

# Just Another day

a film on women safety

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# Why female safety?

- A take on female safety in the cities of 21st century India.
- Understanding the feeling of 'safe' which is not only physical but also mental
- An effort to understand the difficulties faced by school going girls and working women in everyday life.

# Research

- Newspaper articles
- Movies
- Social Media
- Interviews and observations
- Personal Experiences

# Newspaper Articles

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## Targeted sexually by goons, 200 girls ready to give up school

Priyangi Agarwal,TNN | Jul 21, 2015, 10:41 PM IST

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**BAREILLY:** Faced with constant sexual harassment by goons waiting at the other side of a river that 200-odd girls from a dozen villages in Bareilly have to cross every day to reach school, the students have decided to choose safety over their much-needed education.

In what many see as a most telling statement on the state of affairs in Uttar Pradesh, around a dozen villages that send their girls to a school in Shergarh, 45 km from Bareilly, have come together to say that they would rather have their daughters go without schooling than subject them to the teasing and often assault that has now been going on for two years.

A bunch of hooligans, who wait at the other side of the river that the girls have to cross, have been making their lives miserable, harassing the students and often even sexually targeting them. Not willing to give up their studies, the girls had been quiet till now, but on Tuesday their parents, helpless at the police taking no action, decided to discontinue the studies of 35 of these girls. The rest said they will follow suit. The girls along with their family members also met Union minister and Bareilly MP Santosh Kumar Gangwar, requesting him to help them so that they don't have to drop school.

The girls, from Ghatgao Paharpur, Sunder Gotiya, Atalavas, Gotiya Rehmatnagar, Beondha and other adjoining villages under Shergarh police station in Meerganj tehsil of Bareilly, told TOI that

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## Unruly bikers harass morning joggers, target women at Marine Drive

TNN | Jul 14, 2015, 02:55 AM IST

MUMBAI: A 33-year-old businesswoman was assaulted by three boys on a motorbike along Marine Drive on Friday. The woman, whose name has been withheld on request, jogs along the stretch around four times a week at 6am. Such harassment by bikers along Marine Drive has been a frequent experience of those who regularly walk or run along the stretch early in the morning.

"This has been going on for a couple of years," said the woman, a Worli resident. "If you are a girl walking, they whack you on your butt or they yell and stare. I've been hit twice - once on my back, and another time on my hips. The most recent incident was last week when they hit me with a soft belt." She adds that the incidents could be avoided if they were more traffic cops on the street.

"There is hardly any police patrolling for most of the stretch -- just a couple of them, after Mafatlal Club. It's very scary," says personal trainer Pankti Gosar who regularly runs along Marine Drive, often as early as 5.30am. "There are so many bikers there, particularly during this time of the year. Three of them ride on one motorcycle in an extremely reckless manner. They pass comments on us, try to drive too close. That stretch gets very unsafe." Gosar runs in a group comprising other runner friends but they all get separated for long stretches due to different paces. "For a lot of us, early morning is the most convenient time to go for a run. We need much better patrolling there."

South Mumbai resident Sunil agrees that the bikers are a huge menace. "They go really fast, even during peak hours sometimes, and the manner in which they drive and -- they are going to end up

# Animated Movies



“VAMA “ Women Harassment



Komal



Burkha Avenger



# Live action Short Films



# Inside the Campus



- Interview with Convener of women cell IIT Bombay Prof. Prita Pant
- Established in 2002, in accordance with the Supreme Court ruling 1997
- Observing the law on sexual harassment

# Inside the Campus

- Sensitising the community on gender issues
- Addressing complains from victim
- Increasing cases of eHarassment on internet and social media sites



