a tough task as you don't know what risk your application might face the next second and to secure that you might have to do hours of R&D. It needs lots of patience.

What do you love most about web development?

When I see people using the applications I develop, I get delighted. I can see my imagination come alive. It's really a pleasure for me that I can actually develop the solutions I visualize.

What has been your most challenging project till date?

Every project brings new and unique challenges. It's hard to compare all the projects as they are from various domains. But I remember a specific one; one of my client's website got hacked by a Pakistani hacking group. Restoring that website by mitigating all the vulnerability was an exciting challenge I faced.

Please mention some of your significant web projects that make you feel proud.

Some of the projects developed and maintained by me are – www.vetbifguwahati.ernet.in, www.babrone.edu.in, www.mpgt-salmonella.res.in, www.aromacoaching.co.in, www.topplast.co.in, www.angelassociates.co.in, Patshala (a web based ERP for school management), etc.

What are the programming and markup languages that you are familiar with? Which ones do you like most?

I am familiar with most of the popular programming, scripting and markup languages. Some of them are – PHP, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, AJAX, ASP.Net, VB Script, VB.Net, C, C++, C#, Java, JSP, XML, UML, WML, etc. All of them have their own pros and cons and are used in different scenario. But, the language I like most is PHP.

How do you differ web development from web designing?

Development and designing are closely related to each other; they are like two sides of a coin. Without one the other might not get the exact amount of appreciation. I wrote an article showing the difference of these two closely related terms.

Do you think that a web developer also should have some knowledge of web designing?

Of course they should. They should have sound knowledge of designing because without an eye catching design it's not possible to attract traffic for your web application. If you have gone through the article link I mentioned in the Manaswer for the previous question, then till now you have got my view on this question.

What can one learn as a professional web developer that can't be taught in institutions?

Education and experience are two different things. What is taught in Institutions is only an eye opener and mostly is like beginners guide. When you become professional you will face the real challenge and will learn to solve the practical problems. Whatever you have learned in institutions will always help you as base knowledge; the rest of the problem solving techniques needs to be acquired by you. That's why tech giants always prefer experienced professionals.

There are quite a few institutes in North East India that teach web

development and designing, do you think they fulfill the needs of an aspiring web developer or designer?

Not all of them. Only one or two of the many institutions are doing well as per my knowledge. Most of the institutes lack qualified teachers and their course contents are also not updated.

You are familiar with Windows as well as Linux, one is closed source and the other is open source. Which one do you prefer most and why?

(Laughs) I am an RHCE (Red Hat Certified Engineer), what answer can you expect from me?! It's definitely Linux! It is much more secure and cost effective. You have independence to tweak anything as it is open source. If I start, I will give a very long explanation about why I prefer Linux! *(laughs)* Let's skip it for now.

Do you think that in the near future, the open source technologies will overcome the closed source technologies?

Not exactly. Both will coexist. But in future, market share of closed source technologies will surely go down.

It is a funny fact that being a web developer or you might say if you know anything about computers, people expect a lot many things from you, they might even call you to repair their computers or cell phones! How do you handle all these?

Yes, It's a really funny thing I face every day. But I love to help people. They ask stupid questions because of lack of knowledge. I try to solve their problems, *(laughs)* but many a time I have given addresses of service centers as solution.

It was nice talking to you. Creativica wishes you all the good luck for a great journey ahead!

Thanks a lot. I wish Team Creativica good luck. I hope for more traffic and success for your website. It's really a nice initiative by the team. Keep up with the good work and the creativity!

INTERVIEW

RANJAN ENGTI (ENGTICODE)

11



The name Ranjan Engti (Engticode) is now almost synonymous with the event Metropolis ASIA. He has become a cult hero of sorts for aspiring young creative minds, both in the North East and beyond, organising such vigorous, exciting and ethnic festivals in Assam and bringing the world to the North-eastern region of the country.

Hello Ranjan Engti! Creativica welcomes you!

Hello and thank you very much!

You and Creativica share a lot in common – thirst for creativity and networking. Tell us how your childhood has influenced your present career choices.

