

Gaa Ghar

Home

*Where love stays,
home follows.*

A FILM BY
Vaibhavi Bansal & Zhuolin Hong

STARRING
Mio Cuartero & Divya Sethi

Short film · 8 min 26 sec · English · USA



NOMINEE

Best Washington Made

Gig Harbor Film Festival 2026



— THE FILM

On the morning Vaibhavi's visa runs out, she and Zhuolin sit on the open trunk of a packed car, and their love story begins to play in reverse.

SYNOPSIS

Vaibhavi's flight home to India leaves this morning. She and Zhuolin load the car and run through the checklist (passport, chargers, check-in), saying everything except goodbye. Then they sit down together, hands locked, and the film starts to move backward: through the arguments and the promises, the ordinary joys and the nights with friends, toward the night it all began.

Written, produced and edited by the couple who lived it, Gaa Ghar (Home) is about the home two people build in each other when neither knows how long they'll have.

IN THE PRESS

Variety • NRI Pulse

AT A GLANCE

RUNNING TIME

8 min 26 sec

GENRE

Romance, drama (short)

LANGUAGE AND COUNTRY

English · United States

DIRECTOR

Vaibhavi Bansal

WRITERS AND PRODUCERS

Vaibhavi Bansal, Zhuolin Hong

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Zhuolin Hong

STARRING

Mio Cuartero, Divya Sethi

WORLD PREMIERE

Gig Harbor Film Festival,
September 2026

OFFICIAL SELECTION

Tasveer Film Festival,
Seattle, October 2026

— THE TITLE —

家

+

घर

gaa

“HOME” IN CANTONESE

ghar

“HOME” IN HINDI

Gaa Ghar is not a phrase in any dictionary. **Gaa** is “home” in Cantonese, the language of Zhuolin’s hometown, Guangzhou; **Ghar** is “home” in Hindi, Vaibhavi’s.

Joined, his word and hers, each from their mother tongue, named the “home” they built in each other.

SAY IT

GAA GHAR

gah ghur

The “gh” is a breathy g

VAIBHAVI

vai-bha-vee

ZHUOLIN

juo-lin



— DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“A feeling of finding home in one another.”

Gaa Ghar (Home) is a deeply personal story born from the relationship between Zhuolin and me, two first-generation Chinese and Indian immigrants. Before moving to Seattle, we met in 2024 while working in Los Angeles’s film industry. What began as a friendship quickly blossomed into a profound bond, a feeling of finding home in one another. Yet, with my visa set to expire, our time together was painfully limited.

Our film is a reflection on love, memory, and the concept of home—not as a physical place, but as the connection we find in each other. It is our way of preserving this chapter of our lives: a love letter that honors the small, intimate moments that define a relationship.

Crafted with the support of close friends, the film is a journey backward through our memories, capturing the joy, hope, and vulnerability that come with loving someone when the future feels uncertain. It’s a story about what it means to find—and sometimes leave—home.

Vaibhavi

VAIBHAVI BANSAL, DIRECTOR

THE FILMMAKERS

The real Vaibhavi and Zhuolin

Vaibhavi directed. Zhuolin shot and color-graded.

Together, they wrote, produced and edited the film.



Vaibhavi

Vaibhavi Bansal

DIRECTOR · WRITER · PRODUCER

vaibhavibansalfilms.com · [@_vaibhavi_9](https://www.instagram.com/_vaibhavi_9)

Vaibhavi Bansal is an international Director and a First Assistant Director working across the US and India, with credits on shorts and features spanning three continents. Raised on Bollywood, she studied English Literature and Journalism in India before earning her MFA in Film in the US. As a 1st AD, she brings calm and structure to complex sets. One was the Television Academy Foundation-nominated *Song of Silence*, with over 100 background performers, including Deaf and non-speaking actors, child actors, and interpreters. As a Director, she tells intimate stories about love, belonging, and the space between cultures.

Zhuolin Hong

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY · WRITER · PRODUCER

zhuolinhong.com · [@zhuolin_h](https://www.instagram.com/@zhuolin_h)

Zhuolin (Jo-lin) Hong is a cinematographer based in the Seattle/Tacoma area. He left Guangzhou, China, for New York at 15 and has since lived with more than 15 families and over 100 roommates. His experiences heavily shaped his filmmaking style in showing the world in the most colorful and beautiful way. He later earned a BFA in Film and has worked with the camera team at Paramount's Multiplatform Group. His personal work has screened at the Academy Award- and BAFTA-acclaimed festivals such as Rhode Island International Film Festival, LA Shorts International Film Festival, and Cinequest, and has aired on PBS; his other commercial work has earned multiple VETTY Awards.



Zhuolin

IMAGES

Press stills

For editorial use in coverage of Gaa Ghar (Home). Credit: Courtesy of the filmmakers. Full-resolution files (4096 × 2160) are in the press folder, numbered to match, along with the poster, filmmaker headshots and festival laurels.



