


Official Selection  
**tiff**  
Toronto International  
Film Festival 2022

Flying River Films presents

# *Tora's* **HUSBAND**

A film by Rima Das

A photograph of a family of four crossing a narrow suspension bridge over a river. The father is carrying a young girl on his shoulders, holding a purple umbrella over them. The mother is walking next to him, holding the hand of a young boy in a striped shirt. The bridge has a wire mesh railing and wooden planks. The background is a lush green forest with a small house visible in the distance. The overall mood is serene and intimate.

CAST: ABHIJIT DAS, TARALI KALITA DAS, BHUMAN BHARGAV DAS  
CO-PRODUCER: JAYA DAS | CINEMATOGRAPHER, EDITOR: RIMA DAS  
SOUND DESIGN: BIGYNA DAHAL | MUSIC: SAGAR DESAI | COLORIST: MAHAK GUPTA  
WRITTEN, DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY RIMA DAS

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## LOGLINE

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Tora's Husband - a loving father and a kind neighbour, struggles to keep his small-town business afloat while his relationships deteriorate, amidst loss and lockdowns.

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## SYNOPSIS

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Loss and lockdowns, life and death – like everywhere around the world, a small-town businessman in Assam is grappling with uncertainty and restlessness.

With a worldview unlike those living around him, Tora's Husband - Jaan, strives to give his best and expects the same from others. But Tora struggles to understand him.

The constant conflict between his inner world and outer world is draining him emotionally. Juggling with his underperforming business and strained personal relationships, he tries to find motivation within to keep going.





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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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I felt as a filmmaker I have the means to tell the stories of these times. I wanted to tell the stories of common people whose lives and livelihood are directly or indirectly affected by the pandemic, yet they have to keep going.



In the midst of loss, lockdowns and life, we shot the film over two years in real locations and natural conditions. The cast and crew were dealing with constant feeling of fear and restlessness. Often it was impossible to focus with so many things happening around. But I just had to make this film, as this time will become history one day.

The story of my protagonist also reflects my personal experiences living and working during the pandemic. I lost my father during the initial days of shooting the film and this film in a way became cathartic in dealing with the grief. I dedicate this film to my father and all those who have lost their loved ones during the pandemic.

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## DIRECTOR'S BIO

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Rima Das, filmmaker from India is known for making indigenous and realistic stories that explore complicated relationships, finding purpose, coming of age and life amidst nature.

Her films **Village Rockstars** and **Bulbul Can Sing** premiered at Toronto International Film Festival, and were screened at over 120 prestigious film festivals around the world winning over 70 Awards including the National Film Awards in India, Village Rockstars was also India's Official Entry to the Academy Awards 'Oscars' 2019. She has donned multiple hats of writer, director, producer, cinematographer, editor for her projects.

Her new film **Tora's Husband** will also have its World Premiere at Toronto International Film Festival 2022, where it is selected to compete in the Platform section.

GQ India named Rima Das as one of the Most Influential Young Indians of 2018. She is also one of the Brand Ambassadors of Toronto International Film Festival's 'Share Her Journey' campaign that champions the cause of gender equality in cinema. She has been on the jury of Berlin International Film Festival Generation 14plus, Mumbai International Film Festival, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival and Zlin Film Festival for Children & Youth.





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Q & A WITH DIRECTOR

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## **1. What is Tora's Husband about?**

The film has different layers. It explores when something like a pandemic happens how people are affected at different levels. The struggles of the protagonist are real, but his expectations disappoint him. His inner world and his outside world are always at conflict.

## **2. How did the idea to make Tora's Husband take seed?**

I was staying alone in Mumbai during the initial three months of the first lockdown. The news of how so many people were suffering was very disturbing. I stood at my window for hours trying to get a glimpse of the world outside the four walls of my house, introspecting about the uncertain times, life and relationships. I longed to meet my family but waited patiently.

