

# THE COLLABORATOR





## PROJECT INFORMATION

**Director** Travis Hodgkins  
**Producers** Rashaana Shah, Cristy Coors Beasley  
**Genre** Drama/Thriller  
**Language** English

## LOGLINE

THE COLLABORATOR is a coming-of-age story about a “Boy” growing up during the height of the border war over Kashmir. In the early 1990s, young men in villages all over Kashmir are disappearing. Fearing that they’re being recruited to become “freedom fighters” in the war to take Kashmir from India, the Indian army occupies the villages. The Boy is forced by an Indian army officer to perform a grim task, to go into the valley where the war is being fought and collect ID cards from the dead, and the Boy fears each day that he will find one of his missing friends lying amongst the dead.

The territorial conflict over the Kashmir Valley between India and Pakistan started after the partition of India in 1947 and continues to this day. Since 1989, there has been an ongoing armed insurgency against Indian rule in Kashmir, and Pakistan has played a significant role in this insurgency, providing the insurgents with weapons and training. In response to the insurgency, the Indian army occupied the Kashmir Valley and the surrounding areas, and the fighting between the insurgents and the Indian army has resulted in tens of thousands of casualties, both combatant and civilian.

THE COLLABORATOR is a semi-autobiographical novel by Mirza Waheed based on his experiences growing up in Kashmir during this conflict, and the film adaption is set in 1993 during the height of the conflict. The protagonist, known only as the “Boy,” lives in a small village near the Kashmir valley. One by one, his friends begin to disappear, and no one knows whether they’ve crossed into Pakistan to join the training camps to become insurgents or if the Indian army has taken them. In the hope of keeping their son safe, the Boy’s parents force him to work for the Indian army, and the Captain of the local army unit makes the Boy collect ID cards from the dead insurgents in the valley where the army has been fighting.



Angry with his parents and hopeful he might find his missing friends, the Boy runs away and tries to cross into Pakistan to become an insurgent, but he is rejected by the local recruiter because it is known he works for the Indian army. While returning home, the Boy is captured by the Indian army and subsequently tortured and interrogated by the Captain, who now suspects him of working for the insurgents. To free his son from the army, the Boy’s father must agree to inform on local villagers suspected of working for the insurgents. Ashamed by what his father has agreed to do and haunted by the ghosts of his missing friends, the Boy decides to kill the army Captain. But can he do it?

# THE CAST





## RUDI DHARMALINGAM

as CAPTAIN KADIAN

### Filmography:

- Role Play (Amazon Prime/Studio Canal)
- Wakefield (Lead in the 8 part series for ABC)
- Great Expectations (Disney/BBC)
- The Split (Sundance Now)
- The Lazarus Project (TNT)
- In the Shadow of the Moon (Automatik Ent.)
- Hamlet (National Theatre Live)



## NITIN GANATRA

as HEADMAN (BOY'S FATHER)

