



OORVAZI IRANI

a soul seeking to create and experience beauty, love and transcendence

Self Taught Professional

Date of Birth - 29th January 1977

Bachelor of Arts – Jai Hind College/Mumbai University

FTII and NFAI Film Appreciation Course

International Baccalaureate Online CAT Film Training Workshops



Independent Filmmaker

Film & Acting Educationalist

Film Critic

Entrepreneur





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if I look back it has been an enriching journey



Started my professional journey in 1995 with my home production media company SBI Impresario Pvt. Ltd.,

Then moving on to also collaborate on freelancing projects and making independent films.

Recently worked as Head of the Acting Department with one of the best Creative and Performing Arts Institute on a global scale - Whistling Woods International (leading a team of over 100 faculty and students)

After 3 decades I now look forward to my second innings to rediscover myself as a creator, educator and media professional in a fast-changing world.



Family Legacy Company Director



From 1995 to 2024 I have been the Director of my home production media and film company **SBI Impresario Pvt. Ltd.**, Besides running the company as a Director I have also been creatively part of projects in research, production and direction. The company has produced numerous award winning content for Indian and International Television. To name a few documentaries, wildlife, travel series, films:

Rakshak(1980), *Project Tiger* (1982 – 83) produced for Doordarshan Indian Television.

The following films were commissioned by Channel Four Television, London:

Percy(1985-87) a feature film co funded by NFDC which was a winner of the National Award in India & awarded at the Mannheim Film Festival Germany.

The Ramayana: A Journey(1995-97) which also had a series Book and Music soundtrack produced for same.

Something Like A War (1992-93) co produced with D &N Productions was awarded at the Nyon film Festival Switzerland.

The Last House in Bombay(1990-91) and *The Clap Trap*(1993-94), both documentaries have been preserved for posterity with the National Film Archives, Pune and Films Division Archives, Mumbai.

The Chairman and Managing Director of the company Sorab Irani, my dad started his career in the film industry being the General Manager for Chetan Anand and then formed the company in 1975. The company has produced a body of work for Channel Four Television, London closely working with Commissioning Editor Farrukh Dhondy. The company has also been the Literary Agent for Farrukh Dhondy. Towards the latter part of his career my dad closely worked with Manmohan Shetty to create and launch IMAX, the large film format to India.



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About Me Film Critic & Jury



I am a member of the Film Critics Circle of India and have written for prestigious film journals like E-CineIndia published by FIPRESCI India, blogs, websites, and textbooks on cinema. I have served on the Jury of Indian and International film festivals – invited to be part of the Selection Jury of the International Children's Film Festival Golden Elephant 2017, invited to Head the Selection Jury of the Film Festival Kidscinema2020 supported by UNESCO (2020), invited to be a Jury member for NYIFF Debut Film Award on the special occasion of the 25th anniversary of the New York Indian Film Festival (2025).



About Me Consultant



Art Project Consultant (2007)

Unity in Diversity -International Group Art show – Cymroza Gallery

Curator Art Exhibition (2024) – Installation and Performance Art

WWI Acting students IDEAL SELF - Exploring the artist within

FTII Final Interview Selection Panel (2018) - Acting batch.

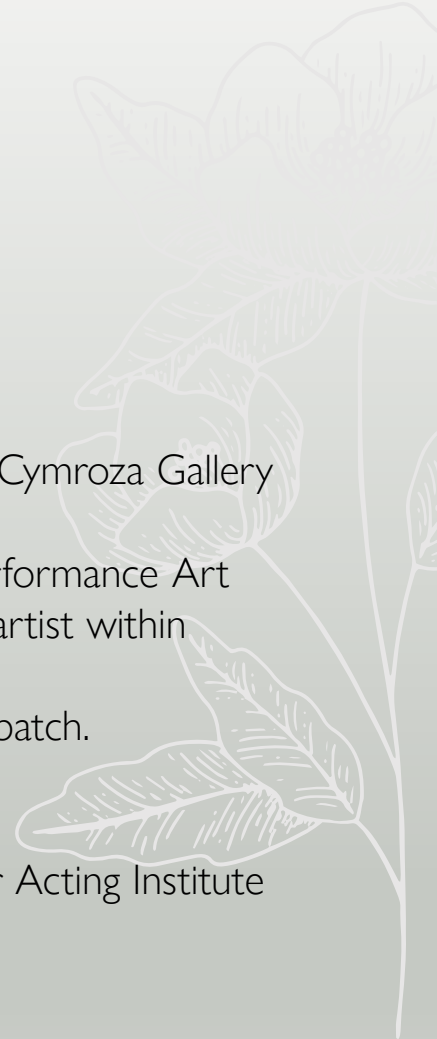
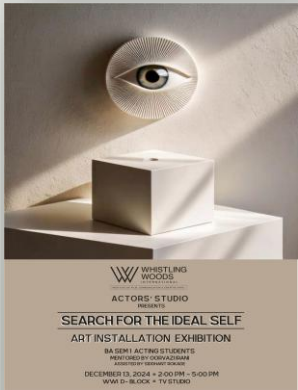
Freelance CEO

