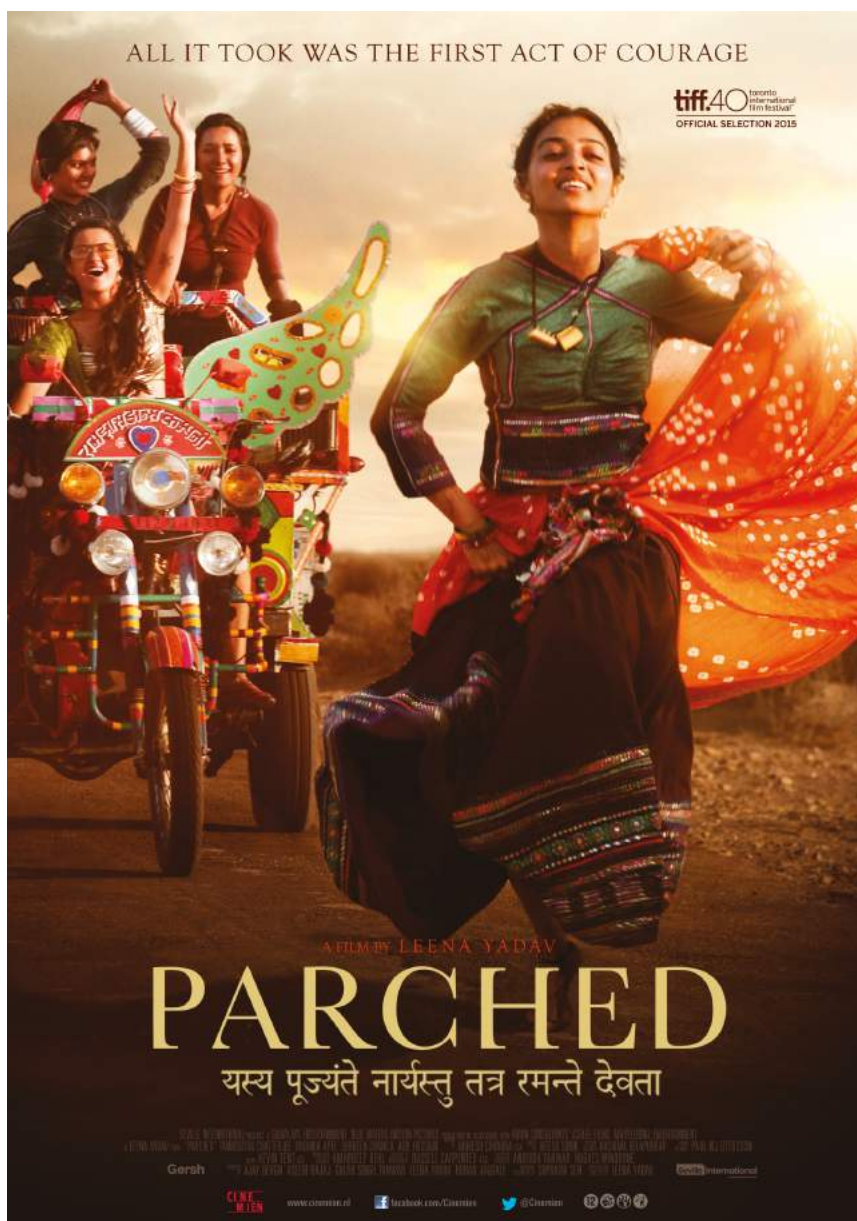


## PERSMAP PARCHED

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## SYNOPSIS

In een klein dorp in India komen vier vrouwen in opstand tegen de eeuwenoude tradities waaraan ze onderworpen zijn. Rani (*Tannishtha Chatterjee*) moet elke zuurverdiende cent opzij leggen om een goede bruid voor haar zoon te regelen. De toekomstige bruid Janaki (Lehar Khan) knipt haar haren af in de hoop dat de bruiloft niet door gaat. Rani's beste vriendin Lajjo (Radhika Apte), wordt maar niet zwanger en om die reden mishandeld en vernederd door haar man. Bijli (*Surveen Chawla*) werkt in een erotische club waar de mannen uit het dorp stiekem naar toe gaan maar is een paria in de dorpsgemeenschap. Onderling praten de vrouwen ongedwongen over mannen, seks en hun leven. Hun vriendschap en het verlangen naar vrijheid maken dat ze zich uiteindelijk verzetten tegen de patriarchale wereld waarin ze leven en machocultuur op het Indische platteland.

