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Interview
with Dr.
Suman
Ghosh -
Filmmaker
and
Economist

**Interview with Dr. Suman Ghosh -
Filmmaker and Economist**

*"I am open to shoot film in the language which the
story demands"* - Dr. Suman Ghosh

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Dr. Ghosh is a professor of Economics at Florida Atlantic
University. He received his B.Sc degree in Economics

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Posted
By [admin](#) on Monday,
August 4th
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from Presidency College, Calcutta and did his MA in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi. He earned his PhD in Economics from Cornell University. Recently he has become renowned in the Indian film fraternity because of his first Bengali feature film *Padokkhep*. His debut film won the best regional feature film and Soumitra Chatterjee won the best actor in 2008. We are grateful that we were invited to watch this movie in 2007 at his uncle's (Dr. Kamalendu Paul) home in Jefferson City, Missouri. Suman da's presence was the added surprise. He walked us through the movie nicely and answered all of our questions. He is very down to earth, approachable and helpful. We really enjoyed watching *Padokkhep* with Suman da.

For more information visit Suman Ghosh's homepage <http://home.fau.edu/sgghosh/web/>

Supratim Sanyal interviewed him over the phone in connection with his filmmaking. The part of telephone interview was written by [Ujjal Sarkar and Mita Das](#). We thank Dr. Kamalendu Paul for providing some information about his nephew. We also thank Ankan Basu for setting up this interview with Dr. Suman Ghosh.



Q. You are a well known Economist. Will you share some information with us regarding your research interest?

S.G: First of all, I am not at all famous as an economist. I enjoy doing research on economics- that's all. Let me tell you my educational background in the US. I earned my PhD in Economics



Srabani Sen - Interview(P1) with

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6:50
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from Cornell and currently I am teaching at Florida Atlantic University, in addition I do research on Development Economics. During my PhD days in Cornell I started taking film courses and it has always been a passion for me, and it is kind of paying off now.

Q. So, you have been always interested and enthusiastic about Bengali films?

S.G: Not only Bengali films, I was interested in films in general. Coming from a middle class family I was not allowed to pursue my film interests given that I was doing reasonably well in academics. That mentality is quite standard I presume. It is thought of as a risky proposition. After I came to the US I could follow my passion more seriously. I first did a documentary on Amartya Sen which was shown worldwide and then I started my feature film-career with a Bengali movie *Padokkhep*. I am going to make my second movie soon in Hindi. I am open to shoot in the language which the story demands.

Q. You scripted and directed your debut film *Padokkhep* in 2006. The movie was promoted and screened in various film festivals. Could you please tell us what kind of reaction you have received from the audience?

S.G: The world premier was at the Vancouver International film festival, then it was shown in Seattle, New York, Karlovy Vary, New Delhi, etc.

He added: Along with Kolkata, when the movie was shown at foreign festivals world over, the main subject matter was accepted widely by the audience. The audience could identify themselves with the main subject matter alike, without any inhibition. I liked the universality of the viewer's acceptance. I have told a common human story which appealed all across the globe.

Q. What were the ideas and subjects that you wanted to express through *Padokkhep*?

Interviews

- Arindam: a Lead Singer from Band Kaya - Exclusive Interview
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- Srabani Sen Exclusive Interview
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- Arnab Chakraborty - Exclusive Interview
- Interview with Arindam Mukherjee (Andy)

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S.G: The movie was inspired by a short story "The Curious case of Benjamin Button" written by F. Scott Fitzgerald. In the life cycle of a person at the end one becomes a child again; which I comprehend as the completion of the human life cycle. The (above mentioned) short story explores that theme. I tried to express that main theme through other elements that are present in the story line, for example, generation conflicts and the loneliness of a seventy year old man in this modern era, etc.

Q. What are your future plans?

S.G: I will be working on two movies consecutively in the early part of next year. One will be based on a Marathi family with the back drop of the Mumbai riots. It will be a Hindi film about how violence affects the human psyche at a micro level. The other film will be a Bengali comedy movie, with Prosenjit Chatterjee in the leading role, where I will explore the larger impact of globalization in the language of a comedy.

