

BIG IN BOLLYWOOD



HOLLYWOOD KITCHEN PRESENTS A MENNY BOWNIVEN PICTURE
STARRING OMI VAIDYA MUSIC BY NICK GALLANT DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BILL BOWLES
EDITED BY KENNY MEEHAN CO PRODUCED BY MATT MCCROSKEY AND TYLER MACNIVEN
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY KENNY MEEHAN AND BILL BOWLES

From a Hollywood zero to Bollywood hero, Omi Vaidya, an American actor becomes an Indian film megastar overnight.

“Big in Bollywood reveals the fascinating world of Indian Cinema in a way you’ve never seen it before.”

-Omi Vaidya

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27-year-old American-born Omi Vaidya, a struggling actor in L.A., miraculously lands a dream role in the Bollywood film "3 Idiots". Curious to better understand the world of Bollywood, four of Omi's buddies armed with cameras fly to Mumbai to document his big premiere. Within a week of release, "3 Idiots" skyrockets to box office success, becoming the most successful Indian film in history and transforming Omi into an overnight megastar. But being a national sensation in India is not all glitz and glamor. Aside from the language barrier, Omi struggles with the pressure of his newly acquired fame and continuing his career momentum while trying to maintain a healthy domestic life back in Los Angeles. Set against the backdrop of Mumbai, Big in Bollywood is a film about what it is to be successful in show business, seen through the eyes of Omi's best friends, who witness his career transformation firsthand.



“What do you say when four of your closest friends want to make a documentary about you? Well I said no, but these guys just wouldn't listen.”

-Omi Vaidya

WINDY HILL PRODUCTIONS

We jokingly call ourselves the Dream Team, which simply means we often quit our jobs, travel the world, and make the films we want to make. We grew up together in the San Francisco Bay Area, where each of us pursued filmmaking from an early age. Though we went off to different universities, we discovered in our 20's that we had been pursuing similar paths in the world of film. Between us, we've traveled to over 50 countries, made hundreds of short films, and worked as directors, editors, and hosts for a wide variety of productions. Big in Bollywood is the first project that culminates all of our skills together and we look forward to a lifetime of future filmmaking.



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Making this film gave us the unique opportunity to get to know the city of Mumbai from a local's perspective. Instead of staying at a hostel or a hotel, we rented our own apartment for seven weeks. We got to know our neighbors, bought fruit from the local sellers, and frequented neighborhood cafes. We ran along the waterfront in the evenings, hosted friends in our spare rooms, and even got into quarrels with the neighborhood association. It was a great way to get to know a foreign city, and we were all a bit sad to shut out front door for that last time on our way out of town.

CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA?

The creation of our music video was a miracle. After finding Sid and Su - the talented duo who wrote Chicken Tikka Masala - we did not have enough money or time left in India to actually make a proper, Bollywood-style music video. One morning we were discussing our limited options at our favorite breakfast place when the owner overheard us. As it turned out, he was a successful music video director and on a whim, decided to help us out. For a fraction of the usual cost, he pulled together everything we could possibly need for such a production: location, crew, dancers, choreographer...everything. Those two days were some of the most exhausting and some of the most fun of the whole adventure.



THE BIG IN BOLLYWOOD TEAM



Omi Vaidya grew up in Palm Springs, California and started acting in plays and for the local marathi community at the age of 6. Every year he would travel to Bombay and Goa for 3 months during his summer vacation and meet with family members and friends. At the age of 14, Omi auditioned and was accepted to the prestigious Los Angeles High School for the Arts where he studied acting and performed in plays for the public. He received the Best Actor Award in the 12th Standard before being accepted to Film school In New York. Omi received his Bachelor's in Film and Television Production from New York University in 2003 but all the while continued acting in his peers' student films. After graduation, Omi moved back to Los Angeles and started booking roles on popular American Television shows like The Office, Arrested Development, Bones, CSI: Las Vegas. He's also

acted in over a dozen commercials for brands like Kraft, Sony, McDonalds, Yellow Pages, Kellogg's, and KFC. Omi had the wonderful chance to work in "3 Idiots," and has since acted in his second film "Dil toh Baccha Hai Ji." He's currently playing Seth Green's role in the official Bollywood remake of the "Italian Job"

Born and raised in Northern California, **Kenny Meehan** (Director/Head Editor) began making films at the age of 12. His next feature documentary project, *Drowning Tuvalu*, is currently in development and he is finishing post-production on a narrative feature entitled Wrestling Mongolia (stars Tyler MacNiven and Omi Vaidya). Prior to *Big in Bollywood*, Kenny and Matt McCroskey teamed up to develop the film department at the Riekes Center for Human Enhancement in Menlo Park, CA, and later co-directed the documentary *Namaste Nepal*. Kenny's other directing credits include the 2002 DV feature Stalemate which won the Rising Star Award at the Hollywood Underground Festival and the Audience Choice Award at the Santa Cruz International Film Festival. Kenny is currently working for Apple Computer developing the next version of Final Cut Pro editing software for documentary filmmakers.





Bill Bowles (Director/Head Camera) is currently host and videographer for the National Geographic series, *Mississippi: America's River*. He has made a name for himself over the past few years as a traveling video blogger, uploading short films from Madagascar to Minnesota. Before that, he worked as Assistant Director on a number of short films and music videos. He was Co-Artistic Director for the award-winning San Francisco based theater company, Rococo Risque. And he was part of the Art Department team for feature films such as *Memoirs of a Geisha* and *Bee Season*.

Tyler MacNiven (Producer/Host) is an award winning documentary filmmaker (*Kintaro Walks Japan*) and season 9 winner of *The Amazing Race*. His extensive travels and TV experience led to recent work, including hosting MTV's *Made* shot on location in South Korea, Lonely Planet's *Epic Ways to have an Epic Journey* Blue List, and Lonely Planet's *Best in China*. Tyler's passion for documenting his travels inspired him to launch sfsecrets.com, providing video tours of San Francisco's most secret spots. As an actor, MacNiven has appeared in films including *The Pursuit of Happiness* (Will Smith) and *Rent*. He currently stars in *Wrestling Mongolia*, a buddy comedy shot on location in the Gobi Desert. After explorations on six continents and circumnavigating the globe several times, his most memorable trips include a 3,200km walk spanning the length of Japan, running through Iran for a month, and hugging 1000 Cubans in Cuba.



Matt McCroskey (Producer/2nd Unit Camera/Editor) began making films when he was in the 6th grade. He attended UCLA's school of Theater Film and Television where he studied acting and cinematography. After graduating in 2002, he began working on the Disney feature film, *Hidalgo*, and later went on to work in their corporate offices as an assistant to one of their top producers. Matt later teamed up with Kenny Meehan to co-develop the film department at the Riekes Center for Human Enhancement. In 2006 Matt and Kenny directed the documentary *Namaste Nepal*. Matt now resides in Los Angeles where he works as an actor, cinematographer, and editor. He is currently working with Non Fiction Spots, a commercial production company that creates documentary style commercials.