

Two Women, Two Continents, 9000 Miles, One Dream

NICOLE DONADIO & UMA KUMARAPURAM

**ACROSS  
THE  
OCEAN**





OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**ACROSS  
THE  
OCEAN**

NICOLE DONADIO & UMA KUMARAPURAM

presents

# ACROSS THE OCEAN

TWO WOMEN, TWO CONTINENTS, 9000 MILES, ONE DREAM

Nicole Donadio

[njdonadio@gmail.com](mailto:njdonadio@gmail.com)

+1 (973)632-2061

Uma Kumarapuram

[uma.kumarapuram@gmail.com](mailto:uma.kumarapuram@gmail.com)

+91 9400516685

<https://acrosstheoceanmovie.weebly.com>

## SYNOPSIS



Though from two different countries and two different cultures, Holly, a young executive from California, and Nila, a mid-20s software engineer from Cochin share one dream - of traveling abroad.

When an opportunity to work in Kerala, India means Holly choosing between her dream and her job, family, and relationship, she faces a life changing dilemma. Meanwhile Nila, who's ready to settle in the US with her fiancée, gets a shock when he tells her that he intends to settle in India post-marriage. Both ladies realize that if they want to get to their dreams, they have to take a bold step at the right moment.



A cultural exploration between India and the USA, Across The Ocean is a unique narration of a universal story of two women who decide to chase their dreams.

## TECH SPECS

Genre : Humour-Drama

Run Time : 82 min

Language : Malayalam/English

Country of Production : India/USA

Aspect Ratio : 2.35:1

Format : Full HD

Year : 2019

# ACROSS THE OCEAN

NICOLE DONADIO & UMA KUMARAPURAM



TWO CONTINENTS  
TWO WOMEN  
9000 MILES  
ONE DREAM!



## Two Filmmakers, Two Continents, 9000 Miles, One Movie!

Directed by Nicole Donadio from California and Uma Kumarapuram from Kerala, sitting "literally" in two ends of the world (if one may say so!).

Much similar to their characters, Donadio and Kumarapuram are also from two continents.

They were strangers who met online coincidentally, but then they decided to make this movie while sitting in their home-countries, with the help of technology and a little ingenuity.

A cultural exploration between India and the US, "Across The Ocean" might be perhaps the first in the fiction filmmaking history where two female filmmakers from two continents made a movie together while sitting in their home-countries, collaborating entirely over internet, using web-based services.

Indie in the truest sense, the movie is produced with the help of two successful crowd-funding campaigns in both countries, and is shot in Kerala and California by two crews simultaneously. Edited together in an intercutting narration to make one 82-minute long narrative feature, the movie is a humour-drama genre one.



**KICKSTARTER**



**FilmFreeway**



**MailChimp**



**WISHBERRY**



Beginning with Gmail, Facebook and other social media, to data-transfer sites and apps like G-Drive, Dropbox, WeTransfer, managing apps like MailChimp, script softwares like Celtx, to Vimeo, FilmFreeway, trust us, we have tried it all!



**UMA KUMARAPURAM** - Filmmaker specializing in Cinematography, hailing from Kerala, India. Started working in the south Indian film industry since 2010, and currently working in Malayalam Film Industry and Bollywood as Second Unit DP, with 13 feature films so far in filmography in the position of camera crew.

Own projects as a cinematographer include Rampunthanavaruthi, an experimental Narrative feature on the backdrop of International Film Festival of Kerala; Aliveni, an acclaimed Musical short, directed by the well-known designer Jayaram Ramachandran; Jara, a short film directed by the renowned musician Sreevalsan J Menon, among various short films, music videos and documentaries.

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm8508976/>

**NICOLE DONADIO** - Los Angeles based writer and director. M.F.A. from Loyola Marymount University in Film and TV Production in 2010. Various jobs in the entertainment industry, including as assistant to Executive Producer Carrie Ann Inaba, as well as positions at FOX's American Idol, and ABC's Castle.