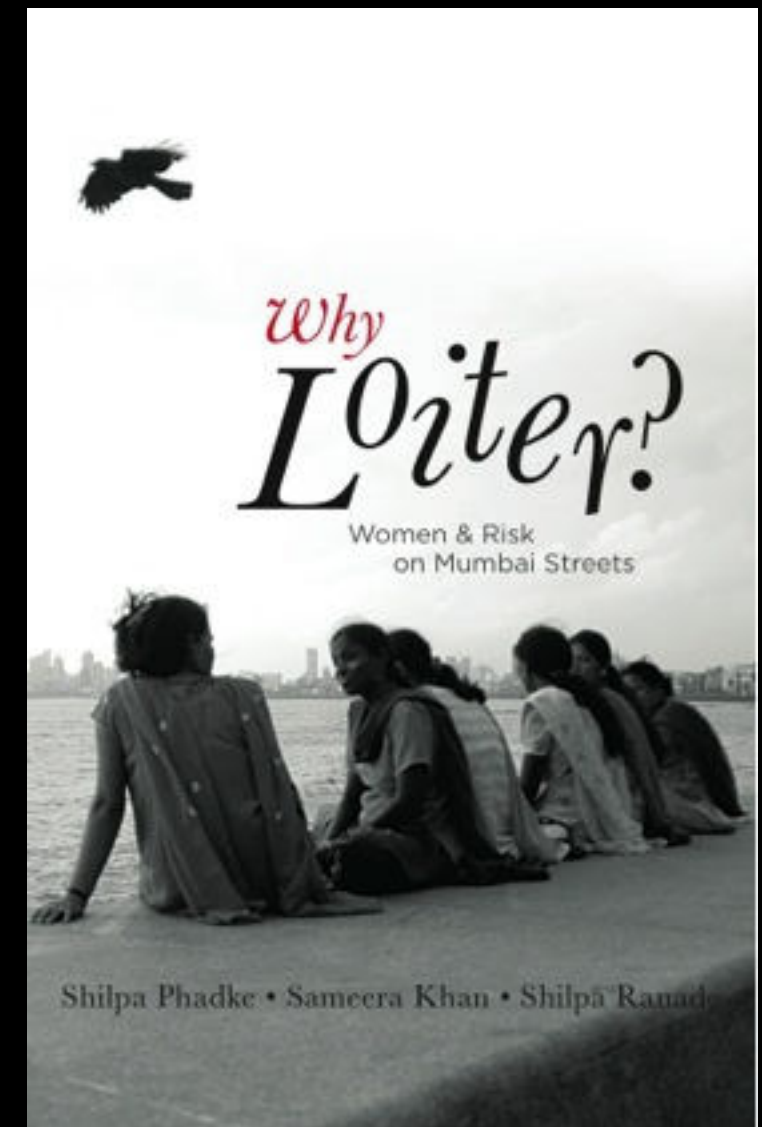
# Work and Travel



- Travelling in safe hours
- Pickup from the station at night.
- Travelling in compartments with other passengers rather than in women compartment at night

# Book

- A book that argues that though women's access to public place has increased they still do not have an equal claim to public space in the city.
- They raise the question that can women's access to public space be viewed in isolation from that of other marginal group?



# Initial Concept



- A film on self defence and fight back
- To portray self defence techniques through a story
- To make a film for female audience from age 12-30.

# Initial Storylines

## Story 1

New Job, New City, New Stares: difficulties of a working woman

Aarti had a hard time convincing her parents to let her join a new job in another city. Her dream of living in a big city, living life freely and travelling to her hearts content was finally coming true. She enthusiastically moved to her new job in the city of Bangalore. But soon she realised everything was not picture perfect like in her dreams. Her everyday commute to office was becoming more and more difficult with men staring, passing comments, trying to touch her inappropriately. Everyday her list of safety checks kept increasing. Cover your face (pretend too much dust in the city), carry a pepper spray, carry a safety pin, wear appropriate clothes (your favourite clothes are safe in the cupboard), don't stay outside late, don't deviate from your normal office route etc etc. There is always a sense of caution and self imposed restrictions. But what if even after doing all this she doesn't feel safe? What if she is actually not safe? Will Aarti go back to her hometown?

