



O'neil Sharma
oneilsharma@gmail.com

Log Line:

Three Indians on a road trip with booze, girls, a bad guy and a secret in their bag. What could possibly go wrong?

Genre : Road Movie, Comedy.

**THE
BIG B**

THE BIG B

Synopsis

Ash, 27 has many secrets, the biggest of which is: he loves Tahirah. But as any good Hindu will tell you, falling in love with a Muslim is a very big no-no! His second biggest secret is that he is the world's biggest Amitabh Bachchan fan - aka The Big B. Three British born Indians in a van moving from London to Berlin. As they travel they discover that they have more in common than they imagined. By the time they reach Münster for an overnight stop, their traditional Indian upbringing has been stripped away and when they find out why Ash is running, our three near-strangers become blood-brothers and changed forever.

A comedy-drama for those that have already come of age and still find themselves adrift in life and love. The clash of multiple cultures, sex and drugs will provide the solid base for the revelation that despite our heritage we all want the same things, that fate is not only for Hindus and of course The Big B.

Director's Statement

Many years ago I moved to Berlin from London. I packed all my worldly possessions into a van and with the help of my brother and cousin (who I had not seen for many years) we drove across the continent. The trip was a revelation to us all, an emotional rollercoaster of laughter and tears and a reckoning with who we are in the world as well as a lowering of the shields that we think protect but actually do the opposite.

As with all significant life events, it took a while for me to process what I went through and hence nearly a decade passed before I thought: that trip would be a great basis for movie! And so, I started planning a road trip film but not like any other that we have seen before. Firstly, the heroes would be Indians and it would deal with the schizophrenic nature of identity that any child of immigrants has to think about when they check the box on a form that asks them where they come from; the push and pull of east and west and not really feeling at home anywhere because as soon as we speak or people see our skin, they know we are “not from here”.

Most importantly it's about family and love and what we are willing to do for those we love. This is universal and something that all people can understand regardless of the language they speak or the colour of their skin. From as far back as My Big Fat Greek Wedding to the recent The Farewell or Crazy Rich Asians, I have been heartened to see that stories from other cultures can bring joy and understanding to a mainstream audience.

As a writer and filmmaker I like to put a spin on genres that we have already seen and hence, as is the norm with a comedy road trip movie, the boys intend to spend a good deal of their time drunk and in the company of girls. However, Ash finds himself falling for Mercedes who's an escort and manages to get on the wrong side of her psychotic pimp. Deciding to “rescue her”, Ash takes her with them on their journey to Berlin. What he does not count on is the fact that her manager will stop at nothing to get her back.



But life is not all about the laughs and the film deals with the serious issue of what can happen when one falls in love with the wrong person. It may seem strange that he would fight for someone he hardly knows and perhaps this is nothing more than an act of kindness that one sees in everyday life. But in my mind he loves her and when I think deeply about it, who is to say how long it takes to fall in love? It can be as fast as a glimpse to many years down the line before cupid's arrow strikes...

In an emotional breakdown we discover why Ash is running and why he fought for a woman he hardly knew: The love of his life, Tahirah was murdered by her family in a so-called honour killing and the guilt of not being able to prevent this has left him devastated: he is tired of the lies, hypocrisy and racism within his own community; things I can very well relate to. By the time the boys arrive in Berlin, Ash realises that if he is to be reborn in true Hindu style he must give away all the possessions of his past life. We close on Ash and Mercedes embarking on a new journey: An uncertain life together.

For me comedy and tragedy are a perfect mix and having grown up watching the best of Bollywood, I am not alone in the conviction that we learn the most when we are laughing and crying (sometimes at the same time!). Some of my favourite western comedies do this too: Four Lions, Dogma, Blazing Saddles to name a few.

I truly believe that there is always hope and in our darkest moments, when we think all is lost, fate sends us a way up and out. Perhaps this is my Hindu upbringing speaking or maybe it is the can-do attitude of the British...





About O'neil Sharma

Born in London, O'neil Sharma is a graduate of Economics and holds a Masters in Investment Management. He began his career as an Investment Banker but soon decided to follow his true passion of filmmaking. He was awarded a scholarship to attend the London Film Academy.

