Discovery, adventure, and spectacle come together via epic storytelling and cutting-edge technology, in Namit Malhotra's *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND.* From the visual effects artists who have won Academy Awards® for their work on films such as *Dune* and *Tenet*, the film is brought to life on the big screen with the most immersive 3D experience ever.

Based upon the celebrated ancient epic known to billions, Namit Malhotra's *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND* tells the story of Rama, a prince bound by sacrifice; Ravana, an immortal king driven by vengeance; and the prophecy that binds their fates together. It stars Ranbir Kapoor, Yash, and Sai Pallavi.

The film is produced by acclaimed filmmaker Namit Malhotra, whose Oscar-winning visual effects company, DNEG, has also worked on *The Odyssey, Interstellar,* and *Inception*; directed by Nitesh Tiwari, whose film *Dangal* remains the highest-grossing Indian film worldwide; and scored by Academy Award® winners Hans Zimmer and A.R. Rahman.

Namit Malhotra's *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND* will be released globally in theaters in time for Diwali on November 5.

Sony Pictures and Prime Focus Studios presents, in association with Monster Mind Creations and DNEG, *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND*, starring Ranbir Kapoor, Yash, Sai Pallavi, Ravie Dubey, Sunny Deol. The film is directed By Nitesh Tiwari, from a story by Shridhar Raghavan, and a screenplay by Shridhar Raghavan and Nitesh Tiwari. The film is produced by Namit Malhotra. The directors of photography are Pankaj Kumar and Mahesh Limae, the visual effects supervisor is Andy Lockley, and the casting is by Mukesh Chhaba, CSA. Music is by Hans Zimmer and AR Rahman.

The film has been rated PG-13 by the MPA for sequences of strong violence and action, and some bloody images.

BRINGING *RAMAYANA* TO A GLOBAL AUDIENCE

Ramayana is a timeless epic of love, devotion, and adventure that has inspired generations for thousands of years. For third-generation filmmaker Namit Malhotra, bringing this cornerstone of Indian culture to the world is a deeply personal mission.

Backed by immense ambition, over a decade of dedication, and an unprecedented personal investment of time, resources, and passion, Malhotra set out to ensure this monumental tale reaches the widest audience possible across the globe. To achieve that reach without compromise, Malhotra deliberately crafted two versions of the same epic story with the filmmaking team – a groundbreaking feat, with each perfectly shaped for the preference of the individual moviegoer.

The global English version, *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND*, is built specifically for international reach, so global moviegoers can immediately connect with the epic. It has the same actors performing their own lines in authentic Indian-English, seamlessly matched through advanced performance technology. (Running time: 2h 46m)

The Indian-language version, *RAMAYANA,* is created for Indian audiences, honoring regional cinematic traditions and giving the story's emotional, dramatic, and musical beats the expansive breathing room the home market loves. (Running time: 3h 15m)

Neither version is an afterthought or an alternate cut. They are two intentional, equal masterworks of the same epic story – each purpose-built so audiences everywhere can experience the journey of Rama on their own cinematic terms. Both versions will be available across markets.

MAKING HISTORY

As the first global release of a film from India, *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND* is making motion picture history. “For the people of India, this is their *Star Wars,* or *Avengers,* or *Lord of the Rings*,” says Malhotra. “Our film has the scale that audiences around the world know and love, but it presents a culture and story that is new to the West. It is a classical representation of family, emotions, and sacrifice.

“It’s great for Hollywood to bring out something original, and it’s exciting for us because the film dissolves those lines of culture,” Malhotra continues. “It becomes one audience, one movie, one story, and one emotion.”

The story told in the text of *The Ramayana,* traditionally attributed to the great sage Valmiki, is far more than an ancient adventure tale. It has shaped religion, ethics, literature, politics, and family ideals across South and Southeast Asia for more than two millennia. Those themes, presented like never before in *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND*, will resonate with audiences everywhere.

“This is an opportunity to bring a new kind of cinematic experience to the rest of the world,” Malhotra elaborates. “It’s a production that’s like any large-scale, event motion picture; in fact, the story precedes – and gave birth to – many epics we all know. It’s the ‘OG’ of the biggest storytelling that exists today! The spectacle is written into the original *Ramayana*; it’s the fundamental framework, but we never lose sight of its humanity.”

Director Nitesh Tiwari notes that the film is both multi-cultural and multi-generational. “It touches all age groups and all genres of filmmaking,” he points out. “That universality is very rare.”

RAMA

According to Hindu tradition, when the universe faces a severe threat, the deity Lord Vishnu, who sustains cosmic order and preservation, takes an avatar to protect it. Rama, prince of Ayodhya, is that avatar. A warrior of unparalleled skills, Rama is committed to *dharma* – proper conduct and duty – even when that duty leads to personal loss.

Rama’s unwavering commitment to his father’s word brings heartbreak to him and the people of Ayodhya, as he embarks upon a 14-year exile with his wife Sita and his loyal brother Lakshmana. Together, they face incredible adventures and a shocking kidnapping that will change them forever.

International superstar Ranbir Kapoor, who portrays Rama, says he felt significant responsibility embodying such a cherished figure. “What interested me most about Rama is his compassion, courage, ability to forgive, and his righteousness,” he says. “There is a saying in our scriptures that translates to: ‘*Dharma protects those who uphold it*.’ That’s something that really stayed with me.

“For thousands of years, Rama has been the conscience keeper for hundreds of millions of people,” Kapoor continues. “His story tells you about the choices in life between duty and desire, compassion and revenge, and self and selflessness. Rama is the epitome of sacrifice and duty. He is the ideal man: the perfect son, husband, brother, father, teacher, and disciple. For an actor to try and capture all that is a daunting prospect.”

But then, Kapoor notes, “I became a father around the time I was offered the role. “So, over the three years of making the film, I began telling my daughter about the stories of *The Ramayana*, while actually performing these stories. It was a period of significant spiritual growth for me, for which I’m grateful.”

Indeed, as Kapoor points out, this is a role unlike any other he's experienced. "You can't really *play* Rama; as an actor, I'm telling my version of the character. I think that's where it all begins," he explains.