# Initial Storylines

## Story 2

I love going to school but not the travel

Asha loved going to school with her friends. She didn't mind cycling 14 kms everyday to school. In fact she enjoyed it, when breeze blew on her face, when she raced with her friends it was the most fun time of her day cycling to and back from school. But one day it all changed when she and her friends got followed by some goons. Their parents got worried, Asha was scared she didn't want to face them again. However with a lot of courage she decided to cycle back to school after a few days, and there they were again. What did Asha do? Did she stop going to school? Did she fight back?



# Initial Insights

- Age group chosen is too vast
- The concept of fight back and self defence does not change peoples mentality
- Communicate directly or indirectly for people to think right
- Concentrating on the areas of subtle harassment and insecurity

# Story Exploration

The news had reported another heinous crime against woman . Again and again they flashed the same thing sometimes verbally and sometimes through text, its always disappointing and saddening to hear a criminal incident especially in the early morning hours. However the rate of these kind of criminal activities were increasing now a days to shocking numbers. This also lead to their everyday arguments about why does she have to go out to work? why does she have to wear western office formals? why couldn't she take up another job nearby. Door bangs. She leaves the house.

Walking down the street she had numerous thoughts bellowing in her mind, voices in her head some from the news some from the people around her. Suddenly someone rushed passed her, a girl running and panting heavily, she turned around and saw the girl run past, in front of her she could see two goons, she felt too scared to even scream she hid in the adjacent lane.

After some time with her mind full of fear she started walking again.....suddenly she saw this huge shadow, she got a bit scared and started walking faster the shadow also picked up pace, suddenly it caught her hand she let out a shriek. She was scared to open hers eyes but when she did she saw this huge man “ madam watch out for the traffic, heres your wallet.” She was still in shock she could hardly believe what just happened, hastily she boarded the bus, it was a bit more packed than the normal days.

A few minutes later she heard “aye” she turned back a man was holding another mans hand and shouting at him “ hey, i saw u were trying to touch her, behave yourself”. She was shocked as well as happy not very often people stood up for her.

The same day evening when she was returning home she saw a few goons teasing a girl. It was a dark and narrow alley. Her first though was to run off.....but today she felt a bit more confident , in the past her fears had made her believe that people just act as spectators. She went back to a more well lit area and called a few others for help hence together they fought. not only did they fight they also made the goons realise what was it to be real men.

# Why the Story was discarded?

- The story conveyed the topic intended but lacked experiential feel
- Staged and exaggerated
- Representing a sensitive issue hence wanted true expression.
- Explore other forms of story telling
- Collecting and Recollecting experiences.

# Final story formation

- Experiences of women staying away from home
- Working women experiences
- Office day recollections
- General Everyday Observations
- Sequencing and interweaving of incidences to form a stories

