

## **AVID Online's next live session on Documentary Filmmaking will feature insights from producers and filmmakers from VICE Media**

### **For Immediate Release**

Documentary filmmaking is an art that is gaining credence and visibility the world over. It is estimated that in recent years, close to one-fifth of the markets of major film festivals like Cannes and Sundance are comprised of documentaries. It was not so long ago that the genre was often associated with being mostly academic – and due to that notion, they were extremely hard to fund, distribute and market. However, with the explosion of the internet and the rise of platforms that provide on-demand, easy-to-access content, that impression is quickly changing. Documentary films have never been as accessible, diverse, and well-respected as they are right now.

Character-driven, feature-length documentaries with intricate and engrossing narratives focused on the stories of real people put a human face on issues that might otherwise seem distant or unrelatable. They engage with the finer aspects and nuances of personalities, cultures, traditions and society at large and serve as powerful tools that bring into focus important topics in a captivating way that also spark conversations, and in some cases even on-ground impact and change. With major digital media and broadcasting companies such as VICE, Vox, BBC and HBO producing more and more documentary films every year, it is apparent that the genre has gained significant prominence and become an integral part of consumption culture with respect to film.

**Avid Learning** presents **Documentary Filmmaking**, a fascinating live session as a part of **AVID Online's** exciting virtual week, **Beyond the Lens: Documenting Visual Cultures and Narratives**. This specially curated thematic week of programming will take audiences on an insightful journey across the disciplines of film and photography engaging with aspects of storytelling, heritage, society, culture and subcultures.

This live session will be led by *Producers*, **VICE Esha Paul** and **Naman Saraiya** who will take participants through the fundamentals and basics of documentary filmmaking – from the stages of pre-production to post-production – and highlight the various creative and conceptual processes involved and stylistic techniques employed by leading filmmakers in the genre.

*Please read below for more details:*

Participants will learn about identifying and documenting unique cultures, stories, traditions and issues and portraying and depicting them through film. From ideation and conceptualisation to production and execution, and finally distribution and marketing – our talented instructors will refer to their own work with VICE Media as case studies and breakdown the intricacies of documentary filmmaking. They will further chart the evolution of the genre and how it has assimilated into the mainstream film industry gaining significant popularity and viewership.

*Highlights include:*

- Developing an idea or a concept and identifying a topic or an issue to build your documentary film around
- Thoroughly researching and documenting your topic, subject, characters etc.
- Developing a pitch – Raising funds and building a production budget
- Fundamental tools of Documentary Filmmaking – Writing, Directing, Shooting, Location Scouting and more
- Understanding the creative and stylistic nuances + filmmaking techniques involved
- Principles and techniques of articulating stories through film – How to weave facts into a narrative
- Differences in approaches adopted in making documentary films vs. fiction/commercial films
- Amplifying the message of your film to make on-ground impact for the issue you are highlighting
- Importance of editing and the various approaches involved
- Post-production – Distribution, Pitching, Marketing and Promotions

Join us to learn more about how to translate real life stories, cultures and characters into visual narratives through documentary films!

**When:** Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 | 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

**RSVP:** [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)

**Press Email/ Call:** Dhvani Vyas Rele on [dhwani.avid@gmail.com](mailto:dhwani.avid@gmail.com) / +919769877928



**AVID ONLINE**  
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**DOCUMENTARY**  
Filmmaking

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#AVIDONLINE **LIVE** with Filmmakers



**Esha Paul**



**Naman Saraiya**

DATE: **SATURDAY, 9 JANUARY '21**  
TIME: **5:00 PM - 6:30 PM**  
REGISTER: [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)



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## About the Speakers

**Esha Paul** is currently a Director and Producer with VICE World News. Through her journalistic work she's been covering and exploring stories that talk about sex, gender, caste, class and the human condition. She's been a journalist and a documentary filmmaker covering identity politics for the past 9 years in various news and media organisations like CNN-IBN, The Quint and Scroll.

**Naman Saraiya** is a filmmaker, photographer and writer. His work in journalism and film has led him to work with Red Bull Music Academy, St+art Festival, Purpose Climate Lab, videos for Star and MTV Networks, and independently created music videos and documentaries. Exploring the intersections of culture and identity, his work moves across music, gender, mental health, politics, class, food and climate change. He's currently a director and producer at VICE.

## Further Information

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