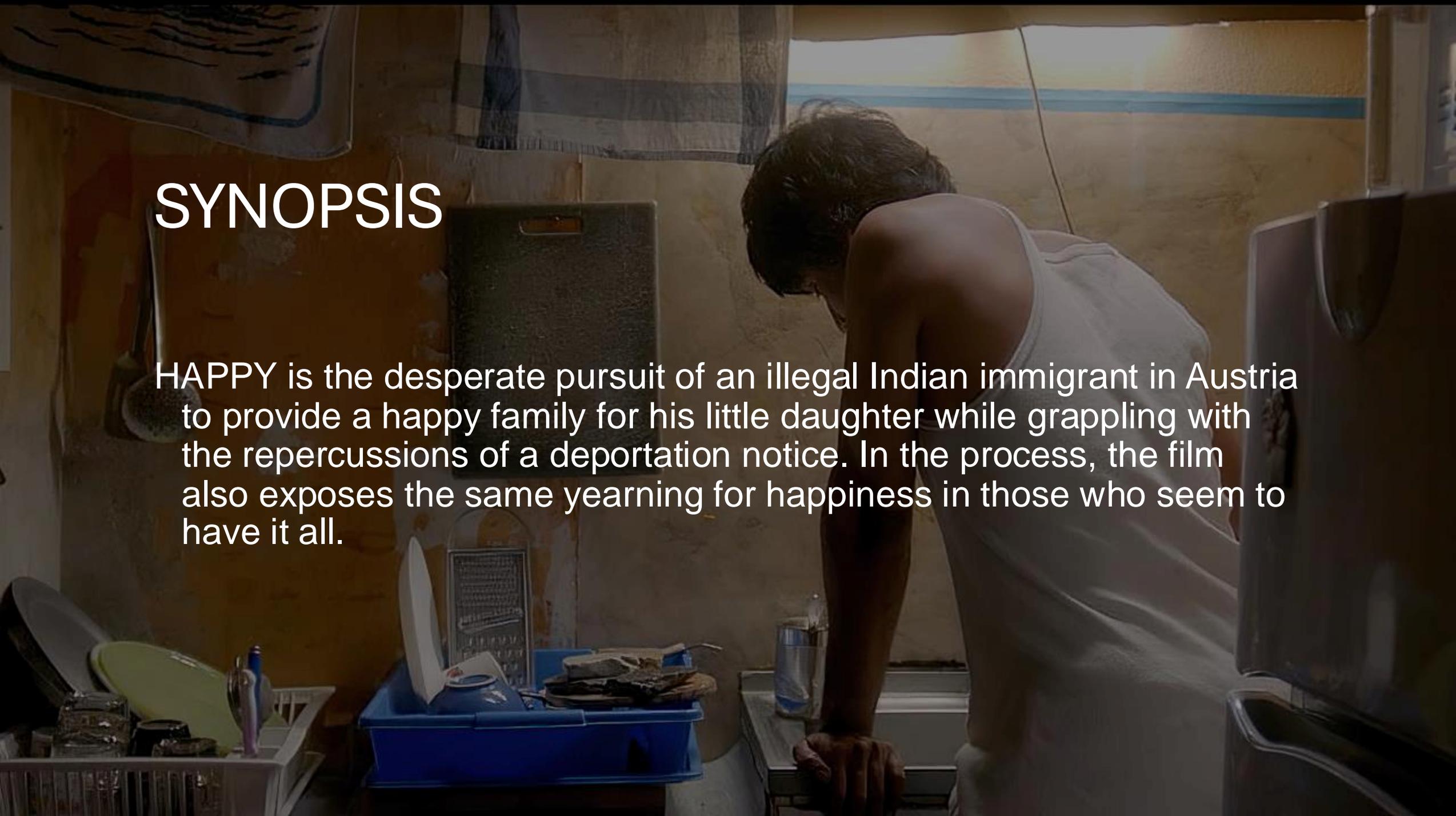


A man with dark, curly hair, wearing a white tank top and grey shorts, is sitting on a bed with his back to the camera. He is in a dimly lit room with a textured, light-colored wall. To his left, a small framed picture hangs on the wall. The bed is covered with a white sheet and a patterned blanket. A red blanket is visible on the right side of the bed. In the foreground, a large, out-of-focus object, possibly a fan, is partially visible on the right side.

A FILM BY SANDEEP KUMAR

HAPPY

A man with dark hair, wearing a white tank top, is leaning over a kitchen counter. He is looking down at something on the counter. The kitchen is cluttered with various items, including a blue plastic bin, a grater, and some food. The walls are a light color with a blue horizontal stripe. There is a window in the background with a striped curtain. The overall atmosphere is one of a modest, lived-in space.

