

BEHIND THE MIRROR (DARPAN KE PEECHHE)

Written & directed by Rajkumar Bhan

35mm colour - 88 Min - Hindi with English subtitles - Dolby digital sound

On Saturday 1st March 2025,

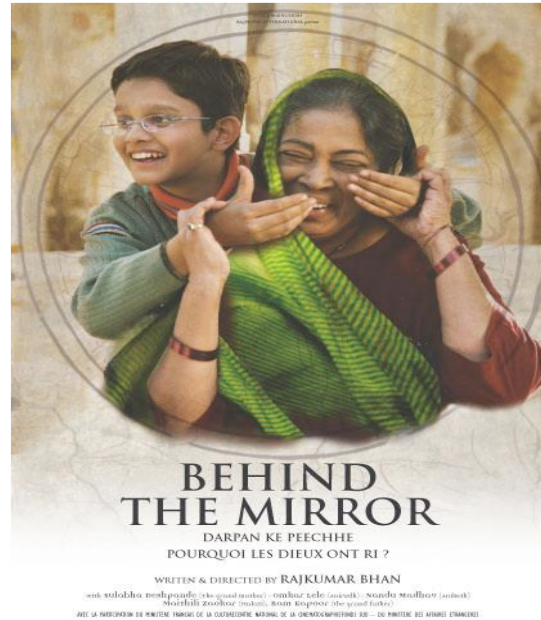
6.00 pm

At

Sri Sarathi Studios

Mixing Theatre, Ameerpet

Artists: Sulabha Deshpande (The grandmother), Omkar Lele (Anirudh), Nandu Madhav (Aniket), Maithili Jaokar (Malati), Ram Kapoor (The grand-father), Sitaram Panchal (The painter).



The film is the story of a 10-year-old boy who finds himself in a conflict between tradition and modernity in India.

Plot

The Little Painter of Rajasthan Aniket is a middle-class executive living in the Indian city of Pune with his wife Malati and his son. He leaves Pune every morning at dawn and undertakes a long train journey to work in Mumbai. After riots took place, he took his son Anirudh to his grandmother's place in the little town of Shekhawati, in the middle of the desert, and somehow haunted by the magical and superb traditional paintings decorating the walls of houses and palaces. The old woman happily welcomes her grand-son she hardly knows. Anirudh discovers another world, a fascinating world far from what he was used to. He feels very affectionate for his grandmother. She gives him the painting box of her deceased husband, the artist who made the most beautiful paintings in town.

Film Director, Rajkumar Bhan, a Post-graduate in political science. He wrote, acted and directed the plays as well as short films from 1980 to 1986. From 1987 to 1990, he studied cinema at the Film and Television Institute of Poona before directing his first film: "Amukh" in 1990 which got a National Award for the « Best Short Film » at the 38th National Film Festival of India, Delhi. In 1991 he made "Amoeaba", a telefilm, which was telecast on Door Darshan (National), in prime time. He settled down in Paris in 1993 but continued working in India. In 1995 he produced and directed institutional films in India under the banner of « **Sarthak Media Production** ». He wrote his first feature film "**Darpan Ke Peechhe**", shot in Rajasthan in 2004/2005. Rajkumar Bhan is currently writing and preparing his second feature « **Sat** » to be shot in Paris and Punjab.

Director says: Having been born and brought up in the north of India, I have been closely related to Rajasthan, a state with its distinguished cultural and artistic heritage. In 1987 I went to Pune to study cinema at the Film & TV Institute of India. During my three years of stay in this town I found that thousands of persons commute to Mumbai every day. They do it not for a pleasure trip or tourist purpose but for work. Mumbai is the eldorado for those who look for a career and an opportunity in their lives. Paradoxically a majority of them can't afford to live there because the cost of living is beyond their means. They have no other choice than settling down in smaller satellite towns. Their dream is to finally settle down in Mumbai. To reach this goal they slog very hard six days a week and travel six to seven hours a day to reach their work place. In such a situation they drastically change vis-à-vis the place of their origin and their cultural background. In fact a new class is emerging in Indian society. The speed of life, economic strains and individual ambitions are affecting the family. A child is the first one to suffer from it. The dreams, realities, traditions and contradictory values collide with each other giving birth to a real life drama, no matter how much long-lived or ephemeral it is. Each one is in search of a personal ideal. An internal and external conflict is born within the individual. It is very difficult to say to which direction the situation is taking them but the past, in terms of the present, is pregnant of the future. The future is the child in such a family whose parents don't have much time

for him. The interaction of this child with the older generation, like the grandparents, makes him realise of the things he is drastically deprived of at home. It is not, at the same time, that I intend to condemn city life compared to the life in the countryside, nor do I want to say that a child is always happy with the grandparents. The fact is that a child in such a family gets deprived of the basic natural requirements like the love and affection of the parents. My film deals with this phenomenon which was unknown to the country few years ago. The child in the film is a symbolic representation of the future. He also represents all the children who live the same situation in India and may be in the whole world. Rajkumar Bhan Dolce Vita Films presents « Darpan ke peeche » a Rajkumar Bhan film French theatrical release poster Dolce Vita Films presents « Darpan ke peeche » a Rajkumar Bhan film

The awards and participation in various International Film Festivals.

1. « The Prize of Audience » at the International Film Festival at Amiens
2. « Prix de Jury » at Reims.
3. Selected in the National Competition in Oceans Film Festival at New Delhi.
4. Selected in various other International Film festivals **like:**
Chicago International Film Festival, (U.S.), Vancouver International Festival, (Canada), Cannes Cinéfile, Cannes, (France), The International Film Festival of Enfireomnet, Paris, MIAMI International Film Festival, Mumbai and many other International Film Festivals.