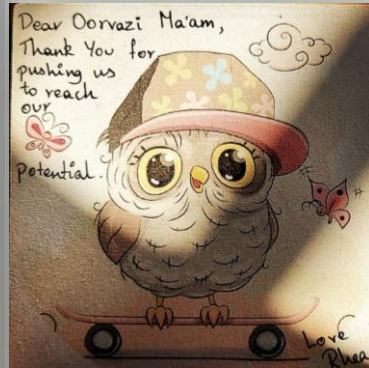
South Mumbai branch of the Kishore Namit Kapoor Acting Institute

Freelance Photo Editor - Life Positive Magazine

Jury Member for Film festivals

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About Me Educationalist



Heading the subject of **International Baccalaureate Film** as Visiting Faculty at the SVKM JV Parekh International school 2010 onwards. I have also been a Film Examiner for the International Baccalaureate Board.

Conducted Acting and Film workshops/modules/courses offered by my company and as visiting faculty in various institutions as mentioned below:

Kishore Namit Kapoor Acting Institute (2007 - 2011)

Birla Institute of Science and Technology, Waves Winter Cultural Festival Goa Campus (2009)

Mumbai University Affiliated college: The Ghanshyamdas Saraf Girls College - 'Understanding Cinema Module' Bachelor of Mass Media course.

Digital Academy & Mumbai University Post Graduate Film and TV Diploma Batch (2009 - 2011)

ICE Balaji (2010)

The Russian Culture Centre (2013)

Thespo 14 Youth Theatre Festival at Prithvi House (2014)

Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) (2017)

Usha Pravin Gandhi (UPG) Lit Fest (2018)

Whistling Woods International (BA Degree and Diploma Acting Courses) (2018 – 2025)

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About Me

Whistling Woods International



The Journey at WWI is of immense growth as a Leader, Educator and Artist.

Faculty – 2018 - 2025

Programme in Charge – 2021

HOD, Acting Department – 2022-2025

Project Collaboration – 2025 onwards

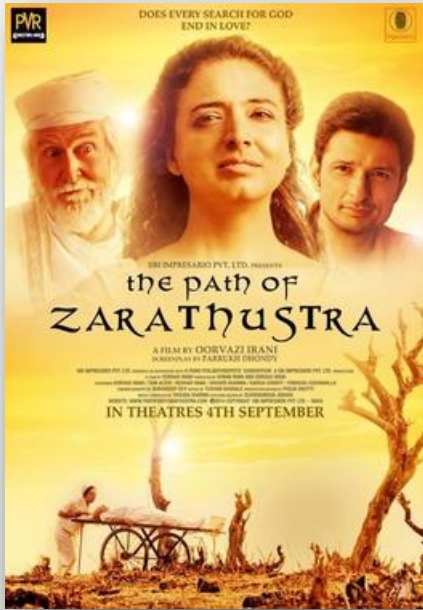
Directed Theatre Plays at WWI as follows:

- *The House of Bernarda Alba* (2019)
a play written by Federico Garcia Lorca
- *Party* (2021)
a play written by Mahesh Elkunchwar
- *12 Angry Men* (2022)
a play written by Reginald Rose

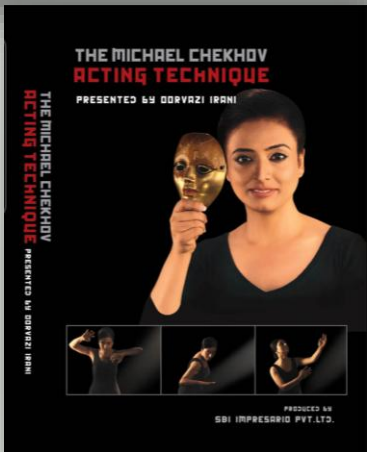




Sony DADC



PARSI TIMES
The Truth. Delivered Weekly.



