



Media Release

RELIANCE ENTERTAINMENT'S PHANTOM FILMS AND MEGHNA GULZAR TO PRODUCE ORIGINAL SERIES ON THE LIFE AND CASE FILES OF RAKESH MARIA FORMER COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MUMBAI

Mumbai, Aug 6, 2018: Anil D. Ambani owned Reliance Entertainment's Phantom Films and noted young director, Meghna Gulzar have signed up to produce a series on the life and case files of the highly regarded top cop, and former Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, Rakesh Maria.

The series will be based on his experiences and various case files of his accomplished career, and will be directed by Meghna Gulzar.

Rakesh Maria, an IPS officer, cleared his Civil Service Examination from the 1981 batch. As Deputy Commissioner Police (Traffic) in 1993, he cracked the Bombay serial blasts case, and later moved to DCP (Crime) and then Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime), of the Mumbai Police. Maria solved the 2003 Gateway of India and Zaveri Bazaar twin blasts case. Maria was also given the responsibility of investigating the 26/11 Mumbai attacks in 2008 and interrogated Ajmal Kasab, the only terrorist captured alive, and successfully investigated the case.

Rakesh Maria commented, "It is exciting to re-live the journey, especially when piloted by a brilliant and sensitive director like Meghna Gulzar, and a production house of the caliber of Reliance Entertainment's Phantom Films. More than the nostalgia, it's also a valuable opportunity to place before the people the extraordinary work of the Mumbai Police when facing tough challenges and working against all odds."

Amitabh Jhunjhunwala, Vice Chairman, Reliance Entertainment, said "We are delighted to partner with one of the most distinguished law enforcement officers of our times, Rakesh Maria, to present the courageous accomplishments of his career, and the unacknowledged contributions of thousands of members of the Mumbai Police, safeguarding the security of our city 24x7x365. We are also pleased that Meghna Gulzar, one of the country's most talented young directors, is collaborating with us to present and direct the series."

Meghna's 2015 film Talvar released to rave reviews and tremendous audience appreciation. This was followed by her latest feature film Raazi, released in May, 2018, which also received critical acclaim and was a huge commercial success, earning big numbers at the box office.

Talking about the announcement, Meghna Gulzar said, "Mr Rakesh Maria's life-experiences and his prolific career in law-enforcement are a powerful lens to explore the chronology of crime and terror, in our society - as a city, as well as, as a country and a geographical region. The potential of this content is limitless, and that is supremely exciting for me. The collaboration with Reliance Entertainment's Phantom Films and Madhu Mantena-both synonymous with cutting-edge narratives and vision- is a first I'm looking forward to greatly."



Commenting on the collaboration for the series, Madhu Mantena of Phantom Films said “Phantom Films has always been a director’s company. We are very excited about our collaboration with Meghna to produce the series on the illustrious career of Mr Rakesh Maria.”

The series is being packaged by KWAN.

About Reliance Entertainment

Reliance Entertainment is the media and entertainment arm of Reliance Group and is engaged in the creation and distribution of content across film, television, digital and gaming platforms. Internationally, Reliance Entertainment has partnered since 2009 with iconic film producer and director, Steven Spielberg, in the formation of DreamWorks Studios, and thereafter, Amblin Partners. This relationship has produced several highly successful films such as The Help, War Horse, Lincoln, The Hundred Foot Journey, The Girl on the Train, A Dog’s Purpose, Bridge of Spies, and The Post, and has a strong pipeline of future releases. Amblin TV, a division of Amblin Partners, is currently at different stages of production on 13 different mini-series and shows for all leading US broadcasters and streaming platforms, including NBC, CBS, Apple, Netflix, Amazon, Hulu, etc.

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About Phantom Films

Phantom Films is India’s first ‘Directors’ Company’. It was formed by four young creative minds of the country, viz. Anurag Kashyap, Vikramaditya Motwane, Vikas Bahl and Madhu Mantena in 2011. Phantom has a distinct focus on fostering creative energies to create enduring and entertaining content. In the last 7 plus years of the company’s existence they have had 17 releases till now including films like Lootera, Hasee toh Phasee, Queen, Ugly, NH10, Masaan, Udta Punjab, Raman Raghav 2.0, Trapped, Mukkabaaz, etc.

Apart from various box office successes, 3 of their films have premiered at Cannes Film Festival and won various awards.

Phantom has produced, Sacred Games, the first Netflix Original series to be made from India was dropped in July ’18 & garnered an outstanding response globally.

Phantom's upcoming projects include Anurag Kashyap directorial ‘Manmarziyaan’, releasing September ’18.

‘Super 30’ helmed by Vikas Bahl starring Hrithik Roshan to be released in January, 2018, followed by ‘83 to be directed by Kabir Khan and headlined by Ranveer Singh, chronicling India’s first ever Cricket World Cup victory.

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