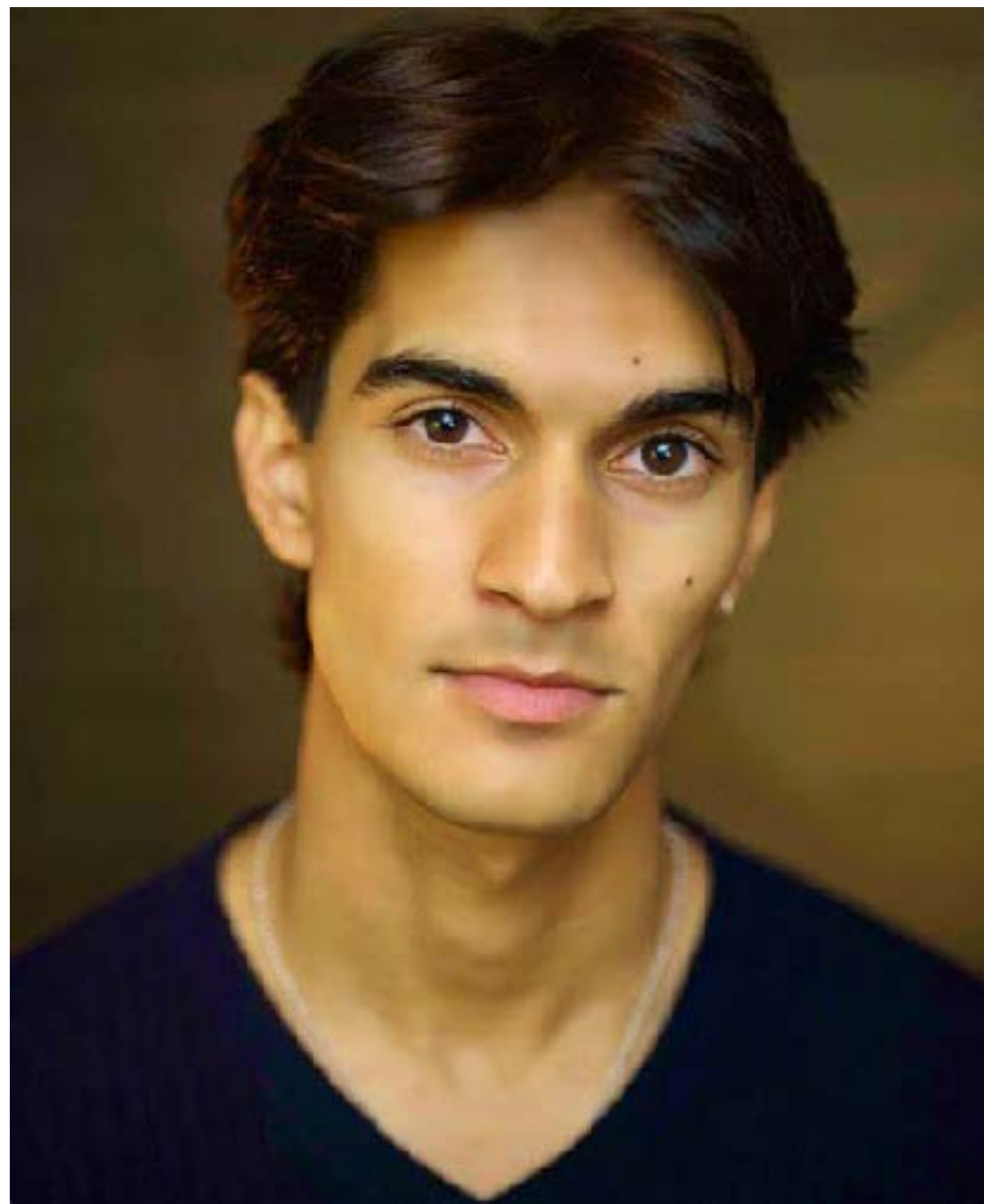
### Filmography:

- Seize Them! (2024)
- 3 Body Problem (TV Series, 2024)
- Bodies (TV Series, 2023)
- Accused (2023)
- Hellboy (2019)
- EastEnders (TV Series, 2007-2019, 750 Episodes)
- Color Me Kubrick (2005)
- Charlie And The Chocolate Factory (2005)

