

A FILM BY **VINAY SHUKLA**



BRITDOC FILMS, LONO STUDIO | EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS : MAXYNE FRANKLIN, JESS SEARCH, BEADIE FINZI, VIJAY VAIDYANATHAN & ANURIMA BHARGAVA

PRODUCED BY : VINAY SHUKLA, KHUSHBOO RANKA & LUKE W. MOODY | DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY : AMAAN SHAIKH, VINAY SHUKLA | EDITED BY : ABHINAV TYAGI

ASSOCIATE EDITORS : ADITI SINGH & KARTIK BANSAL | CHIEF ASST. DIRECTOR : RESHMA RAMACHANDRAN | SOUND BY : RENGANAATH RAVEE | ORIGINAL SCORE : JOAQUIN GARCIA



“

IT IS GOING TO BE ONE OF THE
MOST IMPORTANT FILMS

THIS YEAR.

- JOHN OLIVER

”



“

A STUNNING NEW
DOCUMENTARY

- AMY GOODMAN



”

"A LAMENT AND A BATTLE CRY"

- DEVIKA GIRISH | THE NEW YORK TIMES

"...SMARTLY CAPTURES THE STATE OF CONTEMPORARY NEWS MEDIA WITH A POWERFUL CHARACTER STUDY OF ONE REPORTER'S UNSHAKABLE QUEST TO SPEAK THE TRUTH."

- PAT MULLEN | POV MAGAZINE

"...TENSE, ESSENTIAL FILM-MAKING..."

- WENDY IDE | THE OBSERVER

"...GRIPPING, SOBERING DOC EXAMINES THE CHALLENGE AND COST OF SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER IN THE MISINFORMATION AGE."

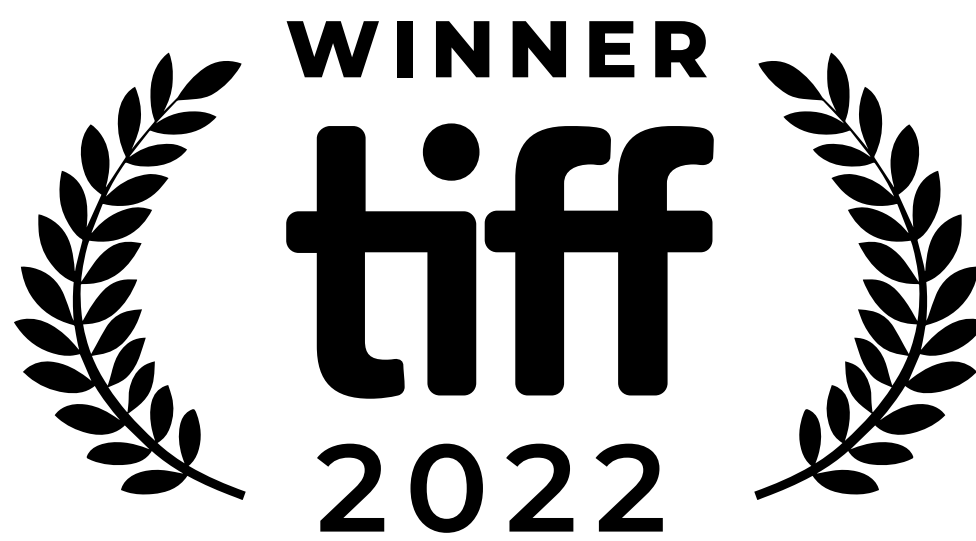
- CHRIS SCHILLING | TOTAL FILM

"REALLY GRIPPING...SOBERING STORY OF TRYING TO TELL THE NEWS."

- MARK KERMODE & SIMON MAYO | KERMODE AND MAYO'S TAKE

"A POETIC LOVE LETTER TO INDIAN JOURNALISM AND A THROBBING ELEGY FOR PRESS FREEDOM."