As a child the brush strokes and colours fascinated me more than any other thing and Nature made me happy. Now when I look back it seems as if I am born to play with colours.

People mostly relate you to Metropolis ASIA. But there's more to you! How would you describe your profession?

METROPOLIS is the name of a painting series I did in 2010-2011. The concept of the entire event started with this series. And now when people relate me to METROPOLIS...That is sheer happiness!! I am a visual artist. That is my profession, or rather you can say, my first love; my life is all about art and colours.

Apart from Metropolis ASIA, you have also worked in other festivals and events. Tell us about them.

I get attracted to events that I can associate with emotionally. Apart from my event METROPOLIS all the other events that I am associated with like the KARBI YOUTH FESTIVAL which is one of the largest ethnic festivals, ZIRO FESTIVAL OF MUSIC, the TIBET FESTIVAL and all the other welfare / issue based campaigns under the Administration that I work with, are very close to my heart.

How crucial is the cooperation of the State Administration in these welfare projects?

Without the support and co-operation of the State Administration none of the welfare projects would have been possible. Their guidance, their support and their encouragement made us go the right way.

You have with yourself a talented and responsible team. Can you tell us about the key members in your team who have helped you in these joyous celebrations?

Indeed. You can call this my destiny to have got such a dynamic and talented team. All of them are equally important. All my events including METROPOLIS ASIA wouldn't have been possible without the collective effort of my young, vibrant and talented team. Their support makes me strong. They are the ones who motivate me. A mere Thank You doesn't seem enough to express my gratitude to each and every member of my team for the brilliance, for the hard work and of course for standing by me during tough times.

I have noticed that in the events you organize, disaster is a key issue your team always highlights. I find it very impressive. Please tell us...why Disaster Management amongst other issues?

Disaster Management is an issue in which people lack the adequate and correct knowledge. It is an issue that every individual must know and spread information. Through our campaign we made an effort to spread the awareness.

The promotion of Metropolis ASIA 2015 also saw the involvement of colleges and other institutions..

That is the story all about. Involvement of young minds and young talent. Their creativity, their participation, their story indeed is METROPOLIS!

Metropolis ASIA 2014 was a big success and was warmly greeted by the people of Guwahati. What is there in store for us in Metropolis ASIA 2015? Can you tell us about the central attractions?

METROPOLIS ASIA 2014 was a dream turned into reality. The warmth, the participation and the love people showered to this event can't be described in words. My team who put in a brilliant effort made the event a huge success. And the success made us work even harder for this year. We have come up with new ideas, new creativity and a lot of new talent and this time we're trying to explore beyond boundaries. Besides talent from the region and beyond we'll also have with us artists and musicians from Russia, Siberia, US, etc. So this year the celebration will be bigger and more colourful. You can log into our website for more info or can follow us on Twitter @metropolis_asia or on Instagram - metropolisasia.

Do you think in the future, Metropolis ASIA can provide a platform for the local youths?

Why future? It is indeed providing a platform for the young minds and talent. The main idea behind METROPOLIS is the youth. Their identity and their story. Hopefully in the future this will only go beyond boundaries.

Leave a message for our readers..

METROPOLIS ASIA is the celebration of your identity. It is the celebration of your urban story. Be a part of the celebration on the 9th, 10th and 11th of January, 2015 at Shraddhanjali Kannan, Guwahati.

Thank you for the time. Creativica wishes you and Metropolis ASIA 2015 best wishes!

Thanks a lot! Shine on Creativica!

INTERVIEW

KARABI SARMA

12



Newcomer actress Karabi Sarma talks about her debut film, Saya, her love for dancing and the mantra to success in an exclusive interview with Creativica.

Hello Karabi. Creativica welcomes you!

Thank you so much.

OK! So your first film, SAYA! How does it feel?

Oh yes!! My first film SAYA...It feels just so awesome, an out of the world experience! I experienced a lot...and learnt so much about the art of acting. I never imagined that I would get to work on a film...I feel very lucky that I got this great opportunity.

How was your experience working with director, Rohon Patar?

It was a great experience working with Rohon Patar. He is an amazing person. He encouraged me a lot for taking up my role. He taught me quite comprehensively. He is really good at direction.

