

***Meet the Patels* Premieres on *Independent Lens*
Monday, December 26, 2016 on PBS**

About the Filmmakers



Ravi and Geeta Patel.
Credit: *Four in a Billion Pictures*

Ravi V. Patel (Director/Writer/Editor/Subject)

made his directorial debut with *Meet the Patels*, which led to a writing/directing deal for a feature film adaptation for Fox Searchlight. As an actor, he is most recognized for his work on *Scrubs*, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, *Transformers*, *Powder Blue*, *The New Normal*, and, most recently, the Fox series *Grandfathered* starring John Stamos. Ravi also serves as Co-CEO of This Bar Saves Lives, which he founded with actors Ryan Devlin, Todd Grinnell, Kristen Bell, Jimmy Kimmel, Emily Blunt, John Krasinski, Kunal Nayyar, Alyssa Milano, Susan Sarandon, and many others. TBSL gives a life-saving meal packet to a child in need for every fruit and nut bar sold. Ravi also co-manages an investment group that focuses primarily on health, wellness, and social enterprises.

Prior to joining the entertainment industry, Ravi was an investment banker and later founded the popular poker magazine *All In*. He graduated from the University of North Carolina with double majors in Economics and International Studies. In 2016, Ravi traveled as a guest of the U.S. State Department on a diplomatic film program to Egypt and Japan.

Geeta V. Patel (Director/Producer/Editor/Cinematographer) is known for her emotional, form-pushing, and nontraditional style that merges documentary and dramatic forms. Geeta and her brother Ravi directed *Meet the Patels*, which led to a writing/directing deal with Fox Searchlight for the feature film adaptation. She is also writer/director of the upcoming feature film *Mouse*, produced by Grant Hill (*The Matrix*, *Tree of Life*). Geeta made her directorial debut with the documentary war thriller, *Project Kashmir*, which led to directing fellowships at Sundance and Tribeca. She began her career as a writer's assistant in TV and then served as associate screenwriter on feature films, including *The Fast and the Furious* and *Blue Crush*.

A graduate in Comparative Area Studies from Duke University, Geeta was inspired to enter storytelling by Anthony Minghella, whom she met while studying in Berlin. She has been a visiting artist in Belarus, Turkey, Egypt, Bosnia, and Japan through the U.S. State Department.

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