Q. What is your opinion on current main stream Bengali cinema?

S.G: Honestly after Satyajit Ray, except Rituparno Ghosh, I do not see too many film makers making any good impressions. Rituparno da's Bariwali, Utsab, Unishe April are excellent pieces of work. Of course Aparna Sen's work has always fascinated me. I feel that post-2000 there has been a vacuum in the Bengali film industry. But I am sure that is temporary. Recently some new talents, new work, and experiments are coming along. I am very hopeful for what is going to come in the next couple of years.

Q. Thank you very much for your time.

S.G: Thank you.

If anyone is interested in **buying a copy of the original movie *Padokkhep*** it is available in most of the music stores in Calcutta. **The DVD is available from Biswas records in the US.**

The photograph courtesy to Ujjal Sarkar and Mita Das.

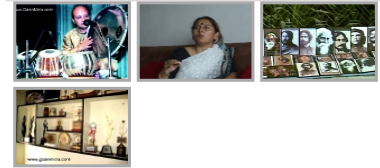
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1.  *ortiz* says:
[August 5, 2008 at 3:32 pm](#)
 we want more movies from Ghosh

2.  *debnath* says:
[August 5, 2008 at 7:58 pm](#)
 Gooood Jobb.

3.  *Barnali* says:
[August 6, 2008 at 4:16 pm](#)
 The interview looked awesome. Dr.Ghosh is

indeed a luminary in the world of entertainment and thanks to Ujjal da and Mita di for their effort to present before us such a detailed interview of this talented man. I am pleased with your effort and hope to see more great works from you.

4.



Shubhabrata

says:

[August 7, 2008 at 11:16 pm](#)

Darun laglo...!!!

5.



obakprithibi

says:

[August 8, 2008 at 2:31 pm](#)

Ankan, Ujjal and Mita you guys did an excellent job. You guys should do some more like this.

6.



debashis basu says:
[August 8, 2008 at 11:08 pm](#)

Excellent interview. Podokkhep is a very good movie.

7.



Braja D. Ghosh says:
[August 11, 2008 at 2:28 pm](#)

This interview is terrific and good piece of constructive work. Keep it up guys.

8.



Ujjal says:
[August 11, 2008 at 5:47 pm](#)

Thank you guys.

9.



Imtiaz
Ali says:
[August 12, 2008 at 10:29 pm](#)

Actually it doesn't matter which field you are in, but it matter how you can contribute in any field with your passion. Dr Suman has been already proved that. Guys we need passion to something. Thanks for Dr Suman to make an excellent movie "Padokkhep". The script is great - creative without being flowery or dull. Apart from the movie also I like these kind of interview where we can learn more about the movie and the creative work. Good job.

10.



Tapan

Naskar says:

[August 14,](#)

[2008 at](#)

[12:58 pm](#)

Interview is very good. This type of things are required to

promote
people doing
work of
beauty and
creativity.
Frankly
speaking I
do not even
know who is
Dr. Suman
Ghose
before
reading this
interview.
This type of
activity will
bring people
with hidden
capabilities
to limelight.

11.



Dip

says:

[August 14,
2008 at 3:45
pm](#)

cool dude,
Bengali
community is
awesome in
Columbia.

12.



Bhaswati

says:

[August 16,
2008 at 1:10
pm](#)

Awesome
legeche
amar total
gaanmela
concept taa.
sply. Dr
Ghosh er
interview taa
fatafati
hoeche.thx
to Mita for

introducing
me to this
nice website.
good job to
all of u jara
eta ke kore
tulecho.
good luck

13.



Prithviraj

says:

[November 3,
2008 at 5:31
am](#)

I have
known
Suman since
our high
school(+2)
days and
never did I
think that
Suman had
so much of
hidden talent
in
mainstream
movies.He
was a
brilliant
student,
down to
earth and
very friendly
but never did
I ever come
across this
hidden talent.
Well done
friend and
we need
more from
your end.
Padokkhep
is just the
beginning of
Suman and
there is lots
in the kitty
for sure.

Cactus Interview - Exclusive at
Gaanmela

Interview with Rajoshi Vidyarthi

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