Directed a short trailer titled The Women of Wall Street- Parody of the Oscar nominated film, The Wolf of Wall Street, which got featured in the Huffington Post, InTouch Weekly, Time Magazine, as well as on ABC7 News - NY. Most recently, Web Content Producer on The Queen Latifah Show and the Tyra Banks talk show, FABLife.

IMDb : <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2041864/>





- Rampunthavaruthi (Mal); 2019; DP; (*in Festival Rounds*); Fiction; Feature; 120min
- Across The Ocean (2019) (Mal/Eng); Co-Director/Writer/Producer/DP; Fiction Feature; 82min
- Itharam (2019)(Mal); Cinematographer; Docufiction; Short; 36min
- Kanaa Kanaa Vazhgiren(2018); Cinematographer; Music Video; Short, 5.35min
- Mokshaah(2018); Cinematographer; Music Video; Short; 6.35min
- Manumalayalam(2017); Cinematographer; Music Video; Short; 3.43
- Veerangana(2017); Cinematographer; Music Video; Short; 3.32min
- Aliveni(2017); Cinematographer; Music Video; Short; 6.22min
- Shvaasa (2016); Cinematographer; Fiction; Short; 10min

- Across The Ocean (2019) – Co-Director/Writer/Producer/DP/Editor/Sound Designer; Fiction; Feature; 82min
  - FABLife (2015-2016) – Digital Content Producer; TV
  - The Queen Latifah Show (2014-2015) – Digital Content Producer; TV
- The Brotherhood of Travelling Pants (2014) – Director/Editor/Cinematographer; Fiction; Short; 2.45min
  - The Women of Wallstreet (2014) – Director/Cinematographer; Fiction; Short; 2.10min
  - Castle (2012-2013) – Asst. to Co-Exe.Producer; TV
- A Strong Façade (2010) – Director/Writer/Producer/Editor/Composer; Fiction; Short; 18.44min



# DIRECTORS' VISION

Set in contemporary timeline, Across The Ocean tells the story of how each woman finds in herself, the courage and the drive to make their dreams come true, even in the face of adverse conditions. It's a story about two women, divided by continents, culture, language and social setups but united by the passion and determination towards their dreams.

Similar to our characters, we,-the filmmakers Nicole and Uma,-live in two cities thousands of miles apart, who were complete strangers. We met unexpectedly online, first through Facebook and then Gmail. Despite the seeming differences in the life and culture, we realized as we chatted, that we have a lot in common regarding our thoughts, dreams, ideas, and career situations and challenges we faced, and our casual chatting turned into a discussion about the possibility of doing something together –perhaps a movie! And what the movie is about is exactly what we want to say too- to remind one not to settle for anything less than what one wants.

It took us two years of lengthy email chains, more than twenty rewrites and double the number of drafts, and a meticulous planning and detailing on each and every aspect of the movie, before the project was moved into the production phase.

The movie was shot in Cochin and Los Angeles simultaneously by two independent crews, and the footage was later compiled and edited together seamlessly into one feature film, making the whole project a truly international one with a global perspective.

The script and the story it tells is incredibly unique in treatment, even when it's a universal theme of chasing one's dreams or going with one's heart. And the contrasting characterization of the protagonists serves the purpose of global perspective better, supported well with the mirroring of a variety of characters in both their lives- the love interest, the best friend(s), the family, and the boss. All these characters influence the lives and decisions of the protagonists, which seem dissimilar on a first glance, but in actuality are very similar on a deeper level.

On a philosophical or ideological level, the movie is a female centric movie, with gender-equal characterization and a strong feminist view in the core, told in a colourful, light-hearted way uncompromising in the entertainment values. If advancement in technology is made use of to make this unique film, it is the desperate call for gender balance within and behind the camera which makes this project a necessity in the contemporary times.