MICHA
The Michael Chekhov Association

About Me Independent Filmmaker



Directed, Produced and Acted in the feature film "The Path of Zarathustra" (2015). Screenplay by Farrukh Dhondy. PVR Director's Rare theatrical release in 5 cities of India. Film Premiered in New Delhi with Najma Heptulla, Union Minister for Minority Affairs as Chief Guest. Sony DADC released a DVD of the film(2016).

Researched, Produced, Directed and Performed in the DVD on the Michael Chekhov Acting Technique. Pioneering the technique in India with the DVD (2011). It is endorsed by Joanna Merlin, Founder Member of MICHA, the Michael Chekhov Association, New York.

Directed and Produced 3 short films "Mamaiji" (Grandmother) (2011) – Invited to the 7th IDSFFK International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala under a special showcase of films by IAWRT (The International Association of Women in Radio and Television) Asian Women's Film Festival.

"The K File" (2012) - Written by Farrukh Dhondy released on You Tube. Selected in the *Indian Panorama* section of *FIKE*, *International Short Film Festival at Evora* and *2nd Short & Documentary Film festival* organized by Federation of Film Societies of India (Eastern Region) in collaboration with Nandan, the Film Centre of West Bengal held in Kolkata, India - 2013

"Anahita's Law" (2019) - Premiered at The National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai with a special panel discussion headed by Bhawana Somaaya and released on *She the People TV* and *HumaraMovie*.

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Testimonials



PVR Director's Rare Theatrical Release in 5 cities of India
SONY DADC DVD RELEASE

Testimonials *The Path of Zarathustra*

"*The Path of Zarathustra*" is a film that deserves place in the archives of Indian cinema as no similar film on the Parsi faith has been achieved ever before."

Senior renowned Film Critic, Shoma Chatterji

"For the first time I came to know the essential faith and beliefs of the Parsi community."

Shyam Benegal, renowned Filmmaker

"A very enlightening and evocative experience"

Govind Nihalani , renowned Filmmaker

"The Path of Zarathustra is a highly empowering film...great effort by Oorvazi to create awareness about our community"

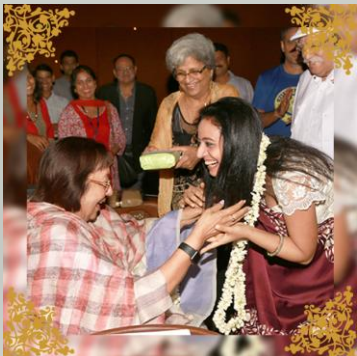
Ronnie Screwvala, renowned media entrepreneur

"It is an extremely important film to be seen by all; *The Path of Zarathustra* reflects on the deeper perspective on Parsi faith, religion, and lost identity. We are proud to be associated with the film".

Sanjeev Bijli, Joint Managing Director PVR Ltd.

