



BB ENTERTAINMENT (P) LTD
BASANTA BOBBY

Produced by Assam State Film (Finance & Development) Corporation Limited
in association with BB Entertainment Private Limited



VIEWING ROOM 2016
RECOMMENDED FICTION

RARE LANGUAGE FILMS
IN FILM BAZAR

by NFDC



ASFFDC & Basanta Bobby Presents

সোনার বরষা পাখি

Sonar Baran Pakhi

(The Golden Wing)

A film by Bobby Sarma Baruah

2016/Sound: Stereo/Format: 16:9/India/Rajbangshi/EST/Duration: 86 min/Cinemascope/Color

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Directed by

BOBBY SARMA BARUAH

Produced by

ASSAM STATE FILM (FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT) CORPORATION LIMITED

Co-Produced by

BASANTA KUMAR BARUAH, BOBBY SARMA BARUAH

Script

JITEN SARMA, BOBBY SARMA BARUAH, BHASKAR JYOTI DAS

Screenplay

BOBBY SARMA BARUAH & BHASKAR JYOTI DAS

Cinematography

AVIJIT NANDY

Editor

RATUL DEKA

VFX

DEEPJYOTI HANDIQUE

Sound Design & Mixing

DEBAJIT GAYAN

Background Score

SAURAV MAHANTA

Production Design

PHATIK BARUAH

Cast

PRANAMI BORAH
ARATI BARUA
PRANJAL SAIKIA
KAMAL PRIYA DAS
SUSHMITA RAY
JAGADISH DEKA
NILIM CHETIA



LOGLINE

The film depicts how shunning royal comforts and a normal early marriage, Pratima mingled with exponents of Goalparia folk songs to master the art and subsequently make soulful renderings of the same at various platforms to ensure that the folk form flourishes till this day.

SYNOPSIS OF THE FILM

The film opens as Pratima, then a kid, is being told the tale of Hastir Kanya, a neglected first wife of a priest who acquires as his second wife the spoilt daughter of a wealthy priest. The lonesome first wife weeps by the river that turns salty. Elephants, attracted by the salty water hear her tale of woes and anoint her. She is transformed into an elephant. Young Pratima is mesmerized by this tale.

Once, as she and her friends are wandering in the fields, she notices a group of folk performers and ventures to go near them. The maid accompanying them dissuades her.

At home, once, as she is learning songs sung during *Kartik Puja* from the maids, her guardian summons her to the palace. Her mother admonishes her.

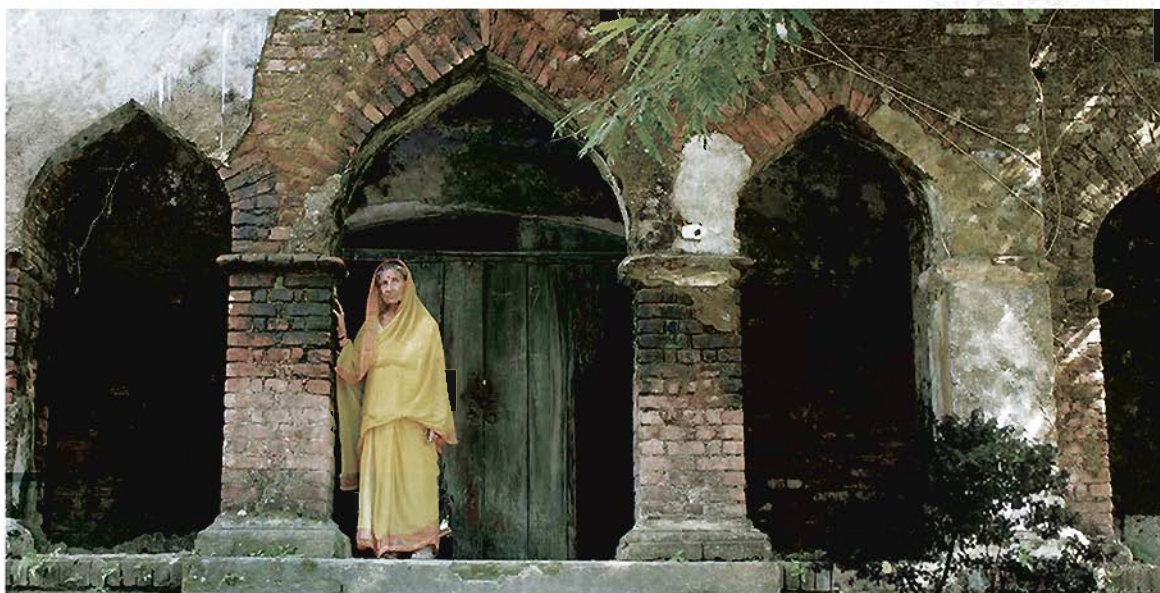
Things are different when she is with Lalji, her father, who encourages her to learn the soulful folksongs from the mahouts. Pratima learns from them. From those who herd cows and buffalos. She even goes to visit commoners in their hutments to learn folk numbers from them.