- POULOMI DAS | VULTURE



...d follows the former NDTV journalist as he is determined to
...piece or report fake, sensationalised news in order to gain

'While We Watched' Review: A Lament and a Battle Cry

This documentary about the veteran broadcast journalist



The Guardian

Review

While We Watched review - nerve-jangling portrait of an Indian reporter holding the ruling party to account

While We Watched Review: Journalism Under Fire

TIFF 2022

EasternEye



ALJAZEERA

News | Freedom of the Press

Film on anchor Ravish Kumar 'angry letter to journalism' in India

While We Watched, a documentary on popular TV journalist, is a

FEATURES

Documentary film follows Indian journalist Ravish Kumar's fight to present truth

While We Watched follows the former NDTV journalist as he is determined to

government mouthpiece or report fake, sensationalised news in order to

The Guardian

Interview

'Resistance is possible': Ravish Kumar, the broadcaster risking his life to tell the truth about India today

"Defend India, don't defend Indian media"

Epicenter-NYC sits down with Director Vinay Shukla and eminent TV journalist



DEADLINE

for Peace and Socialism
MorningStar

Film of the Week

The last man standing

MARIA DUARTE is touched and alarmed by the true story of a solitary news journalist swimming against the tide of nationalism in Modi's India

HOME / INTERNATIONAL / BREAKING NEWS

'While We Watched' Trailer: Vinay Shukla Offers An Urgent Look At The State of Journalism In Sheffield Doc Fest Title

ABOUT THE FILM



LOGLINE

A turbulent newsroom drama intimately chronicling the working days of broadcast journalist **Ravish Kumar** as he navigates a spiraling world of truth and disinformation. As factual reporting is in freefall globally, **'While We Watched'** is a dignified lens into the abyss.



"TENSE, ESSENTIAL FILM-MAKING"

- Wendy Ide | **THE OBSERVER, UK**





SYNOPSIS

The Prime Time Indian TV journalist, Ravish Kumar, is in trouble.

Famous for his unflinching takedowns of the ruling establishment during his long-running primetime news hour, his nerves have begun to fray from carrying the torch of 'good journalism' for too long. In the public eye, Ravish has become a regular fixture, beaming from TV sets and widely shared phone videos. His primetime news bulletin has long been characterized by

...

solid research, verified evidence, vignette-style notes from the field, and a sharp commentary with a touch of rustic sass. In the Indian media landscape, Kumar's show is a far cry from the new industry standard of high-decibel, polarizing, blustering TV news debates.

As press freedom further disintegrates and self-censorship becomes the new normal, Kumar struggles to stay afloat in the rising tide of his own network's financial hardships, sinking TRP ratings, and the strain of continuous downsizing. The dangerously deteriorating standard of public discourse finds Ravish at the receiving end of harassment, intimidation, morphed images, threats to his life and even violence against his family.

With a growing target on his back, and the looming threat of his network's imminent closure, Ravish transforms from a spunky troublemaker into a deeply troubled man, worried for himself, his family, and the soul of his nation.

***ABOUT
RAVISH KUMAR***

RAVISH KUMAR

Ravish Kumar is an Indian journalist, author, and a prominent media personality. He was the Senior Executive Editor of NDTV India, and hosted the channel's flagship weekday show 'Prime Time'. **Ravish has received the highly prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2019.** He is also a **two time recipient of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award, the Gauri Lankesh Award for Journalism, the first Kuldip Nayar Journalism Award, and the Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award for Hindi Journalism and Creative Literature.** A true household name in India, Ravish has now transitioned to digital reporting following his exit from NDTV India in 2022. **He has amassed over 6.6 million subscribers on YouTube, and 4.1 million followers on Instagram.** His signature reports - **thoroughly researched, fact-driven, charming and poetically written** - are instantly recognisable and widely shared. In recent years, Ravish has come under heavy fire for not falling in line with the changing news landscape. His **unrelenting struggle in the pursuit of good journalism** is the subject of the award-winning newsroom documentary, 'While We Watched'.



***JOURNEY
SO FAR***

11 SEP 2022

World premiere at **Toronto International Film Festival**. **While We Watched** **wins the Amplify Voices Award** for Best Feature by a BIPOC Filmmaker.