# FESTIVALS

## Chicago South Asian Film Festival 2019

September 19 - 22, 2019, Chicago, IL (WORLD PREMIERE)

Official Competition Selection



## LIFFT India Filmotsav 2019

December 12 - 16, 2019, Pune, MH (INDIA PREMIERE)

Official Competition Selection



## International Film Festival of Ahmednagar

Jan 3 - 5, 2019, Ahmednagar, MH

Winner : Best Actress : Apoorva Bose

Winner : Best Editing

Winner : Special Recognition Screenplay Writing



## Genre Celebration Festival

Dec 7th, 2019, Tokyo

Nomination – Best Comedy Feature

Nomination – Best Actress : Apoorva Bose



## Vancouver International South Asian Film Festival 2019

November 14 - 17, 2019, Vancouver, BC (INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE)

Official Selection



## Asian Film Festival, Los Angeles Hollywood

Dec 12th, 2019, Tokyo

Winner – Best Feature



## International Film Festival of Thrissur 2020

March 6-12, 2020, Thrissur, Kerala (KERALA PREMIERE)

Official Selection



## Top Indie Film Awards 2019

Feb 1st, 2020, Tokyo

Winner - Best Original Idea

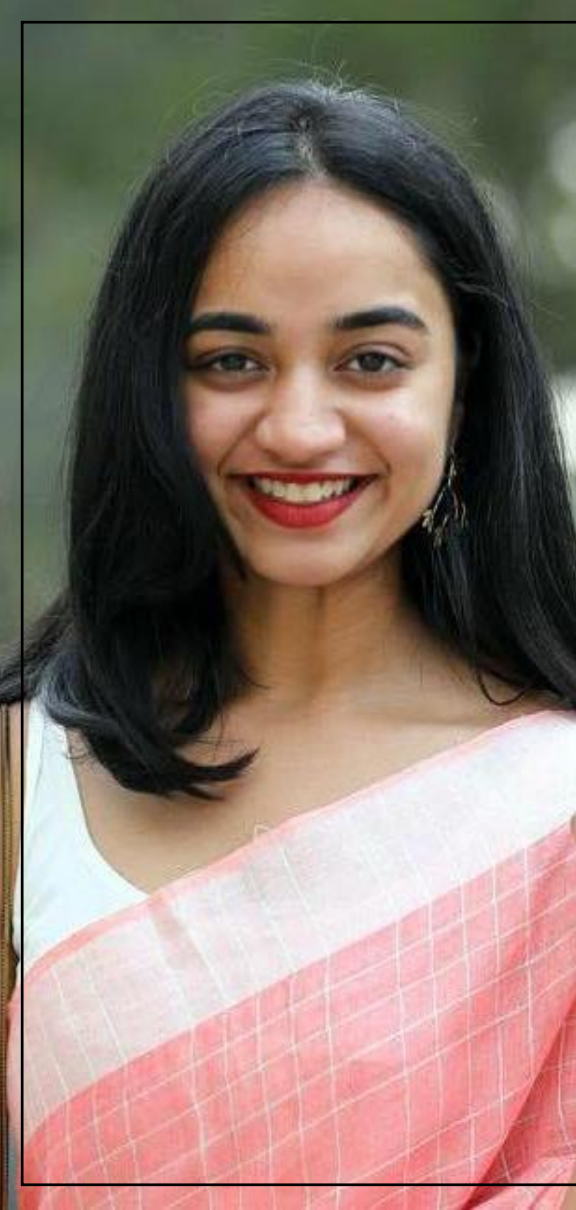
Nomination - Best Feature

Nomination - Best Writing

Nomination - Best Editing







## MAIN CAST

### APOORVA BOSE

A trained classical dancer, and actor, Apoorva Bose is noted for her works mainly in Malayalam cinema.

Born and raised in Kochi, India, Apoorva debuted in the Malayalam film, Malarvadi Arts Club (2010), whilst she was studying in her tenth class at Choice School, Thrippunithura. And her film career continued in small but notable roles in movies like Pranayam(2011), Padmasree Bharat Dr. Saroj Kumar(2012), Paisa Paisa(2013), Hey Jude(2018). She's currently doing her masters in International Law in GIIDS, Geneva.

