

AMISH SRIVASTAVA

Video Producer, Writer, Director, and Editor

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I am an award-winning TV journalist and a documentary and fictional filmmaker. My recent hour-long documentary film, **Jamala: Songs of Freedom**, received the Golden Dolphin Award at the Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards 2024 in Cannes, France. It has also been screened at prestigious forums such as the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. under the "Extraordinary Cinema" banner, and the Aspen Security Forum.

For over two decades I have been producing and directing films and news reports that delve into themes of conflict, resilience, and the human experience. In 2003 I reported on the Iraq War from three fronts—Iraq, Kuwait, and Turkey—making me the only Indian journalist to cover it from all perspectives. Additionally, I reported on the Kargil War (1999) between India and Pakistan directly from the battlefield and documented the situation in post-Taliban Afghanistan. Throughout my career I have covered elections and a diverse array of stories worldwide.

One of these coverings was **Hell and Hope**, an hour-long documentary which I shot, wrote, edited, and narrated. **Hell and Hope** follows the journey of five Yazidi girls who escaped ISIS captivity and sought refuge abroad. This film has been featured at several international festivals such as the Venice TV Awards in Italy, the Peloponnisos International Documentary Festival in Greece, the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU awards) in Tokyo and the Social World Film Festival in Italy.

Biscuit, a 35-minute short film and my first fictional piece, was picked up by the Hotstar-Disney OTT platform and remained top-rated for two weeks whilst competing against full feature-length films. The short film follows the story of Bhoora, a poor Dalit (lower caste) man condemned to a daily struggle for survival, who turns a collective curse into a formidable force for change.

Through my work, I strive to share stories of courage and humanity with honesty and sincerity.

Skills

Throughout my career I've been shooting, editing, writing, directing, and producing programs, features, and documentaries of all lengths. I'm passionate about developing innovative ideas and crafting screenplays that bring stories to life in a meaningful and creative way.

Education

2019 - Studied direction from New York Film Academy, New York

2009 - Studied Screenplay writing at UCLA Extension Program, (University of California, Los Angeles, USA)

1996 – Earned “Post-graduation Diploma in Mass Communication” at The Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi

1993-1995 – Master of Arts in Composite History from Lucknow University, India

1990-1993 – Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Political Science, and History from Lucknow University, India

Work History

March 2007 - Joined Voice of America, Washington, D.C.

1995 - 2007 - Worked as reporter, producer, and executive producer in different leading TV organizations in India.

Major Achievements (News Coverage)

Roving Correspondent, TV News Anchor and Producer working on a New Media Concept

Top 5 Coverages:

- 1) US-Iraq War 2003 from Iraq, Kuwait and Turkey
- 2) Afghanistan after the Taliban left in 2003, then traveled to Sheberghan Fort in Afghanistan to interview the War Lord and General Rashid Dostum
- 3) India - Pakistan Kargil war from the battlefield in Kargil, Dras and Mushkoh Valley
- 4) Indian General Elections
- 5) US Presidential Elections 2024

Work, Responsibilities, and Initiatives

As Lead of the VOA-India team at Voice of America, I recruited a team of reporters, producers, editors, and videographers in India and established the social media presence on YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook from the ground up. These platforms deliver relevant news and feature stories reported globally.

Other Significant Projects:

Women India Ki

I conceptualized and am currently directing "Women India Ki," a 12-part series examining the status of women in India. Inspired by the tragic rape and murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata at her workplace—a presumed safe space—the series explores the meaning of safety for women in India today. Our all-women crew travels through 23 cities across 10 states and Union territories, from

Jammu and Kashmir to Kerala. Along the way, they delve into the complexities of womanhood—its triumphs, trials, and struggles—while addressing the critical question: “Are women safe in India?”

Media Lab

In 2010, I conceptualized and launched VOA’s Media Lab, a department now thriving in its 15th year. Its innovative programs and ideas are utilized by over 35 VOA language services across multiple platforms, including the acclaimed programs VOA-60, Red Carpet, and Let's Play Elections.

Installing Small, Low-cost Studios

I developed ‘Necastics,’ a Green Screen studio concept that enables smaller VOA services to create innovative programming without the constraints of traditional TV operations.

“Fire in the Land of Snow”

I edited the hour-long documentary *Fire in the Land of Snow*, which investigates the causes of 118 known self-immolations in Tibet since 2009. Integrating smuggled videos, firsthand accounts, and interviews with experts, scholars, and officials, the film offers an in-depth look at Tibet’s recent history and the forces driving one of the largest waves of political self-immolations in history. The documentary won multiple awards and was featured in eleven film festivals worldwide.

Awards and Achievements

Cannes Corporate and Media Awards, Cannes, France, 2024

Asia Pacific Broadcasters Union (ABU Awards, Tokyo), 2019

Venice TV Awards – Celebrating the Masterpieces of the Television, 2019

Peloponnisos International Documentary Festival, Kalamata, Greece, 2020

Rome Independent Prisma Awards, Italy, 2019

Crown Wood International Film Festival, Calcutta, 2019

Calcutta International Cult Film Festival, 2020

Beyond Earth Film Festival, India, 2020

Social World Film Festival, Italy, 2019

Eurasia International Film Festival, 2020

Winner - 6th season of L’Age d’Or International Arthouse Film Festival (LIAFF), 2020

Woodpecker International Film Festival, India, 2020

VOA’s Gold Medal and equivalent awards - 2011 (First Indian recipient), 2015, 2017, 2019

Work attachments:

Trailer - Jamala: Songs of Freedom

<https://youtu.be/YI2Oup-HimA?si=a9k0h7offODVD8PY>

Full Film - Jamala: Songs of Freedom

<https://youtu.be/82WZp2onCx4?si=3X75H12a-sdwV5ac>

Trailer :Hell & Hope

<https://vimeo.com/326671419?share=copy#t=0>

Full Film: Hell & Hope

<https://vimeo.com/343052765?share=copy#t=0>

Short Film: Biscut (Released at Hot Star-Disney OTT Platform)

https://youtu.be/_HopN9PpVI8?si=SbtsEEqz3SDr6u1c

Imdb Link

https://pro.imdb.com/name/nm8851062?ref_=hm_prof_name

Thanks, and regards!

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