13 OCT 2022

Bags the **Cinephile Award** at the **Busan International Film Festival**.

14 NOV 2022

DOC NYC Full-house screening and Q&A.

2022 - PRESENT

On the festival circuit. Selected and nominated by CPH:DOX, Movies That Matter, Watch Docs Poland, IDFA Amsterdam, Joburg Film Festival, Human International Documentary Film Festival in Oslo, One World International Film Festival (Prague and Brussels), San Diego Asian Film Festival Showcase, DocAviv Israel and the Sydney Film Festival.

Awards Won: Best International Documentary at DocPoint Helsinki, Grand Jury Prize at Indie Meme Film Festival in Texas, and the Sabeen Mahmud Award for Courage in Filmmaking at MISAFF in Mississauga, Ontario.

13 - 19 JUN 2023

Nominated for the Tim Hetherington Award at Sheffield DocFest. Director Vinay Shukla also serves on the International Competition Jury.

14 JUL 2023

Theatrical release across cinemas in the UK and Ireland. Ravish Kumar and Vinay Shukla make appearances on prominent shows like Channel 4 News Interview, BBC World Service Newshour and The Times Radio.

20 JUL 2023

Amy Goodman of Democracy Now! hosts Ravish and Vinay for the DOC NYC Summer Selects 2023.

21 JUL 2023

Theatrical release in the US at the IFC Center in Manhattan. **Last Week Tonight's John Oliver hosts Ravish and Vinay on opening night.** While We Watched is currently on a two-week theatrical run in NYC.

SEP 2023

Official US broadcast **premiere on PBS's POV documentary series.**

THE TEAM



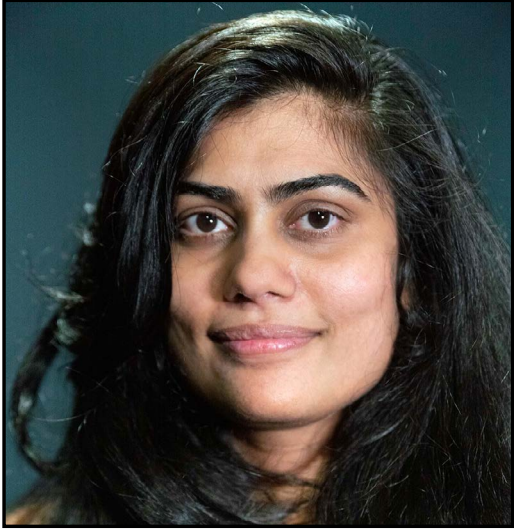
VINAY SHUKLA

DIRECTOR

Vinay Shukla is a filmmaker, producer, and a leading figure in the Indian documentary landscape. His debut feature in 2016, the non-fiction political thriller, *'An Insignificant Man'* (co-directed with Khushboo Ranka) was internationally acclaimed, set a new anti-censorship precedent, and went on to become the most theatrically successful documentary film in India. His short film *'Bureaucracy Sonata'* (2011), won the HBO Best Short Film Award at the South Asian International Film Festival in 2012.

His work has attracted distinguished partnerships with Sundance, DocSociety, NFDC India, Asian Network of Documentaries, IDFA, and IDFA Bertha. His work has been previously celebrated at Warsaw Film Festival, Busan International Film Festival, BFI London, Sheffield Doc/Fest, among other leading festivals in the world. Vinay has also produced the globally renowned political strategy board games *'SHASN'*, and its sequel, *'SHASN: AZADI'*.

Vinay's highly-anticipated second feature film, *'While We Watched'* - a non-fiction newsroom drama - is premiering at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival.



KHUSHBOO RANKA

PRODUCER

As a filmmaker and producer, Khushboo Ranka leads India Docs, India's foremost accelerator for non-fiction content. Khushboo co-directed the feature, *An Insignificant Man* with Vinay Shukla, which became India's most successful theatrical documentary.



