

RIYA AGARWAL
Writer | Director | Producer | Sound Mixer
Brooklyn, NY | riya.agarwal124@gmail.com | www.riyaction.com

Narrative storyteller and writer with an MFA in Film from NYU Tisch, drawn to uncovering the human, cultural, and political layers beneath the surface. Her sound work has screened at Tribeca, SXSW, and Cannes. She writes about conflict, identity, and human behavior.

SELECTED FEATURES

If You Show Me Yours I'll Show You Mine
(in development), 2028

- Writer, Director, Producer
- Award: Script Awards Los Angeles 2024 – Best Synopsis/Deck/Treatment

Spies in the Himalayas *(in development)*, 2027

- Writer, Director, Producer

Conservative Forces *(in development)*, 2026

- Writer, Director, Producer
- Starring Sway Bhatia (Succession)

Angelo *(in development)*, 2026

- Writer, Director, Producer
- Based on life of Angelo La Roche as featured on NBC

ANIMATED TELEVISION SERIES

In-Human *(in development)*, 2027

- Creator, Writer

Big Baby Cats *(in development)*, 2027

- Creator, Writer

SELECTED SHORTS

If You Show Me Yours I'll Show You Mine
(in post-production), 2026

- Writer, Director, Producer, Co-Editor
- Recipient of NYU's Roger King Finishing Award & King Screenwriting Award

Sunday Matinee *(in post-production)*, 2026

- Writer, Director, Producer, Editor
- Produced by Jugaad Motion Pictures (Last Film Show – India's official entry to the 95th Academy Awards), starring Rajshree Deshpande (Sacred Games)

Refracted, 2022

- Writer, Director, Editor
- Multiple awards and official selections including at the 16th Seoul Yeongdeungpo International Extreme-Short Image & Film Festival 2024

Go Fish, 2021 *(documentary)*

- Director, Producer, Editor
- Multiple awards and official selections, including at Barbados International Film Festival 2025

EDUCATION

New York University, August 2025 to present, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, Honor: Dean's Graduate Scholarship, **Concentration:** Conflict, Film, and Civic Engagement

New York University, September 2023. Tisch School of the Arts, MFA in Film Production

New York University, May 2015. The College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts in Cinema Studies and Psychology, Minor in Physics. Tisch School of the Arts, Minor in Film Production. Honor (2013): Dean's List.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Short Film Screenplay *If You Show Me Yours I'll Show You Mine* has garnered over 30 awards and official selections, most notably at First Run Film Festival 2026, Flickers' Rhode Island Int. Film Festival, Amsterdam Lift-off Festival 2024, SoCal Film Awards 2024, New York Screenplay Competition 2024, American Screenwriting Conference 2024, and Australia Independent Film Festival, 2024.
- Feature Film Treatment *Spies in the Himalayas* was a semi-finalist at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Feature Film Award 2024-25
- Honorable Mention: *Go Fish*, INFLUX Film Awards 2024
- Short Film: *Refracted* received multiple awards at the Five Continents International Film Festival 2024: Audience Award First Place, Best Student Short Film, Best Female Director Short Film, Best Screenplay
- Notable Press: [Times of India](#), and [Incredible Goa Magazine](#)
- Placed #1 in Mathematics in India May'09 for International General Certificate of Secondary Education

WORK EXPERIENCE

Co-Producer, Writer, Director

BSSway Productions – New York, USA (*January 2024 – Present*)

- Producing feature films currently in development, one directed by Roy Clovis, and the other directed by Shruti Ganguly.
- Commissioned to write and direct an Original Feature Film, *Conservative Forces*

Director's Assistant & Assistant Writer

Nandita Das Initiatives – Mumbai, India (*September 2017 – May 2018*)

- Assisted in post-production for *Manto* (Cannes' Un Certain Regard, 2018), contributed to the film's editing, and (ghost) co-authored a book based on the film's journey and Manto's works.

Nandita Das Initiatives – Mumbai, India (*June 2016 – September 2016*)

- Assisted on pre-production for *Manto*, contributed to the film's script, conceptualized visual aesthetic, brought together core team and cast.

Director's Assistant

Alipur Films – UK (*September 2016 – December 2016*)

- Assisted India's youngest Oscar-nominated director Ashvin Kumar on the feature film *No Fathers in Kashmir*, contributed to the script and day-to-day on set.

Assistant Director

Phantom Films – Mumbai, India (*September 2015 – November 2015*)

- Assisted Anurag Kashyap in the production of *Raman Raghav 2.0* (Cannes' Directors' Fortnight 2016), in charge of costume for cast and facilitated communication between the 1st AD and the rest of the team.

SOUND MIXER (*year indicated is year of filming, selected credits*)

- *F*ck That Guy* (Short Film, 2023) – Executive Producers: Spike Lee, Riva Marker, PROOF 2024
- *Seeds For All!* (Short Film, 2023) – Executive Producer: Spike Lee
- *Remnants* (Short Film, 2023) – Executive Producers: Spike Lee, Cary Fukunaga
- *Scratch-Off* (Short Film, 2023) – Flickers' Rhode Island Int. Film Fest 2024, Winner Marlyn Mason Award
- *Born A Stray* (Feature Film, 2022) – Executive Producer: Spike Lee
- *Ciao Babes and Baddies* (Feature Film, 2022)
- *In Passing* (Short Film, 2022) – Tribeca Film Festival 2023
- *Let* (Short Film, 2022) – SXSW 2024, Palm Springs 2024, Winner Martin E. Segal Production Award
- *Free The Buns* (Short Film, 2022), Woodstock Film Festival 2024
- *Domestic Animals* (Feature Film, 2021), Brooklyn Film Festival 2025

FESTIVAL SCREENER/JUROR

- Atlanta Film Festival Screenplay Competition – October 2024 – January 2025
- Atlanta Film Festival (*Academy-Qualifying*) – July 2024 – December 2024
- Woodstock Film Festival (*Academy-Qualifying*) – June 2024 – September 2024, January 2025 - present
- BendFilm Festival (*Academy-Qualifying*) – June 2024 – July 2024

SKILLS

- **Languages:** Fluent in English, Hindi; Conversational in Urdu, Bengali; Beginner in Italian and Spanish
- **Research:** Literature review, qualitative analysis, citation management, academic writing & editing
- **Software:** Avid Media Composer, Adobe Premiere Pro, After Effects, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom, DaVinci Resolve, Microsoft Office, MovieMagic Budgeting and Scheduling
- **Equipment:** Proficient in film, digital, and video cameras, and SoundDevices mixers and audio gear
- **Interests:** Scuba Diving (PADI Advanced OW Certified), Classic Rock & Electronic Music, Dystopian Science Fiction, VR & AR, Philosophy, Psychology, and Political Theory