



Mai

a short film on AIDS awareness

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Goals of the project

- *to bring awareness about AIDS using stories*
- *to be able to show the fear and misconceptions associated*
- *to be able to portray the role of elderly in the society*
- *to be able to show the outlook of people towards victims of AIDS*
- *to be able to portray the feelings of people who live away from their homes*



Data collection

- *places visited for collecting data for the project :*
 - *L.T.M.G. Hospital, Sion, Mumbai*
 - *Rajawadi Hospital, Vidyavihar, Mumbai*
 - *Holy spirit home for elderly*
 - *IIT Hospital, Powai, Mumbai*



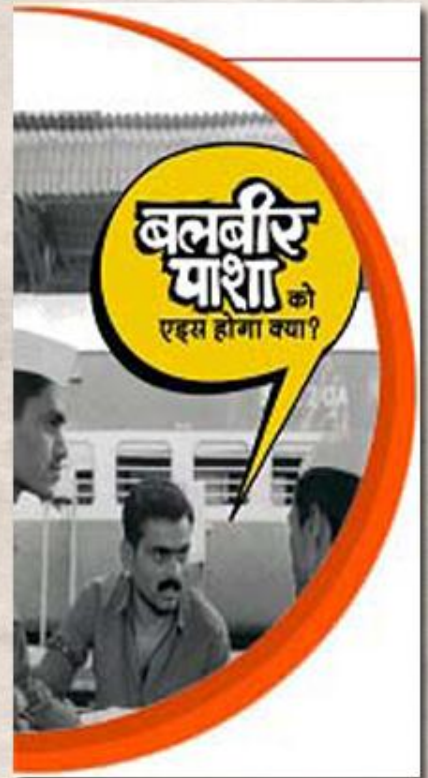
Understanding the context

- *what is AIDS ?*
- *about the myths related to AIDS*
- *what an AIDS patient feel ?*
- *what is the social acceptance level for HIV infected ?*
- *the process that AIDS patients go through*
- *some case-studies that I came through*



Need for work in the area of AIDS awareness

- *current programs for AIDS awareness*
- *mindsets of people*
- *AIDS : a sexually transmitted disease (STD)*
- *socio-economic structure of the society*



Concepts

- *make a documentary on old age home an people who stay away from their families*
 - *portraying their lifestyle now and before*
 - *why they were forced to live away from their families*
 - *their point of view on role of elderly in the society.*



Concepts

- *make a fiction film on one (or more) case studies that I came across*
 - *that would pick up and interweave the stories that I came across.*
 - *have control over the contents and point that I want to make with the film*
 - *can have absolute control over the total length of the film*



Concepts

- make a documentary for AIDS awareness
 - interview people with AIDS and their families.
 - interview doctors and nurses who treat these patients and other staff of the hospitals like MSW
 - point of view of people from different strata's of the society.



Final Concept

the final concept is a mixture of two concepts; making a fiction film which is shot in a documentary form.

using documentary style

people reacting to fictitious situations

the story building up with comments from one person on the other

using rotoscoping as a device

specific to general look

different medium to explore

realistic sketching style



Process followed

- *shooting the whole film*
- *editing*
- *drawing on paper*
- *syncing with sound*
- *final editing.*



Explorations with sketching



Story

the story of the film was an inspiration from a real case study ...

- *an old lady admitted to the hospital because of a fractured foot*
- *had three sons*
- *the youngest son died of AIDS*
- *the old lady took care of her dying son*
- *now her family (her other two sons) think that she is also infected*
- *now they are not taking her back home*
- *old lady died in the hospital*



Script

the script was a result of lot of refining from the initial to the final stage ...

Major blocks of the story :

- Old lady telling about herself*
- Other patients who had been with her in the same ward telling about her*
- Nurse telling about her having three son's.*
- Old lady defending her family*
- The counselor of the hospital telling about her son's death with AIDS, and her family's denial to him after hearing about his disease.*
- The Nurse telling about the reason behind not taking her back*
- The family's reaction to the whole issue*



script

one of the technique used for writing the screenplay was to state intentions and then find out possible reactions ...

INTENTIONS

- set the premise of the place as Mumbai
- build up the context that Mai is hospitalized
- tell about Mai and her family
- about her duties (looking after grandchildren)
- tell about her condition now
- tell that she is neglected by her family and give a hint why
- she has given her hope of living
- tell about her dead son
- tell the reason why her son's not taking her back
- her family's reaction to the whole situation
- narrator tells Mai is dying
- mai dies and the film end
- the routine continues with the Nurse's voice-over



Narration

- the shooting was done in two parts; the interview and the filling shots
- needed a simple narration
- telling a complex story in a short duration of time was a challenge
- narrator of the story was another important consideration
- mai's son, who died to narrate the story
- writing a poetry as the narration

हे मुंबई !
लेकुरनाकी , काजबजलेली !
स्वतःच्याच सुशेतली माणसं !
पण तजेही उत्साह दललेला चोहीकडे !
त्यात ही जागा उघडिजून आलेल अजानावंधी,
जराही उदकिन
देख ही माझी माई -

स्वतः ठरवून घरासाठी झिजलेली,
मिठा मिठाच्या दिवाशाखी
कोमठ मनाची -

मनाने हळवी ; पण निश्चयी



The final film

MS

Bibliography

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Madhav Keshav Katdare

Jevha me jaat chorli hoti -
Baburao Bagul

Rendering in Pen and Ink -
Arthur Gupthill

The Mumbai district AIDS control society; TRAINING MODULE FOR NURSES.

Creative Illustration
Andrew loomis

Collected Poems and Plays
Rabindranath Tagore;



Thankyou