# CAST

**BOY**

NIKHIL SINGH RAI



**HUSSAIN**

SERDAR ALTAN



**GUL**

REISS KERSHI



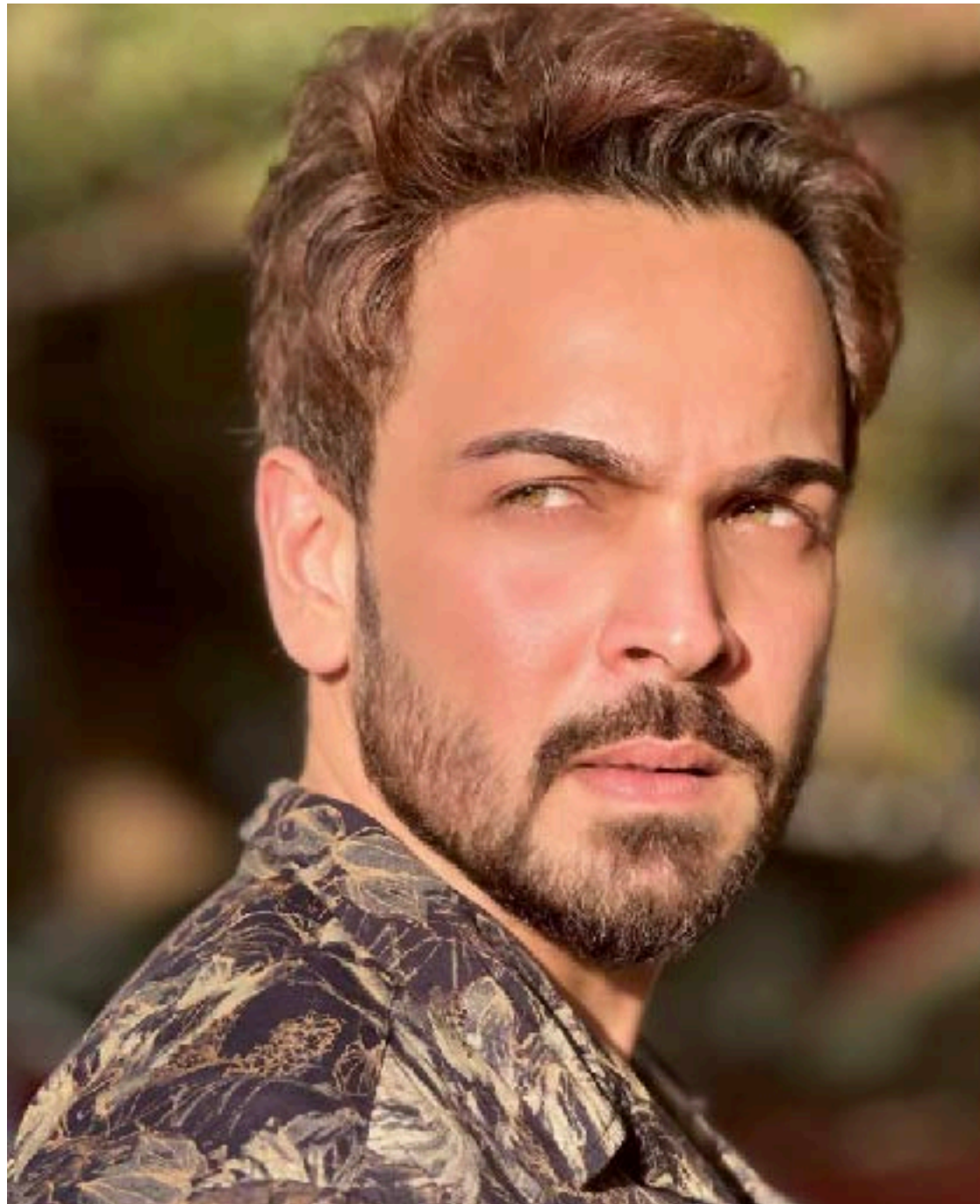
**ASHFAQ**

SHAMAIL ALI



# CAST

SUBEDAR  
KIANN



MOTHER  
MEERA GANATRA



KHADIM KHUSSAIN  
VIKRAM KAPADIA



ASMA  
ANASTASIA JAIRATH





# THE TEAM





## TRAVIS HODGKINS

WRITER & DIRECTOR

Travis Hodgkins is an accomplished writer, producer, and practicing attorney. His TV and film credits include writing and producing the feature film *A NEW CHRISTMAS* (distributed by Cinedigm in 2019), executive producing the feature film *AMERICAN UNDERDOG* starring Danny Trejo (set to be released in 2024), and he developed and sold the kids TV show *UNGIFTED*, based on the novel by Gordon Korman, to Nickelodeon (CBS Viacom). *THE COLLABORATOR*, based on the novel by Mirza Waheed, is his feature film directorial debut.