In 2019 he shot his first feature film: Fotoautomat Man, which will be on Amazon streaming in 2020 and will start its festival run at Tokyo Lift Off Get Lucky (co-written with Ziska Riemann), released in September 2019. He also co-wrote Endless for Thunder Road and Film House (awaiting release date). Recently, he has been commissioned by Life and Soul Pictures to write a screenplay "Rites of Passage"; a true story about how cricket has helped refugees integrate into Germany. Shooting is planned for late 2020. He is currently developing a series for a streaming service.

O'neil has worked as an assistant director on Valkyrie (Bryan Singer), The Last Station (Michael Hoffman), Inglourious Basterds (Quentin Tarantino), The Ghost (Roman Polanski), Drei (Tom Tykwer) and as Directors Assistant on Unknown (Jaume Collet-Serra), Hansel and Gretel (Tommy Wirkola) and Berlin Station (Paramount/Epix).



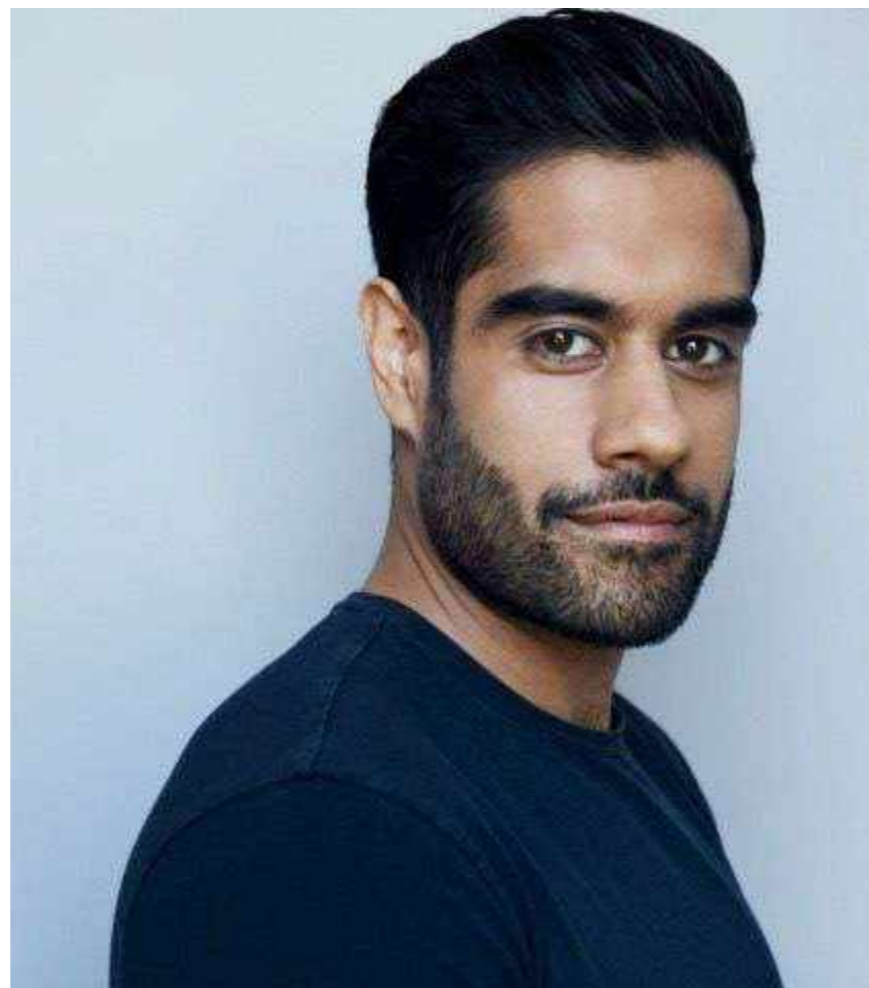
Oneil Sharma is presenting

POTENTIAL CAST

Ash

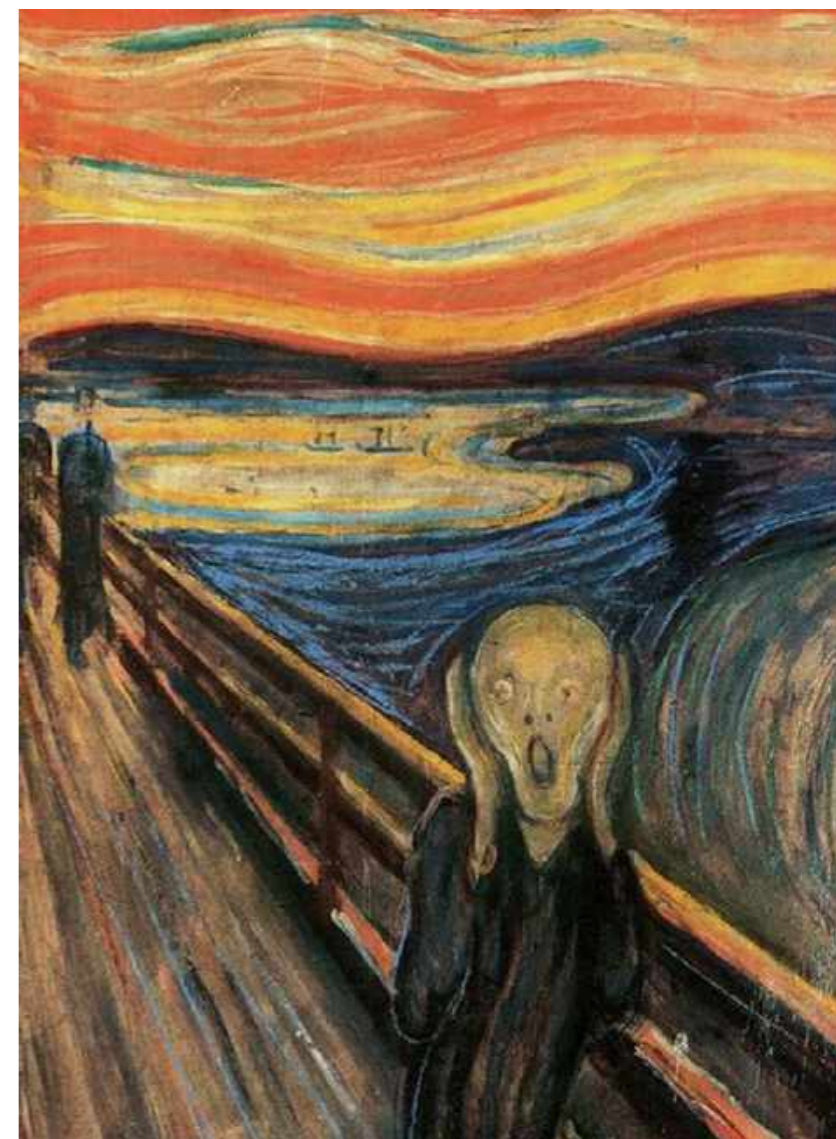