SYNOPSIS

HAPPY is the desperate pursuit of an illegal Indian immigrant in Austria to provide a happy family for his little daughter while grappling with the repercussions of a deportation notice. In the process, the film also exposes the same yearning for happiness in those who seem to have it all.



Director's Statement

As a filmmaker, I strive to tell stories that reflect the conflicts and violations within belief as well as socioeconomic systems. Film is my way of living my best life - to celebrate, expose, learn and absorb, all in one hundred twenty minutes or less. It is my intention that each of my films meet this challenge head on.

For HAPPY, I closely studied the microcosmos of the life of Indian immigrants in Austria, mainly from the northern state of Punjab for over ten years. To get the various nuances of their life and in order to retain the authenticity of the narration, the film was designed to include dialogues in three different languages - German, Hindi and Punjabi.

For me personally, HAPPY encapsulates everything for which I became a filmmaker. Its about love, happiness, dignity and equality. In short, its a reflection of humanity or at least what is left of it today.

Sandeep Kumar

Vienna (Austria)

About Sahidur Rahaman

Sahidur Rahaman, from the prestigious National School of Drama in New Delhi, India, is a talented Indian actor who got critical acclaim for Indian films like - Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, Kaabil, Batla House etc..

His recent film STOLEN was selected for its world premiere at the 80th. Venice Film Festival.

Sahidur Rahaman is also the first Indian actor to play a lead role in an Austrian film in German language.





About Sandeep Kumar

Indian born Austrian filmmaker Sandeep Kumar released his first feature film KESARIYA BALAM (LIEBE OHNE GRENZEN) in 2010, which received many accolades, including 'Best Director' and 'Best Film.' SERVUS ISHQ (2014), his second feature, had a nationwide release in Austria and was produced by Oscar-winner Josef Aichholzer.

OHNE BEKENNTNIS, ANOTHER DAY IN MANHATTAN, MEHRUNISA and ANOTHER CHRISTMAS IN MANHATTAN followed in the years after that.

Kumar discovered his passion for film through studying theater in India, where he shared the stage with Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan in school productions.

Kumar attended film directing workshops of Michael Haneke at the Film Academy in Vienna, is a member of the Association of Austrian Directors and the Austrian Film Academy. He lives in Vienna.



CAST & CREW

WRITER/DIRECTOR Sandeep Kumar
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Christian Haake, aac
EDITOR Claudia Linzer
MUSIC Wolf-Maximilian Liebich
ON-SET SOUND Herbert Verdino
DRAMATURG Robert Buchschwenter Petra Ladinig Gabriele Gruber
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Sanja Halb
PRODUCER Gabriele Gruber
WITH Sahidur Rahaman
Lilian Klebow
Roland Düringer
Adam Sandhu
Gisela Salcher
Robert Ritter
Shirin Grace

Festivals (status September 2024)

WORLD PREMIERE

- MOSTRA Sao Paulo International Film Festival, Brazil

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

- Biberacher Filmfestspiele, Germany



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Indian actor plays German-speaking role in Austrian film

By Saibal Chatterjee

CANNES: An Austrian film with an Indian actor speaking German, a project without precedent, is nearing completion in Vienna.

Written and directed by Indian-origin Austrian filmmaker Sandeep Kumar, the film, titled "Happy", features Mumbai-based actor Sahidur Rahman in the role of an illegal

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7/8/24, 3:33 PM Indian actor Sahidur Rahman plays German-speaking role in Austrian film - Times of India

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Indian actor Sahidur Rahman plays German-speaking role in Austrian film

PTI | May 23, 2024, 02:24 PM IST



An Austrian film with an Indian actor speaking German, a project without precedent, is nearing completion in Vienna. Written and directed by Indian-origin Austrian filmmaker Sandeep Kumar, the film, titled 'Happy,' features Mumbai-based actor Sahidur Rahman in the role of an illegal immigrant grappling with the repercussions of a deportation notice. Rahman, a National School of Drama, Delhi, alumnus, was in Karan Tejpal's 'Stolen,' which world premiered at the 80th Venice Film Festival last year. Kumar, whose last film was Mehrunisa, reveals that the lead actor learned the German language for four months before the shoot got underway.

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"I had first contacted a busy Mumbai actor to play the lead role in 'Happy'. He liked the script but his other commitments prevented him from boarding the project. "Sahidur has done an incredible job," Kumar told PTI on the sidelines of the 77th Cannes Film Festival.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/web-series/news/english/indian-actor-sahidur-rahman-in-austrian-film-happy/articleshowprint/110359762.cms>

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