# Final Story



# Process

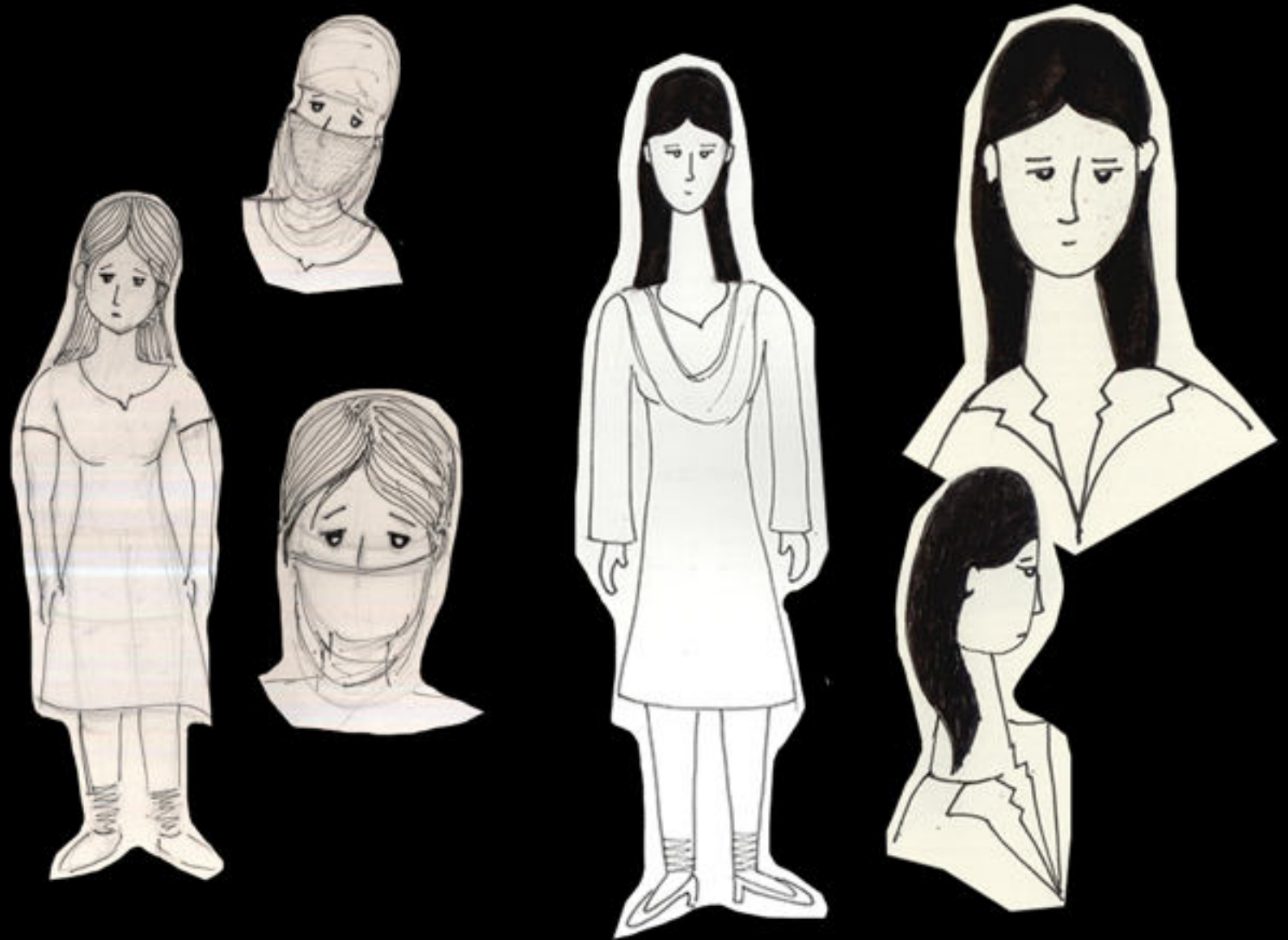
- Script
- Story thumb nailing
- Character Design
- Concept art
- Story board
- Animatic
- Test Shots

# Character Design

- How to design simple animatable characters
- Comic book style
- Looking into comic books
- Studying Persepolis the movie
- Influenced by the black and white style in the characters

# Aarti

Aarti is the main protagonist in the film. She has a pretty face and a shy nature. She works in a multinational company in Hyderabad. Her family stays in Rajasthan hence she stays in a shared flat.

