

THE GOOD ROAD

A film by Gyan Correa

India | 2013 | Drama | Gujarati | English Subtitles | 92 minutes | Dolby SRD | Color

India's Official Submission for Foreign Language Film at the 86th Academy Awards®

National Award 2012 – Best Gujarati Film

TECHNICAL SPECS

Shooting format – 16 mm

Exhibition format – DCP

Aspect ratio – 1.85



**THE
GOOD
ROAD**

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SYNOPSIS (SHORT)

State Highway 378, Gujarat. A family on a vacation. A truck driver on his last journey. A little girl chasing hope. A boy finding his way home. This is a journey across tarred roads and into the heart of an unseen India, where acts of great compassion are shown to utter strangers.

SYNOPSIS (LONG)

State Highway 378 on the border of the Rann desert, Gujarat. The highway is as beautiful as it is unsettling. Accidentally separated from his parents, the city-bred 7 year-old Aditya finds himself in the care of Pappu, a truck driver and his assistant Shaukat, both operating just beyond the law. As a friendship develops between Pappu and Aditya, the police close in on him, dwindling his options. The truck driver is torn between his sense of responsibility to care for this lost boy and his own future.

Poonam is a 9 year-old girl looking to hitch a ride to her grandmother's home. Tired and hungry, she unwittingly ends up in a brothel in the middle of nowhere. As the realization of where she has found herself dawns on her — she is forced to choose between staying with the new friends she makes or finding a ride on the highway.

The characters on The Good Road meet each twist, turn, dip and rise, in the road and in their fates, with stubborn hope. This is a journey across tarred roads and into the heart of an unseen India, where acts of great compassion are shown to utter strangers.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Highways in India have always fascinated me. This is where people of varied social and cultural backgrounds travel, meet and interact with one another. It is unlike any other space that is usually carved up by caste, class and circumstance. The highway reminds us how hard and unfair life is for so many ordinary people who struggle to survive and yet somehow maintain their dignity.

During the course of my travels and wanderings, I met so many Indians whose stories are unheard. The way these men and women show acts of compassion despite the odds and their innate sense of grace has been an inspiration for me and shaped The Good Road.

- Gyan Correa

CAST & CREW

Artist	Character
Sonali Kulkarni	Kiran
Ajay Gehi	David
Shamjibhai D. Kerasia	Pappu
Keval Katrodia	Aditya
Poonam Rajput	Poonam
Priyank Upadhyaya	Shaukat
Rinkle Karelia	Rinkle

Crew

Writer & Director	Gyan Correa
Cinematographer	Amitabha Singh
Sound Designer	Resul Pookutty
Music Composer	Rajat Dholakia
Editor	Paresh Kamdar
Costume Designers	Purvi Trivedi and Lyn L. Andrade
Production Designers	Tariq Umar Khan and Mrinal G. Das
Line Producer	Spring Films / Amitabha Singh
Executive Producer	Vikramjit Roy
Associate Producer	Sahab Narain
Producer	Nina Lath Gupta
Production Company	National Film Development Corporation

Writer & Director – Gyan Correa



Gyan Correa is a Mumbai-based TV commercial and documentary film director. He has made over 400 TV commercials and documentaries for NGOs and art foundations, including the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, UNICEF and the UGC.

For Gyan, film is a cinematic journey where script, performances, technology and all other resources available, must coalesce in telling and enriching story and expression.

The idea of the film came about when he decided to take a series of road journeys through India. As a result, he became drawn to telling the stories of ordinary lives otherwise invisible in a cinema that is dominated by glamorous stars and opulent settings. Through the performances of many fine first-time and professional actors, *The Good Road* paints a moving portrait of people who cross one another on the highway.

Gyan is currently writing his second feature film script.

CAST BIOS

Sonali Kulkarni as Kiran

Sonali has acted in 60 feature films in India and Europe and in 21 critically acclaimed stage productions. She is a multiple award winner and is among India's most respected actors today.

Ajay Gehi as David

Ajay belongs to the world of new Indian Cinema. He has been the choice of India's most distinguished directors, acting in a variety of roles. Here he plays Aditya's distraught father.

Shamjibhai D. Kerasia as Pappu

Shamji has never seen a film in his life. He is a truck driver and father of three young girls. He was discovered by the director following five months of search. Shamji's natural talent and familiarity with the world of truck drivers brings the lead character alive.



Keval Katrodia as Aditya

Just 8 years old, Keval has appeared in several TV ads, serials and 7 feature films. Having played alongside many Indian stars from Shah Rukh Khan to Shabana Azmi, Keval is disarming as the boy whose life is turned upside down.

Poonam Rajput as Poonam

Poonam lives on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. Her performance as a young girl who is trying to find her way to her grandmother in Athangasa (translates as "the land of hope") is stunning despite the fact that she has never appeared before the camera.

Priyank Upadhyaya as Shaukat

Priyank is a college student based in Ahmedabad. In preparation for his role, he attended several acting workshops and spent long days living and traveling as an apprentice truck driver on the highways of Kutch in Gujarat.

CREW BIOS

Amitabha Singh : Cinematographer

Amitabha Singh is a graduate of the FTII (Film & Television Institute of India). During the last 18 years, he has shot over 2000 TV commercials and documentaries, several shorts for TV and 7 full-length feature films.

Rajat Dholakia : Music Composer

Musician, composer, teacher. Rajat has scored music for over 250 plays and documentaries and 12 features. In this film, Rajat has used local and rarely heard folk musicians of the deserts of Kutch.

Resul Pookutty : Sound Designer

One of India's most distinguished sound technicians, Resul has recorded, edited, engineered and designed more than 50 films, including Danny Boyle's Slumdog Millionaire. Winner of many national and international awards, including the Padmashree – the third highest civil honor in India.

Paresh Kamdar : Editor

Paresh Kamdar is an award-winning film editor based in Mumbai. His most recent film, Miss Lovely, was premiered in the competition section at Cannes, 2012. Paresh is also a highly accomplished film director.



National Film Development Corporation Limited: Production Company

The National Film Development Corporation of India is the central agency established to encourage the good cinema movement in the country. The primary goal of the NFDC is to plan, promote and organize an integrated and efficient development of the Indian film industry and foster excellence in cinema. Over the years, NFDC has provided a wide range of services essential to the growth of Indian cinema. The NFDC (and its predecessor the Film Finance Corporation) has so far funded / produced over 300 films. These films, in various Indian languages, have been widely acclaimed and have won many national and international awards.

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