Kapoor says even the experience of being approached to portray Rama still lingers. "Namit offered me the role, asking how I would feel about it. My instant reaction, out of fear, was to say no, and that I wasn't fit enough for it. But over time, Namit took me through what he and Nitesh were doing with the film. Then, I met Nitesh, who narrated the story to me. I realized then how thankful I was to be in the right place at the right time. Portraying Rama is nothing less than a turning point in my career and in my life."

Tiwari says Kapoor's performance is impressive, given how the actor must capture the character's heroic but complex qualities. "I'm telling you, it's not easy to play Rama," he confirms. "Huge respect to Ranbir, who's a fantastic actor and a superstar. With everything that came with playing such a revered figure, Ranbir remained humbled, and he surrendered to the character. Audiences will experience a beautiful Rama, who acts with great intent and sacrifice."

RAVANA

Ravana, the king of Lanka (now Sri Lanka), is a formidable tyrant who rules over three kingdoms: the heavens, the earth, and the world of the dead. As the ultimate sovereign, he is extraordinarily powerful, learned, and accomplished. Ravana's tragedy is that his brilliance is overwhelmed by pride, desire, a refusal to accept wise counsel – and his fateful kidnapping of Rama's wife, which sets the two on a collision course for the ages.

Rama and Ravana follow very different paths: Rama is born to protect; Ravana is ruled by revenge. Still, when Ravana promises an agonizing and humiliating death for Rama, the latter is undeterred, vowing that all three realms over which Ravana rules will witness *his* death.

The actor who personifies Ravana, Yash, calls the character, "The original villain." He explains: "This story has been around for 5,000 years. Many great movie villains have been derived from Ravana."

The fact that the character has existed for millennia was a significant draw for Yash. "Thousands of years later, people still burn Ravana's effigies to celebrate the victory of good over evil," he says. "As a kid, *The Ramayana* was the first story I heard. Even then, I

respected Ravana and the way he stayed in my memory. At the same time, I learned that even the smartest and most talented people can believe in something that is dangerous.

"For this film, I wanted Ravana to be relatable, even though he's so much larger than life. Audiences should feel, 'I could have been that guy in this situation.' That's how I prepared, mentally and emotionally, to play Ravana."

To that end, Yash got inside of the character's mind, emotions, and ambitions. "That meant, of course, putting aside my personal ideology and making sure I understood Ravana's thought processes and emotions," he remembers. "I had to believe that Ravana was right, because we are all heroes in our own minds, and that sometimes the world really does seem to revolve around us. So, imagine Ravana, who owns three worlds, and his ego! Ravana believes in what he's trying to do."

"Ravana has so many aspects," Tiwari points out. "He was a great warrior, an accomplished musician, a scholar, and, in his unique way, a benevolent king. So, there's so much more to him than being an antagonist. It was important to showcase all these aspects of Ravana because it points to an important lesson: you can have all these admirable qualities, but if you govern by vengeance and are driven by ego, the result is a foregone conclusion. There's a great lesson hiding in that character."

Tiwari remembers that when Yash agreed to take on the role, the director "almost jumped with excitement. Having seen his work in [the Indian blockbusters] *KGF* and *KGF 2*, I knew Yash carried the requisite aura to capture Ravana. Yash comes with everything necessary to be Ravana – the emotional intensity, physicality, and swagger. He plays Ravana to the hilt."

Malhotra recalls, "Yash had just completed *KGF 2*, which became a megahit, and his popularity exploded. After seeing that film, I knew the energy he could bring to Ravana would be very powerful. Once Yash came on board, his excitement and ambition for the project continued to build, so he also became a producer to help ensure *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND* became a global event."

SITA

A figure of courage and fidelity, Sita, Rama's wife, is the story's moral and emotional center. She's courageous, intelligent, and unwavering, even under the most extreme circumstances. Sai Pallavi portrays Sita, a role that also embodies grace, resilience, compassion, and inner strength.

Pallavi elaborates on the qualities that drew her to the role. “What particularly pulled me to Sita was her strength and the complete faith and trust she has in her husband. To me, she embodies the qualities of an ideal partner: the ability to listen, understand and approach difficult situations with patience and conviction.

“At the same time, Sita speaks her heart and stands up for herself. You see that when it comes to the exile: she expresses what she feels and what she wants.
There is strength in her devotion, but also in her voice and her choices. I think there is so much we can learn from her and carry into our lives, while understanding how those qualities apply to our circumstances today. Our perspectives continue to evolve, and I hope audiences, especially those growing up with this film, find strength and inspiration in her.”

Pallavi also credits her background with *The Ramayana* as being a key part of her decision to take on the role of Sita. “I come from a spiritual family and grew up listening to stories from the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*,” she recalls. “As a child, I even wanted to grow my hair long because I thought the gods had long hair! These stories were part of our everyday conversations, and discussions with my mother helped shape my perspective as I grew older. So, being offered the role of Sita was deeply personal. As actors, we rarely get the opportunity to portray someone so revered, and that comes with an enormous sense of responsibility.”

Tiwari reflects on how Pallavi was cast: “I had always wanted someone who would have that combination of beauty and a divine quality, along with expressive eyes.” In addition, Tiwari had been impressed by Pallavi’s work in the notable South Indian films *Gargi* and *Amaran*. “I thought there was something fascinating and disciplined about the way Sai approaches her work.”

VISUAL EFFECTS → EMOTION

RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND presents an incredibly vivid world, much of which has been brought to life by the visual effects house DNEG, which has won eight Academy Awards.

Malhotra, who as head of DNEG is among the visionaries creating those worlds, points out that the leading-edge effects employed by the filmmakers are “the glue that holds everything together. That meant always building new tools, technologies, and pipelines, all of them interacting in a unique way

“I can say,” he adds, “that *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND* is the most challenging project DNEG has undertaken in its 25-year history. All these technologies and tools were integrated, running simultaneously, on set.”

Still, as Tiwari reminds, the tech is serving a greater purpose. “This is a story about relationships and emotions. At the end of the day, audiences don’t connect with your story, no matter how inventive the effects, unless they empathize with the characters and feel their joy and sadness. VFX is the icing on the cake, making the experience even more impressive. It’s a tool that enables a filmmaker to dream bigger and to think bigger, and to tell a story in a way that’s never been done before. VFX brings to life the characters and their worlds. But at its heart, this film remains an emotional story.”