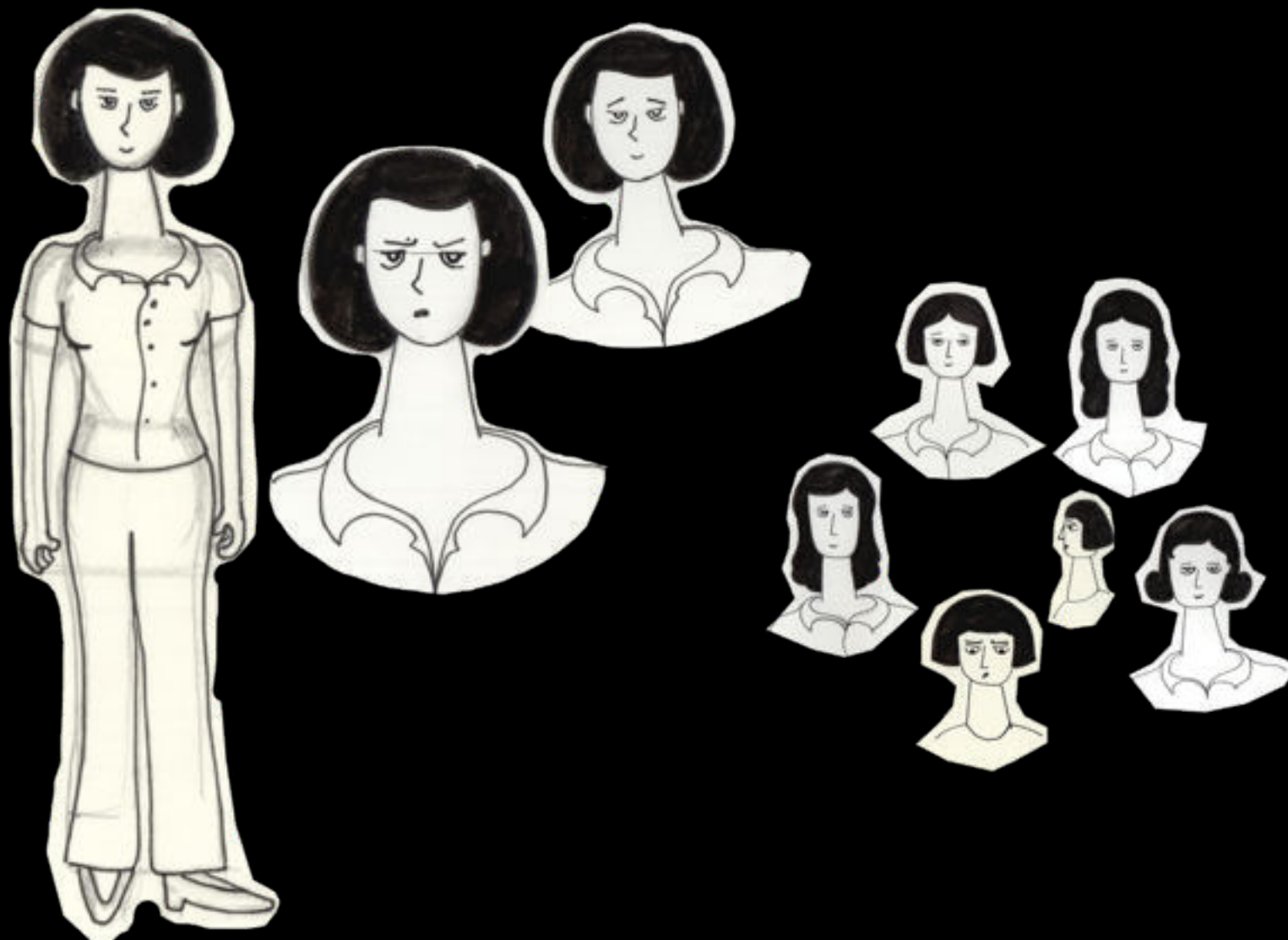


# Vikram

Vikram is a 27 years old guy also working in a multinational company. However Vikram is not very happy with his work life and for him office has become an everyday struggle.



# Vidya



Vidya is a confident independent woman. Also working in a multinational company. She is smart and quick witted. She is a die heart bollywood fan and loves the fancy lifestyle of the tinsel town.



# Auto-driver



Auto Driver is a decent looking person with a crooked mind. Passengers are unable to perceive his hidden intentions .