He is a graduate of UC Berkeley and UC Hastings College of the Law, and has studied at the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing, PRC and the Taiwan Language Institute in Taipei, ROC. He has spent much of his life traveling and working around the world as both a journalist and attorney. He considers India, which he has traveled extensively, to be one of the most unique places on Earth.

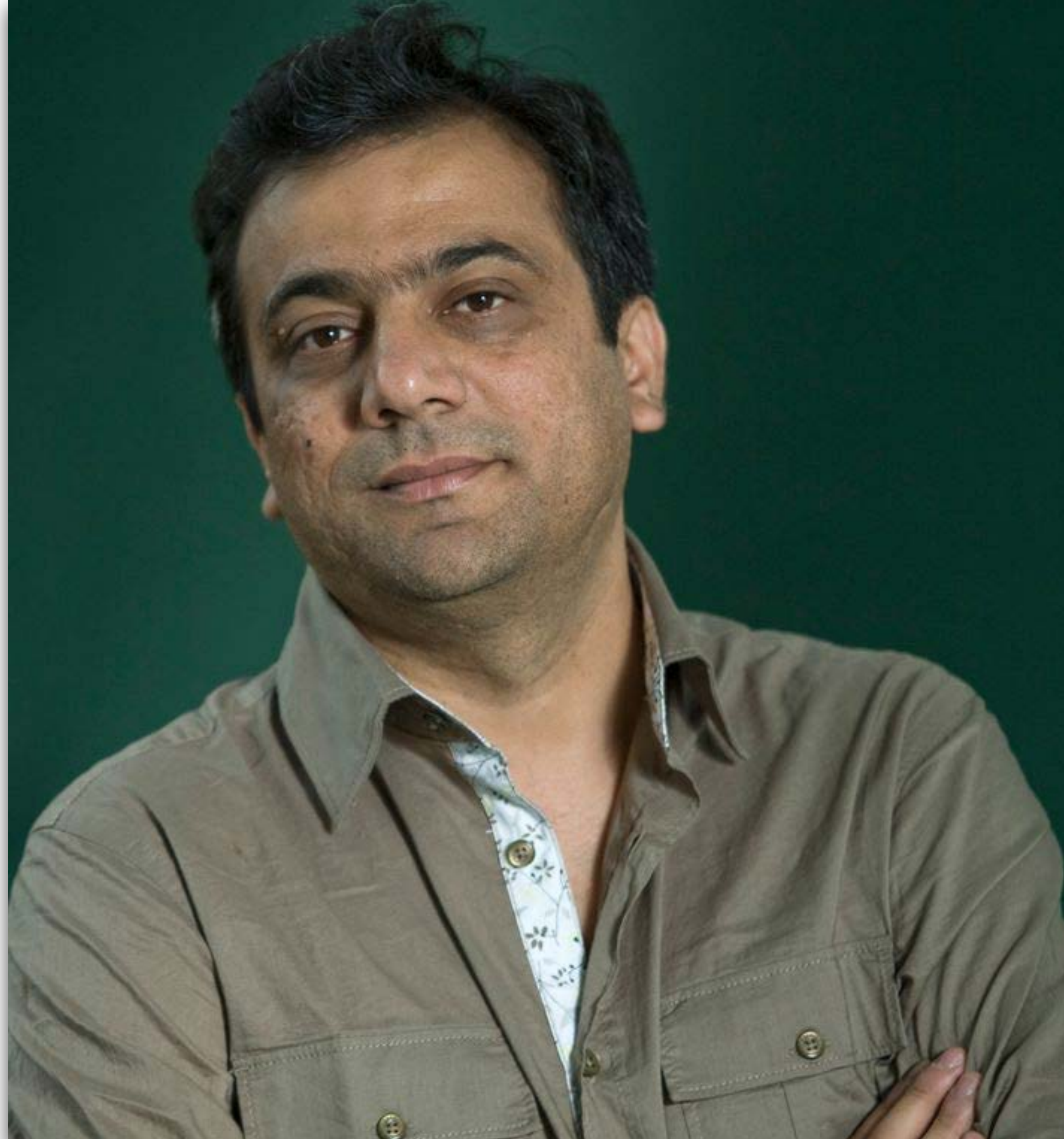
# MIRZA WAHEED

AUTHOR

Mirza Waheed was born and raised in Kashmir. His debut novel, *The Collaborator*, an international bestseller, was a finalist for The Guardian's First Book Award and the Shakti Bhat Prize, and shortlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize. The novel was selected by Waterstones as part of its big literary debut promotion, 'Waterstones 11'. It was also selected as the Book of the Year for The Telegraph, New Statesman, Financial Times, Business Standard and Telegraph India, among others.

His second novel, *The Book of Gold Leaves* was published in 2014 to critical acclaim. It was shortlisted for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2016, shortlisted for the Folio Prize and was a finalist for the 2015 Tata Literature Live! Book of the Year (Fiction).

Mirza has written for the BBC, The Guardian, Granta, Guernica, Al Jazeera English and The New York Times. Waheed's new novel *Tell Her Everything* was nominated for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019 and Tata Literature Live Book of the Year. *Tell Her Everything* won the Hindu Prize for Fiction 2019.





# JOHAN HOLMQUIST

CINEMATOGRAPHER

## Filmography:

- Mirakel (2020)
- Top Dog (TV Series, 2019)
- Springfloden I & II (TV Series, 2017)
