



Of Deals and Dilemmas

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*Post his debut with films and the National Award, **Suman Ghosh** is looking at a worldwide audience with his next venture Dwando* Piyasree Dasgupta

When Suman Ghosh was not losing his sleep over liquidation or depreciation, he was romancing the silver screen in his head. "I always wanted to make films. But, like you know, it's not a very traditional career choice still in India. So, I went ahead and studied economics," says Florida-based Ghosh, who is shooting his second film Dwando in the city. But the film bug stayed on, as Ghosh took up a course in filmmaking while doing his PhD from the Cornell University. "I got an excuse to pursue my dream," laughs the Presidency College pass-out, who is now a professor of Economics at the Atlantic University.

Dwando, like Podokhhep, his first film which won Soumitro Chatterjee a National Award, delves into complicated relationships. "Urban relationships have always intrigued me," confesses Ghosh. The film is about a woman faced with an ethical dilemma post marriage and how Chatterjee, who plays a doctor, helps shape her future.

Repeating Chatterjee was not merely the demand of the film, or of a character. "I have tremendous respect for him as a person too. In fact, I wrote the character for him," explains Ghosh. The NRI director met Chatterjee while assisting Goutam Ghose during the shoot of Dekha and remained in the thralls of the actor ever since.

"My idiom of filmmaking appeals to a niche metropolitan audience. I cannot cater to the masses. However, I also realized that Bengali films like mine could have a life beyond film festivals if distributed properly," says Ghosh whose first film travelled to the Karlovy Vary Film Festival in Prague, and film festivals in Vancouver, New York, Atlanta among others. And his prayers were answered when Long Tale International, a Hollywood based intellectual property asset manager took up his film for worldwide distribution. "The film was then distributed with subtitles in various languages... Czech, Spanish, French among others," says Ghosh. Dwando, too is all set to go the Podokhhep way. "As of now, it's a one-way process. It is the distributors which choose films from festivals. However, I believe, if there is a little more thought given to the marketing and visibility of good Bengali films, they are sure to write success stories overseas," he adds.