There are many moments where the film’s visual effects produce both thrilling and dramatically resonant moments, including:

- Rama facing an enormous demonic army and confronting and destroying that force largely by himself.
- Ravana employing a luminous golden deer to lure Rama away from Sita. Rama’s pursuit of the deer is part of the carefully constructed trap leading to Sita’s abduction.
- Ravana flying away with Sita, after kidnapping her and transporting her in his aerial vehicle.
- Rama’s magical weapons – his arrows possess divine force that extend his exceptional skills.
- A gigantic bird, Jatayu, a noble vulture-like king, attacking an adversary in midair.

Tiwari points to the epic battle between this winged creature, who is not simply a fantasy monster but an elderly, heroic character, and Ravana, as just one example, of many, in which the filmmakers were determined to have the greatest possible impact on audiences. “Those who are familiar with *The Ramayana* know the outcome, but I wanted audiences to be constantly surprised and wondering who will prevail. We asked ourselves, ‘Can we have a great aerial fight that will provide an even more spectacular experience for audiences?’ There should be hundreds of birds added, which adds to the drama. So, those things kept evolving and growing.”

According to Yash, the VFX enabled the actors and filmmakers to “find small truths in spectacle and to find heart when everything is so large. I think that’s the most important

aspect of this film, because with technology of this scale, we can build anything. But the audience must resonate with those moments."

Ranbir echoes that idea: "The film is about courage, righteousness, and the triumph of the human spirit. Against a huge canvas, it's filled with small moments and truths, as Rama sacrifices so much to find himself and his destiny."

IMAX + 3D

The filmmakers designed *RAMAYANA: A LEGEND* to be one of the grandest stories ever told. "So," says Malhotra, "we had to tell it in the most expansive formats – IMAX and 3D – to maximize the immersive experience."

To that end, the filmmakers tested different cameras, formats, and screen resolutions, ensuring, says Malhotra, "that we'd have the maximum impact of scale *and* emotion."

Malhotra points to DNEG's Academy Award-winning collaborations with Christopher Nolan on *Interstellar, Inception, Tenet*, and *The Odyssey* as an inspiration for shaping the film's striking theatrical presentations. "Chris continues to innovate the use of IMAX and has pushed the boundaries of what's possible. We're all beneficiaries of his efforts, and we made sure we maximized our use of IMAX and 3D.

"This will be 3D unlike anything you've seen before," he continues. "DNEG has been at the forefront of that technology since its work on *Avatar and* has a strong perspective on how we can make a film that's powerful, emotionally and artistically. We wanted to make sure that what we're showing audiences feels seamless. That is the most authentic part of telling this story."

MAESTROS: A MAGICAL MUSICAL COLLABORATION

In an historic East meets West pairing, *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND* brings together two renowned and Academy Award-winning composers: Hans Zimmer and A.R. Rahman.

Rahman, who's also a record producer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and philanthropist, earned his Oscar for *Slumdog Millionaire*; he's also received seven National Film Awards, two Grammy Awards, a Golden Globe Award, and many other accolades.

Zimmer is one of the most influential and innovative film score composers in modern cinema. Among his many notable scores: *The Lion King* (earning Zimmer his first Oscar),

Gladiator, The Dark Knight Trilogy, Inception, Interstellar, and *Dune* (for which he received a second Academy Award). Zimmer has been honored with a total of twelve Academy Award nominations.

"Working with Hans and A.R. was always on my bucket list," Malhotra enthuses. "Growing up, I geeked out on A.R.'s music, and then I was privileged to be a part of several Christopher Nolan movies for which Hans provided the score – providing additional fanboy moments."

At the onset of this collaboration with the two music giants, Malhotra says he "immediately saw how much respect Hans and A.R. had for one another. As far as selling the idea of the film to them, A.R. was very well versed in *The Ramayana* and what it means to Indian culture. So, he was excited about working on the film."

Zimmer's response to the pitch was equally gratifying. "After I showed Hans some imagery from the film, he told me something I thought was quite profound: 'You don't have to tell me anything more. If something has existed for 5,000 years and continues to be relevant today, do you and I really need to analyze that? Isn't it obvious that the world already sees *The Ramayana* from a certain lens? So, we should just understand it and do the best we can.'

"In other words," Malhotra summarizes, "Hans got it even before I could sell it to him."

Like Malhotra, Tiwari was more than impressed by the two legendary musicians. "Hans and A.R. are absolute masters. From the start, they knew exactly what we were looking for. But they were also humble and modest enough to sit with us and hear about our vision for the score, debate it, and discuss, for example, where we would want pauses and punctuations. We just gave them our brief, sat back, and enjoyed. There was a lot of back-and-forth between the two of them, all to present something that has Indian soul, but global appeal.

"The audience is in for a treat, with their music," Tiwari adds. "We're so proud of our visuals and storytelling, but when Hans and A.R.'s score was added, it took the film to another level."

BEHIND THE SCENES & CRAFTING THE ACTION

Most of the film was shot at Prime Focus Studios in Mumbai. The filmmakers constructed a massive set that replicated the central story locales of Ayodhya, Lanka, and the forest regions. The VFX teams did their work across studios in Mumbai, London, and Vancouver.

Notably, development on *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND* began over ten years ago, as screenwriter Shridhar Raghavan, renowned for redefining the Bollywood action and espionage genre, began work on the script, which Malhotra calls, “the heartbeat of everything.”

In 2018, Malhotra brought aboard Tiwari to direct and refine the script. Malhotra says he had long been impressed with Tiwari’s “very high quality storytelling, and the depth of his films’ emotions and character arcs. There’s an authenticity to Nitesh’s films that really stands out.

“And it’s not just Nitesh’s films that impressed us; it’s also him as an individual,” Malhotra continues. “When you take on a subject as huge and impressive and meaningful as *The Ramayana*, it’s crucial to have an artist and filmmaker who understands the subject matter and its characters and themes, while retaining a creative flair to tell the story in the way it deserves to be told. Nitesh is very learned and has read many versions of *The Ramayana*. In making this film, we dialed into that knowledge. That was comforting to us all. Even though Nitesh had not previously made a film of this scale, I wasn’t concerned because he had such expertise and impressive leadership qualities, as well as a collaborative spirit. Nitesh’s storytelling prowess and honest expression, along with DNEG’s visual effects and technology, were a great combination.”