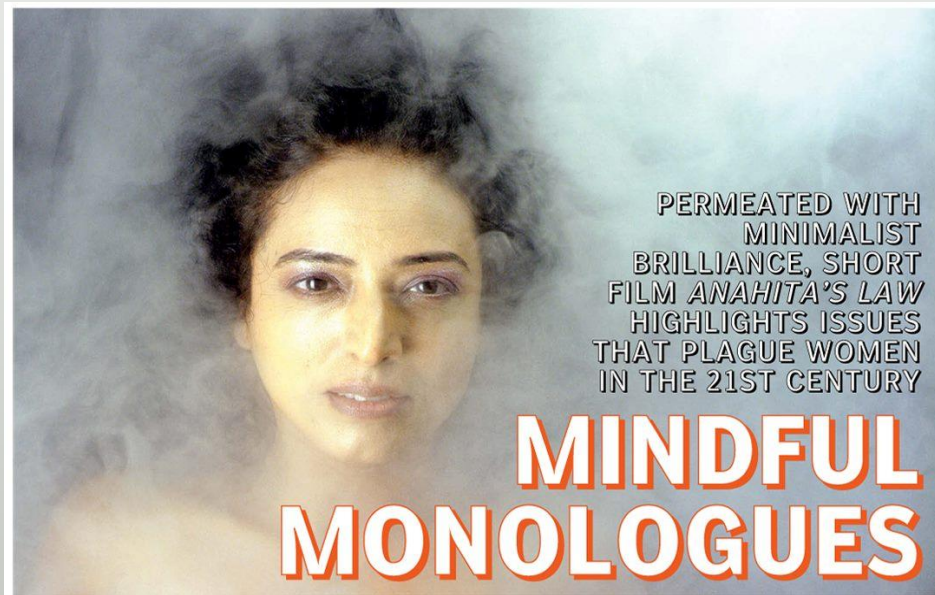
"This is an important feature film on the subject of Zoroastrianism "

Prof. Almut Hintze, renowned Zoroastrian scholar, SOAS University of London



Federation of Film Societies of India celebrates International Woman's day by screening hand picked films in their Woman's Film Festival 2021. Anahita's Law a film championing the woman's cause was selected to be screened in 23 centres in India on 8th & 9th March 2021.

ANAHITA'S LAW WAS PREMIERED AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODRN ART, MUMBAI (2019)



Testimonials Anahita's Law



Oorvazi, I have seen the film two three times to feel it more since the film is not an ordinary film that you watch it and forget it by just giving a comment 'wow what a film ..what treatment or cinematography..' sort of which I could realise just after watching few frames. Though the story is told thousand times already, yet it is very relevant at present time also and I appreciate the style you have chosen to tell it. You , the actor, have become the real character. Monologues ,yes, but it touches your heart and remain there for ever. Loved the close ups idea. Sound , music everything is complimenting the theme. I am sure the film will travel and win everybody's heart over.

Manju Borah - one of the leading filmmakers from Assam who has won multiple National Film Awards and is respected worldwide

Filmmaker and actor Oorvazi Irani brings to life a story that attempts to redefine Indian women's identity. The film that plays entirely in a series of closeups is a meditation on image and its correlation with the voyeur. It may seem like a long monologue and narrated story, but in its layers, it holds the invitation to reflect and internalize, thus pressing it to become a dialogue. The filmmakers design every shot carefully and fill it to the brim with symbolic richness - every bit of the frame - colours, elements, light, shadows, sounds and music accompany the words and the performance in a thoughtful, inventive manner. It is a journey within a journey and the style as well as the substance is boldly experimental. Kudos to the entire team for bringing the film to life!

Film Review IMBD 2019 - Dheeraj Akolkar, young internationally renowned Director

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Meghna Ghai Puri

President

Whistling Woods International



An accomplished filmmaker, educator, and acting coach, Oorvazi brings together artistic depth, intellectual rigor, and genuine empathy.

In her time at Whistling Woods, I discovered her to be a filmmaker, educationalist, acting coach, and film critic with a rich, practice-led perspective to pedagogy. Across filmmaking, teaching, and academic leadership, Oorvazi has consistently demonstrated originality, integrity, and a remarkable capacity to elevate others.

I wholeheartedly recommend her for opportunities in acting pedagogy, creative filmmaking, and arts education leadership, and wish her continued success in all her endeavors.

