

KAATYAAYANI PANDEY

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SHORT BIO

Kaatyaayani is a filmmaker with a specialisation in non-fiction and documentary filmmaking. Known for her ability to craft compelling emotional narratives, she thrives under pressure, delivering exceptional results with efficiency and adaptability.

EDUCATION

MA Mass Communication • AJK MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia • 2020-2022

Completed MA in Mass Communication. Robust training in end-to-end film production. Specialised in Digital Media Arts and Screenwriting. Made 2 short films.

BA Middle Eastern Studies • Mount Holyoke College • 2014-2018

Completed BA in Middle Eastern Studies under a wider Liberal Arts programme. Studied 2 years of Arabic and spent a semester abroad in Morocco in a cultural immersion programme.

WORK EXPERIENCE

April '24 – Present • Director, Cinematographer & Editor • Documentary Film for WMF

Conceptualising, directing, filming & editing a film documenting the restoration of a historical site in Delhi.

July '23-Present • Director, Cinematographer & Editor • Short Doc Series for AOI

Conceptualising, directing, filming & editing a series about decolonising sex education in India. Researched the content, reached out to educators working at the grassroots and worked with them to render their stories on film for social media.

Feb '24 • Cinematographer & Editor • Wedding Film in Dharamshala

Conceptualising, directing, filming & editing a wedding documentary. Including interviews, event coverage, editing, sound design and packaging.

Feb'24-April '24 • Cinematographer & Editor • Documentary Film for Kalavaahini Trust

Filmed and edited a documentary film for Kalavaahini Trust. Included interviews, B-Roll, documenting archival footage, sound design and packaging.

Jan '24 • Cinematographer & Editor • Promotional Video & Reel Series for Kalashram School

Filmed and edited a promo video and reel series for Kalashram School of Dance & Music.

Sept '23 • Director of Photography • CSR initiative Coca Cola

Shot a CSR project for Coca Cola in rural Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Worked with natural light, in a run-and-gun, documentary-style environment to achieve the desired results.

July '23 • Director of Photography • Novo Nordisk Conference

Covered event and shot interviews en masse with several healthcare professionals during the conference.

Dec '22-June '23 • Creative Associate • The Good Edge

Made internal films. Wrote scripts & advised clients on film production. Executed end-to-end film production.

Sept '21 • Director • Digital Ad for Youva

Visualised, referenced and lead a team of technical professionals, conducted interviews and worked with non-actors. Executed the edit and packaged the final film.

Aug '21 • Assistant Director • Digital Ad for La Liga

Assisted in pre-production, storyboarding, location scouting & casting. Managed the logistics of the production. Coordinated with vendors and also shot a BTS film.

Aug '21 • End-to-end production • Product Shoot for Mells & Co.

Handled all aspects of production lighting, videography, photography, art direction and editing.

Aug '21 • Assistant Camera • Internal AV for JK Cement

Worked as part of the camera team in a four-cam studio set-up for an internal AV film for JK Cement Wood Amore.

Feb '21 • Director • Internal AV for GlaxoSmithKline

Directed a camera crew to execute the shoot at multiple locations in one day. Directed non-actors.

Dec '20 • Producer • Ad Film for JK Cement

Produced ad film for Delhi production house Kārkhānā. Managed pre-production and shoot including location scouting, sourcing props, costume and styling, casting and external communication. Also handled the budget.

Aug '20 • Writer, Producer, cinematographer, editor • Promo for bakery

Conceptualised, directed & produced promotional video. Made shot division, sourced properties, managed direction, art & editing

April-May '20 • End-to-end production • 'My Neighbours During Quarantine"

Produced short sketches for YouTube. Handled all aspects of production including writing, filming, and editing.

Feb-Mar '20 • Content Writer • The Good Edge

Wrote articles for lifestyle and travel brands as part of the content writing team at The Good Edge.

July '18-Dec '19 • Communications & Project Manager •OddBird Theatre & Foundation

As the project manager, managed the day-to-day running of the organisation and event & production management on a regular, weekly basis. As communications manager, handled outreach & social media.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

April - Sept '23 • Mentee • Public Service Broadcasting Trust - Doc Commune

Selected for the '23 cohort of PSBT's Doc_Commune. An exclusive mentorship programme for young documentary filmmakers, guided by industry stalwarts.

Global Competence Award • McCulloch Centre for Global Initiatives, Mount Holyoke College

The Global Competence Award is given to seniors with demonstrated achievement in language learning, cultural immersion, global perspective-taking, and cross-cultural learning.

Sarah-Bolling House Denby Travel Fellowship • Mount Holyoke College

This fund is given to students of excellent academic standing who wish to pursue an academic course in French or Francophone countries. Kaatyaayani used this fellowship to pursue a semester abroad in Morocco for an immersive study of Arabic language and culture.

SKILLS

Cameras Operated

Sony Cine Alta F5

Sony A7 Sii

Black Magic 6k Pro

Canon 5D Mark IV

Nikon D7200

Panasonic P2HD

Editing Software

Adobe Premier Pro

Adobe After Effects

Adobe Photoshop

Adobe Lightroom

Final Cut Pro X

Da Vinci Resolve

Canva

Writing Software

Final Draft

Studio Binder

Languages

English (Proficient)

Hindi/Urdu (Proficient)

Arabic (Read/write)