- Beauty and The Dogs (2022)
- 100 Code (2015)
- Welcome to Sweden (TV Series, 2013)
- Bekas (2012)

# JAMIE KIRKPATRICK

EDITOR

## Filmography:

- Greedy People (2024)
- Heroes' Feast (TV Series, 2023)
- Blumhouse Compendium of Horror (TV Series, 2022)
- Beau (2022)
- Old Henry (2021)
- Critical Thinking (2020)
- My Friend Dahmer (2017)





# WAYNE SHARPE

COMPOSER

## Filmography:

- Resilient (Short, 2023)
- Bill Russell Legend (TV Series, 2023)
- Basmati Blues (2017)
- Watch Indian Circus (2011)
- Rajneeti (2010)
- Return to Afghanistan (2007)

## RASHAANA SHAH

PRODUCER



- AMERICAN UNDERDOG (in Post Production; starring Danny Trejo, Veronica Falcon)
- LOST AND FOUND IN CLEVELAND (post-production with an ensemble star cast)
- A NEW CHRISTMAS (distributed by Cinedigm in 2019)
- BLOWING UP RIGHT NOW (distributed by Gravitas Ventures in 2020)

Rashaana also has several other TV and film projects in pre-production or development, including PIANO TUNER a novel by Daniel Mason, NANDA DEVI, a spy-thriller set in the Himalayas in 1965 with Tarsem Singh (The Cell, Self/less, Mirror Mirror) attached to direct, and PURPLE AMERICA, based on the bestselling novel by Rick Moody.

## CRISTY COORS BEASLEY

PRODUCER



- AMERICAN UNDERDOG (starring Danny Trejo and Veronica Falcon).
- First of it's kind internet episodic production LONELYGIRL15 and KATEMODERN, which launched the careers of many actors including Jamie Bell and Ralf Little.
- MY LEFT HAND MAN (starring Thomas Brodie-Sangster and Andrew Howard) and earned her Best Producer at the Madrid International Film Festival;
- THE WOUND, and THE WESTSIDERS (an award winning surfer documentary and festival darling, currently in development for episodic television).

