

**OPENS JUNE 27TH AT NEW YORK'S LINCOLN PLAZA CINEMAS
& JULY 11TH AT THE NUART IN LOS ANGELES
WITH NATIONAL RELEASE TO FOLLOW**



Theatrical & Festival Booking Contact:

Clemence Taillandier, Zeitgeist Films
Ph. 201-736-0261
clemence@zeitgeistfilms.com

Press Contact, New York & Los Angeles:

Matt Johnstone, Matt Johnstone Publicity
Ph. 323-938-7880
mattjohnstone-pr@sbcglobal.net

Theatrical Marketing Contact:

Ben Crossley-Marra, Zeitgeist Films
Ph. 212-274-1989
ben@zeitgeistfilms.com

A ZEITGEIST FILMS RELEASE
www.zeitgeistfilms.com/siddharth

SIDDHARTH

A film by Richie Mehta

Siddharth is the spellbinding and gorgeously wrought tale of one father's journey across India in search of his son. Mehendra is a *chain-wallah*, eking out a living fixing zippers on the bustling streets of New Delhi. To ease his financial woes, he sends twelve-year-old Siddharth to work in a distant factory. When the boy doesn't come home for the Diwali holiday, Mehendra and his wife Suman slowly begin to suspect that he was kidnapped by child traffickers. With few resources and no connections, Mehendra desperately travels to Punjab and Mumbai with the hope that whoever took Siddharth might return him unharmed. A powerful family drama both heart-rending and suspenseful, *Siddharth* won Best Film (and Best Director for Richie Mehta) at the South Asian International Film Festival and is an Official Selection of Human Rights Watch.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In 2010, I met a man on the streets of Delhi, who asked me for help in finding a place called “Dongri.” I asked him what it was, and he told me he thought it was where his lost son was (!).

He went on to tell me his story—that he sent his 12-year-old boy away to work, and never saw him again. He believed his son was kidnapped and trafficked. After the initial shock wore off, I asked him for more details—a photograph, the spelling of his son’s name. He couldn’t answer any of them (being illiterate, and having never taken a picture). Since he was obliged to work every day to support his wife and daughter, all he could do was ask others for help. And he’d been doing this for over a year.

Knowing that this man didn’t have the ability, nor the means, to even properly inquire about his son is an unfathomable tragedy. He barely understood why this kind of thing happens, much less how.

This film is my attempt to reconcile my extremely layered relationship with this circumstance. It’s a story made up in equal parts by tragedy and optimism, and I hope what we’ve done here transmits even a fraction of the confusion, sorrow, helplessness, and ultimately, hope, that I felt in meeting this man.

—*Richie Mehta*



THE CAST

RAJESH TAILANG (Mahendra Saini)



A graduate of the prestigious National School of Drama in Delhi, Rajesh Tailang has acted in more than 500 episodes of various TV serials, as well as a dozen films, including Govind Nihalani's *1084 Ki Maa*, *Takshak* and *Dev*, Ketan Mehta's *Mangal Pandey*, Hansal Mehta's *Jayate*, and Richie Mehta's previous feature, *Amal*. Tailang has also acted in over 50 theatre productions, performing in Pakistan, Germany, France, China, Bangladesh, Kenya, and all over his native India. Tailang has also directed, translated, and written several plays, in addition to writing a book of original poetry *Kuchh@Dil*. He is a visiting faculty member at several institutions across India, including the National School of Drama and the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune.

TANNISHTHA CHATTERJEE (Suman Saini)



Tannishtha Chatterjee is best known in the West for her role in the British indie *Brick Lane* (2007), an adaptation of Monica Ali's best-selling novel of the same name. For her performance in *Brick Lane*, Chatterjee was nominated for Best Actress at the British Independent Film Awards. Other notable roles include Oscar-winning German director Florian Gallenberger's *Shadows of Time* (2004); *Road, Movie* (2009), with Abhay Deol; and *Bibar*, for which she won Best Actress at the 2006 Osian-Cinefan Festival of Asian and Arab Cinema. Other credits include Joe Wright's *Anna Karenina* (2012), with Keira Knightley and Jude Law; *Dekh Indian Circus* (2011), for which she won Best Actress at India's National Film Awards; and *Monsoon Shootout*, which premiered at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival.

THE CREW

RICHIE MEHTA (Director/Writer/Editor)

Richie Mehta's first feature, *Amal*, has won over 30 international awards, was nominated for six Genie (Canadian Oscar) Awards, including Best Picture, Director and Adapted Screenplay. *Amal* was also named one of the top ten Canadian films of the decade by *Playback Magazine*. Mehta recently completed the sci-fi feature *I'll Follow You Down*, starring Haley Joel Osment, Gillian Anderson, Rufus Sewell, and Victor Garber, for Resolute Films and eOne, to be released later this year.