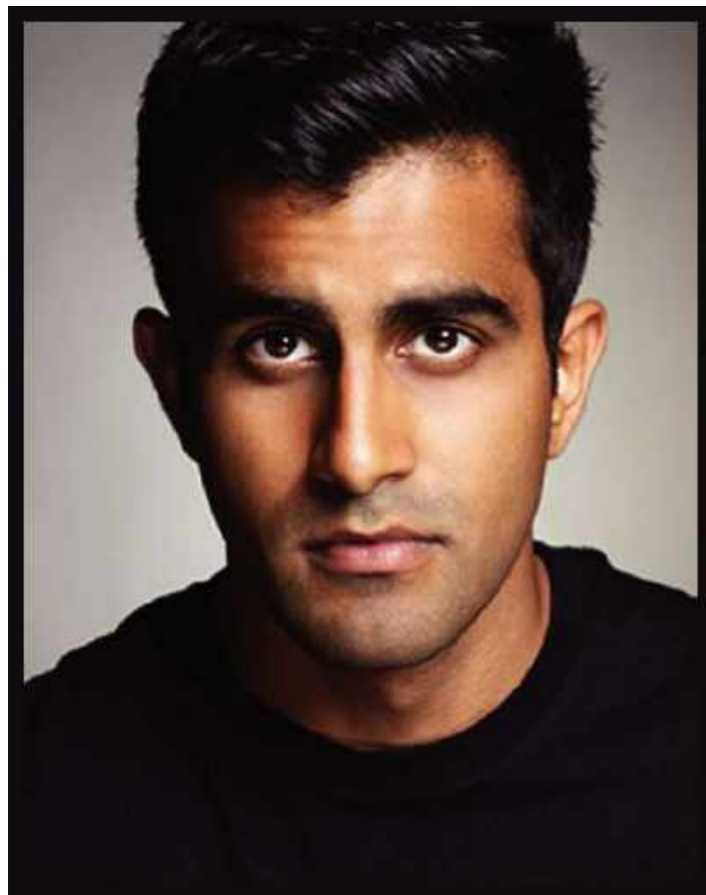
Shane Zaza



Sacha Dhawan

Our hero and a man haunted by his past.





Bally Gill

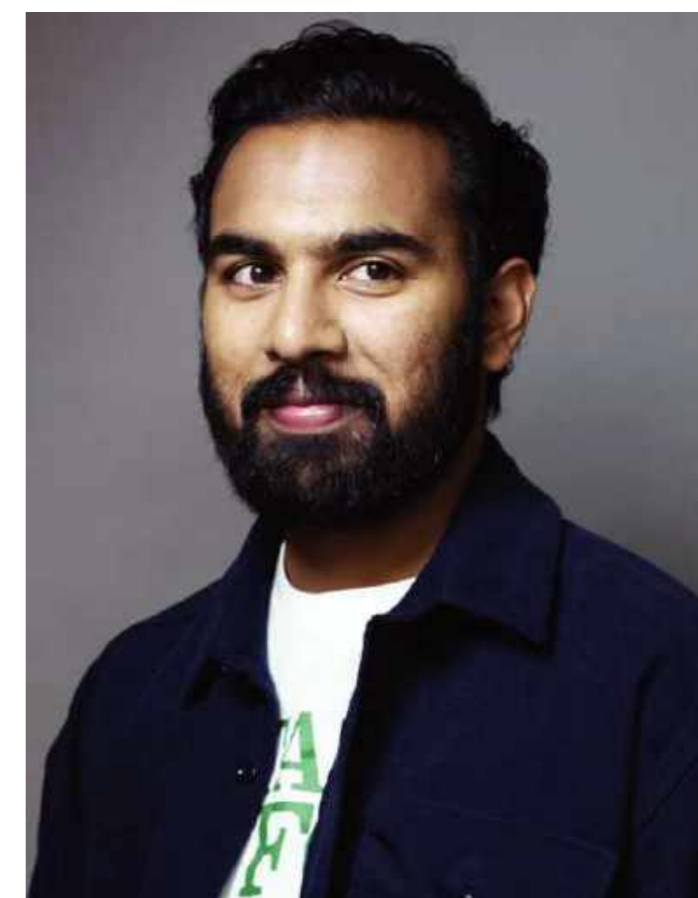


Arfi Lamba

Milan



**A former party dude who's
waking up to the fact that
he has wasted his life.**



Himesh Patel

Diamond



Gavi Singh Chera



Viraj Juneja

A human dynamo, street wise and full of beans.





Raagni Sharma



Anjili Mohindra



POTENTIAL CAST

Tahirah

The love of Ash's life and the woman he cannot forget: unrequited love.

