

# FAMILY MAN

A FILM BY KALANI GACON

CLERMONT-FERRAND

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LE

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMPETITION  
2025

JURT



**WRITER/DIRECTOR**

Kalani Gacon

**STARRING**

Pasang Chheten Tamang, Sangita Thapa Magar, Bijay Tamrakar

**PRODUCER**

Prawin Takki Karki & Kalani Gacon

**CO-WRITER**

Maya Luna Khan

**CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Chintan Rajbhandari

**PRODUCTION DESIGNER**

Abhishek Subedi

**EDITOR**

Andy Finn & Kalani Gacon

**COMPOSER**

Freya Berkhout

**PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE VILLAGE OF GATLANG, RASUWA, NEPAL**

MEDIAPORT AND FRIENDLY DOG FILMS PRESENTS "མི་དེ་མ་འདི་ཁ་ཅན།" (FAMILY MAN)  
STARRING BIJAY ANANDA TAMRAKAR, PASANG CHHETEN TAMANG, SANGITA THAPA MAGAR  
DOP CHINTAN RAJBHANDARI PRODUCTION DESIGNER ABHISHEK SUBEDI COSTUME DESIGNER SURAKSHA REGMI  
& SUJAN PARIYAR SOUND DESIGNER AMIT SHRESTHA COMPOSER FREYA BERKHOUT EDITOR ANDY FINN, KALANI GACON  
CO-WRITER MAYA LUNA KHAN, PRODUCED BY PRAWIN TAKKI KARKI WRITTEN/DIRECTED/PRODUCED BY KALANI GACON

A high-angle, wide shot of two women wading through a shallow, rocky stream. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding environment. The woman on the left is wearing a brown top and a patterned skirt, and is holding a basket. The woman on the right is wearing a brown top, a patterned skirt, and a colorful headscarf, and is carrying a large basket on her head. The stream is surrounded by rocky banks and sparse vegetation. The overall mood is serene and quiet.

## LOGLINE

During a storm in a remote Nepalese village, a mysterious man finds refuge in the house of a family haunted by their father's disappearance years before. Strangely unwilling to leave, he slowly reawakens lost memories of the missing father.

# DIRECTORS STATEMENT

'Family Man' tells the story of a family whose father went missing 10 years ago without an explanation. When suddenly a stranger appears in their home on the day of a big storm, the family is left to unravel the mystery of who this man is and what he is doing there.

Like many others, I grew up in a home without a father, and as a child used to imagine what would happen one day if our father magically came home. Could some greater power grant such a wish? What if the wishes of another family were mixed up with my own and the wrong man was sent back? Family Man explores this surreal and emotionally delicate place.

After living in the Nepali village of 'Gorsyang' in Nuwakot for 9 years on-and-off, I have experienced first-hand the way that outward labour migration pulls families apart for the best part of their lives, many of whom never come back. I have chosen to set my film in a neighbouring village and in the local dialect of the Tamang language to pay homage to the stories of families whose fathers never returned home and the families who wished for an alternate reality and capture this beautiful language on screen while it is still being spoken.



## **KALANI GACON**

### **WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER**

Kalani Gacon is an award-winning filmmaker from the beautiful small, misty town of Katoomba, Australia. Since he was a teenager, he has been living and working in Nepal as a social worker and filmmaker, where he has developed a unique cross-cultural voice, telling stories about the intersection of the East and West.

Kalani has made films across 4 continents, including a chapter working on Hollywood productions: Disney's 'Upside Down Magic', and the TV series 'Riverdale'.

His recent film 'The Sound of Dreaming' (2022) has screened at over 30 international film festivals, including the Oscar-qualifying Melbourne International Film Festival, LA-Shorts, Busan International Short Film Festival, and winning the Jury Special Mention Award at the prestigious Oldenburg International Film Festival. Family Man is Kalani's 5th film produced in Nepal.



## **PRAWIN TAKKI KARKI**

### **PRODUCER**

Prawin Takki Karki is the founder and CEO of Media Port Pvt. Ltd., since 2011. Based in Kathmandu, his diverse portfolio includes projects such as 'The Contagious Apparitions of Dambarey Dendrite' (Locarno 2017), 'The Woodpeckers of Rotha-Dadyaa' (Sundance 2017, Venice 2017, Toronto 2016, Locarno 2018, Busan 2016, AFI Fest 2017)

'Amakhando' (Busan 2019), 'The Big Headed Boy Shamans & Samurais' (IDFA 2020) and is currently producing 'The Whole Timers'.

Additionally he has also contributed to some other Nepali commercial projects such as Kabbadi (2014) Naakaa (2018), Loot 2 (2017) where he served as Marketing Head. Prawin's work reflects an acute understanding of cinema and a fine balance between mainstream market films as well as art.



- Our lead actor, playing the daughter in the film was cast after an extensive auditioning process through the villages of Central Nepal. Eventually, we found Pasang, a 17-year-old ex-Bhikkhuni (female monk) during an audition day at Gatlang school, coincidentally, the same village where we shot our film. This was her first time on camera.
- Our film was made in the endangered Himalayan language of Tamang, specifically in the Rasuwa dialect. To translate her voiceover into Tamang, Pasang had to consult the elders of her village, the last fluent speakers of their language. Director Kalani Gacon has been learning Tamang for 8 years.
- In order to create the effect of a storm, we had to engineer a rain machine that would work in the harsh conditions of rural Nepal. Our process involved lots of trial and error in Kathmandu before we had to troubleshoot how to make the technology work on location with minimal power and without running water.
- After casting our yak, we arranged for a local yak herder to assist on set as an animal wrangler. On the last day of production, he sent his grandson in his place, a 3-year-old boy who handled the yak with ease.
- In order to prepare for the role of the mother, actor Sangita, from Kathmandu, lived on location for a month. She refrained from showering and washing her face the entire time and became deeply immersed in the local culture and community. Eventually, the locals mistook her for a local woman.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

# FILM INFO

**COUNTRY:** Nepal, Australia

**RUNTIME:** 17:23

**YEAR:** 2024

**LANGUAGE:** Tamang (Indigenous language of Nepali Himalayas)

**ASPECT RATIO:** 14:9

**SHOOTING FORMAT:** Digital

**FILM COLOR:** Colour

**EXHIBITION FORMAT(S):** DCP, ProRes, H.264

**SOUND:** Stereo / 5.1 Surround Sound

**SUBTITLES:** English (default), French (optional)



**WORLD PREMIERE:**  
Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival 2025

**CONTACT INFORMATION/DISTRIBUTION/SALES**

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**TRAILER:**

<https://vimeo.com/1016702091>