When the legendary Dr Bhupen Hazarika comes to their palace, her father asks Pratima to perform a Goalparia number. She sings. Subsequently Pratima also sings in Dr Hazarika's debut film. She even sings over All India Radio and in various other programmes.

Her mother tries to bring Pratima back to the royal fold. Pratima is defiant. Her mother is heartbroken. Marriage comes when Shankar Pandey, a professor in the local college proposes to marry Pratima. The family is relieved. Pratima subsequently mothers two damsels but never deserts singing. In her songs she finds solace. The bond with Pratima's performing team, however, is a tested one. The ties on no occasion had reasons to be strained.

At the fag end of her life, Pratima comments: "many prizes and honours have come my way but it is the love and affection of the people of Assam that I treasure the most."

Why not? After all Pratima had never sung for fame and personal gains. She had always sung for the pure love of folk music.



ABOUT PRATIMA BARUAH PANDEY

Popularly nicknamed *Hastir Kanya*, (daughter of the elephants) Pratima Baruah was born in the royal family of Gauripur in present day Dhubri district of Assam adjoining West Bengal in India and neighboring Bangladesh. Legendary filmmaker Pramathesh Chandra Baruah was her uncle. As a child, as she accompanied her father Prakitish Chandra Baruah alias Lalji to many an elephant hunting expedition, she maintained close relations with the mahouts to learn their unique ways of singing. However other royal family members disapproved of the young girl humming rustic ballads, many of them warning her that nobody would marry her if she continued to practice these folk songs, the songs of the masses. Wedded to music as she was, the child, thoroughly captivated by the lilting notes that resonated in the air around her, also mastered other forms of folk songs and was brought to the tinsel world by none other than filmmaker Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, another singing maestro of that generation, in his debut feature *Era Bator Sur* in which Pratima sang a Goalpariya Lokageet. That was the beginning. The rest is history. Popular songs, folk songs, all practically hits with the music lovers, came one after the other in her mesmerizing voice. It was her pioneering efforts that popularized Goalpariya Folk Songs and brought it to wide acceptance and national recognition. Although she was born and educated in Kolkata, she never shied away from her close touch with the people of her ancestral place. Her innocent nature, a down-to-earth personality, devoid of ersatz, ensured she always was in the hearts of the common people. She had always sung for the pure love of folk music.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Bobby Sarma Baruah is an Indian Film maker, Producer and Screenwriter whose narrative content on socio cultural issues in Assam and the North East has been highly appreciated. Her debut feature film *Adomya* in which she explored the sensitivity and emotional world of women was awarded best film in spiritual category at the 13th Dhaka International Film festival. *Adomya* was also screened as an official selection for more than fifteen international film festivals across the world. Her second venture, *Sonar Baran Pakhi*, a biopic based on life and time of the legendary folk singer Padmashree Pratima Barua Pandey of Assam has been recently completed. As director, producer and scriptwriter, Bobby Sarma Baruah has a number of short films, documentaries, music videos and TV serials on various indigenous folk cultures blending into one, to her credit. She is also an accomplished poet and short story writer in Assamese language. She has also served as juror at the prestigious 14th Dhaka International Film Festival and Lucknow Children's International Film Festival, both in 2016. Currently she is pursuing her doctoral research for a PhD on influence of folk culture of Assam in Assamese cinema.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Pratima Baruah Pandey (1935-2002) is definitely the golden feather of the Goalpariya folk songs of Western Assam. She shed the silver spoon that was hers by birth and unhesitatingly mingled with the carriers of the traditional songs sung by commoners like boatmen, buffalo herders and mahouts to come up with a repertoire which she flawlessly and soulfully performed at various forums to earn nationwide recognition for this distinct folk form. As a film lover I intended to capture the uncommon threads of life of this gifted artist who, despite being a girl child and being born and brought up in a royal family braved all odds, mingled with *mahouts* (elephant drivers), *moishals* (buffalo herders) and *naworias* (river boatmen) in a rural ambiance. From the folklorists' point of view, her renditions of those fascinating folk songs at national and international platforms with unbridled passion, keeping intact the indigenous flavor that made all the difference and this does indeed call for a feature-length portrayal of her life and works. I am sure that the story of the genius in Pratima Baruah Pandey would keep her posterity aware and conscious of what she aspired to attain in her life.