PARCHED is de derde speelfilm van de Indiase filmmaakster Leena Yadav. Een bitterzoete film in de kleurrijke en energieke stijl van een Bollywood-drama over vrouwendiscriminatie in India. De film kreeg eind 2015 op het filmfestival van Stockholm de IMPACT Award bedoeld voor filmmakers die niet bang zijn in hun films gevoelige maatschappelijke en politieke kwesties aan de orde te stellen.

2015 India, VS, GB | Taal: Engels, Hindi | Ondertiteling: Nederlands | Lengte: 116 minuten



## CREDITS

### CAST

RANI .....	Tannishtha Chatterjee
LAJJO .....	Radhika Apte
BIJLI .....	Surveen Chawla
JANAKI .....	Lehar Khan
GULAB .....	Riddhi Sen
MANOJ .....	Mahesh Balraj
RAJESH .....	Chandan Anand
KISHAN .....	Sumeet Vyas
DE MYSTERIEUZE AANBIDDER .....	Adil Hussain

### CREW

regie .....	Leena Yadav
scenario .....	Leena Yadav
camera .....	Russell Carpenter, ASC
montage .....	Kevin Tent, ACE
muziek .....	Hitesh Sonik
art-direction.....	Amardeep Behl
mixage .....	David Stevens
geluid .....	Paul NJ Ottosson
kostuums .....	Ashima Belapurkar
scenario-advies.....	Supratik Sen
Songs .....	Swanand Kirkire
choreografie .....	Ashley Lobo
haar & make up .....	Clover Wootton
.....	Preetisheel Singh
casting .....	Mukesh Chhabra
producenten .....	Leena Yadav
.....	Ajay Devgn
.....	Aseem Bajaj
.....	Gulab Singh
.....	Rohan Jagdale

## INTERVIEW MET REGISSEUR LEENA YADAV



Leena Yadav was born in Mhow, India. She began her career as an editor on commercials and an assistant director for television. Leena Yadav's journey in film started with SHABD in 2005. She wrote, directed and edited the film, which bravely explores the psychology of love, marriage, creativity and freedom. TEEN PATTI (2010) is Leena's second film as a director and writer. Set in India and England, it stars two of the greatest living acting legends of our times – Amitabh Bachchan and Academy Award Winner Sir Ben Kingsley. Her third feature, PARCHED, won the prestigious IMPACT Award at the Stockholm International Film Festival that "supports headstrong filmmakers who are not afraid to bring up burning topics in contemporary society."

"Parched" premiered at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival on September 12 2015.

**W&H: Please give us your description of the film playing.**

LY: "Parched" is the story of four spirited rural Indian women who dare to question and then break free from century-old traditions that have kept them locked in servitude.

**W&H: What drew you to this story?**

LY: In 2012, I was traveling through remote parts of Kutch, India, looking for stories. I met quite a few women with whom I struck a friendship. Some of them shared their life stories with me.

Once I returned to Mumbai, it struck me -- the stories of these women were stories of every woman, everywhere. Cultures and circumstances may vary, but their struggles and inner lives are instantly recognizable across time and space. I knew then that these stories had to be shared, discussed and acknowledged by the world.

**W&H: What was the biggest challenge in making the film?**

LY: The biggest challenge we faced was to find financing for this film. Finding persons who believed that money was worth spending on a film that showed harsh realities, a film that did not boast any renowned stars, a film that has women as protagonists. It was no easy task.

Every step of the way was a challenge. The investments trickled in slowly from people who believed in the vision of this film. It was Aseem Bajaj, my husband and producer, who stood by the film like a rock and allowed me to make it without any compromises.

**W&H: What do you want people to think about when they are leaving the theatre?**

LY: "Parched" touches a raw nerve, and it can ignite a dialogue that the world desperately needs to have. My dream is that when people come out of this film, they have a discussion. They may agree or disagree with the film -- as long as people discuss the themes within the film, see the world through the prism of "Parched" for a while, that's enough. It will make the blood, sweat and tears of the past three years worthwhile.

**W&H: What advice do you have for other female directors?**

LY: If you have a story to tell, go out there and tell it. Don't do it as a female: Do it as an individual who has a unique way of seeing the world and addressing the story. If being a woman restricts your attempts or opportunities, don't give up. There will always be a way.

