



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Tin Can Buffaloes is a film about social status. About the desire to receive recognition, about struggling against social prejudice, and about the way we engage with our past, question our beliefs and shape our environment as we attempt to determine our future. These are issues I can identify with due to my own past.

Born in Germany, I grew up predominantly in India. My early classmates were Indian. I learned how to read and write at their side. I spoke like them. Soaking up Indian myths, flavors, sights and sounds, I felt at home, yet, I was not. The contradictory feeling of connecting with a certain community while, for one reason or another, never really belonging is pertinent to this project.

Without equating my own life to that of my protagonist, everything the boy in my story encounters incorporates elements from my own experiences. The vitalizing yet disruptive transformation of Goa from a rural to a semi-urban setting that I witnessed over the past twenty-five years is one such impression.

My cross-cultural sensibility shapes my interest in issues like these and results in a focus on specific details that others might choose to overlook. At the same time, my history and work as a filmmaker in India give me an emotional, informed and authentic entryway into my subject matter.

Tin Can Buffaloes highlights the idiosyncrasies of a specific setting but asks universal questions highly relevant to the current age: Where do I really belong? How can I transcend societal pressures and find my true self? How will I achieve a better life without negatively impacting others? I invite viewers to follow me on a journey to explore these questions in new ways.