

Mirandan-Filmmaker Shonali Bose's *The Sky Is Pink* completes her trilogy on Delhi



Shonali Bose
BA Miranda House

alpix 0840



Priyanka and Farhan at Jama Masjid

alpix 0840A

"In Miranda House, I had the most important time of my life... I lived in a hostel, which can be one of the most fantastic things that can happen to you in DU".

"I have been to college in Delhi, my family is in Delhi, so it's very easy for me to shoot here. I love and enjoy shooting in Delhi. Both *Amu* and *Margarita With A Straw* were shot in Miranda House, where I studied, and in both movies the characters were from Delhi University".

Shonali has studied in Delhi and is now in Mumbai, but when it was about shooting her first three films, the only place that came to her mind was Delhi.

While promoting her upcoming film, *The Sky Is Pink*, Shonali mentioned that the movie is her last in the trilogy of "mother-child relationship". The first two were *Amu* and *Margarita With A Straw*. The director points out that more than being a trilogy on the mother and child relationship, "**the three films are a trilogy on Delhi,**" says Shonali with a big smile.

The Sky Is Pink was also shot in Chandni Chowk.

Shonali filmed several scenes of *The Sky Is Pink* with **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** and *Farhan Akhtar* in the narrow lanes of Chandni Chowk. "It was so much fun shooting in Chandni Chowk with Farhan and Priyanka. There was a sea of people gathered where we were shooting to just see them. *Delhi has a character which Mumbai lacks*".

"I love Mumbai, but as a city for shooting, **Delhi has a lot of character** and every locality means something. You can capture its beauty in the greenery here, the charm of old Delhi – this mix is very interesting. I chose to shoot in Chandni Chowk because in the story, both the boy and the girl come from different backgrounds. The girl comes from South Delhi, and for the other part, I chose Chandni Chowk because I wanted to show that culture, that beauty with **Jama Masjid** visible from the terrace of homes," says Shonali, while talking about her connection with Delhi.

She was a “firebrand, a rebel who brought activism to Miranda House.” ... “What came from Miranda House was **a sense of identity as a woman**. Activism came from my own experiences in life, like I worked in relief camps. I come from an activists’ family.”

“In DU there are so many colleges, so that bonding of women who come from all over India, *the sisterhood, it’s fantastic*. We did street theatre, I was the *head* of Debating and Drama societies. I learnt a lot about drama as part of the Drama Society, so my roots as a filmmaker also come from that time.”

Shonali earned her breakthrough with her first feature film, the 2005 biographical drama *Amu*, which was based on her own novel of the same name. The film which chronicles the attacks on Sikhs in Delhi in 1984, garnered critical acclaim and the *National Film Award for Best Feature Film in English*. Bose co-wrote and assisted her former husband Bedabrata Pain to direct the historical war film *Chittagong*, which released to positive reviews in 2012.

Her 2015 romantic drama *Margarita With a Straw* was critically and commercially successful. Inspired from the life of Malini Chib—her cousin and a *Disability Rights* activist, the film earned her a *Sundance Mahindra Global Filmmaker Award* and a *NETPAC Award*.

She is also an *active philanthropist* and supports various charitable organisations.

Shonali co-wrote the Bedabrata Pain directed film *Chittagong*, a period drama that chronicles the 1930 Chittagong armoury raid.

Her 2014 production, *Margarita with a Straw*, starring *Kalki Koechlin* as a girl with cerebral palsy, premiered at 2014 Toronto International Film Festival to critical acclaim.

She began working on the script a year **after the death of her son**. She was inspired to make the film by her real life experiences of studying in New York, her relationship with her cousin Malini Chib who has cerebral palsy, and her and Chib's sexuality as queer and disabled people respectively.

The film was originally rejected by the Censor Board in India, but won appeal and was released shortly after the ban on homosexuality in India was lifted.

The Times of India 07.10.2019 *adapted*

wikipedia 09.10.2019 *adapted*

[click](#) alumni Film Directors and Filmmakers