**W&H: What's the biggest misconception about you and your work?**

LY: My first two films were with big Bollywood stars, so I was always asked which star would I be working with next, instead of being asked what film I'm making next. I think I have broken that mold with "Parched."

Also, I have always been asked how I feel as a woman director in certain situations. I don't really know how to answer that question as I have not experienced those situations as a man. I can definitely answer any question as an individual. Men or women, we are storytellers and I know the journey is equally challenging for all of us.

**W&H: How did you get your film funded? Share some insights into how you got the film made.**

LY: The film was very difficult to get financed. Since my producer and I wanted to make the film without any compromises, we decided to look for private funding. The first person to support our vision was Indian actor Ajay Devgn, who gave us seed money and invaluable support to raise more funds. Then Gulab Singh Tanwar, an aviator by profession, came on board, supporting the vision of this film and helping us finish principal photography. Rohan



Jagdale, a businessman, saw a rough trailer we put together after we finished the shoot. Thanks to him, we had post-production funds.

But faced with certain challenges, we had to take loans from various friends -- we call them angels. We also took loans on interest in order to get the film to the finishing line. It has been a challenging journey, but also a very gratifying one for the support and love that has poured in for this film from various, and sometimes unexpected, quarters.

**W&H: Name your favourite woman-directed film and why?**

LY: One of my all-time favourite films is "Lost in Translation," directed by Sofia Coppola. I have watched this film many times over the years and I always find new subtleties that have been captured in this complex relationship between two strangers in a strange land. The film is very telling of the times we live in. It is very real. I find it heart-breaking for so many reasons. And that ephemeral sense of pain is what draws me into the film each time.



## CAST

### **TANNISHTHA CHATERJEE (Rani)**

Tannishtha Chatterjee verwierf internationale bekendheid door haar rol in *Brick Lane* van Sarah Gavron, welke haar een nominatie opleverde voor de Prijs van Beste Actrice op de British Independent Film Awards, naast Judi Dench en Anne Hathaway.

Ze speelde in verscheidene films zoals *Shadows of Time* van de Duitse regisseur (zijn kortefilm werd in 2001 met een Oscar bekroond) Florian Gallenberger, *Anna Karenina* van Joe Wright en *Bombay Summer* van Joseph Matthew, voor welke zij de Prijs van Beste Actrice in ontvangst mocht nemen op het New York Indian Film Festival. Haar vertolking in *Dekh Indian Circus* van Mangesh Hadawale werd met lof onthaald en ze viel in de prijzen op verschillende internationale festivals als ook op nationale Indische festivals. Ze speelde mee in *Monsoon Shootout* van Amit Kumar onderdeel van de officiële selectie van het Filmfestival van Cannes en in *Siddharth* van Richie Mehta geselecteerd voor officiële competitie van Venetië en het Filmfestival van Toronto.



### **RADHIKA APTE (Lajjo)**

Radhika Apte startte haar carrière in de wereld van het experimenteel theater, waarmee ze zowel in India als in het buitenland succes oogstte. Vanaf 2009 legde ze zich ook toe op een filmcarrière. Sindsdien wordt ze beschouwd als een van de meest veelbelovende jonge actrices van India en werkte samen met verscheidene grote regisseurs, zoals Anurag Kashyap, Anurag Basu, Sujoy Ghosh, Ketan Mehta also ook met een National Award bekroonde regisseurs zoals Aniruddha Roy Choudhury, Onir, Sumitra Bhave, Sunil Sukthankar. Ze was niet alleen te zien in grote producties maar ook in onafhankelijke films en internationale producties.

### **SURVEEN CHAWLA (Bijli)**

Surveen Chawla schitterde recent in het populaire en succesvolle *Hindi Hate Story 2* van Vishal Pandya (2014). Ze werd geboren in Chandigarh, en begon al vrij jong als actrice in televisieproducties van een van India's grootste televisieproductiemaatschappij, die de meest populaire televisieseries maakt, Balaji Telefilms. Ze was een bekend gezicht in regionale films en maakte films in het tamoul, in het télougou of in het pendjabi. Ze ontving de Prijs voor ontdekking van het jaar en de Prijs voor Beste Actrice voor haar rollen in de films in het *pendjabi* *Dharti* en *Singh vs Kaur* van Navaniat Singh. Ze speelde ook in *Ugly* van Anurag Kashyap, welke geselecteerd werd voor de Quinzaine des Réalisateurs op het Filmfestival van Cannes in 2013.