01 Mio Cuartero, Divya Sethi

02 Divya Sethi

03 Mio Cuartero

04 Divya Sethi

05 Divya Sethi, Mio Cuartero

06 Mio Cuartero

07 Divya Sethi, Mio Cuartero

08 Mio Cuartero, Divya Sethi

09 Divya Sethi, Mio Cuartero

BEHIND THE SCENES

On set

The real Vaibhavi and Zhuolin directing and filming the actors who play them. Photos: Vaibhavi Bansal (A, G), Casey Simoncic (B, D, E), Edoardo Marino (C), Marcelo Solis Mercado (F). Full-resolution files are available on request.



A Night shoot, the full crew

B Mio Cuartero, Divya Sethi

C Vaibhavi Bansal, Divya Sethi

D Vaibhavi Bansal, Zhuolin Hong

E Zhuolin Hong, Mio Cuartero

F Divya Sethi, Mio Cuartero

G Zhuolin Hong on the roof

— CAST

Playing the filmmakers



Mio Cuartero

as Zhuolin

Mio Cuartero is a Los Angeles-based actor and dancer, originally from San Francisco. His work has spanned across independent films and national commercials. With training from Bow Street Academy (under the direction of Kirsten Sheridan) and the American Conservatory Theater, Mio brings his professional dance background into his craft to create dynamic performances on screen.



Divya Sethi

as Vaibhavi

Divya Sethi is a Los Angeles-based actor who moved to New York at 18 and trained in theatre there for two years. Her television credits include *Billions*, *Bull*, *Girls5Eva*, *Extrapolations* and *CSI: Vegas*, plus an appearance on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. She also works in commercials and print, and says preparation and a willingness to take risks have shaped her career.

Headshots courtesy of the actors.

CREDITS

Cast and crew

CAST

Mio Cuartero *as Zhuolin*

Divya Sethi *as Vaibhavi*

CREW

DIRECTOR	Vaibhavi Bansal	LOCATION MANAGERS	Ari Groobman, Elizabeth Parroquin
WRITERS, PRODUCERS	Vaibhavi Bansal, Zhuolin Hong	GAFFER	Wenhan Zhang
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	Zhuolin Hong	KEY GRIPS	Marcelo Solis Mercado, RJ Martinez
CAMERA OPERATOR	Zhuolin Hong	BEST BOY ELECTRIC	Lexington Steinorth, Borna Jamshidi
1ST AC, 2ND UNIT CAMERA OPERATOR	Davide Picci	ELECTRICIAN	Shaunette Fenton
2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA	Martin Cao	BEST BOY GRIP	Eric Chavez
EDITORS	Zhuolin Hong, Vaibhavi Bansal	GRIP	Matt Manica Escobar
COLORIST	Zhuolin Hong	PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER, BOOM OPERATOR	Sergio Gonzales
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	Ethan Hodgkins	POST-PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER	Jacob Nickless
ART DIRECTOR	Ailin Mo	BEHIND-THE-SCENES PHOTOGRAPHERS	Edoardo Marino, Casey Simoncic, Marcelo Solis Mercado
UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER	Edoardo Marino	PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	Casey Simoncic

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

RUNNING TIME	COMPLETED	COUNTRY	LANGUAGE
8 min 26 sec	December 2025	United States	English
GENRE	SHOT ON	PICTURE	RESOLUTION
Romance, drama	Digital	Color, 1.90:1	4096 × 2160 (DCI 4K)
SCREENING FORMAT	PREMIERE STATUS		
DCP	World premiere at the Gig Harbor Film Festival, September 2026		

FESTIVALS

First stop: Gig Harbor



Red carpet photo: Angie Mitchell Photo



NOMINEE

Best Washington Made

WORLD PREMIERE

Gig Harbor Film Festival

September 25 and 26, 2026

Galaxy Theatre

Gig Harbor, Washington

SHORTS PROGRAM

*"Love ... and Other
Bizarre Concepts"*

FESTIVALS AND PRESS

Second stop: Seattle

OFFICIAL SELECTION

21st Tasveer Film Festival, Seattle

The world's only Academy Award®-qualifying South Asian film festival



SCREENING	Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 7:15 PM
VENUE	Tasveer Film Center, House 03, 4812 Rainier Ave. S, Seattle, WA 98118
PROGRAM	With <i>Ustad Bantoo</i> , Arsh Jain's debut feature (Rotterdam 2026)

IN THE PRESS

Variety

"Berlinale Title 'Lali' to Open Tasveer Film Festival's 21st Edition" (September 2026) names the film among Tasveer's Washington-connected selections.


[READ IT](#)

NRI Pulse

"Among them is Gaa Ghar (Home) [...], directed by Vaibhavi Bansal, which follows two people reflecting on their relationship as a visa nears expiration."


[READ IT](#)

Veena, on Washington-connected films in Tasveer's lineup, September 28, 2026. Cover photo: a still from the film.



Official poster

— PRESS CONTACT

Zhuolin Hong

PRODUCER

zhuolinhongemail@gmail.com

For interviews with Vaibhavi Bansal and Zhuolin Hong, screeners and high-resolution images.



TRAILER

vimeo.com/1157018058



FILM PAGE

zhuolinhong.com/gaa-ghar

PRESS FOLDER



Stills, poster,
headshots and laurels

SCREENER

Private link on request.

Where love stays, home follows.

GAA GHAR (HOME)