



PRESENTS

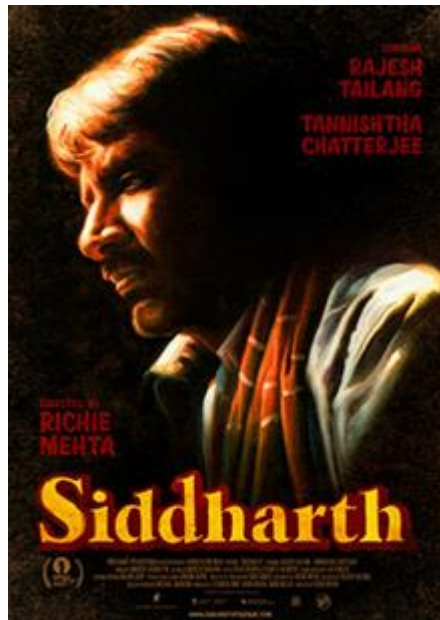


# SIDDHARTH



a film by **RICHIE MEHTA**

CANADA/INDIA, 2013, 96 minutes, Hindi, Drama



#### DISTRIBUTION

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**Credit:**

Director: Richie Mehta  
Countries: Canada / India  
Year: 2013  
Language: Hindi  
Runtime: 96 minutes  
Rating: PG  
Exec. Producer: Michael Davidson  
Producer: David Miller, Richie Mehta, Steven N. Bray  
Production Co.: Poor Man's Productions  
Screenplay: Richie Mehta  
Cinematographer: Bob Gundu  
Editor: Richie Mehta, Stuart A. McIntyre  
Sound: Lalit Malik  
Prod. Designer: Aparna Kapur

**Technical Specifications**

Runtime: 1 hr. 36 min. (96 min)  
Sound Mix: Dolby Digital  
Color: Color (HD)  
Aspect Ratio: 1.78 : 1  
Laboratory: DeLuxe (post-production laboratory)

**CAST:**

Rajesh Tailang	as	Mahendra Saini
Tannishtha Chatterjee	as	Suman Saini
Anurag Arora	as	Ranjit Gahlot
Shobha Sharma Jassi	as	Meena Gahlot
Geeta Agrawal Sharma	as	Roshni
Amitabh Srivasta	as	Om Prakash
Mukesh Chhabra	as	Mukesh-Bhai
Khushi Mathur	as	Pinky Saini
Irfan Khan	as	Siddharth / Chai Kid / Kamathipura Child
N.K. Pant	as	Pundit Ji
Naresh Gosain	as	Pawan
Nihal Kardam	as	Satinder
Aakash Dahiya	as	Ganesh
Ram Ji Bali	as	Aakash

Chetan Sharma

as Worker Kid

**Log Line:** A chain-wallah from Delhi travels across India in search of his missing son, in the hopes that whoever took him, returns him unharmed.

**Synopsis:** After sending away his 12 year-old son Siddharth for work, Mahendra (a chain-wallah who fixes broken zippers on the streets) is relieved – his financial burdens will be alleviated. But when Siddharth fails to return home, Mahendra learns he may have been taken by child-traffickers. With little resources and no connections, he travels across India in pursuit, with the hope that whatever force arbitrarily took his child away will return him unharmed.

**Long Synopsis:** Mahendra, a down on his luck chain- wallah (a destitute worker who fixes broken zippers on the street) pulls his twelve year old son Siddharth out of school and sends him to Delhi to illegally work in a factory in order to help support the family. When Siddharth fails to return home some weeks later, his anxious parents fear that he may have been taken by child-traffickers. Increasingly worried and desperate but with little money, few resources, and no connections, Mahendra embarks on a quest across India to find his son. In this heart wrenching tale that shows that a parents' love for their child is beyond the bounds of country, culture, circumstances or economics, we join in the pursuit, hoping beyond hope that whatever has befallen Siddharth, he will return unharmed.

**ABOUT THE DIRECTOR: Richie Mehta**

Writer / Director / Editor

Richie Mehta's first feature film, AMAL, has won over 30 international awards, was nominated for 6 Genie Awards, including Best Picture, Director, and Adapted Screenplay, and was named one of the top ten Canadian films of the decade by Playback Magazine. Mehta recently completed the sci-fi feature film I'LL FOLLOW YOU DOWN, starring Haley Joel Osment, Gillian Anderson, Rufus Sewell, and Victor Garber, for Resolute Films and eONE films, to be released in 2014.

**Director's Notes**

In 2010, I met a man on the streets of Delhi, who asked me for help in finding a place called "Dongri." I asked him what it was, he told me he thought it was where his lost son was (!)

He went on to tell me his story – that he sent his 12-year-old boy away to work, and

never saw him again. He believed his son was kidnapped and trafficked. After the initial shock wore off, I asked him for more details – a photograph, the spelling of his son’s name. He couldn’t answer any of them (being illiterate, and having never taken a picture). Since he was obliged to work every day to support his wife and daughter, all he could do was ask others for help. And he’d been doing this for over a year.

Knowing that this man didn’t have the ability, nor the means, to even properly inquire about his son is an unfathomable tragedy. He barely understood why this kind of thing happens, much less how.

This film is my attempt to reconcile my extremely layered relationship with this circumstance. It’s a story made up in equal parts by tragedy and optimism, and I hope what we’ve done here transmits even a fraction of the confusion, sorrow, helplessness, and ultimately, hope that I felt in meeting this man.