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

ASSAM STATE FILM (FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT) CORPORATION LTD. (ASFFDC)

The Assam State Film (Finance and Development) Corporation Ltd. (ASFFDC) was established on September 4, 1974 with the main objective of developing the Assamese Film Industry. Its prime objective has been to finance Assamese feature films and ASFFDC has so far financed twenty eight films, the first in-house feature film ***Nishiddha Nodi*** in the year 2000 which won the State Film Award. After 12 years, the ASFFDC has once again taken up in-house production with the feature film ***Baandhon*** directed by eminent film maker Jahnu Barua and ***Saat Nomboror Sandhanat*** by Abdul Majid. The ASFFDC has also undertaken seven co-production projects with private producers, ***Sringkhal*** co-produced by Preeti Saikia & Prabin Hazarika and directed by Prabin Hazarika, ***Paani*** co-produced and directed by Jadumoni Dutta, ***Raag*** co-produced and directed by Rajni Basumatory and ***TRP*** co-produced and directed by Mridul Gupta, ***Sonar Baran Pakhi*** co-produced by Bobby Sharma Barua and directed by Bobby Sarma Barua, ***Dikchow Banat Palaax*** co-produced by Utpal Das and directed by Sanjib Sabhapandit and ***Tumi Aahibaane*** co-produced by Prerona Borborah and directed by Prerona Borborah. ***The JONAKEE***, a Multi Purpose Cultural Complex built within the premises of ASFFDC office at Panjabari, Guwahati, houses the first of its kind in the entire North East. Presently around hundred films are being preserved in the Archive and this first ever Film Museum of the North Eastern Region. The ASFFDC has also created an Artist's Welfare Fund which provides financial assistance to ailing and financially distressed artists & technicians.

BB ENTERTAINMENT PRIVATE LIMITED

After having produced television Serials and many documentary the Managing Director of BB Entertainment Private Limited Sri Basanta Kumar Baruah a young dynamic Entrepreneur is presently recognized in the Cultural Societies of Assam as an innovative Producer, Director of Mythological Theatre cum Premier Founder of a Common Platform with a Motto for assimilation of all 26 Ethnic Tribes of Assam through organizing and directing ***Shree Shree Krishna Sampurna Raas Leela*** played by different *Janagosthi* like Bodo, Karbi, Missing, Deuri Tea-tribe in their own languages beside the artists of Assamese Film Industry right from the beginning in Guwahati since 2009 to till date towards flourishing our Vaishnavite Culture and to strengthen the thread of brotherhood and communal harmony as started in 15th Century by our Great Saint Srimanta Sankaradeva.

Apart from production of TV serial, documentary film and other big cultural extravaganza event, he has jointly produced the feature Film "***ADOMYA***" under the banner of Basanta Bobby which was adjusted the best Feature Film recognition in spiritual category in Dhaka International Film Festival held in 2014. He is a co-producer of the Biopic feature film "***SONAR BARAN PAKHI***" based on legendary folk singer Padmashree late Pratima Baruah Pandey which has also been invited for screening in three different International Film Festival before releasing in Assam. The people of Assam expected his grand success in attaining his sole Motto of assimilation of all ethnic tribes as well cultural proliferation throughout the Country and abroad.



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