



— HALF

OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2026



A Film by Samjad

PRESSKIT



— HALF

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SCREENINGS IN TORONTO

SUN. SEP 13TH, 8:15 AM @ Tiff Lightbox 7
(Buyers only – Market)
MON. SEP 14TH, 11 :30 AM @ Scotiabank 4
(Press & Market)
FRI. SEP 18TH, 11:59 PM @ Royal Alexandra
Theatre (World Premiere)
SAT. SEP 19TH, 6:15 PM @ Scotiabank 7
SUN. SEP 20TH, 7:45 PM @ Scotiabank 4

PR

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PRODUCTION

Fragrant Nature Film Creations

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— SYNOPSIS

After a savage attack leaves them for dead in the Pai Nagar desert, half-vampire twins Ethan and Ivy embark on a merciless quest for revenge, awakening within them an ancient bloodlust.



A CONVERSATION WITH SAMJAD



As the co-writer and director of HALF, can you tell us about the origin of the story?

It started with a simple question: What if we took a classic vampire action thriller and shot it in a raw, completely grounded way, without a single frame of slow motion? That core idea felt so fresh and visually exciting..

This film is a unique take on a vampire film, can you speak to the visual style and how you achieved it?

We shot entirely on location using practical effects wherever possible. Visually, I wanted to capture the rich, tactile quality of analog cinema; the raw, immersive texture that movies had before everything went digital, while still keeping it punchy for today's screen.

Your lead actors take audiences on an emotional journey, but also have to be able to be action stars as well. Please talk about the casting process and working with Ranjith and Aishwarya?

They were incredible. Beyond having a natural physical resemblance that made them instantly believable as twins, they both brought tremendous emotional depth to Ethan and Ivy. They did all their own stunts, brought relentless work ethic to the set, and completely elevated the film.

Your stunt choreographer Very Tri Yulisman is well-known for his exhilarating work in The Raid 2 and The Night Comes for Us. He continues to push the envelope with fight choreography. What was it like working together?

Very and his team are a force of nature. He took our core ideas and translated them into pure kinetic energy grounded in Silat, while keeping the camera work very traditional. Very isn't just a master choreographer, he's a powerhouse of relentless energy and focus.

This film includes religious undertexts and symbolism, can you touch on the significance of that?

Let's just say every symbol is a breadcrumb if you pay close enough attention, the movie starts answering its own secrets.

Was there anything that surprised you during the shoot, or was a particularly challenging shot to capture?

Nature definitely kept us on our toes. We'd be in the middle of a desert scene under a scorching sun, and within seconds, the sky would turn pitch black with heavy rain and wind. Managing those radical weather shifts midtake was a wild challenge.

What do you want TIFF audiences to take away from this film?

The pure cinematic experience. I want them to feel the high octane energy of our action packed music sequences and just walk out buzzing from the ride.

— ACTION CHOREOGRAPHY

Hollywood action coordinator, Very Tri Yulisman (The Raid 2, The Night Comes For Us) designed and choreographed the intense fight sequences, building unique camera rigs for filming the action dynamically.

Members of this team also worked on the Kenji Tanagaki film The Furious, which premiered in TIFF in 2025.



— BIOGRAPHY SAMJAD

Samjad is a compelling voice in contemporary Malayalam cinema. Following the critical acclaim of his 2024 breakthrough film Golam, he has established a strong reputation for weaving complex psychological depth into gripping, immersive cinema.

He returns to the director's chair with his latest feature, HALF, a poignant exploration of the fragmented human experience. Continuing to evolve his cinematic language, Samjad approaches HALF as a meditation on emotional incompleteness, driving the narrative forward through layered, deeply authentic performances.

With a keen eye for subtlety and mood, his directorial signature is defined by restraint. By mastering the use of provocative visuals and understated drama, Samjad creates an intimate space on screen that allows audiences to forge a profound, personal connection with his characters. Produced by Fragrant Nature Film Creations, HALF perfectly encapsulates Samjad's creative vision: storytelling that remains fiercely artistically grounded while exploring themes that are emotionally universal.