# Drunkard

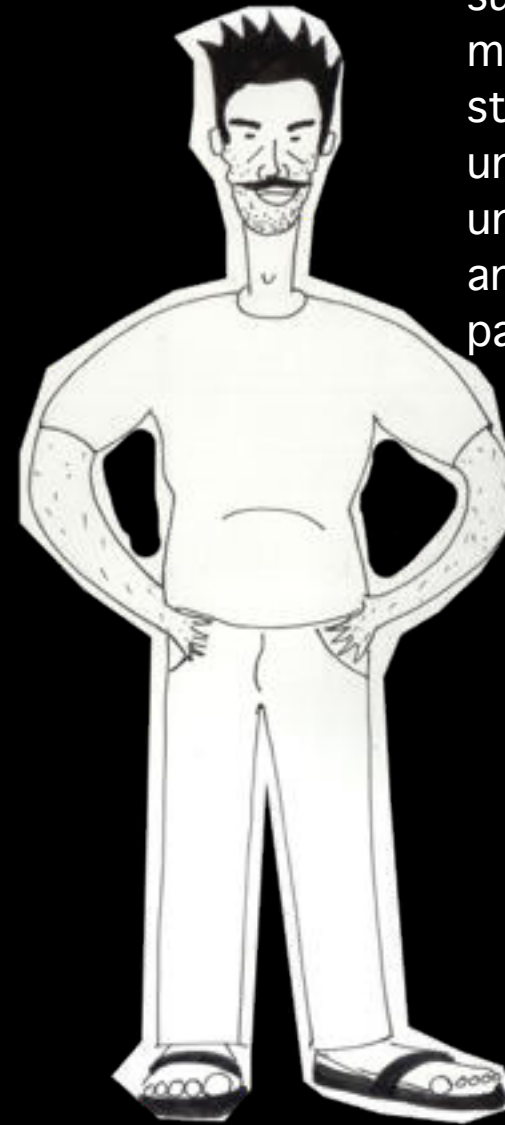


A lonely man who drowns his misery in bottles of alcohol. Often found randomly approaching and scaring people in his semi conscious state.



# THE Starer

THE Starer as the name suggests is one amongst those millions of oglers who just keep staring and make you feel uncomfortable. They are universally found at least in India and hence can't be rooted to a particular name, cast or region.