Mandip Gill

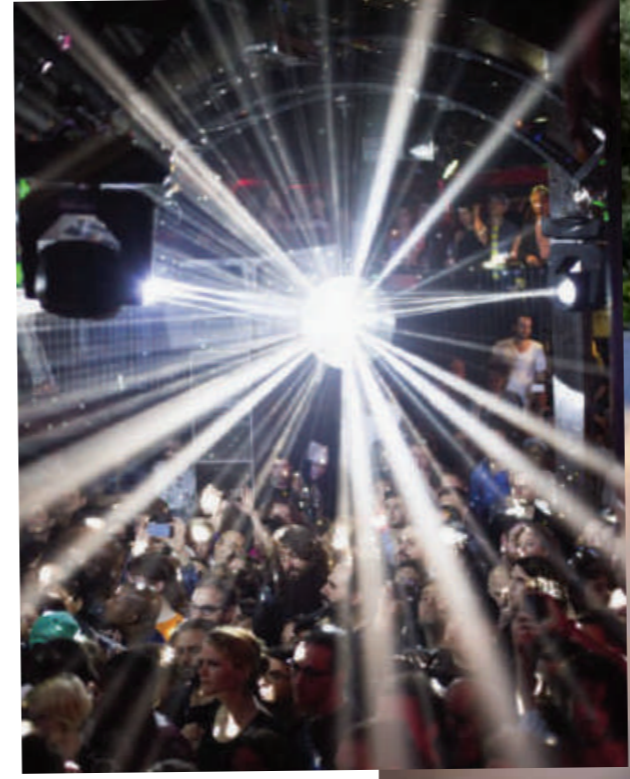


The Ride

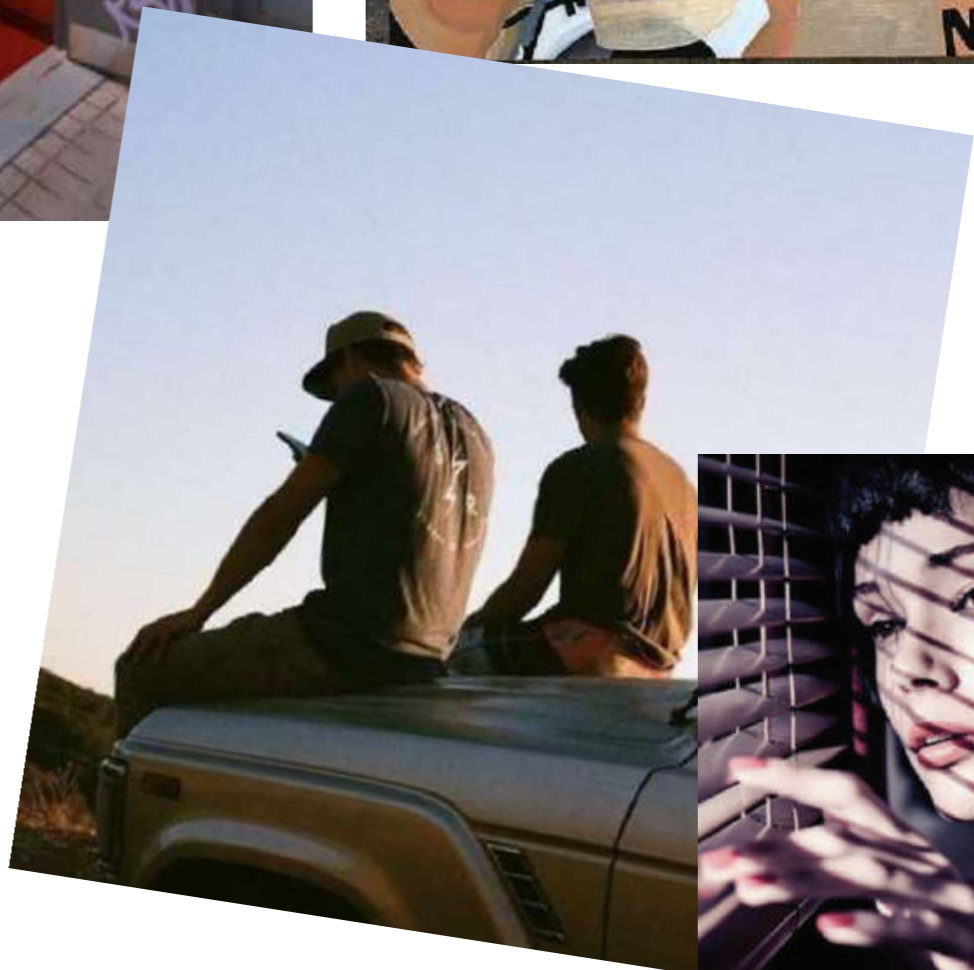
Home for the weekend.
This vehicle is definitely
the fourth character of the trip!