#### **CAST:**

##### **Rajesh Tailang**

A graduate of the prestigious National School of Drama in Delhi, Tailang has acted in more than 500 episodes of various TV serials, as well as a dozen films, including Govind Nihalani’s 1084 KI MAA, TAKSHAK AND DEV, Ketan Mehta’s MANGAL PANDEY, Hansal Mehta’s JAYATE and Richie Mehta’s AMAL. Tailang has also acted in over 50 major plays, performing in Pakistan, Germany, France, China, Bangladesh and Kenya, and all over his native India. Tailang has also directed, translated, and written several plays, in addition to writing a book of original poetry ‘KUCHH@DIL.’ He is a visiting faculty at several institutions across India, including the National School of Drama and FTII (Pune).

##### **Tannishtha Chatterjee**

Chatterjee is best known in the west for her performance in the British film BRICK LANE (2007), an adaptation of Monica Ali’s bestselling novel of the same name, where she was nominated for the British Independent Film Awards as the best actress. Other notable roles include Academy Award-winning German director Florian Gallenberger’s film, SHADOWS OF TIME, ROAD MOVIE, with Abhay Deol and BIBAR for which she won Best Actress at the 2006 Osian Film Festival. Other credits include Joe Wright’s ANNA KARENINA (2012), DEKH INDIAN CIRCUS (for which she won the National film award for best actress) and MONSOON SHOOTOUT, which premiered at the 66th Cannes film festival.

## **PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY:**

### **Steven N. Bray - Producer**

Bray has produced two films and show-run 62 x 1 hour episodes of television content in over 35 countries such as India, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, Cuba, Kenya, Egypt, Antarctica and North Korea. Bray garnered a 2009 Genie Award nomination for Best Motion Picture for his first feature film AMAL. Bray was a show-runner and distributor of the 42 x 1 hour television travel/adventure series DEPARTURES, which aired in Canada on Rogers Television, and Internationally on National Geographic Adventure, Travel Channel International and Halogen Network in the USA. His most recent adrenaline/doc series BOUNDLESS was released in early 2013 on Travel + Escape Channel in Canada and Esquire in the USA.

### **David Miller - Producer**

David Miller is an internationally established producer, who has overseen independent productions both within Canada and abroad. His films have collected many prestigious awards around the world including a 2009 Genie nomination for Best Motion Picture for the feature film AMAL. His latest project BLACKBIRD, garnered much acclaim - including Best First Feature at 2012 TIFF, the Canadian Screen Claude Jutra Award and the Grand Prix at Cannes Ecran Junior. Miller has recently completed three new feature films - SIDDHARTH (Richie Mehta), ALGONQUIN (Jonathan Hayes) and IT WAS YOU CHARLIE (Emmanuel Shirinian). He is currently in development on BASEBALLISSIMO (written by Jay Baruchel and Jesse Chabot), MY FOOLISH HEART (Emmanuel Shirinian) and BURDEN (Hubert Davis). Miller also has two dramatic TV series and a comedy in development, and recently helped launch a new initiative called MAPLE GRAVY - a production entity that includes CAA, A71 Productions and five of the top Canadian writers and executive producers living in Hollywood. David Miller is a standing member of the Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA), sits on the CMPA Feature Film Committee, resides on the Board of Directors for Channel Zero Inc., and is a partner in Agency 71 Inc.

## **CREW:**

### **Andrew Lockington - Music Composer**

Andrew Lockington has been writing music for feature films since 1997. Andrew's scores for the Warner Bros. franchise "JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH" films have received critical acclaim worldwide and been a strong contributor to the films grossing over \$600,000,000 at the Box Office. Awards include "BREAKTHROUGH COMPOSER OF THE YEAR" at the International Film Music Critics

Awards, a 'DISCOVERY OF THE YEAR' nomination at the World Soundtrack Awards in Belgium, and numerous BMI and SOCAN Film Music Awards. Other film score highlights include the Tom Hanks produced "CITY OF EMBER", starring Tim Robbins, Bill Murray and Saoirse Ronan, the Golden Globe nominated "FRANKIE AND ALICE" starring Halle Berry and Stellan Skarsgaard, Richie Mehta's "I'LL FOLLOW YOU DOWN" starring Haley Joel Osment, Gillian Anderson and Rufus Sewell, and the song "Stalking Stars" used in Ben Affleck's Oscar-Winning "ARGO".

### **Mukesh Chhabra - Casting Director**

Mukesh Chhabra is a highly successful international casting director, having many feature films and innumerable television commercials to his credit. Well known throughout the industry for his style, keen eye for talent, risk taking and achieving results, within India and abroad. Cumulatively, his films have premiered in Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Sundance, and Berlin.

### **Bob Gundu - Cinematographer / VFX Supervisor**

Bob Gundu is a freelance photographer, visual effects artist, and cinematographer. His work can be seen in design magazines around the world, as well as films such as "MIMIC" (Guillermo Del Toro), "SUPERMAN RETURNS" (Bryan Singer) and several of the HARRY POTTER films. He was also visual effects supervisor and 2nd Unit Cinematographer on Richie Mehta's "AMAL," and "I'LL FOLLOW YOU DOWN." "SIDDHARTH" is his latest feature film as Cinematographer and visual effects supervisor.

### **PRODUCTION COMPANY DETAILS:**

#### **POOR MAN'S PRODUCTIONS**

**Steven N. Bray - 1.647.297.2001 | David Miller - 1.416.822.5054**

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