STEVEN N. BRAY (Producer)

Steven Bray has produced two films and show-run 62 one-hour episodes of television content in over 35 countries including India, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, Cuba, Kenya, Egypt, Antarctica and North Korea. Bray garnered a 2009 Genie Award nomination for Best Motion Picture for his first feature film, *Amal*, directed by Richie Mehta. Bray was a show runner and distributor of the 42-episode television travel/adventure series *Departures*, which aired in Canada on Rogers Television, and Internationally on National Geographic Adventure, Travel Channel International and Halogen Network in the US. His most recent adrenaline/doc series *Boundless* was released in early 2013 on Travel + Escape Channel in Canada and Esquire in the U.S.

DAVID MILLER (Producer)

David Miller is an internationally established producer, who has overseen independent productions both within Canada and abroad. His films have collected many prestigious awards around the world including a 2009 Best Motion Picture Genie nomination for Richie Mehta's *Amal*. His latest project, *Blackbird*, garnered much acclaim—including Best First Feature at 2012 Toronto International Film Festival, the Canadian Screen Claude Jutra Award, and the Grand Prix at Cannes Ecran Junior. Miller has recently completed three new feature films: *Algonquin* (directed by Jonathan Hayes), *It Was You Charlie* (directed by Emmanuel Shirinian), and *Siddharth* (directed by Richie Mehta). He is currently in development on *Baseballissimo* (written by Jay Baruchel and Jesse Chabot), *My Foolish Heart* (directed by Emmanuel Shirinian) and *Burden* (by Hubert Davis). Miller also has two dramatic TV series and a comedy in development, and recently helped launch a new initiative called Maple Gravy—a production entity that includes CAA, A71 Productions and five of the top Canadian writers and executive producers living in Hollywood. David Miller is a standing member of the Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA), sits on the CMPA Feature Film Committee, resides on the Board of Directors for Channel Zero Inc., and is a partner in Agency 71 Inc.

ANDREW LOCKINGTON (Composer)

Andrew Lockington has been writing film music since 1997. His scores for Warner Bros.' *Journey To the Center of the Earth* franchise have received worldwide critical acclaim. Awards include "Breakthrough Composer of the Year" at the International Film Music Critics Awards, a "Discovery of the Year" nomination at the World Soundtrack Awards in Belgium, and numerous BMI and SOCAN Film Music Awards. Other projects include scores for the Tom Hanks-produced *City of Ember*, starring Tim Robbins, Bill Murray and Saoirse Ronan; the Golden Globe-nominated *Frankie and Alice*, starring Halle Berry and Stellan Skarsgaard; and Richie Mehta's *I'll Follow You Down*, starring Haley Joel Osment, Gillian Anderson and Rufus Sewell. Lockington contributed the song "Stalking Stars" to the soundtrack for Ben Affleck's Oscar-winning *Argo*.

MUKESH CHHABRA (Casting Director)

Mukesh Chhabra is a highly successful international casting director, with many feature films and television commercials to his credit. He is well known throughout the industry for his style, keen eye for talent, risk taking and results—both within India and abroad. His films have premiered in Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Sundance and Berlin.

BOB GUNDU (Cinematographer/Visual Effects Supervisor)

Bob Gundu is a freelance photographer, visual effects artist, and cinematographer. His work can be seen in design magazines around the world, as well as films such as *Mimic* (directed by Guillermo Del Toro), *Superman Returns* (directed by Bryan Singer) and several of the *Harry Potter* films. He was also visual effects supervisor and 2nd Unit Cinematographer on Richie Mehta's *Amal* and *I'll Follow You Down*. *Siddharth* is his latest feature film as Cinematographer and visual effects supervisor.



SIDDHARTH

A film by Richie Mehta

CAST

Mahendra Saini **RAJESH TAILANG**
Suman Saini **TANNISHTHA CHATTERJEE**
Ranjit Gahlot **ANURAG ARORA**
Meena Gahlot **SHOBHA SHARMA JASSI**
Roshni **GEETA AGRAWAL SHARMA**
Om Prakash **AMITABH SRIVASTA**
Mukesh-Bhai **MUKESH CHHABRA**
Pinky Saini **KHUSHI MATHUR**
Siddharth/Chai Kid/Kamathipura Child **IRFAN KHAN**

CREW

Directed by **RICHIE MEHTA**
Produced by **STEVEN N. BRAY, RICHIE MEHTA & DAVID MILLER**
Executive Producer **MICHAEL DAVIDSON**
Director of Photography **BOB GUNDU**
Dialogue by **RAJESH TAILANG**
Screenplay by **RICHIE MEHTA**
Production Designer **APARNA KAPUR**
Costume Designer **NALINI JOSHI**
Sound Recordist **LALIT MALIK**
Editors **RICHIE MEHTA & STUART A. McINTYRE**
Casting by **MUKESH CHHABRA**
Music by **ANDREW LOCKINGTON**

Canada/India • 2013 • 97 mins • Color • In Hindi with English subtitles
1.78:1 aspect ratio • Dolby 5.1 • Not Rated
DCP, Blu-ray and HD-CAM



A ZEITGEIST FILMS RELEASE

247 centre st, 2nd fl. new york, ny 10013 p 212.274.1989 • f 212.274.1644 www.zeitgeistfilms.com

