



Acts of Kindness

Written & Directed by Sagnik Dutta



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Country	India
Language	Bengali
Subtitles	English
Runtime	15 mins
Genre	Social Drama
Aspect Ratio	1.33:1
Format	DCP and ProRes available
Sound	Stereo



FILM SYNOPSIS

Acts of Kindness is a tense drama set on the streets of Kolkata, inspired by true events. The film follows a day in the life of Shibui, a homeless man dealing with alcohol addiction, who is approached by a seemingly kind couple, offering him money in return for a small task. But as they gradually manipulate him with vague promises, a darker motive begins to emerge. What begins as a kind gesture slowly spirals into a tense, morally complex journey as Shibui is drawn deeper into their scheme.

Filmed entirely on location using guerrilla techniques, the film captures the raw textures of urban life on the margins. With minimal dialogue and a strong emphasis on visual storytelling, *Acts of Kindness* explores how vulnerability can be exploited under the guise of help. Blurring the lines between empathy and manipulation, the film challenges audiences to question the nature of charity and the unseen power dynamics that often accompany it.



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Sagnik Dutta

Writer, Director & Editor

Sagnik Dutta is a Kolkata-based filmmaker with a background in architecture. His films have screened and won awards at several national and international festivals, including the South Asian Short Film Festival, International Kolkata Short Film Festival, Taiga (Russia), JNFF, IKMFF, Celluloid, and Hummingbird. His 2024 sci-fi short *Visionary*, released by Pocket Films, was featured on noted film critic Baradwaj Rangan's blog. His work blends grounded storytelling with guerrilla filmmaking sensibilities.



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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In early 2024, I came across a newspaper article which reported the abduction and subsequent killing of an unnamed homeless man by a middle class couple in Karnataka. Although the article carried numerous details about the perpetrators of this crime and their scheme, there was just a single line about the victim, which was - The couple lured him to their car.

This one sentence left me utterly intrigued. How could a man just be 'lured' to his death? What was the story of this anonymous victim, and that is the line of enquiry that ultimately led to the short film *Acts of Kindness*. The film highlights the story of someone whom society would rather forget.

The film also draws from my own experiences. Having lived in cities like Mumbai and Kolkata, it's common to come across vagrants, usually men, blissfully sleeping on footpaths in alcohol induced stupors. People walk around them, trying their best to ignore them. The surprising thing is that these men are not lazy. Their waking hours are usually spent feverishly trying to procure said alcohol or other substances. They are highly motivated towards self destruction. *Acts of Kindness* captures the story of such a life in a nutshell.



Sagnik Mukherjee

Sagnik Mukherjee is a professional theatre practitioner and film actor from Kolkata with multiple accolades to his credit. Since 2008, he has been associated with renowned theatre groups including Grips Theatre with Jayati Bose. Sagnik's filmography includes acclaimed international festival selections such as *Bengali Variation* (Kolkata International Film Festival, 2022), *Jole Dobe Na* (Berlinale, 2022), *Glossary of Non-Human Love* (Rotterdam IFF, 2021) and *Whispers of Fire and Water* (Locarno, El Gouna, São Paulo IFF, 2023).

Deeply committed to social engagement through art, Sagnik uses theatre to work with marginalized children and persons with psychosocial disabilities. His long-standing association with Anjali and Janamanas has led to community-driven productions in mental health institutions and on the streets, amplifying voices of lived realities. He has also collaborated with NGOs like Diksha, creating platforms for children of sex workers, children with disabilities and underserved communities. An avid photographer, he documents architectural legacies and experimental art forms.



Mouli Roy

Mouli Roy is an accomplished actress with a rich background in theater and a growing presence across film, television, and digital platforms. Her stage work includes powerful performances in acclaimed productions such as *Tin Poysar Pala* (dir. Tathagata Chowdhury), *Caesar* (dir. Kamaleshwar Mukherjee), and *Sowdagorer Nouka* (dir. Ashok Mukhopadhyay), showcasing her command over diverse theatrical forms. She has worked with several leading theater groups in West Bengal and continues to draw on that foundation in her screen roles.