### ANNA JALLER

Hailing from the East Coast, Anna majored in Theatre at Muhlenberg College and is a graduate of the Upright Citizens Brigade.

A passionate, multifaceted actress and producer based in Los Angeles, USA, Anna's credits include the Entourage Movie(2015), Ella's Lament (2011), Purple Walls (2014), MTV's Failosophy, the pilot Hitting Home, and several national commercials and new media shorts.



# SUPPORTING CAST



AUSTIN ARNOLD



DARIN TOONDER



JON ERIC HOFFMAN



SREERAM RAMACHANDRAN



MUTHUMANI SOMASUNDARAN



VEENAH NAIR



KRISHNA SMITHA



ERINROSE WIDNER



THANKAM MOHAN



VISHNU MOHAN



JOLLY CHIRAYATH



ADAM PILVER



SHELLEY PHILLIPS



SHARATH MENON



MOHAN KRISHNAN



DEVIKA KRISHNAN



WARREN DAVIS

# MAIN CREW

DIRECTION, SCRIPT & CINEMATOGRAPHY

[Nicole Donadio](#), [Uma Kumarapuram](#)

EXE.PRODUCERS

[ErinRose Widner](#), [MohanKumar Kallayil](#),

[Deepankuran Kumarapuram](#)

MUSIC

[Crystal Grooms Mangano](#)

EDITING

[Noufal Ahmed](#), [Nicole Donadio](#)

SOUND DESIGN

[Nikhil Varma](#), [Nicole Donadio](#)

PRODUCTION DESIGN

[Dundhu Renjeev](#), [Nicole Donadio](#)

COSTUMES

[Divya George](#), [Nicole Donadio](#)

MAKE-UP & HAIR

[Mitta Antony](#), [Nicole Donadio](#)



# FAQs

## What makes this movie a unique one?

“The story of two women from two continents, trying to go after the same dream” would be a one-sentence sum-up for both the story of the movie, as well as the story of the two filmmakers who made it happen.

Like their protagonists Nila and Holly, Uma and Nicole were two strangers in two countries, 9000 miles apart, who had a similar dream. They met via social networks, and made this movie together, while sitting in their home-countries and collaborating entirely over internet. *Across The Ocean* might perhaps be the first of its kind, where two filmmakers together made one movie without being in physical contact, but using the vast possibilities of the technology and internet.

## How did you two decide to make this movie?

Uma and Nicole met online, when Uma chanced upon the video “Women of Wallstreet” in YouTube, directed by Nicole, which was a parody trailer of the movie, *The Wolf of Wall Street*. Finding the video extremely interesting, Uma sent a congratulatory message to Nicole on Facebook, and Nicole replied back. Being two struggling female filmmakers in two very different cultures and countries, both were very interested to know more about the other side, and their talks made them realize that there are as much similarities in their lives, as there are differences.

As the chats went on for weeks and months, they had a crazy thought- why can't we do a movie together? Technology is accessible to everyone, both are filmmakers who knew the craft and how to pull off a shoot, and internet is connecting each and every nook and cranny of the world in high-speed. So why not use that?!

And that's how both decided to make *Across The Ocean*.

# FAQs

## What were the technologies and website you used to pull this off?

From the social media networks like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, messaging and calling apps like Gmail, Hangout, Whatsapp, Messenger, and Skype, managing tools like Mailchimp and HootSuite, to the crowd-funding platforms Kickstarter and Wishberry, online file sharing/transferring services like Google Drive, Dropbox, WeTransfer, WeSendIt, and FileTransfer, online video platforms YouTube and Vimeo, to the international payment windows like PayPal, and the film festival submission platforms like FilmFreeway, Withoutabox and Festagent, the online services the ATO team used are pretty vast and eclectic.