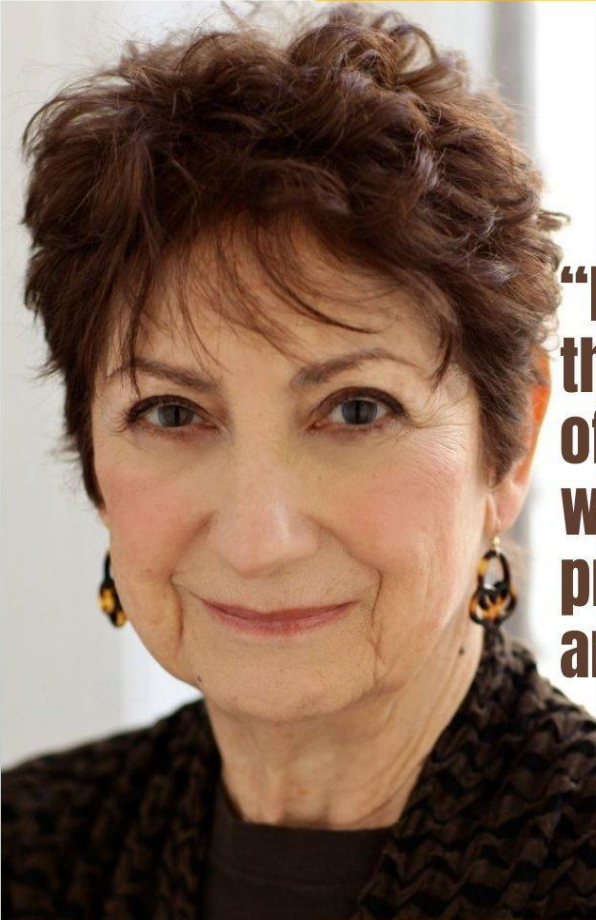


Shoma Bhattacharya

International Baccalaureate Head/Coordinator and
Vice Principal SVKM JV Parekh School

And one day she discovered that she was fierce, and strong, and full of fire, and that not even she could hold herself back because her passion burned brighter than her fears.” — Mark Anthony.

As an individual, I have always known Ms Oorvazi as a person of warmth and charm, whose compassionate self easily establishes human connections. As a professional, an extremely meticulous goal oriented individual, who is in constant strife with her own self to achieve newer heights of perfection. As a teacher, believing and shaping students to become creative thinkers through personal engagement. In the world of films and painting, a part of Oorvazi clearly visible in each endeavour that she painstakingly carves and translates to re-invent her connection with the real world.



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“My vision is the integration of Chekhov’s work into professional artistry.”

Joanna Merlin

MICHA
The Michael Chekhov Association

Joanna Merlin

President

MICHA, The Michael Chekhov Association -New York, USA



The Michael Chekhov Acting technique DVD by Oorvazi Irani
In Oorvazi Irani's sensitive presentation of the Michael Chekhov Acting Technique, she guides the actor through Chekhov's psycho-physical process with, grace, elegance, intelligence and joyfulness. Oorvazi is an articulate actor and teacher, profoundly moved and motivated by Chekhov's lifelong study of the art of acting. In this formidable and artistic presentation, Oorvazi provides a progressive journey for actors, inspiring them to explore their untapped imaginative resources, deepening and enriching their creative individuality.



Anamika Haksar

Reputed Indian Theatre Director, Filmmaker and Teacher



At the age of 54 I decided to get a basic idea of cinema at the Digital Academy, we were blessed to have some fabulous teachers, Ms Oorvazi Irani was one of them. In fact she really opened our eyes to parallel cinema. Her taste was impeccable and ever so artistic. I really enjoyed each film she had curated for us. There is something deeply searching and artistic about her being, very much needed to inspire the artist within you. For me it was love at first sight. A breeze in the precincts of a rather conventional course at the academy. I really thank her, and consider her one of my teachers, though I am of course several years older to her. She remains in my mind like a fresh lily, vulnerable and delicate.



Nitin Neera Chandra National Award-Winning Filmmaker (2016)

After I Completed my Masters learning Cinema for two years at Pune University, I came to Mumbai and started working as a production assistant but until I attended Oorvazi's Irani Film Appreciation classes, I did not know what I was missing. Those 8 days of workshop literally changed the way I was thinking and streamlined a lot of thoughts about Cinema and how it is supposed to work. I remember making two short films for which I was rewarded with a DVD which I have kept.

I directed two films Deswa and Mithila Makhaan, I had joined Oorvazi's workshop as preparation of for Deswa. Deswa went on to become the first film in the Bhojpuri language to get selected at The Indian Panorama section of prestigious International Film Festival of India, Goa. in 2012. My second film Mithila Makhaan is winner of National Award, 'Best Film in Maithili Language' in 2016. Thanks to Oorvazi because one part of my little understanding has her contribution.

Attended Oorvazi's Independent Film Appreciation Batch 2009