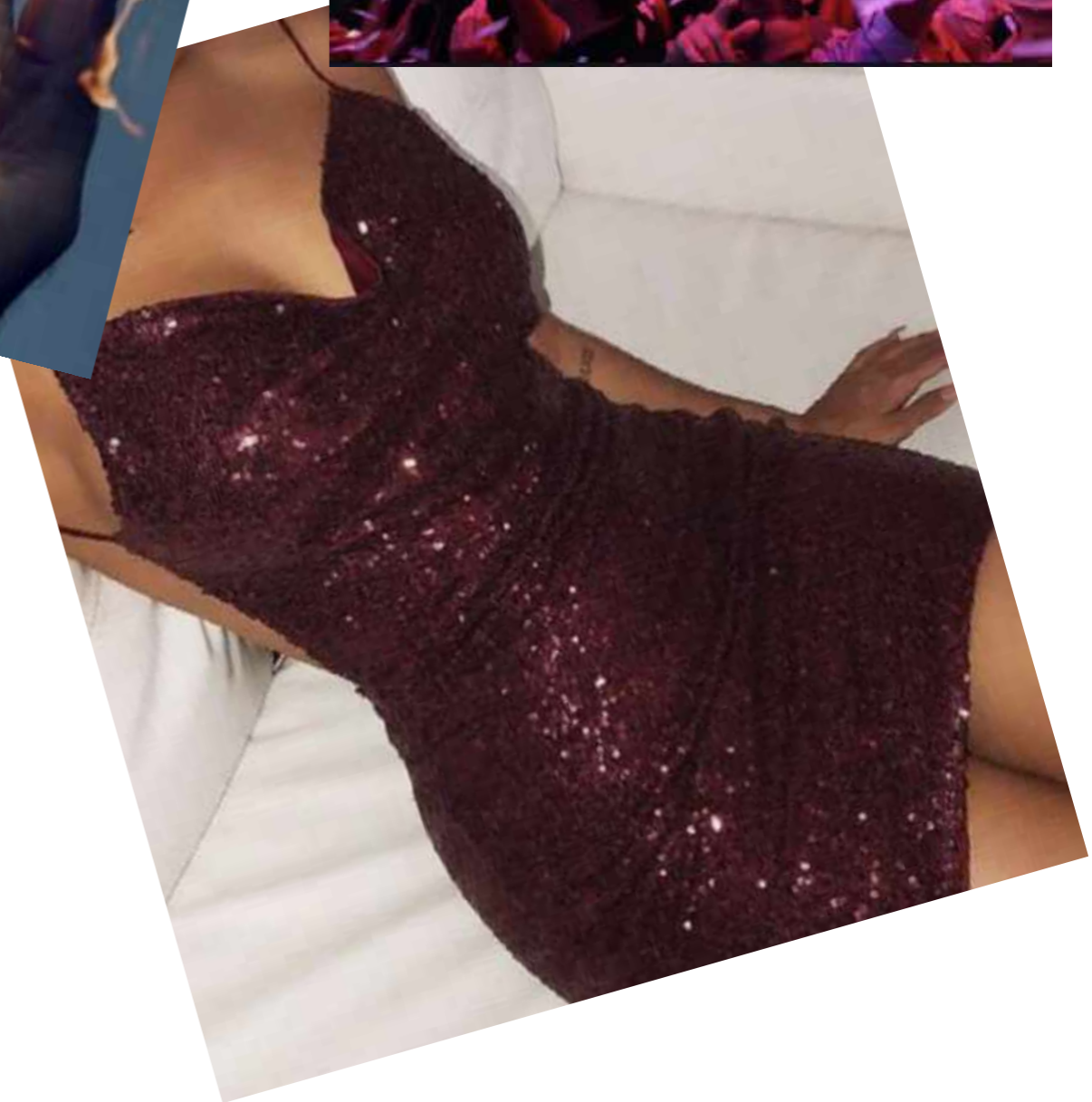












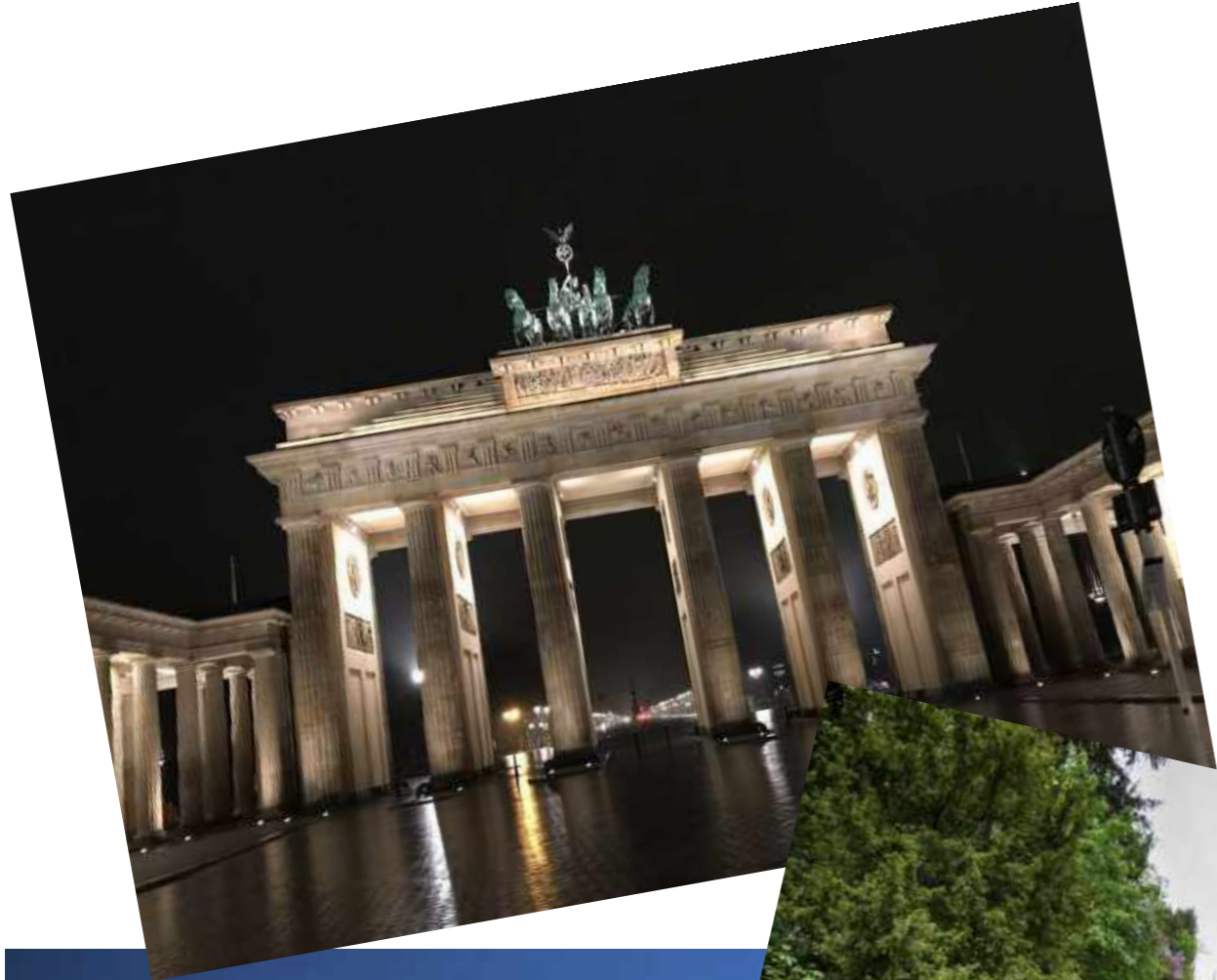


London



Münster





Berlin



THANK YOU

**O'neil Sharma:
oneilsharma@gmail.com**