

Director's Statement

Between 2011 to about 2018, along with composing scores for films like Titli, I was trying to get a film off the ground which I'd spent 2 years writing. We reached all the way into the final two weeks of pre-production in Feb, 2018, before the investors pulled out of it and left us completely abandoned. A horrific experience, but one that taught me a very important lesson: if you can do a film within a manageable budget, you don't need studios. That was how 'Fairy Folk' got started.

It's a film I wrote from point A to point B, without any dialogues. We knew exactly where we were going as far as plot goes, but we didn't know how the actors would navigate it. So with a 30 page script and 60 pages of character motivations, we went into pre-production, got ourselves some incredible actors (Rasika Dugal and her husband, Mukul Chadda) and even some non-actors who would make interesting people on film, and jumped with both feet into production.

When you don't know what the actors are going to say or where they're going to move, as a director, your heart's in your mouth the entire time. It's like somebody removed every single safety net that written dialogues bring to a set. There is structure when you have dialogues, because not just the camera department but also the boom operators know where to go just by reading the script. Here, nobody could predict anything. We were all on our toes.

I was relying entirely on instinct and my ability as an editor (I edited Kshay as well so I had some practice) to be able to cut these 15 minute long takes into interesting scenes, which would then make not just a cohesive narrative but also a moving piece of cinema. After having completed editing and scoring it, I thank the heavens we managed to dodge so many bullets and make this into a film. But because of the risks we took, the final film we have is an incredible piece of work that feels so authentic and organic, while being grounded by themes that illuminate identity, desire, and the cyclical nature of relationships.