



The Lost Girl

A Curiosity, A Message for Society

Challenges have
been my companion
on the journey to
success



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Cover Story



“It is often said that success has no value without struggle. How did you embrace the struggles in your life?”

“I’ve never viewed struggles in my life from a negative perspective. In my eyes, struggle is a passion. Struggle is a dedication for me. Struggle doesn’t mean doing any job without enthusiasm. To pave the path to your success, you must determine it yourself. Your intent to do your work and your dedication to your work will make the struggle easier for you. In Mumbai, thousands of people come to test their luck. It’s not about testing your luck; it’s about making your luck. Work to achieve your luck, not just to test it.”

“Which project in the film industry established you here?”

“After coming to Mumbai, my interest in filmmaking grew, and I came here with the intention of pursuing a career in filmmaking. In one phase of my career, I had to work in set designing. It was fortunate for me that I got the opportunity to work on significant films in set designing, allowing me to showcase my talent. Working in set designing was a substantial stepping stone for me to display my artistic abilities. It provided me with recognition in the field of set designing, and renowned directors like Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Karan Johar, Yash Chopra, Rajkumar Hirani, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Sajid Nadiadwala, and others accepted my work and gave me opportunities in their films.

Set designing is quite similar to film production, and working with these prominent personalities exposed me to the world of filmmaking. It strengthened my interest and commitment to filmmaking. I decided that the next phase of my career would be in filmmaking, where I can create films that convey meaningful messages to society and make cinema a meaningful medium. “

You have filmed this movie in your hometown in Haryana. What were the reasons behind this?

In 1984, the region was deeply affected by the riots, particularly in Delhi, Haryana, and Punjab. People witnessed the horrifying scenes from those events, and the fear still lingers. The pain of people’s lives was something I had felt since childhood, hearing about it from my father. I had a deep urge to write about it and showcase it through cinema. I chose to shoot in these locations to make the film as realistic as possible. I didn’t want our film to feel theatrical, so I selected locations in Haryana and Delhi where the same kind of structures existed. I wanted the audience to feel the realism when watching the film, and all our film’s locations are authentic.

During the shooting of this film, what kind of emotions did you observe among the actors?

Our film’s cast approached the story and screenplay with great seriousness. I can say that all the actors didn’t just perform their roles; they lived them. Every actor completely immersed themselves in their characters. In this film, we provided an opportunity to local Haryana artists to bring authenticity to the characters. I had decided from the beginning that all characters in the film would be real and authentic. The entire cast lived up to my expectations, and one of the film’s significant features is that there were no sets used. All the shooting took place at real locations, and the actors delivered their best performances. There’s no theatricality; the film’s naturalness is its greatest strength.

Cover Story

Adityaji, we would like to know about the first steps of your career. When did you realize that you wanted to make a career in the field of cinema?"

"Every journey begins with a purpose. Since childhood, I had a keen interest in creative activities. During the early days of my education, I was quite active in creative work. After completing my B.Sc., with the goal of expanding my creative horizons, I pursued Mass Communication. During my Mass Communication studies, I learned various dimensions of creativity. I was quite skilled at sketching cartoons, and I thought I should start my career in this field. Consequently, I began working as a cartoonist for the Hindi daily newspaper 'DainikJagran.'

After working on cartoons and caricatures for two to three years, I felt that I wanted to do something more to establish my identity and showcase my talent. The attraction towards cinema that had always been within me was calling me to make a move in this field. I honored the call from within, left my job at DainikJagran in Hisar, and came to Delhi to work at a media house to learn the intricacies of film making.

While working at the media house, I couldn't see many opportunities for further growth, so I decided to come to Mumbai to make filmmaking my career foundation. Mumbai is the sea of art that absorbs everyone within it. To work in Mumbai, you need determination and dedication. I knew my path wouldn't be easy, but I also had the self-belief that I needed to achieve something in life."

"Like you said, the path to success wasn't easy for you. What were some of the challenges you faced after coming to Mumbai?"

"After coming to Mumbai, I faced numerous new challenges. The biggest challenge was that I couldn't go back from Mumbai. It is often said that if you don't struggle for the first four to five years after coming to Mumbai, the city will reject you. Initially, my struggle was for livelihood. After wandering for a while, I got a job in EktaKapoor's project, the 'Kasam Se' serial, but only as an assistant director for just one day. This job was like a small sapling for my career. That one day's work was equivalent to a year for me. This one day's job became the foundation of my career in Mumbai. Finding work for yourself in Mumbai is a significant achievement, especially when you are alone in your journey without anyone to support you. The happiness of that one day's work will always be memorable for me. Through that one day's work, I got a glimpse of the culture of the film industry, which guided my work in the right direction."



You have produced your film 'The Lost Girl.' This name arouses curiosity. Can you tell me about this film?

Whenever I hear about a tragic event, I become very empathetic. When I see the intricacies of people's lives through the lens of details, it becomes very emotional for me. I always feel that the pain of tragic events can be shown to people through cinema, along with a positive message for society. In our country, when unexpected events lead to riots, innocent people are killed, and people become homeless, the lives of thousands of people are destroyed. Only those who have experienced such unfortunate events can truly feel the pain. The story of "The Lost Girl" is centered around the riots that took place in 1984. In this film, we have portrayed the story of a girl whose family becomes a victim of the riots, leaving her alone. The film shows all the difficulties in her life and the events she faces, and her unwavering determination, highlighting her resilient nature and her purpose in life. You're right that the name of this film generates curiosity and will keep the audience engaged until the end of the film.



Do you consider your film “The Lost Girl” to be an artistic film rather than a commercial one?

It’s an artistic film. It’s a family drama that explores the emotional turmoil a family goes through when forced to flee a crisis. The film delves into the deep pain within the hearts of the characters. When a family is left with only one daughter due to the riots, she undergoes profound emotional suffering. The film portrays how she copes with her challenging circumstances and determines her path forward. While the subject is artistic, it’s also likely to succeed commercially because we’ve worked seriously on all aspects of a successful film. We’ve portrayed violent scenes within limits, maintaining the film’s subject matter in a better way. In today’s era, there is an abundance of commercial films with secondary content, focusing more on explicit content and lacking depth in dialogues. “The Lost Girl” is a film that can be watched by families and can also inspire others to watch it. Along with its storytelling, the music in the film is highly emotional. Through words and music, we’ve tried to showcase the pain of the main character.

“The Lost Girl” is a film that both intrigues the audience and delivers a message to society.

You came to Mumbai to fulfill your dreams from your village in Haryana. The path to success wasn’t easy for you, yet you achieved your goals. When you see your team working in your office, how do you feel?

The path to success was not easy for me. Today, when I see my team working in my office, I feel a great sense of satisfaction that I was able to establish my company, Admake India Private Limited, and provide employment to others along with self-employment. When I used to visit several offices in search of a job, and disappointment was a common occurrence, I made up my mind that I didn’t want to waste my time this way. Instead, I wanted to build my own company, work for myself, and provide jobs to others as well. I’m proud of my strong determination, and it’s a significant achievement for me.

“Whom would you like to credit for your success so far?”

“I would like to give credit for my success to my parents, who believed in my abilities and gave me the freedom to make something of myself in life. They never constrained me within limits and allowed me the complete freedom to pursue my work. It’s the greatest reward for me to have brought honor to my parents and my home state of Haryana.”