Cristy is an active member of several prestigious organizations, including the British Academy of Film and Television North America and The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The story of *The Collaborator*, ultimately, is about friendship and loss. I grew up in a small town like the characters in the movie, and like them, my friends were kids I'd known all my life, since I was a little boy. We all had dreams of leaving our small town and making our lives into something special, something extraordinary, and some of my friends, more than I care to count, died before they even really got started. When you lose someone at that age, someone you've grown up with, someone you've known all your life, the emotion—that feeling of loss—is overwhelmingly intense, and it stays with you forever.

I revisited that feeling many times while writing the script and while shooting the movie, and it was discussed many, many times with the actors and DOP and editor and anyone involved in the creatives in order to find and keep the right tone throughout the movie. As you can imagine, these discussions often became very emotional as we all shared stories about friends we'd lost, but what it showed time and again is we could all relate to these characters from Kashmir, a place many of us have never been, and we could bring something authentic from our lives to this story.

We shot in the Republic of Georgia, and because of its own continuing border conflict with Russia, many of our Georgian cast and crew felt personally connected to the story of this movie. Border conflicts like this are occurring all around the world, and many people feel the same as our Georgian friends do about this movie, that it tells an important aspect of these conflicts often overlooked by those of us fortunate enough to live elsewhere in the world. It's our sincere hope, and I believe the hope of everyone who has worked on this movie, that anyone watching it from around the world will gain some understanding of what is happening in these conflict zones and be able to sympathize with the families enduring these struggles.

Our cast and crew were comprised of talented people from all around the world, including the India, Georgia, United States, Sweden, Australia, Great Britain and Thailand. Despite coming from different places around the world, everyone involved was able to identify with the story, with the struggles of the families surviving this tragic ordeal, and it kept us singularly focused on telling the best possible story with the hope of providing a glimpse of what it's like to live—and survive—in a conflict zone.

Lastly, many people have suggested we put an explanation about the conflict in Kashmir at the opening of the movie, and we've decided against doing that for many reasons. Primarily, we don't want to take a position about the conflict by telling people what to think about it. It is our sincere hope this movie will inspire people to do their own research and come to their own conclusions about the conflict. It is also our hope that people will not pigeonhole this movie as a story about Kashmir but will instead see it as a story about families living in a conflict zone, any conflict zone in the world.





## PRODUCER NOTE

THE COLLABORATOR made me question if the choices we make are really our own. What would I do if I was living in this village during this time? Would I do what my friends are doing? Would I do what my parents ask? Would I want revenge for the deaths of the people I see all around me? Our protagonist confronts all these questions as he looks within himself to discover who he really is... Is he a friend? A son? A patriot? A martyr? Or is he something else? We endeavored to take the audience on this journey, and I believe the solution the Boy finds to all these questions is one that shows not only who he is but who we all are.



**RUN TIME: 124 min**

**LANGUAGE: English**

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

**TRAVIS HODGKINS**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

**JOHAN HOLMQUIST**

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY

**WAYNE SHARPE**

COSTUME DESIGNER

**RAJVI SHAH**

EDITED BY

**JAMIE KIRKPATRICK**

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

**MADHURA GOKARN**

CASTING BY

**AVANI DHAR PARIKH**



BASED ON THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED NOVEL  
BY MIRZA WANEED

# THE COLLABORATOR

MULBERRY FILMS and FABEEE FRAMES PRODUCTION "THE COLLABORATOR" IS BASED ON THE NOVEL BY MIRZA WANEED. FEATURING RISHU BHANUJAN, NITIN GANPATI. THE PRODUCERS: RUPHI SINGHRAI. MUSIC BY MAXXI SHARF.  
EDITED BY JAMU KRUPPIYICK. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: JUDITH HODGKINS. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: CHANTHA VEDRALAPUDI, JURETH JAKUS CHEYANJANAM. PRODUCED BY RASHAANA SHAI, CRISTY COONS DEASLEY.  
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY TRAVIS HODGKINS

## CONTACT

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