



## **1000 RUPEE NOTE**

**(Ek Hazarachi Note)**

**A film by Shrihari Sathe**

International Film Festival of India, Winner Special Jury Award (Silver Peacock), Centenary Award for Best Film

Maharashtra State Film Awards, Winner Best Film, Best Director, Best Actress (Special Mention) and Best Supporting Actor

2014 / India / 89 min. / Color / in Marathi w/ English subtitles

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## **Synopsis:**

Budhi, a widow lives in a small village in Maharashtra, India. Her only son, a young farmer, has committed suicide. Though poor and left alone in the world, she leads a cheerful life. She is particularly fond of her neighbor, young Sudama with whom she shares the small pleasures of life. A local politician gives her a few 1000 Rupee notes at an election rally. She and Sudama go shopping to the nearby market with her newfound wealth, but fate has other plans for them.

## **Director's Statement:**

With *1000 Rupee Note* (original title *Ek Hazarachi Note*), I wanted to challenge myself by telling the story of a passive character that bears a strong resemblance to Indian rural society; a society where people perpetually wait for something nice to happen to them. With a fair share of both charming and dubious characters, I have tried to put forth a simple narrative that feels part neo-realist and part dark fairy tale. Cinema is the confluence of many arts but it also relies heavily on human emotion- the need to be entertained and ultimately to be moved. I wanted to create an immersive experience by providing the audience access to the characters' world both visually and aurally.

I believe that the universality of a story must flow from the specificity of the region and the language. The movie unfolds in a rural setting of a poor farming community in central India. Many farmers in this region are reported to have committed suicide due to poverty, indebtedness and despondency over vagaries of nature. Budhi is a widow and mother of one such farmer. Her story is essentially what can happen to a villager anywhere in contemporary India. The movie follow a minimalist approach in the use of its background score and original songs and captures the simplicity within the rural life in Maharashtra.

## **About the Production:**

*1000 Rupee Note* is not only my feature directorial debut but also my first production in India. I've produced a few narrative features in the U.S. and over a dozen short films in half a dozen countries around the world.

Shooting in India had its fair share of advantages and challenges (mainly the summer heat and noise). After scouting numerous villages and small towns we zeroed in on two villages and a small town a couple of hours by road from Pune, an ever-expanding city in Maharashtra. We shot the film for 21 days in April-May 2013.

Despite the universality of the story in the Indian and South Asian context, I chose to retain the specificity of language- Varhadi, a dialect of Marathi that is spoken in Eastern Maharashtra. We held casting auditions in Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur, three major cities in Maharashtra. It was challenging to find an actress who could play late 60s in age. Despite being a working actress in the Indian film & television industry for over 30 years, Usha Naik agreed to audition for the part and after a couple of meetings I knew that I found Budhi! The rest of the cast was rounded out with well-known film, television and theater actors.

We shot the movie on the RED MX camera with Red Pro Prime lenses. My dear friend and long time collaborator Ming Kai Leung was the cinematographer. India's National Award-winning composer, Shailendra Barve composed the soulful background score and songs. Despite the limited resources and low budget I challenge myself to create something that is emotionally, visually and aurally rich. *1000 Rupee Note* highlights the simple aspirations of the poor while exposing the ruthless ambitions and avarice of those who wield power.

## **About the Director Shrihari Sathe:**

Shrihari Sathe is a New York and Mumbai-based independent filmmaker and producer. Sathe produced Jaron Henrie-McCrea's *Pervertigo* which world premiered at the 2012 Warsaw and Mumbai film festivals and was a part of the 2011 IFP Independent Filmmaker Labs. Sathe's follow up production Eliza Hittman's *It Felt Like Love* world premiered at 2013 Sundance Film Festival and 2013 International Film Festival Rotterdam to great reviews. He a 2015 Independent Spirit Award nominee and is a 2013 Sundance Institute Creative Producing Fellow. Sathe has received fellowships from the HFPA, PGA, IFP, Film Independent, and Sundance Institute to name a few.

Sathe is a Trans Atlantic Partners fellow (2013) and Cannes Producer's Network fellow (2014-2016). He is a co-producer on Partho Sen-gupta's *Arunoday (Sunrise)* which world premiered at the 2014 Busan International Film Festival and Afia Nathaniel's *Dukhtar (Daughter)* which world premiered at 2014 Toronto International Film Festival. Sathe's feature directorial debut – *1000 Rupee Note (Ek Hazarachi Note)* won the Special Jury Award and Centenary Award for Best Film at the 45<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India and has received over 30 awards including several Best Film and Best Director awards. Sathe's latest production Elisabeth Subrin's *A Woman, A Part* world premiered at 2016 IFF Rotterdam. He recently finished post-production on Ed Blythe's *Man With Van* (2011 Film Independent Producers Lab). Sathe is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University's School of the Arts. He is a member of the Producers Guild of America, Indian Motion Picture Producers Association and Film Writers Association – India.

## **Awards:**

International Film Festival of India- Special Jury Award (Silver Peacock), Centenary Award for Best Film

Maharashtra State Film Awards- Best Film, Best Director, Best Actress (Special Mention), Best Supporting Actor

Sanskriti Kala Darpan Puraskar- Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Actress (Special Mention)

Prabhat Puraskar- Best Story, Best Screenplay, Best Dialogue, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Art Director, Best Costume

ImagineIndia International Film Festival (Spain)- Best Director

Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival- Best Director (Jury Award)

Pune International Film Festival- Best Screenplay- Marathi film  
Best Actor- Marathi film

Chitra Padarpan Puraskar- Best Film, Best Director

Life OK Screen Awards- Best Actress

Kohinoor Ma Ta Sanman- Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor

Doordarshan Sahyadri Cine Awards- Best Story, Best Actress (Special Mention), Best Lyrics

Fiji International Film Festival (FIJI)- Best Film- Social Relevance

Ischia Film Festival (Italy)- Best Film

Dadasaheb Phalke Awards- Best Actress (Critics Choice), Best Story

Marathi Filmfare Awards- Best Actress (Special Mention)

Nashik International Film Festival- Best Film

**Crew:**

Directed and Produced by...Shrihari Sathe

Written by...Shrikant Bojewar

Executive Producers: Ranjit Gugle, Shekhar Sathe

**Cast:**

Usha Naik...Budhi

Sandeep Pathak...Sudama

Shrikant Yadav...Sub-inspector

Ganesh Yadav...Uttamrao Jadhav

Pooja Nayak...Sudama's wife