

HIMANSHU VERMA

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January 22, 2013

Anuja Ghosalkar
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Dear Anuja,

Greetings. This is with reference to my project **Story of a Song: The Journey of the Genda Phool Song from Chattisgarh to Beyond** which has been selected for a grant under the Arts Research and Documentation programme of the IFA.

I am writing to update you as to the status of the project. **We have had some unforeseen trouble with the project, as Anand Bhaskar Rao, one of the core collaborators who I was co-directing the project with, is no longer involved in this project.** Anand has not been able to give time to this project since he is involved with many other more commercially oriented projects. I faced several problems working with Anand, since he would commit to a set of dates for the shoot and then give those dates away to shoot for other projects. As you are aware, we were supposed to start shooting the film in October but we had to postpone because of Anand's sudden unavailability even despite him having committed those dates. As this pattern of non-committal behaviour continued and moreover there was a complete lack on Anand's part to engage in any process regarding the structure, look and feel and the direction the film was taking, in December we had to decide to part ways, and I am now looking for another collaborator, who

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would be involved in this project as a co-director with me.
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I do apologise for this unforeseen turn of events. Currently I am in conversation with Pradip Saha, a well established film-maker. Pradip is interested in the project and the ideas, but we need to have a few more meetings before he can formally come on board as the co-director. I will be able to share a showreel of his work in the next few days.

Currently, the research aspect of the film is almost complete, and we have identified and met most of the interviewees we would like to involve as respondents in the film. Moreover, I have also etched out some ideas and motifs that would create an interesting approach to tell the story. We have shared these ideas with others in the team – Mandira Sharma, who will be involved in the art direction and camera; and Shatabdi Chakravarty who will be handling production and research assistance, and of course Pradip Saha. The team likes the ideas I have developed, and the way forward with these ideas would be to develop them into a structure for the film, and develop a strong visual language around these.

I am sharing an outline of the idea and the research map, as well as a presentation with some audio and video versions of the song, many of which I am sure will find way into the film. So this will already give you a sense of some of the documentary / archival content that will be used in the film, which will be supplemented by more creative explorations around the theme – by using other Chattisgarhi folk poetry and documentation of the cultural life of Chattisgarh.

Owing to this unforeseen turn of events, we are lagging behind the deadline to finish the project, and we will not be able to finish the project in time for the January 31, 2013 deadline. Hence I am writing to seek a 6 month extension for the project. Looking forward to your understanding on this issue, and we shall be keeping you more regularly posted in the coming few weeks with regards to the progress of the project, which we will work more dedicatedly towards in the next few months to complete it in time for the new deadline of July 31, 2013 after the 6 month extension we are requesting.

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I will be able to share a new revised work plan by the end of the month, once I have some more discussions and meetings with the core team.

As regards to the project funds, I still have some balance from the first instalment, since so far only the research and recce expenses for the first research visit have been undertaken. Once we have made a new workplan, I will be able to share with you the date when we will require the second instalment.

Thank you,
Yours sincerely,

Himanshu Verma

June 18th wk
T A Bavel

Jun 24 (3 days ago)

Duh

Himanshu Verma

to me

Dear Tanveer,

Attached is the interim narrative report.

I have been discussing the timelines with the production team, and I thought it's best to share with you what we feel, at this stage, rather than requesting you for an extension later. The interim narrative report explains the cause of delay. The delay has happened because it has been difficult to find people to work with, and in that sense, it has been out of my hands to an extent. **My role in this project has been of an incubator and conceptual director, but for the film to happen, I need to depend on the skills of a set of other professionals, and after having falling out with my initial collaborators, it has been difficult building a team together. We now have a working team in place, but have just started work together, as of earlier this month.**

So I was just analysing our work plan and feel that we will need another extension. We are hoping to finish the shoot in July, **subject to weather conditions**, but even then would need some time in the post production process. If an extension is granted we may also consider altering our work plan so as to shoot in September, when the weather would be more conducive and allow us to make better use of the resources available at hand. I request your understanding on this matter, with apologies for the inconvenience this is causing you in your work schedules. I would be grateful if you could discuss this with the IFA team, and get back to me with your decision.

Looking forward to hear from you,

Best wishes,

Himanshu

Interim Narrative Report

The research and ideation phase of the project has been completed successfully, resulting in a working script for the film, which has been shared with IFA. The research process has been very rewarding for us, and we have managed to uncover some very interesting material (including some very rare archival materials) on the journey of the song, as well as other case studies. This research has informed our perspective on some of the issues the film attempts to tackle, like the meaning of 'folk' in today's context, and the ways in which cross-form musical exchange is happening in the contemporary digital age. A presentation with some audio and video clips has also been shared with IFA, which gives us a sense of some of the documentary / archival content that will be used in the film.

On the front of actual execution, the project has moved rather slowly, because of reasons that have been outside my control, in a way. Initially, Anand Bhaskar Rao, one of the core collaborators who I was co-directing the project with, backed out of the project, as explained earlier. Consequently, I have been engaging in the process of getting another team in place, which has taken a while, since the budgets on this project only allow us to pay honorariums and not the full professional fee of film professionals. This process has taken a while, but now we have a team in place, and working collectively to plan the shoots and execute the project. We are in the process of scheduling our shoots in Raipur, Bombay and Bhopal in the month of July, after which we shall be entering into the post-production phase of the project (editing, voice-overs, and sound mastering).

Himanshu Verma

11:54 AM (3 hours ago)

to me

Dear Tanveer,

Thanks for the update. In this circumstance, we shall stick to what we discussed the other day ie. we will finish the project by July 31st and submit a version of the film for closing the grant and while the project is being evaluated by the board, this will give us some more time to work on a cleaner cut / finalised film - which can then be used for dissemination. I understand that the film we submit by July will be complete in itself, and only certain post -production processes like sound mixing may be improved thereafter.

I am couriering you the request for the second installment and the reports today,

Thank you,

Himanshu

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Himanshu Verma
Red Earth
Tel: 91-11-41764054, 41671100

Grantee: Himanshu Verma
Interim financial report

Description	Approved Budget	Amount expended from Feb 1, 2012 to June 11, 2013
Research Material	30000	9536
Honorarium to Himanshu Verma	120000	60000
Professional Fees	185000	3000
Equipment Hire	47000	6000
Travel Costs	30000	6934
Living Expenses and Accomodation	60000	34741
Accountant Fee	3000	0
Film Costs – Miscellaneous	25000	7241
Total:	5,00,000	127452

Approved grant amount: Rs. 5,00,000/-
Approved grant term: 1 year beginning February 1, 2012
6 months extension upto July 31, 2012 approved
Total funds release by IFA: Rs. 2,50,000/-
Balance with the grantee: Rs. 1,29,668/- (including interest accumulated)
Balance due from IFA: Rs. 2,50,000/-

Signature