Malhotra and Tiwari had begun assembling department heads and creative teams until the global outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 threatened to shut everything down. But Malhotra was determined “to use all our resources to continue work on previsualization and much of the art design, character design, and overall world building. It all happened in the middle of COVID. We soon had a script, previs, and art – which is a dream for any filmmaker to have as a package, at such an early stage. So, when we began approaching actors and department heads, they were impressed by the amount of prep that had already happened.”

Tiwari himself was impressed by what the teams had put together, even at such an early stage. “The vision was global,” he remembers, “and the visual imagery that had been created was something I had never seen before. The screenplay and this early work were a

unique way of approaching *The Ramayana*, not just to the people of India, but to the rest of the world, as well.

"Everyone was determined to maximize the potential of the motion picture medium," he continues, "so we continued to fine-tune the script to embrace the limitless potential of the world of VFX."

These evolutions similarly impacted character development within these epic set pieces. For example, Tiwari notes that no matter what the size of the battle, "It was important for us to make Rama fight with his intellect and courage. Rama had not yet been given his divine weapons; instead, he employed all the skills he had learned from his guru – agility, bravery, spontaneous thinking – that helped him overcome some formidable adversaries. Later, Rama does use the divine weapon because he has no other option. So, we were careful to graph these action sequences so that audiences experience something new with each one."

Malhotra and Tiwari ensured that their teams were as passionate about the film as they were. The former says there are many examples of their unwavering commitment, but as one example he points to famed action director Terry Notary, who has performed in similar capacities for some of the biggest action films of the past few decades, including the recent *Planet of the Apes* films, as well as the upcoming *Avengers: Doomsday,* to name only a few. "Terry was one of our first recruits on the action side," Malhotra remembers, "because action is obviously such an important element. Terry moved to India with his wife and children and spent over a year in Mumbai. It was exciting to see that kind of commitment, during which Terry set up the country's first motion capture stage, before designing the action."

Indeed, Tiwari and Nitesh credit the production's entire army of department heads, artists, craftspeople, and technicians with having an unwavering dedication to make *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND* everything they hoped it would be. And as the film's global release nears, the cast and filmmakers take a few minutes to reflect on it.

Pallavi notes, "I hope audiences take away something that stays with them long after they leave the theatre. I also hope that everyone finds something meaningful in it, even one quality they want to imbibe. If our film inspires someone to be a little more compassionate, find courage in a difficult situation, or be there for someone they love, that will mean a great deal to me."

“This is a story that speaks so beautifully to people around the world,” says Yash. “We always considered how to best use the power of filmmaking and communicate it to the world. The world is ready now to take in this incredible story.”

“It’s spectacular,” Kapoor notes. “The film’s epic visuals and action sequences, as well as its emotions, provide incredible entertainment while teaching us to be a better son, husband, and brother. It’s about a triumph of good over evil. There are so many different layers of storytelling.”

Says Tiwari: “The film is going to take you on a rollercoaster ride of emotions in a thrilling and fascinating manner. It’s going to be moving, as well as overwhelming. You’ll be treated to spectacular visuals and action – and, on top of all that, some valuable life lessons.

“I would want audiences around the world to depart the cinema feeling that they have watched something that is one-of-a-kind, and which truly matches or exceeds their expectations,” he adds. “Something that will be remembered for a very long time.”

“To me,” Malhotra concludes, “*RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND* is about us enjoying and celebrating each other’s cultures. I’m so proud of everyone who worked on this and brought to the world something that’s heartfelt and that can be enjoyed as both a huge and a relatable story. To me, that provides a great sense of achievement and satisfaction, because *The Ramayana*’s themes and elements deserve that attention.”

ABOUT THE TECH USED IN THE GLOBAL VERSION

The filmmakers created two distinct master versions of *RAMAYANA* – one in Hindi and one in English. During development, the Hindi and English screenplays were written concurrently; the English script was never a translation, but an independently crafted narrative structured for maximum clarity, flow, and emotional resonance with a global audience. During production, the film was shot in Hindi.

For the global version of *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND*, the English-language dialogue was brought to life through a blend of performances by the original cast alongside carefully selected voice artists. Both the cast and voice actors performed using traditional motion capture techniques tailored to track mouth and throat movement, delivering the precise accents, physicality, emotional nuance, and depth required for each role.

Advanced technology entered the pipeline only in the final stages of post-production to synchronize the actors' onscreen lip movements with the recorded dialogue. Crucially, this technology did not generate, replace, or synthesize any performance. It was utilized exclusively for visual lip alignment, preserving the full authenticity and nuance of the human actors.

This is not a translated release or an automated dub; the English master version of *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND* represents cinematic artistry at the highest level. Through nearly a year of dedicated craftsmanship and multimillion-dollar investment, it was built by human hands and voices to stand independently as a premier cinematic achievement.

ABOUT THE CAST

RANBIR KAPOOR (Rama) is widely regarded as one of the most versatile actors of contemporary Hindi cinema, known for his instinctive performances and ability to disappear into complex, often conflicting characters.

He began his journey in cinema assisting on *Black* (2005), an experience that shaped his understanding of performance and storytelling, before making his acting debut with *Saawariya* (2007).

Kapoor quickly distinguished himself with a string of performances that balanced vulnerability and charm, including *Wake Up Sid* (2009) and *Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani* (2009). His breakthrough came with *Rockstar* (2011), where his raw, emotionally charged portrayal marked a turning point in his career.

Kapoor continued to push creative boundaries with *Barfi!* (2012), delivering a deeply physical and nuanced performance that earned global acclaim. With *Sanju* (2018), Kapoor demonstrated remarkable transformation—both internal and external—bringing layered complexity to a widely recognized public figure.

His filmography reflects a deliberate mix of mainstream and character-driven cinema, from the fantasy spectacle of *Brahmāstra: Part One – Shiva* (2022) to the darker, psychologically intense *Animal* (2023), underscoring his willingness to explore morally ambiguous and demanding roles.

Kapoor is now set to portray Rama, a role that brings together scale, restraint, and emotional depth, aligning with his evolving journey as an actor.

YASH (Ravana) is widely regarded as one of the biggest stars in contemporary Indian cinema, known for his magnetic screen presence, commanding performances, and transformative impact on Kannada cinema's global reach.

