

Agni Abega

The Burning Within...

Drama | India-UK | 120 mins
Writer-Director: Charak Ray
Production: Blue Monsoon Studios Ltd (UK)

LOGLINE

Caught between marriage, desire, and the weight of cultural shame, an Indian-American man and his British-Indian lover fight a quiet battle against prejudice, longing, and the emotional distance that threatens to erase them.

SHORT SYNOPSIS (120 words)

When ADITYA, an ambitious Indian-American executive, and ARAB, a calm and introspective British-Indian consultant, meet during a corporate project in Mumbai, an unexpected friendship deepens into a forbidden connection neither is willing to name. Their bond shatters when Aditya abruptly marries ANUSHKA, a successful HR professional, leaving all three trapped in roles shaped by family duty, silence, and denial.

Years later in New York, their paths cross again, reigniting a longing they tried to bury. As Aditya wrestles with the façade of a failing marriage and Arab spirals into loneliness and self-destruction, the truth becomes impossible to outrun.

Dahana charts their emotional unravelling across Mumbai, London, and New York—revealing how love, when suppressed, can liberate, damage, or quietly destroy.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (80 words)

Dahana explores the human cost of living a divided life: one defined by culture, duty, and silence, and another shaped by yearning and personal truth. This is not a story about sexuality—it's a story about loneliness, identity, and the emotional violence of pretending. By contrasting three cities and three clashing moral worlds, the film examines how ordinary people become casualties of shame. My vision is intimate, restrained, and character-driven—an unflinching yet compassionate look at desire, denial, and the struggle to live honestly.

WHY THIS FILM (Audience & Market)

- Contemporary LGBTQ+ drama with South Asian, British, and US appeal
- Addresses themes of suppression, diaspora identity, and mental health
- Resonates with festival audiences (LFF, TIFF, Berlinale, Busan, Frameline)
- Strong potential for UK-India co-production, cultural funding, and streaming buyers

LOOKING FOR

- UK Creative Co-Producer / Indian Co-Producer
- Equity Partners & Cultural Fund Support
- Sales Agent (early interest) / Festival Strategy Partner

CONTACT

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