How did you work up the ladder to the world of acting? Your approach towards acting?

I entered my acting career in 2011. Initially I acted in many music videos and albums. I acted in a documentary serial as a supporting actress and then I took up a role in a short film. This way I learnt more and mastered more in my roles. Finally, SAYA happened.

You have been known to be a mesmerizing dancer. Tell us about your feathers in the cap of dancing.

I was introduced to this art from a very tender age. I love dancing and am very passionate about it. I participated in a lot of competitions and bagged the 1st prize in most of them. Then I participated in a reality dance show, Super Dancer, where I finished the finale in the 7th position. This was really a big achievement for me in the state level. I passionately love dancing and in future too, I have no plans to give up on it.

Your activities apart from that?

I am pursuing B.Com. in Dispur College. I also have a keen interest in taking up print modelling. In the recent years, I have already done around 3-4 assignments. I am an adventurous traveller too. And not to mention, I am an extreme shopaholic. *(laughs)*.

What is the role of your family in your career?

My family has been very supportive towards me. Especially my mother, has always stood by my side. My parents never criticized me. Infact, they have always pushed me beyond my boundaries and helped me achieve my goal.

How do you see yourself 10 years from now?

10 years from now, I see myself as an well-known actress. I will keep working hard in this arena. I plan on taking more challenging and versatile roles.

Your message to aspiring actors?

Well! I can only say that nothing pays like hard work and dedication. If you have passion and talent in you, then just follow the right path and you will definitely achieve your goal. Always be positive.

Thank you for your time. Creativica wishes you all the very best!

It's been a pleasure speaking about me through Creativica. THANK YOU!!

THE GUYS BEHIND THE INTERVIEWS



Spondan Bora

A Planning Engineer by profession. A movie freak and a humorous writer. PR Strategist at Creativica.

Interviews taken by Spondan - Rajni Basumatary, Santanu Hazarika, Ranjan Engti (Engticode),

Karabi Sarma, Kenny Basumatary



Ananya Chakraborty

Student of film studies. Loves Bollywood. Aspires to be a film journalist.

Interviews taken by Ananya - Anuraag Saikia



Nilotpal Singa

A professional Graphic & Web designer, blogger,. Founder, CEO, Designer & Writer in Creativica.

Interviews taken by Nilotpal - Nituparna Rajbongshi, Geetali Baruah, Manas Sarkar



Migang David Lagachu

A freelance writer and blogger. Passed out from Tezpur University and presently serving Creativica as an author.

Interviews taken by Migang - Niyar Saikia



Prasenjit Deb

Freelance photographer, writer and a student of mass communication.

Interviews taken by Prasenjit - Kopil Bora



Ruptrishna Nath

A student of Media Technologies, hobbyist photographer and writer. Sub-editor at Creativica.
(Her place will always be reserved in Creativica.).

Interviews taken by Ruptrishna - Khanjan Kishore Nath

THE APPENDIX

Further Reading

All the above interviews are compiled version of the original web edition on our website and the interview texts may vary from the original web version. You can read them directly on our website by clicking on the links given bellow -

01. **Rajni Basumatary** - <http://bit.ly/rajni-basumatary>
02. **Anuraag Saikia** - <http://bit.ly/anuraag-saikia>
03. **Nituparna Rajbongshi** - <http://bit.ly/nituparna-rajbongshi>
04. **Niyar Saikia** - <http://bit.ly/niyar-saikia>
05. **Santanu Hazarika** - <http://bit.ly/santanu-hazarika>
06. **Kopil Bora** - <http://bit.ly/kopil-bora>
07. **Geetali Baruah** - <http://bit.ly/geetali-baruah>
08. **Khanjan Kishore Nath** - <http://bit.ly/khanjan-kishore-nath>
09. **Kenny Basumatary** - <http://bit.ly/kenny-db>
10. **Manas Sarkar** - <http://bit.ly/manas-sarkar>
11. **Ranjan Engti (Engticode)** - <http://bit.ly/ranjan-engti>
12. **Karabi Sarma** - <http://bit.ly/karabi-sarma>