He began his acting journey with television before making his film debut with *Jambada Hudugi* (2007). Yash steadily built his reputation through acclaimed performances in films such as *Moggina Manasu* (2008), *Googly* (2013), *Mr. and Mrs. Ramachari* (2014), and *Masterpiece* (2015), establishing himself as one of Kannada cinema's most bankable leading actors.

His breakthrough as a pan-Indian superstar came with *K.G.F: Chapter 1* (2018), followed by the global blockbuster *K.G.F: Chapter 2* (2022), where his portrayal of Rocky redefined the scale and worldwide appeal of Kannada cinema.

Yash's filmography reflects a deliberate mix of mass entertainers and performance-driven roles, underscoring his ability to combine commercial success with compelling storytelling.

Beyond acting, Yash has expanded his creative vision as a producer through his banner, Monster Mind Creations, which is co-producing Namit Malhotra's *Ramayana* alongside Prime Focus Studios, reflecting his ambition to take Indian stories to audiences worldwide.

Yash is now set to portray Ravana in Navit Malhotra's *Ramayana: Rise of a Legend,* bringing intensity, gravitas, and complexity to one of mythology's most iconic and formidable characters.

SAI PALLAVI (Sita) is widely regarded as one of the most accomplished actors of contemporary Indian cinema, known for her naturalistic performances, emotional authenticity, and remarkable ability to bring depth to understated characters.

Pallavi rose to prominence with *Premam* (2015), where her portrayal of Malar became a cultural phenomenon and established her as one of the industry's most compelling new talents. Pallavi quickly built a reputation for choosing nuanced, character-driven roles, delivering acclaimed performances in *Kali* (2016), *Fidaa* (2017), and *Middle Class Abbayi* (2017).

She continued to expand her artistic range with *Love Story* (2021), *Shyam Singha Roy* (2021), and *Gargi* (2022), balancing commercial success with critically acclaimed performances. Her portrayal in *Amaran* (2024) further showcased her ability to embody emotionally layered characters with quiet conviction and authenticity.

Pallavi's filmography reflects a deliberate mix of mainstream and content-driven cinema, underscoring her commitment to meaningful storytelling and performances defined by restraint, empathy, and emotional depth.

Pallavi portrays Sita, in Namit Malhotra's *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND,* a role that embodies grace, resilience, compassion, and inner strength, aligning naturally with the qualities that have come to define her journey as an actor.

RAVIE DUBEY (Lakshmana) is widely recognized as one of India's most dynamic and multifaceted performers, celebrated for his versatility across television, digital entertainment, and film. Known for his natural screen presence and ability to seamlessly transition between genres, he has continually evolved as an actor, producer, and creative entrepreneur.

Dubey began his acting journey with television before rising to prominence through a series of acclaimed performances that established him as one of the medium's leading talents. With memorable roles in popular shows such as *Jamai Raja, Saas Bina Sasural,* and *12/24 Karol Bagh*, Dubey demonstrated an ability to balance emotional depth, charm, and dramatic intensity, earning widespread appreciation from audiences and critics alike.

His career continues to evolve with a deliberate mix of performance-led and creative ventures, underscoring his commitment to pushing artistic boundaries across formats. Whether as an actor or producer, Dubey has consistently embraced projects that reflect ambition, authenticity, and innovation.

Dubey portrays Lakshmana in Namit Malhotra's *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND*, directed by Nitesh Tiwari – a role that calls for unwavering devotion, courage, and emotional strength. His portrayal marks a significant milestone in his artistic journey, bringing one of Indian mythology's most revered characters to life on an epic cinematic scale.

SUNNY DEOL (Hanuman) is a two-time National Film Award-winning actor whose career spans more than four decades. Known for his commanding screen presence, powerful dialogue delivery and emotionally grounded performances, Deol has become one of Hindi cinema's most recognizable leading actors.

He made his acting debut with *Betaab* (1983), followed by the films *Arjun* (1985), *Tridev* (1989) and *Ghayal* (1990). Deol's performance in *Ghayal* earned him the National Film Award's Special Jury Award, while his portrayal of a lawyer fighting for justice in *Damini* (1993) brought him the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor.

Deol's filmography also includes *Ghatak* (1996), *Border* (1997) and *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha* (2001). His portrayal of Tara Singh became one of his defining roles, which he revisited in *Gadar 2* (2023), renewing his connection with audiences across generations.

In Namit Malhotra's *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND*, directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Deol portrays Hanuman, a role that brings together physical strength, humility and unwavering devotion.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

NITESH TIWARI (Director, Screenplay) is a renowned Indian film director, screenwriter, and lyricist, celebrated for his contributions to Bollywood. After graduating from IIT Bombay, he worked as a creative director at Leo Burnett for a while, honing his expertise in visual communication and narrative before moving into filmmaking.

He made his directorial debut with *Chillar Party* (2011), a co-directed project that won the National Film Award for Best Children's Film. Tiwari then directed the supernatural political drama *Bhoothnath Returns* (2014).

In 2016, Tiwari scripted and directed the blockbuster *Dangal* (2016), which became a cultural phenomenon and one of India's highest-grossing films of all time. In China alone, the film earned over $190 million, making it one of the most successful Indian releases worldwide. *Dangal* was screened at both the Beijing International Film Festival and the BRICS Film Festival

Tiwari has won several accolades, including the Filmfare Award for Best Director and the Telstra People's Choice Award at the 2017 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.

His comedy *Chhichhore* (2019) earned him widespread acclaim and a National Film Award.

Tiwari has continued to develop high-profile projects, including the epic *Ramayana: Rise of Legend*, one of India's most celebrated cinematic creations to date; and *Bawwaal* (2023).

SHRIDHAR RAGHAVAN (Story, Screenplay) is a National Film Award-winning screenwriter whose work spans cinema and television. His writing credits encompass crime dramas, political thrillers and major action films, combining intricate plotting with character conflict and emotional stakes.

His early television work includes *CID* and *Aahat*. In cinema, his credits include *Khakee* (2004) and *Apaharan* (2005), for which he shared the National Film Award for Best Screenplay, with Prakash Jha and Manoj Tyagi.

Raghavan's subsequent work includes *War* (2019), *Pathaan* (2023), *Tiger 3* (2023) and *War 2* (2025), contributing to the expanding world of Yash Raj Films' spy franchise.

These projects demonstrate his experience in developing action narratives that connect individual motivations with larger conflicts.

