

# Shekhar Kapur to direct a series on Rasputin

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## **Shekhar Kapur**

BA 1966 St Stephen's

Films / TV Artiste Producer Director

Oscar / Golden Globe / BAFTA Nominee

Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has reportedly been signed on to helm a limited series on Rasputin, a mystic who became an adviser to the Russian Imperial family at a time when the Bolshevik movement was rising. Paul Scheuring, the creator of American TV show, Prison Break, will write the script

based on the upcoming book, Rasputin: Dark Forces And The Fall of The Romanovs, by Douglas Smith. The event series centres on "one of the most controversial characters in history who is held responsible for bringing down the Russian Empire and changing the course of the world as we know it."

The series attempts to go beyond the folklore to unravel whether Rasputin was "a true healer or the greatest charlatan the world has known." Rasputin played an influential role in Tsar Nicholas II and Alexandra's household as a healer for their only son, Tsarevich Alexei, who suffered from hemophilia. His enemies tried to kill him in 1914, finally succeeding in 1916.

Kapur, who has previously directed Bandit Queen (1994) and Elizabeth (1998), will direct and executive produce with Scheuring. Smith serves as consultant. The makers decided to bring the director onboard after learning about his fascination for Rasputin's life.