Finally, flights opened. I got onto a flight and broke into tears. Disturbing and suffocating, the realisation of the new normal sunk in. But when I returned to my home town in Assam, life was rather different. Although there was fear, but regular activity driven by the need for survival had resumed.

I felt I should go out and tell the story of the common people, because one day this time will be history. I aimed to depict the uncertainty of these times. I wanted to explore the struggles of people who look fine on the outside, but are broke and broken.

### **3. What was your process making Tora's Husband?**

While making Village Rockstars and Bulbul Can Sing, I started out with a basic story and along the way it kept developing. But with Tora's Husband the process was even more organic. The writing, shooting and editing was happening almost simultaneously, going back and forth. Gradually, the characters started developing and the story kept evolving.

Tora's Husband was initially more of a family drama. I started observing how different people are dealing with the pandemic and how it is affecting them differently. Although it is pre-dominantly a story about my protagonist but it is also about different people in the world around him.

We often think that there is only one world. But there are so many different worlds. Jaan himself has so many different worlds - his work, his personal life, his escape and his inner world. The film reflects how I perceive the world we are living in. During the journey, the layers kept adding and the dots kept connecting.

### **4. How was it shooting during the pandemic in real locations and natural conditions?**

Shooting this film was more challenging than shooting my previous films because the pandemic restricts you in many ways, both physically and emotionally.



There was constant fear and anxiety, the energy and morale were low. It felt like this will continue forever and Covid will never end. But the cast and crew stuck together and made Tora's Husband happen.

**5. Is this film inspired by real life or is it entirely fiction?**

The pandemic, of course, is real and so are the struggles of the common people whose lives I portray in my film. The story is my imagination based on my interpretation of real-life experiences. Mostly we shot the film in real locations, but we were making a fiction film.

**6. You have been working with non-actors. Do you plan on working with actors any time soon?**

I have worked with non-actors and actors and I enjoy working with both, it all depends on the story. They challenge me differently.

With non-actors I have to create the mood so that they feel emotionally and express accordingly. But professional actors are more aware and so it can appear rehearsed. So, I try to break that shell and bring out their spontaneity.

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## FILM INFO

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**2022 / INDIA / 143 MIN / COLOR / FICTION / 2.35:1**

**Written, Directed & Produced by** Rima Das

**Cast** Abhijit Das, Tarali Kalita Das, Bhuman Bhargav Das, Purbanchali Das, Simanta Malakar, Nilima Das

**Cinematography** Rima Das

**Production Design** Rima Das

**Editor** Rima Das

**Sound Design** Bigyna Dahal

**Music** Sagar Desai

**Supervising Colorist** Mahak Gupta

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## FILM FESTIVAL JOURNEY

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**Tora's Husband premieres in the Platform Competition section at Toronto International Film Festival 2022.** Named after Jia Zhang-ke's ground-breaking film 'Platform', this section aims to shine a brighter light on some of the most original films and distinct voices at TIFF.

“ Tora’s Husband is a perceptive drama that captures how tensions can erode lives and relationships during difficult times when everyone is struggling to survive. With careful attention paid to the unique pressure faced by small-business owners, Das’s purview extends beyond the middle class, capturing the crisis with impressive scope and documentary-like attentiveness, pointing to the societal fragilities that preceded — and will follow — the effects of the pandemic itself. With remarkable authenticity, Das illuminates both the dignity and vulnerability of ordinary people in one of the defining films of our historical moment. [Read more...](#)

**RAVI SRINIVASAN**

Festival Programmer, TIFF

### **Press & Industry Screenings**

Scotia Theatre Cinema: 9th Sept 6:20 pm | 13th Sept 4:40 pm

### **Public Screenings**

TIFF Bell Lightbox Cinema:

11th Sept 3.00 pm | 13th Sept 7:00 pm

Scotia Theatre Cinema: 17th Sept 12:05 pm



Thank you!

**Connect:**

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