For Namit Malhotra's *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND*, directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Raghavan brings his screenwriting experience to the cinematic adaptation of the epic, extending a career that moves between intimate human drama and storytelling on a large canvas.

NAMIT MALHOTRA (Producer) is a filmmaker, producer, and the Global CEO of DNEG, a world leader in visual effects, animation, and creative technologies. He is also the Founder and Non-Executive Director of Prime Focus Limited, DNEG's parent company.

As a film producer, Malhotra has been instrumental bringing ambitious cinematic visions to life. His productions include the Bollywood blockbuster *Brahmāstra: Part One – Shiva* and *The Garfield Movie*, which grossed over $275 million globally.

Through his content development and production company, Prime Focus Studios, he is currently spearheading a dynamic slate of projects, including *Animal Friends*—a live-action/animation hybrid feature film in collaboration with Legendary Entertainment and Ryan Reynolds' Maximum Effort—and *The Angry Birds Movie 3* with Rovio Entertainment Corporation and SEGA.

Malhotra is also the creative force behind *Ramayana: Rise of a Legend,* a cinematic duology that reimagines the 6,000-year-old epic for a global audience, laying the foundation for an expansive transmedia universe.

A third-generation filmmaker, Malhotra's journey began in 1995 with a garage start-up in Mumbai. A decade later, he had taken Prime Focus public on Indias National Stock Exchange, pioneering a series of technological advancements that transformed Bollywood's filmmaking landscape.

His vision extended beyond India, leading him to expand Prime Focus into international markets through strategic acquisitions, bridging the gap between East and West.

In 2014, Malhotra acquired the prestigious British visual effects studio Double Negative, rebranding it as DNEG. Under his leadership, the company has expanded into a global powerhouse, growing from 700 to over 9,000 employees, diversifying its service offerings, and securing seven Academy Awards for Best Visual Effects. His strategic

foresight has positioned DNEG at the forefront of the industry, driving innovation and shaping the future of storytelling.

Malhotra's leadership is defined by a bold, forward-thinking approach to business growth. In August 2021, he secured a $250 million investment from Novator Capital Advisers, LLP, reinforcing the company's expansion strategy. In 2024, he further accelerated DNEGs trajectory with a $200 million investment from the United Al Saqer Group, enabling the groups continued growth across markets and geographies.

Committed to pushing creative and technological boundaries, Malhotra leads from the front—championing innovation, fostering talent, and redefining the landscape of global entertainment/

PANKAJ KUMAR (Director of Photography) is one of contemporary Indian cinema's most distinctive visual voices – an internationally acclaimed cinematographer and director whose work spans groundbreaking independent cinema, mainstream blockbusters and globally recognized storytelling.

With a career spanning over fifteen years, Kumar has earned a reputation for creating extraordinary cinematic worlds through evocative imagery, atmospheric lighting, and a masterful command of visual narrative. From the philosophical intimacy of *Ship of Theseus* and the haunting mythology of *Tumbbad* to the sweeping landscapes of *Haider* and *Rangoon*, his cinematography has helped define some of India's most visually celebrated films.

An alumnus of the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Kumar's work has garnered significant national and international recognition, with honors associated with the Tokyo International Film Festival, Transylvania International Film Festival, Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival, Filmfare Awards and Critics' Choice Film Awards.

Extending his creative vision into direction, Kumar directed *Khauf* (2025), an Amazon Prime Video original horror series, bringing his distinctive command of atmosphere, psychological tension, and immersive storytelling to the long-form format.

His cinematic journey continues on an extraordinary scale with *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND*, one of Indian cinema's most ambitious productions, where his cinematography brings a monumental mythological world to life.

From intimate human narratives to epic cinematic spectacles, Kumar continues to

push the boundaries of visual storytelling, guided by a singular philosophy: every frame must do more than capture an image; it must tell a story.

MAHESH LIMAE (Director of Photography) is an award-winning cinematographer and director whose work spans Hindi and Marathi cinema. His credits include *Fashion, Dabangg, Natarang, Balgandharva* and *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*.

Trained at the Sir J. J. School of Art, Limae began his career in advertising before moving into feature films. His collaborations with Madhur Bhandarkar include *Corporate, Traffic Signal, Fashion* and *Heroine*. In Marathi cinema, his work with Ravi Jadhav includes *Natarang, Balgandharva,* and *Balak Palak*.

Limae made his feature directorial debut with *Yellow* in 2014. The film received the Special Jury Award at the 61st National Film Awards. He later directed *Jaggu Ani Juliet*, continuing his work both behind the camera and as a filmmaker.

Limae's cinematography has also received recognition across languages and formats. He shared the 2024 Filmfare OTT Award for Best Cinematographer (Series) for *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* and won Best Cinematography at the 2025 Filmfare Awards Marathi for *Phullwanti*.

Limae also photographed action sequences for *Bajirao Mastani* and *Padmaavat and* has shot more than 27 feature films. His filmography moves between contemporary drama, commercial action, and period storytelling, bringing a broad range of visual experiences to *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND*.

RAVI BANSAL (Production Designer) joined DNEG in September 2019 as Global Head of Art, marking the next step in an illustrious career as a world-renowned art director. He led the art direction for the Netflix series *1899* (2022) and has contributed to several high-profile projects, including *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom* (2023), Disney's *Haunted Mansion* (2023), *The School for Good and Evil* (2022), *Mickey 17*, *A Minecraft Movie* (2025), *Coyote vs. Acme* (2026), and the upcoming *Avengers: Secret Wars*.

His work has had a notable impact on many of Hollywood's biggest films, shaping the visual identity of major releases such as *F9: The Fast Saga* (2021), *Wonder Woman 1984* (2020), *Godzilla: King of the Monsters* (2019), *Pokémon Detective Pikachu* (2019), *The One and Only Ivan* (2020), and *Dark Phoenix* (2019).

Bansal began his VFX career over 20 years ago as a Concept Illustrator on *Sleepy Hollow* (1999) and soon made a name for himself through work on *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* (2001), *Resident Evil* (2002), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005), and *The Golden Compass* (2007). He served as Senior Concept Artist on *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (2001), *Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones* (2002), *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (2002), and *Snow White and the Huntsman* (2012).