The low-budget and guerrilla filmmaking technology the duo used included from the writing software like Celtx and Final Draft, to the low-budget Indie-filmmaker's go-to tools, Canon 5D Mark III and Mark IV, along with Carl Zeiss CP2 and Canon L series lenses, Ronin gimbal and Glide Gear Sliders, Sound Devices, Rode mics, Seinheiser Mics, Astra LEDs as well as the major filmmaking software collections including Adobe, Avid, Apple, etc., to the post production.

## What was the pre-production phase like?

Preproduction was entirely over the Gmail, FB Messenger, and Whatsapp between Uma and Nicole, as well as among their crew members. Once they both locked the script, after 7-8 rounds of revisions and drafts, Nicole and Uma started picking up the points where the story was to intercut, and started working on creating visual tones for each halves. This included mailing back and forth a lot of reference images, discussing each every points of how the shoot was going to be conducted, and sending each other the locations, cast and properties the other has found for her side of the story and comparing etc. Theduo also decided on their equipment list at this time, deciding to use similar equipment to create consistency in visuals and sound.

Crowdfunding happened in two separate sessions – Nicole raised the budget she needed using a campaign in Kickstarter, and Uma raised the budget for her via a campaign in Wishberry.

# FAQs

## **What was the Production phase like?**

Two crews worked in two countries, with the budget they raised, as if in a normal low-budget movie shoot. Locations found were from the friends, cast and crew were experienced ones who were the industry friends with the directors, who agreed to work for smaller fee.

Each day after the shoot, the crews swapped the daily screenshots, clips and reports to inform the other side how the visual and audio was coming out. This helped both to keep a level of consistency in the output.

## **What was the Post Production phase like?**

After the shoot was over, each country edited their halves separately. When that was finished, they swapped with one another to discuss any changes or potential necessary reshoots. Once each of their edits were locked, they sent their respective hard drives to a third Editor in Kerala, India where their two cuts were edited together using the pre-discussed transitions outlined in the script.

Uma and Nicole decided to use a third person to cut the movie because they wanted an outside perspective while shaping the story together. And they worked together with the Editor via mails, file transfers, whatsapp and occasional personal visiting. And at the same time, the music composer started working on the music, from Los Angeles. And the duo worked with her in the same way. After days of discussion and patient changes after, the directors and the composer found some great score to supplement the movie.

On the editing table, once the final cut was done and approved, the music and the necessary audio was added and corrected. Then the hard drives were again sent back to the Nicole, who was to take over the final grading and audio editing from LA. The filmmakers were finally able to finish the post-production on their own, to a satisfactory result in their own home-studio.

[The most interesting part about Across The Ocean is that both characters are not only hugely different as individuals but are also based in two vastly opposite cultures. Yet, you are fully convinced that they belong to the same story.](#)

**KEYUR SETA, CINESTAAN.COM**

[Another great film which was very well received was Across the Ocean, story of two individuals developing a connection across the continents. Very new and unique concept.](#)

**JIGAR SHAH, FESTIVAL MANAGER, CHICAGO SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL**

[Across The Ocean: Making a Film From Two Ends of The World. Q&A with Nicole Donadio & Uma Kumarapuram](#)

**B-RAJA MEDIA**

[Uma Kumarapuram and Nicole Donadio are making an experimental crowd-funded movie Across the Ocean sitting continents apart.](#)

**DECCAN CHRONICLE**

[These two women directed a film together without meeting once.](#)

**CINESTAAN.COM**

[An intriguing tale of an online friendship precedes the story of how the Malayalam-English bilingual indie film, \*Across The Ocean\*, came to be made.](#)

**SILVERSCREEN.IN**

["Across the Ocean': How two women in different continents made a film together"](#)

**THE NEWSMINUTE.COM**

["One's from Kerala. The other's from New Jersey. They've never met. But they're shooting a film from across continents, courtesy high-speed internet!"](#)

["Have you ever wanted to completely change your life and start somewhere new? So have the women of 'Across the Ocean'."](#)

**THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS**

**WOMEN AND HOLLYWOOD**

**NEWS ARTICLES & REVIEWS**

NICOLE DONADIO & UMA KUMARAPURAM  
**ACROSS  
THE  
OCEAN**



- **CONTACT US**

Official Mail : [movie.ato@gmail.com](mailto:movie.ato@gmail.com)

- **FOLLOW US ON**

[Official Page](#)

[Vimeo](#) ; [YouTube](#)

[Facebook](#) ; [Twitter](#) ; [Instagram](#)

- **ASSETS**

- Official Trailer  
<https://youtu.be/-8F4pb6voXw>

- Official Making-of Featurette  
<https://youtu.be/A7T80RwUOGA>

--- Production Stills, and Online Screener with Password can be furnished upon request.





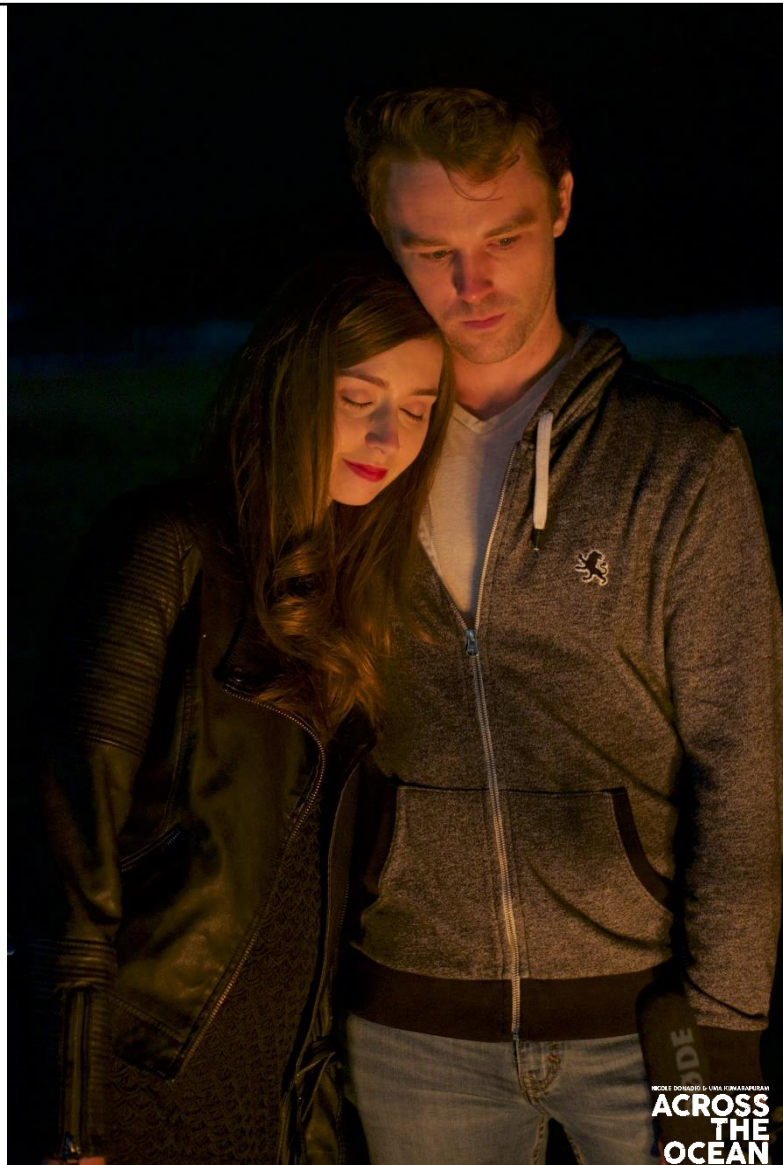
# FILM STILLS & PRODUCTION STILLS











MOORE DOUGLASS & LYNN KIRKMAN/STARR  
**ACROSS  
THE  
OCEAN**



MOBILE DOWNLOADED BY: 1984 KIRANJANIRAH  
**ACROSS  
THE  
OCEAN**



**# # #**

**movie.ato@gmail.com**

