

IESH THAPAR

Narrative Writer / Screenwriter / VO & Performance Capture Director

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Writer-director with 15 years shaping story and dialogue across AAA games, film and television. I write character-first, with grounded voices, surprising dialogue and worlds that feel earned. I've worked on titles across studios such as Ubisoft, Capcom, IO Interactive and Tencent, and bring that same narrative instinct to directing the performances that carry them.

Story structure & narrative design • Characterisation & voice • Branching & systemic dialogue • Worldbuilding & lore • Environmental storytelling & game text • VO & performance capture direction • Cross-department collaboration

GAMES / WRITING

Riders Republic 2019

Lead Writer • Ubisoft Annecy

- Owned the full narrative arc: character bible, ensemble cast, branching dialogue, side-story scripting and in-game UI text, across a live-service open-world title.

Lego Cube 2018

Writing Supervisor & Voice Director • Next Studios & Tencent Games

- Oversaw English-language narrative content and directed VO, adapting tone and voice to the Lego brand's creative constraints.

GAMES / VO & PERFORMANCE CAPTURE DIRECTION

Directing scripts in studio and on performance capture stages: the practice that makes me a sharper, more actor-literate writer.

PUBG Mobile 2025

Voice Director • Krafton

- Directed English VO for the game's Peaky Blinders collaboration event and ongoing character content.

007: First Light 2024

VO & Performance Capture Director • IO Interactive

- Directing VO and performance capture for IOI's original Bond origin story, holding tonal consistency across 60+ years of franchise lore.

Dragon's Dogma II 2022

Lead VO & Performance Capture Director • Capcom

- Led all English-language voice and performance capture on a flagship sequel, managing a large ensemble across multiple studio sessions.

Hitman 2, Hitman 3 & World of Assassination 2018

Voice Director • IO Interactive

- Directed VO across the World of Assassination trilogy, and still direct new Elusive Target content across the series.

Skull & Bones 2021

Voice Director • Ubisoft

- Directed English VO for the naval action title within a large international co-development team.

Watch Dogs Legion 2018

Voice Director • Ubisoft

- Directed VO and performance capture across hundreds of playable characters in a procedurally-generated narrative.

The Division 2 2018

Voice Director • Massive Entertainment, Ubisoft

- Directed voice and performance capture on a large ensemble, coordinating with writing and audio on an open-world sequel.

SCREENWRITING

Strangers in Stereo

2025

Writer-Director • *Oh Picture Company* (Feature, in development)

- Original spec set in 1970s London; developed through Sundance, Film Independent Screenwriters Lab and Fast Track.

The Painter of Signs

2025

Writer-Director • *Mindscreen* (Feature, in development)

- Adapting R.K. Narayan's 1976 novel: fidelity to an established literary voice, translated into cinematic structure.

The Marble Orchard

2021

Creator / Writer • *Silver Lining Film Group* (TV, gothic thriller)

- Developed a long-form gothic thriller from existing IP: series mythology, multi-season arcs and tonal documentation.

We That Are Young

2020

Creator / Writer • *Gaumont US* (TV, adaptation)

- Adapted Preti Taneja's bestselling novel into a prestige series, translating literary voice into script.

Outlast

2019

Staff Writer / Consultant • *Participant Media* (TV, crime thriller)

- Contributed to writers' room development; provided story and character notes across multiple drafts.

SHORT FILMS — SELECTED CREDITS

Alien Culture

2018

Oh Picture Company | UK, US | Writer & Director

- Proof of concept, developed and produced with the support of Film London (London Calling Plus) and The BFI; selected for worldwide festivals including BFI London Film Festival and Raindance, where it won Best UK Short.

TV in the Fish Tail

2017

Enoxx Entertainment | India, US | Writer & Director

- Columbia University thesis film, developed and produced with the support of The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation; selected for worldwide festivals including Vancouver International Film Festival and HollyShorts.

Antarctica

2016

Oh Picture Company | US | Writer & Director

- A psychological thriller adapted for the screen from the famous short story by Claire Keegan of the same name; selected for worldwide festivals including Austin Film Festival and Champs-Élysées Film Festival.

EDUCATION

MFA, Film, Directing & Screenwriting, Columbia University School of the Arts, New York City • 2017

BA (Hons), History, University College London (UCL) • 2005

AWARDS, GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

- Lodestar Rising Star of Cinema (2019)
- Film Independent Screenwriters Lab (2021)
- BAFTA LA Scholar (2012)
- BAFTA Crew (2019)
- Sundance Creative Producing Summit (2018)
- Film Independent Fast Track (2021)
- Film Independent Project Involve, Directing Fellow (2018)
- 1497 Feature Film Talent Incubator, Mentee (2022)
- Film London & BFI London Calling Plus Award (2017)
- Ezra Litwak Award for Distinction in Screenwriting (2017)
- Alfred Sloan Production Grant (2016)
- Tribeca Film Institute & ESPN Documentary Award (2016)