# Concept Art



Digital rough sketch

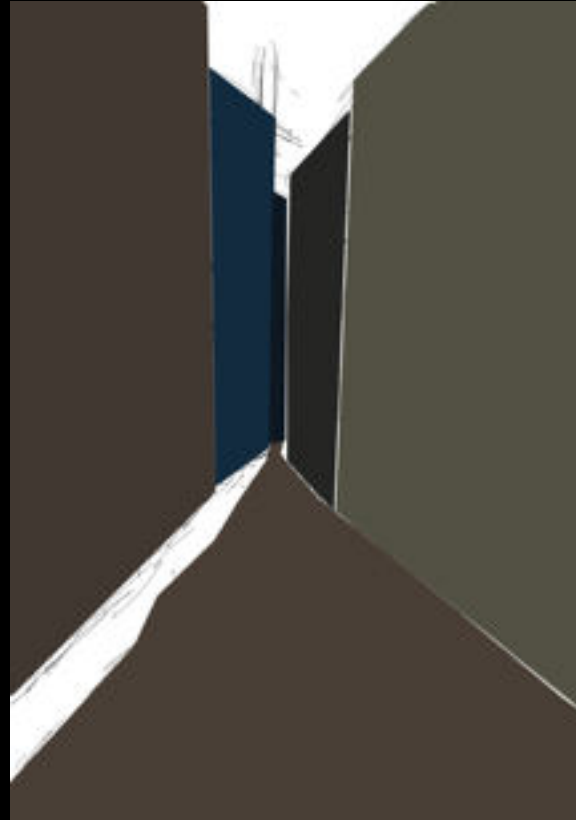


Trying digital painting

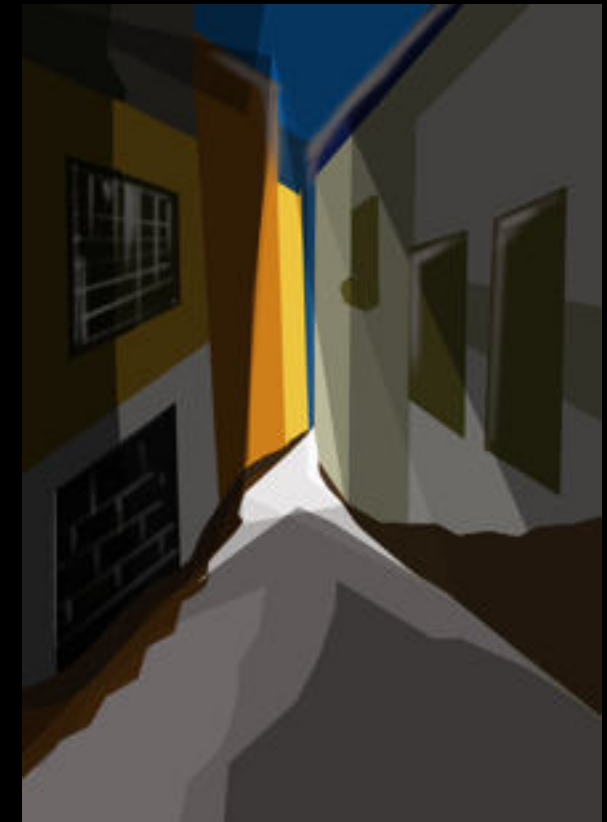
# Concept Art



Digital rough sketch



Laying solid colours on the outline



Layering to indicate light and shadow



# Concept Art



Final Background



# Techniques

- Process till now as explained
- Techniques for animation
- Animation using paper and pencil
- Method of animation a mix of pose to pose and straightforward
- Digital ink and paint

Feedback

- Too many characters
- Characters needed to be more realistic and less exaggerated
- Too many dialogues in voice track leaving lesser scope space for audience interpretation
- End of the story didn't fit well with the theme of the story and diluted impact of the story

# Changes

- Re-recording of the voice track as actual conversations
- Changes in the story
- Changes in the characters
- Change in the animation style and inclusion of rotoscope

# Revised Story

- Four girls are sitting and having a conversation in a cafe. Describing various incidences of eve teasing that they have heard of. While the three girls on the table narrate stories and experiences one girl Aarti, doesn't say anything. As her friends in the cafeteria describe their own experiences Aarti keeps going back to her memories and sees incidences that have happened to her and made her feel uncomfortable.
- The story at this point represents the mental disturbance caused in Aarti's mind due to a particular incident. The conversations her friends have throughout the film are parts of their experiences but Aarti finds herself in each of them. This is to show common problems faced by a majority of women in India.

- The film continues to show Aarti's hesitations and shyness due to the fear of being judged by the people around her.
- Towards the end Aarti starts feeling restless from the conversations and the memories she has, as the girls leave the cafeteria and walk away Aarti keeps looking back again and again to check for her safety



Production

# Changes in the Process

- Shifting from paper animation to digital animation
- Two different styles of animation for depicting the real and the imagined worlds
- The voice track became recorded conversations
- The compositing was done in premiere pro
- No music was used in the film

# Difficulties faced

- The initial sound was recorded for ideation was of low quality and hence had to rerecorded. It became extremely difficult to get the candid conversational feel when recording the same conversations again
- The pace of rotoscope scenes had to match with the animated sequences
- The transition between the two styles must not look abrupt
- Adapting to digital animation

# Final Process

- Editing and mixing of voice tracks
- Shooting video sequences for rotoscope
- Animating in photoshop
- Line testing sequences in premiere pro
- Colouring in photoshop
- Compositing in premiere pro
- Sound mixed in pro tools first

# Learnings and Experiences

- Learn to evolve both in terms of story telling and in technical skills
- I learned small tricks to make the animation more lively even in still frames like making the background characters blink once in a while, using lines of various thickness to show body vibrations, morphing from one scene to another etc.

# Conclusion

- Women safety is not a new topic
- Sadly newer problems everyday like social media harassment evolve
- However small the problem its not OK
- **No form of harassment is subtle** and it does affect a woman's mental stability and health. Every individual is born free and hence has the right to live a safe and enjoyable life.

Thank you