



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
2025 OFFICIAL SELECTION
UN CERTAIN REGARD

HOMEBOUND

a film by Neeraj Ghaywan

Title: **Homebound**

Director: **Neeraj Ghaywan**

Year of Production: **2025**

Duration: **117 mins**

Production Country: **India**

Language: **Hindi**

Subtitles: **English / French**

Technical Information: **Ratio : 1:66, Sound : 5.1**



SYNOPSIS

Two childhood friends from a small North Indian village chase a police job that promises them the dignity they've long been denied. But as they inch closer to their dream, mounting desperation threatens the bond that holds them together.



LEAD CAST

Ishaan Khatter

Vishal Jethwa

Janhvi Kapoor

CREW

Director Neeraj Ghaywan

Producers Karan Johar, Adar Poonawalla, Apoorva Mehta, Somen Mishra

Co-Producers Marijke deSouza, Melita Toscan Du Plantier

Screenplay Neeraj Ghaywan

Story & Script Consultant Sumit Roy

Dialogues by Neeraj Ghaywan, Varun Grover, Shreedhar Dubey

Executive Producer Martin Scorsese

Executive Producer Pravin Khairnar

Cinematographer Pratik Shah

Editor Nitin Baid

Production Designer Khyatee Kanchan

Original Score Naren Chandavarkar, Benedict Taylor

Costume Design Rohit Chaturvedi

Hair and Make up Design Khyati Malhotra

Sound Design Sanjay Maurya, Allwin Rego

Casting Director Jogi Mallang



DIRECTOR'S *STATEMENT*





“

It's now exactly a decade since I made my first feature film. I can't fully comprehend what kept me away all this while, but I no longer have regrets. I continue to search for meaning in a world that often feels broken and indifferent—and I try to find it through my work. I want to tell stories that move me at the deepest level.

In my second film, *Homebound*, I wanted to explore the quiet, largely invisible struggles of people who are too frequently reduced to statistics. In this world of overwhelming complexity and suffering, we forget that behind every number is a human being—with dreams, desires, and connections to others. This film is about those connections—the deep bond between two childhood friends whose lives are shaped by forces beyond their control, and how they search for dignity within a system that continually overlooks them.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Part of what draws me to these stories is personal. I come from a marginalised community, and my background as a Dalit—deemed the lowest in India's caste system—has shaped both my worldview and my cinema. For much of my life, I concealed this identity, passing as upper-caste, haunted by the fear of being exposed. That experience of erasure and silence runs deep, and it's why identity continues to be one of the central themes in my work.

The seed for this film came when I read a story that broke my heart. It wasn't just about the loss it described, but the image of a man living in simple joy, unaware of the storm about to upend his world. I saw in that moment something deeply human. In the midst of hardships and struggle, there is beauty. There is joy. There is love.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT





Homebound explores this idea. It isn't just a story of pain—it's about kinship, about how love endures despite hardship, and how two people can still laugh, dream, and lift each other up even when the world around them threatens to crush their spirit. It's about the quiet moments—the shared glances, the unspoken comfort, the flickers of hope in an unforgiving landscape.

I've always been drawn to characters who live on the margins, whose dreams go unacknowledged by the wider world.

I didn't want to portray them solely through the lens of adversity, but to reveal their rich inner lives—their desires, fears, and complexities. In *Homebound*, I hoped to restore their humanity, capturing both how they're shaped by their circumstances and how they quietly transcend them.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*“Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.”*


This quote from Rilke became the philosophical spine of the film. I wanted to honour the hardship, but also illuminate the beauty, the love, and the quiet resilience within it. The friendship at the heart of this story is not one of pity—it’s a bond of strength, of shared experience, of unspoken understanding.

There are millions of people who have historically been denied their voice, their visibility, their place in the world. My hope is that through this story, they will feel seen. That the world might look closer—with empathy—and begin to notice what it has been conditioned to ignore.

”

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



A silhouette of two people, likely a man and a woman, looking out a window. The scene is dimly lit, with the light coming from the window, creating a strong contrast between the dark figures and the bright light outside. The background outside the window is blurred, showing greenery and a bright sky.

"I have seen Neeraj's first film *Masaan* in 2015 and I loved it, so when Mélima Toscan du Plantier sent me the project of his second film, I was curious. I loved the story, the culture and was willing to help.

Neeraj has made a beautifully crafted film that's a significant contribution to Indian cinema. I'm glad the movie is an official selection at Un Certain Regard in Cannes this year."

MARTIN SCORSESE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Neeraj Ghaywan is an award-winning Indian filmmaker whose work has been recognized globally for its emotional fervour and powerful socio-political themes. His debut feature, *Masaan*, premiered at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival in the Un Certain Regard section, where it won both the FIPRESCI Prize and the Promising Future Award. The film went on to play at over 30 international festivals and is considered a modern Indian classic.

Since then, Neeraj has built a distinct body of work across film and long-form streaming, often centering his narratives around caste, class, gender, and identity. In 2022, he was featured in *Variety's* 'International Directors to Watch' and continues to be one of the few Indian filmmakers whose work has both critical acclaim and cultural impact across borders. He is also among the most visible voices in Indian cinema speaking about identity and the politics of representation in mainstream media.

With *Homebound*, Neeraj returns to Cannes with a deeply personal and emotional film. It is a quiet reckoning told through performance and silence — a signature that has become uniquely his own.





SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

FEATURE FILMS

2025 | *Homebound*

Un Certain Regard - Cannes 2025

2015 | *Masaan*

Un Certain Regard - Cannes 2015

FIPRESCI Prize • Promising Future Prize

SHORTS

2021 | *Geeli Pucchi*

from Netflix Anthology: *Ajeeb Daastaans*

2017 | *Juice*

Best Short Film (Fiction), Filmfare Awards

LONG FORMAT

2023 | *Made in Heaven (S2)*

Amazon Prime

2019 | *Sacred Games (S2)*

Netflix



INTERNATIONAL SALES . PARADISE CITY SALES

Alexandre Moreau - Head of Sales - amoreau@memento-films.com
Jeanne Loriotti - Sales Executive - jeanne@memento-films.com
Anais Gagliardi - Festival Manager - anais@memento-films.com .

NORTH AMERICA SALES . WME INDEPENDENT

filmsalesinfo@wmeagency.com

FRENCH DISTRIBUTOR . AD VITAM

Arthur Hallereau - arthur@advitamdistribution.com

INTERNATIONAL PR . PREMIER

Paul Ockelford / Imogen Leng - homebound@premiercomms.com

FRENCH PR . HOPSCOTCH CINEMA

Alexis Delage-Toriel - adelagetoriel@hopscotchcinema.fr

PRODUCTION HOUSE . DHARMA PRODUCTIONS

Apoorva Mehta - CEO - apoorva@dharma-production.com
Ankur Sualy - Head Syndication & Licensing - ankur@dharma-production.com