© Samjad

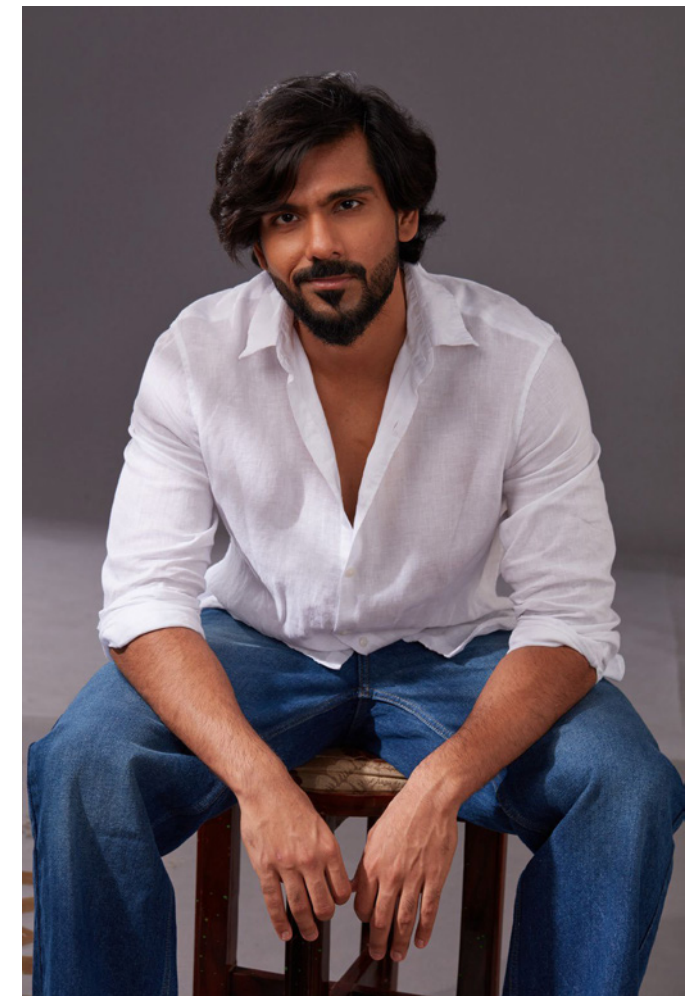


— RANJITH SAJEEV BIOGRAPHY ETHAN

Ranjith debuted in Bollywood actor John Abraham's maiden production, Mike in 2022. He has experience working on over six feature films with veteran actors and filmmakers in Malayalam and Tamil cinema, from Dileesh Pothan and Siddique to Manju Pillai and Abbas.

He has worked across various genres—social drama, romantic musical, suspense/thriller, and action. He found success in the romantic musical Qalb (2024), directed by Sajid Yahiya, and the mystery thriller Golam (2024), directed by Samjad. In 2025, he teamed up with Johny Antony and Manoj K. Jayan in United Kingdom of Kerala, a film that explores the struggles of immigrant Indians studying abroad.

He aims to work in films that champion original storytelling, leaning towards the action and romance genres. HALF marks his first foray into the action/fantasy genre.



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— AISWARYA RAJ BIOGRAPHY ^{IVY}

Aiswarya debuted in the critically acclaimed Malayalam action thriller *Officer on Duty* (2025), led by Kunchacko Boban. Her performance as Anna Louis, a violent drug addict seeking to avenge the death of her equally deviant friend, stood out to audiences.

Branching out from playing a villain, she finds herself in the role of Ivy, a half-human, half-vampire, out for revenge after being brutally attacked by armed bandits.



© Sinet Savier



— PRODUCTION COMPANY

Fragrant Nature Film Creations was founded in 2009 by producers Anne Sajeev & Sajeev P.K. Anne, along with her husband and creative partner, Sajeev, is dedicated to producing cinema that champions original storytelling and promotes social change. The company's first film, Pranayam (2011), directed by National Award-winning director, Blessy, starring world-renowned star Mohanlal (Un Certain Regard, 1999 Cannes Film Festival), Jaya Prada, and Anupam Kher, was highly acclaimed for its tender exploration of love, friendship, and reconciliation. Following Pranayam, the production house released Kinar (2018), a bilingual film addressing water scarcity, and the Tamil film, Keni (2018), which also tackled significant social issues.

Recent projects include Qalb (2024), a romantic drama directed by Sajid Yahiya that explores the seven stages of love defined by Sufi philosophy, and Golam (2024), a gripping whodunnit thriller.

Fragrant Nature Film Creations arrives at the 2026 Toronto International Film Festival's Midnight Madness section to present its most ambitious project to date: the high-concept Malayalam vampire action-thriller, HALF starring Ranjith Sajeev, Aiswarya Raj, Amala Paul and Abbas.

— CAST

Ethan	Ranjith Sajeev
Ivy	Aiswarya Raj
Selli	Abbas
Sophia	Amala Paul
Simon	Srikanth Muruli
Murukeshan	Manikandan
Jaishankar	Sathyajith Ravindranath

CREW

Director	Samjad
Producers	Anne & Sajeev
Writers	Praveen Vishwanath & Samjad
Director of Photography	Pappinu
Editor	Mahesh Bhuvanend
Production Designer	Mohandas
Costume Designer	Dhanya Balakrishnan
Music	Midhun Mukundan
Action Choreographer	Very Tri Yulisman
Sound	Vishnu Govind
Production Controller	Binu Muruli
Make-up	Narashimhaswamy
Prosthetics	Sethu Sethunath
Digital intermediate	Srik Varier
VFX	Promice Studios
Production Companies	Fragrant Nature Film Creations
Presenter	Excel Entertainment
North-Indian Distributor	AA Films
International Sales	Best Friend Forever

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