As his career progressed, Bansal moved into Art Direction, contributing to major titles including *X-Men: Days of Future Past* (2014), *Guardians of the Galaxy* (2014), *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (2015), *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales* (2017), *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* (2016), *Suicide Squad* (2016), *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* (2016), and *The Matrix Resurrections* (2021), among many others.

Before joining DNEG, Bansal worked at several leading visual effects studios and at Disney's Interactive and Imagineering divisions. He also has experience in the video game industry, having contributed to multiple Triple A game titles during his time at Sony Computer Entertainment Europe.

With his creative vision, deep industry experience, and proven leadership, Bansal is a key member of the global creative leadership team at DNEG.

RAMSEY AVERY (Production Designer) is an acclaimed production designer and art director with an impressive portfolio of major projects. He began his career art directing Roseanne and later brought to life the Second Age lands of Middle-earth in *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* (2022–2023).

His key projects include *The Consultant* (2023), *No One Will Save You Now* (2023), and Marvel's *Captain America: Brave New World* (2025).

As an art director, he contributed to iconic films like *Minority Report* (2002), *Star Trek: Into Darkness* (2015), *Tomorrowland (2015)*, and *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* (2017). His production design credits include *10 Cloverfield Lane* (2016), *Hotel Artemis* (2018), and *Waitress* (2007).

Avery was nominated for an Art Department Guild Award for his work on *The Bee Movie* (2007) trailer. Additionally, he designed Disney's *Avengers Campus* and won a prestigious THEA award for the Animation Pavilion at Disney's California Adventure.

HANS ZINMER (Composer) is one of the most influential and sought-after film composers in the world. With over 150 credits across film, television, and stage, Zimmer has revolutionized modern film scoring by blending classical orchestration with cutting-edge electronic soundscapes.

His breakthrough came with the Oscar-nominated score for *Rain Man* (1988), followed by *Driving Miss Daisy* (1989) and the Oscar-winning The *Lion King* (1994). He has since created iconic soundtracks for *Gladiator* (2000)*, The Dark Knight* Trilogy (2005-2012), *Inception (2010)*, *Interstellar (2014)*, *Dune (2021)*, *Pirates of the Caribbean (2003-2017)*, and many more.

Zimmer's work has garnered numerous accolades including two Academy Awards, four Grammys, three Golden Globes, and a BAFTA, along with several lifetime achievement honors. His scores have shaped the sonic identity of some of cinema's most memorable moments, with millions of albums sold worldwide.

A pioneer of collaborative creativity, Zimmer established a Santa Monica-based music collective that has launched the careers of many of today's top composers. Beyond the screen, his electrifying live concerts bring his film scores to audiences around the world, further cementing his legacy as a global music visionary.

A.R. RAHMAN (Composer) is one of the world's most acclaimed music composers, celebrated for revolutionizing Indian music and creating globally resonant soundscapes. With over 150 million records sold, his discography spans 100+ film scores in multiple languages, including timeless classics such as *Roja* (1992), *Bombay* (1995), *Dil Se* (1998), *Lagaan* (2001), *Taal* (1999), *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008), and *127 Hours* (2010).

Rahman shot to fame with *Roja* (1992), winning the National Award for Best Music Direction, an unprecedented achievement for a debut composer. He has since earned six National Awards, numerous Filmfare Awards, two Academy Awards, two Grammys, a BAFTA, and a Golden Globe for *Slumdog Millionaire*.

Rahman was conferred the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian honor in the Republic of India. More recently, he was awarded the Golden Plate by the American Academy of Achievement for his contribution to global music.

His international work includes Bombay Dreams with Andrew Lloyd Webber, the Lord of the Rings stage production, and scores for *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* (2007), *Couples Retreat* (2009), *Million Dollar Arm* (2014), and *The Hundred-Foot Journey* (2014). His music

has been performed by leading orchestras, including the London Philharmonic and Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Rahman has collaborated with legends such as Hans Zimmer, Mick Jagger, Michael Jackson, and Dido. He is also the founder of the A.R. Rahman Foundation, KM Music Conservatory, and KM Symphony Orchestra, promoting music education and global talent development. In 2009, TIME magazine named him one of the “100 Most Influential People in the World.”

ANDY LOCKLEY (Visual Effects Supervisor) is a three-time Academy Award-winning VFX Supervisor at DNEG and a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He recently served as On-set VFX Executive Supervisor for director Christopher Nolan’s highly acclaimed film, *The Odyssey*. In 2021, Lockley received an Academy Award and a BAFTA for his work as VFX Supervisor on Nolan’s *Tenet*.

Prior to *The Odyssey*, Lockley served as DNEG's on-set VFX Supervisor on Eli Roth’s *Borderlands* and on *The Flash*, the superhero adventure from the DC Extended Universe. Lockley also worked as VFX Supervisor on fellow Academy Award-winner Paul Franklin’s short film *Fireworks*, one of the first films in the UK to be completely shot using real-time Virtual Production technology within an LED volume.

Prior to his work on *Tenet*, Lockley supervised the visual effects for *Venom*, the Sony Pictures movie about the Marvel anti-hero. He also worked as VFX Supervisor on Christopher Nolan’s *Dunkirk*, for which he won the 2018 VES Award for Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects in a Photoreal Feature and received a BAFTA Award nomination for Best Special Visual Effects.

Across his long and varied career, Lockley has also supervised the VFX on Tim Burton’s *Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children* and Nolan’s *Interstellar,* for which Lockley won an Academy Award and a BAFTA in 2015.

Since joining DNEG in 2001, Lockley has accumulated an impressive list of credits. After a successful career as a 2D Supervisor on titles such as *Children of Men, The Dark Knight* and *Captain America: The First Avenger*, Lockley debuted as VFX Supervisor on Christopher Nolan's *Inception*, for which Lockley earned his first Oscar and BAFTA awards.

DAN GLASS (Visual Effects Supervisor) is DNEG's award-winning Senior Visual Effects Supervisor and Executive Creative Director. He is known for distinct collaborations with major filmmakers such as the Wachowskis, Terrence Malick, and David Leitch.

He previously served as the Production VFX Supervisor on Academy Award-winning Director Bong Joon Ho' s sci-fi film *Mickey 17,* for Warner Bros.

Glass was the Production VFX Supervisor for *The Matrix Resurrections*, as well as the *Fast & Furious* franchise spin-off *Hobbs and Shaw*, marking a continued collaboration with director David Leitch, with whom he also worked on *Deadpool 2*, in 2018, for Twentieth Century Fox.