On television, Mouli has appeared in well-known serials like *Kiranmala*, *Potol Kumar Ganwala*, and *Joy Maa Santoshi*. Her film credits include *Kolkata Cholonika* and *Daktar Kaku* (both directed by Pavel), and *Surjo Prithibike Prodokkhin Kore* (dir. Arijit Biswas). Her performance in the short film *Teere Bnedho Na* was lauded at prestigious festivals including Kerala and Dhaka. She has also starred in popular web series on Hoichoi and Addatimes, and continues to expand her screen presence.



Sayan Royan

Sayan Royan is an actor, model, and creator based in Kolkata, with a growing presence across film, television, and music videos. Known for his screen presence and versatility, he has played leading roles in popular music videos including *O Sona Eso Na* (2023), *Feriwala Sur* (2023), *Keno Hridoy Pure Jai* (2023), *Sajano Magazine* (2024), and *Sesh Nahi Je* (2024). He appeared as Mayukh in the TV series *Kon Gopone Mon Bhesheche* (2024) and as Omar Afzal in *Feludar Goyendagiri* (2024). His short film credits include *Asmani Umang* (2024) and *Isn't Real* (2021). Currently, he is acting in the mega-serial *Parineeta* on Zee Bangla.

Trained in storytelling and screenwriting through projects like *60 Er Pore*, *Borfi*, *Bijaya Dashami*, *Pree Ar Math Kaku*, and others, Sayan continues to balance acting with creative work behind the scenes—bringing depth and authenticity to each project he takes on.

**Tushar Chandra - Producer**

Tushar Chandra is a filmmaker based in Dhanbad, Jharkhand. He has produced and acted in short films like Visionary (2024), The First Step (2024), and Adhuri Painting (2025), and directed and co-produced Last Seen (2025), Raat Baki Hai (2023), and Lungi (2022). Acts of Kindness is his first Bengali film. With a background in fashion design, Tushar is also an accomplished animator and character designer, currently leading character design at Happy Slate Productions, creating short films and animated content.

**Abhirup Dutta - Composer**

Abhirup Dutta is a composer, singer, and songwriter based between Delhi and Kolkata. Trained in Indian classical music, he is an accomplished musician with a popular YouTube channel showcasing his original work. Over the years, he has produced numerous music videos and composed for a range of commercial projects. Acts of Kindness marks his debut as a composer for a fiction narrative short film, bringing his distinct blend of classical training and contemporary sensibilities to cinematic storytelling.

**Titir Mukherjee - Director of Photography**

Titir Mukherjee is a cinematographer based in Kolkata, with experience across narrative, documentary, and commercial projects. She was the 1st AC on The Zebras, an international co-production longlisted for the Oscars in 2024. As a Director of Photography, she has shot projects for BBC, BCCI, TATA Anubhav, and SSK Developers, as well as independent films like Farak and Muted Silhouette. Skilled in both digital and celluloid formats, Titir brings a versatile and collaborative approach to visual storytelling.

**Sidhartha Chakravarty - Assistant Director**

Siddhartha Chakravarty is an Indian filmmaker trained in Film Direction at the Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute. His work spans realism and speculative fiction, often exploring isolation, loss, and quiet human defiance. His 2024 documentary Bandaagi – Music of Love and Loss was selected for IDSFFK, and his short film T.R.I.O.N is currently on the festival circuit. Influenced by Bresson, Tarkovsky, Lucas, and Scott, he is developing a series adaptation of T.R.I.O.N while seeking international co-production and lab opportunities.

Production Team

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Cast

Sagnik Mukherjee
Mouli Roy
Sayan Royan

Produced by

Tushar Chandra

Original Score by

Abhirup Dutta

Director of Photography

Titir Mukherjee

Camera Assistants

Subhajit Singha
Sourav Barik

Asst. Director

Sidhhartha Chakravarty

Production Asst.

