

NAGESH GETS INTO POLITICS

National Award-winning filmmaker and Sameer Nair join hands for a 10-episode web series set and shot in Mumbai

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A ccording to Nagesh Kukunoor, the line, 'You can check out anytime you like, but you can never leave', from the iconic Eagles song "Hotel California", perfectly captures the relationship between the Maximum City and people who inhabit it. Now, it has doubled up as the essence of the filmmaker's upcoming 10-episode web series, *City of Dreams*, a political-drama around an influential family and a feud that erupts following an assassination attempt on a polarising political figure.

Kukunoor points out that barring four-five days during *Bombay to Bangkok* and two days for the John Abraham-starrer *Aashayein*, he has never shot a movie entirely in Mumbai in a career spanning over 20 years.

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—Sameer Nair

About the show, he says, "It is a case of a stone's drop creating ripples in a pond. In this case, the effect resonates across three stratas of Mumbai's societal structure — the really poor, the middle-class and the supremely rich." He also adds that the premise is gritty and original and each episode will be around 42-45 minutes. "The audience is bound to draw parallels with real political figures and as the series progresses, there will be a lot of inferences, but let me assure you that when you see all 10 episodes, you'll know it's completely unique and fictitious," Nagesh asserts.

Produced by Sameer Nair's Applause Entertainment, *City of Dreams* is the first of a dozen other web-series that the production house is presently developing. "Nagesh had



a wonderful idea that we began discussing in August last year. And it's one of his most exhaustive and intensive pieces of work. Ending the show at season one would feel like a complete let-down as there are so many other places we can take these characters to next. We are looking at a multi-season approach to the show and are hoping for a minimum of three-four seasons," Nair says.

The producer believes that Indian TV hasn't managed to fully grasp the expanse of content like the West has with crime-dramas like *The Sopranos* or medical-dramas like *Dexter*. "I'm excited that we can now have a drama series created entirely in Mumbai. The digital market is still in nascent stage and we're excited to be producing better content," Nair signs off.