Over this last year, Glass has taken on the role of Executive Creator Director, building global teams and supporting DNEGs global visual effects supervisors and collaborations with all the major studios and filmmakers. As an ECD, Dan oversaw *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*, for George Miller; and *Mercy* and *Heads of State* for Amazon MGM Studios.

Glass is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. With over 25 years' experience working in VFX, he has extensive knowledge of all aspects of the VFX pipeline delivering both technically challenging and creatively stunning work across a variety of high-profile projects. Based in Los Angeles, Glass combines his expertise in supervising large-scale teams of multidisciplinary artists within facilities, as well as supervising remote facilities as client supervisor.

Over the course of his career, Glass has received numerous accolades including a BAFTA nomination and two VES awards. Glass graduated from University College London in 1992 and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture.

RIMPLE & HARPREET NARULA (Costume Designers) are couturiers and costume designers known for *Padmaavat* and *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*. Their label brings together Indian textiles, embroidery, and heritage-inspired design.

The duo began their design journey in Ludhiana and established their label in 2000. Their couture draws on historic crafts, architecture and vintage textiles, with detailed surface work and a strong interest in Indias decorative traditions.

They entered film costume design with Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Padmaavat* in 2018, creating costumes for its principal cast. Their subsequent screen work includes *Housefull 4* and costumes for Tabu *in Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*. They reunited with Bhansali for *Heeramandi:*

The Diamond Bazaar, translating research into period clothing and embroidery into the wardrobes of the series. Their work earned the 2024 Filmfare OTT Award for Best Costume Design (Series), shared with Chandrakant Sonawane.

Alongside their film and streaming work, Rimple and Harpreet continue to create bridal and occasion wear. Their work on *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND* extends a screen-design practice rooted in textile research and character-specific costumes.

SANIYA SARDHARIYA (Costume Designer) is an acclaimed costume designer and visual storyteller with nearly two decades of experience in Indian cinema. Through refined silhouettes, exceptional textiles, meticulous craftsmanship and rigorous research, she creates distinctive screen identities, and immersive contemporary, period and mythological worlds.

Her work spans contemporary, period and mythological cinema, with a focus on creating powerful screen identities, developing characters through costume and shaping the visual language of the worlds they inhabit.

Working closely with Yash and director Prashanth Neel, Sardhariya developed Rocky's iconic screen wardrobe across the *K.G.F* franchise. Her designs charted the character's evolution through period research, bespoke textiles, leather treatments, denim washes and changing silhouettes, contributing to one of contemporary Indian cinema's most recognizable screen identities.

Beyond cinema, Sardhariya's work extends to major advertising campaigns, celebrity image development, personal wardrobe and international public appearances. Her signature lies in creating costumes that transcend wardrobe—creating signature looks and shaping each character's distinct visual identity.

GUY NORRIS (Action Director) is an award-winning action director, second unit director and stunt coordinator with more than four decades of experience in international filmmaking. Known for his work on *Mad Max: Fury Road, Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga* and *The Suicide Squad*, he brings his expertise to Nitesh Tiwari's *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND,* produced by Namit Malhotra's Prime Focus Studios in association with DNEG and Yash's Monster Mind Creations.

Norris's collaboration with George Miller began on *Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior* (1981), where he performed as Mel Gibson's driving double. He went on to shape the action

of *Mad Max: Fury Road* and returned as second unit director and stunt coordinator on *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*.

Norris's career spans collaborations with Peter Jackson, Baz Luhrmann, and James Gunn. His credits include *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, Moulin Rouge!*, *Australia, Ghost in the Shell, Dark Phoenix*, and *Triple Frontier*.

Norris combines practical stunt expertise with digital planning. He co-founded PROXi VP, an action design and virtual production company, and worked with his son Harrison on unique and proprietary previsualization tools used to plan the complex action sequences in *Furiosa*. The PROXi system was extensively used under the watchful eyes of producer Namit Malhotra and director Nitesh Tiwari for the complex and ambitious action sequences in *RAMAYANA: RISE OF A LEGEND*, making it a first ever for an Indian production.

Norris's work on *Mad Max: Fury Road* earned Taurus World Stunt Awards for Best Stunt Coordinator and/or 2nd Unit Director and Best Stunt Rigging. He also shared in the film's Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Action Performance by a Stunt Ensemble in a Motion Picture.

TERRY NOTARY (Action Director) is a highly accomplished actor, director, movement choreographer, creature performer, and stunt coordinator with a distinguished career spanning over 17 years in the film industry. A former NCAA All-American gymnast and captain of the UCLA gymnastics team, Notary's unique blend of athleticism and artistry laid the foundation for his work as one of the industry's top movement specialists.

After graduating with a major in theater, Notary began his career performing with Cirque du Soleil, where he played a pivotal role in the creation of the groundbreaking show *Mystère*, performing as a lead character and acrobat. His expertise in movement and physical performance soon led him to work at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, where he was cast in eight productions alongside legendary talents such as Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti. His early career also included a stint as a creative director for a circus production he founded.

Notary's transition into the film industry came when he was recruited by director Ron Howard to help create the world of Whoville for *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. His work on this film marked the beginning of his prolific career as a movement choreographer and performer in some of Hollywood's biggest blockbusters. He has collaborated with acclaimed directors including James Cameron, Peter Jackson, and Steven Spielberg, contributing to

iconic films such as *Avatar*, *The Hobbit* trilogy, *The Incredible Hulk*, *The Adventures of Tintin*, *Warcraft*, and *Suicide Squad*.

Renowned for his expertise in performance capture, Notary has played pivotal roles in films that are at the forefront of this cutting-edge technology. He portrayed the alpha chimp Rocket in *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*, and *War for the Planet of the Apes*, where he also served as the stunt coordinator and movement choreographer. His ability to bring complex characters to life reached new heights when he portrayed the iconic Kong in *Kong: Skull Island*.

In addition to his performances, Notary has directed 2nd unit sequences and worked extensively as a movement choreographer, helping actors design and develop unique character signatures. His credits in this field include *The Lion King*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, and *Jungle Book: Origins*, where he also served as 2nd unit director.

Notary continues to push the boundaries of performance capture and movement choreography, sharing his expertise through master classes worldwide while remaining at the forefront of innovation in cinematic storytelling.