LUKE W. MOODY

PRODUCER

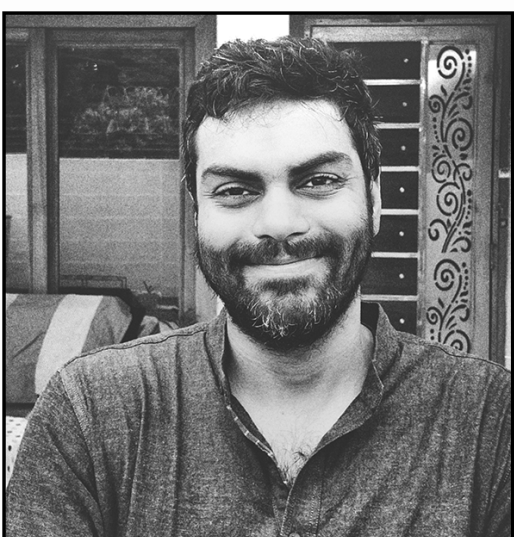
Luke W. Moody is a creative producer and founder of LONO Studio. His experience at some of the UK's leading films and arts institutions includes curation, production and commissioning.



AMAAN SHAIKH

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Amaan is a cinematographer, filmmaker and game designer. His dynamic imagery has brought *While We Watched's* urgent story to life.



ABHINAV TYAGI

EDITOR

Abhinav Tyagi is a Film and Series Editor, recognised for his distinctive style. He has also collaborated with Discovery+ and Vice. He is currently editing a documentary series for Amazon Prime.



JESS SEARCH

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Jess is a founding director of Doc Society. She is also a board member of the UK think tank IPPR, Kickstarter PBC and MSI Reproductive Choices. Previously, she was a Commissioning Editor at Channel 4 and a founder of Shooting People, the online filmmakers network.



MAXYNE FRANKLIN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Maxyne is one of the founding Directors of Doc Society. She oversees the film funding programmes and the annual DOC Impact Awards.



BEADIE FINZI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Also a Doc Society founding director, Beadie supports networks like the Global Impact Producer group and also leads training in the Impact Labs.



VIJAY VAIDYANATHAN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Vijay Vaidyanathan is CEO, Optimal Asset Management in Los Altos, CA. Vijay is actively involved as a Producer with a diverse slate of independent films.



ANURIMA BHARGAVA

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Anurima Bhargava is a civil rights lawyer and film producer of titles such as Writing With Fire. She is also the founder and director of Anthem of Us, a consulting firm that promotes dignity and justice in various environments.

LONO STUDIO

LONO is a studio and label in Northern England that supports the presence of vital new moving images. It was formed with the sensibility of foregrounding perspective, plurality and the soul of the real.

BRITDOC FILMS

Britdoc Films is a non-profit founded in 2005 committed to enabling urgent, relevant documentary films, and connecting them to global audiences. Based in London and New York, they are generously supported by the Ford Foundation, Bertha Foundation, the BBC along with other international partners. They have produced over 200 influential films.



**"KINETIC AND BLEAKLY
EFFECTIVE...THE
FILM MAKES A STARK
HISTORY LESSON."**

- Danny Leigh | FINANCIAL TIMES, UK

DIRECTOR

Vinay Shukla

CAST

Ravish Kumar, Sushil Mohapatra, Swarolipi Sengupta,
Sushil Bahuguna, Saurabh Shukla, Deepak Chaubey

CINEMATOGRAPHY

Amaan Shaikh, Vinay Shukla

EDITING

Abhinav Tyagi

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Maxyne Franklin, Jess Search,
Beadie Finzi, Vijay Vaidyanathan, Anurima Bhargava

PRODUCERS

Vinay Shukla, Khushboo Ranka, Luke W. Moody

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

LONO Studio, Britdoc Films

SCREENPLAY

Reshma Ramachandran, Amaan Shaikh,
Abhinav Tyagi, Vinay Shukla

SOUND

Renganaath Ravee, Bibin Dev

ORIGINAL SCORE

Joaquin Garcia

PUBLICITY

Cinetic Media



lono



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