

NANDITA DAS PROFILE

67 words

Nandita Das has acted in 40 films in 10 languages. She has directed 3 well-acclaimed films, *Firaaq* (2008), *Manto* (2018) and *Zwigato* (2023). She has served twice as a jury member at the Cannes Film Festival among others. She is a strong advocate for issues of social justice. In 2016, she founded 'Nandita Das Initiatives', a creative platform which also produced her feature films *Manto* and *Zwigato*.

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Nandita Das has acted in more than 40 feature films in 10 different languages. She's done many memorable roles and worked with several eminent filmmakers. Her directorial debut in 2008 was *Firaaq* which captures the aftermath of a carnage. The film garnered many accolades and much appreciation, both in India and abroad. She was conferred the 'Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters' by the French Government. *Manto*, her second directorial feature is based on the four most tumultuous years in the life of Saadat Hasan Manto, the Urdu writer of the 1940s. The film premiered in 2018 at the Cannes Film Festival. Her first book, *Manto & I*, chronicles her 6-year-long journey of making the film. She has a Master's degree in Social Work and is a strong advocate for social justice. Nandita was the Chairperson of the Children's Film Society. In 2016, she founded 'Nandita Das Initiatives' (NDI), a creative platform which produced her feature films *Manto* and *Zwigato*. Under NDI, she has also directed and produced shorts such as *India's Got Colour* and *Listen to Her* that shed light on pertinent social issues. Her third directorial venture, *Zwigato*, explores the life of a food delivery rider and his family. After travelling to various festivals such as TIFF, BIFF and IFFK, it was released in India and overseas in March 2023.

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Nandita Das has acted in more than 40 feature films in 10 different languages, starting with *Fire*, directed by Deepa Mehta. In the last 26 years, Nandita Das has played varied characters and worked with eminent directors like Mrinal Sen, Shyam Benegal, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Rituporno Ghosh, Mani Ratnam among others. Her directorial debut in 2008 was *Firaaq* which captures the aftermath of a carnage. The film brought her many accolades and appreciation, both in India and abroad. It was first screened at the Telluride Film Festival and then had its official premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. She was on the jury at the Cannes Film Festival twice (2005

and 2013). She has been conferred the 'Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters' by the French Government for her contribution to cinema with a conscience. Nandita was the first Indian to be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the International Women's Forum. She was nominated, in 2010, by the World Economic Forum to be a Youth Global Leader. Nandita was among the 16 emerging global leaders, chosen from close to 4000 applicants, to be a Yale World Fellow in 2014.

Nandita's second directorial venture, *Manto*, is based on the life and works of the short story writer, Saadat Hasan Manto. It premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2018 and it was the only official Indian film to be selected that year. She also screened the film at various festivals and top universities in the USA including Stanford, Yale, Harvard, MIT and Columbia. *Manto* is currently streaming on Netflix. Her first book '*Manto & I*' chronicles her 6-year-long journey of making the film. In 2016, she founded 'Nandita Das Initiatives' (NDI), a creative platform that believes in telling stories that need to be told. *Manto* was the first film that NDI produced.

She has a Master's degree in Social Work and has worked with various NGOs before films gave her an opportunity to expand her role as a social advocate. Nandita continues to remain a strong voice for issues of human rights and justice. She's been a featured speaker for both corporate and social forums. Nandita was the President of the jury for the 2018 edition of the UNESCO Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence.

Nandita Das was the Chairperson of Children's Film Society from 2009 to 2012. She has been supporting the campaign, '*Dark Is Beautiful*' and to further the conversation on colourism, she directed and produced a short in 2019, called *India's Got Colour*. During the lockdown, Nandita wrote, directed, produced and acted in a 7 min short called, *Listen to Her*.

Her third directorial venture, *Zwigato* is about a food delivery rider and his family and how they grapple with the relentlessness of life. But not without their shared moments of joy. It is produced by her company NDI, in collaboration with Applause Entertainment. *Zwigato* had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), its Asian premiere at the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) and its Indian premiere at the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK). *Zwigato* had its theatrical release in India and overseas in March 2023.