Monica Dutta

Make Up

Priyanshu Das

Dubbing Engineer

Arijit Chowdhury

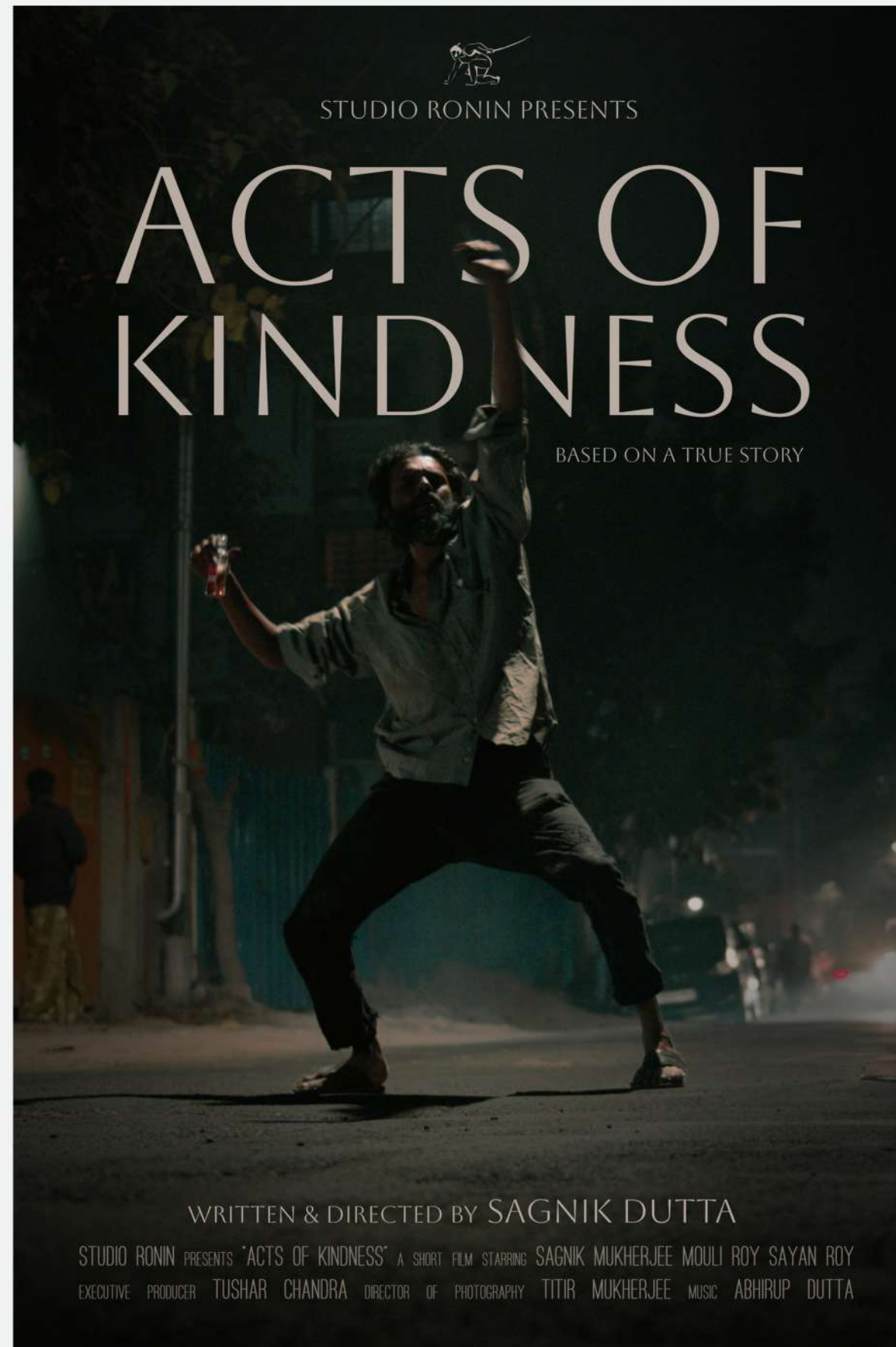
With Special Assistance from

Bharat Band Party
Prakriti Boutique

Written, Directed and Edited by

Sagnik Dutta

POSTER ART



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Thank you

CONTACT

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