J S MAYANK - Biography

J S Mayank is a British-Indian filmmaker, represented by ICM Partners and Ensemble Entertainment. His first sci-fi feature script – SLATE earned him a spot on the 2009 BLOODLIST (the Horror/Sci-fi/Thriller Blacklist). In 2010, Mayank was invited to the prestigious Tribeca All Access Program for his feature script MARATHON. In 2014, he was hired to write a feature ALBATROSS for director Joseph Castelo (The War Within, The Preppie Connection) and producer Jonathan Shukat (Other People’s Love Letters).

For his directorial debut, Mayank was granted an opportunity by the band Radiohead to create a concept music video for their song WEIRD FISHES/ARPEGGI. He worked alongside visual artist extraordinaire John Langdon (Angels & Demons) to design special ambigrams for the video. It played at numerous festivals, including the London Film Festival, Cinegear, Reynolda, and many others. His musical short film SUPERNUMERARY premiered at the Newport Beach film festival, and won three major awards (Best Musical, Best Soundtrack and Best VFX short) at the Action on Film Festival.

Most recently, Mayank’s script for EMIT won a Grand Prize at the TABLE READ MY SCREENPLAY contest, beating out over 1200 other scripts, and winning him a trip to Sundance (2012) where a table-read of it was performed. Since then, he directed EMIT (starring Jack Coleman – Heroes, Scandal), and the short has played at over 25 festivals all over the world, including NBC | Universal Shortcuts festival and the Philip K. Dick fest in New York, Fantasia, SCI-FI London, Sci-fi Fantasy – Athens, Edinburgh, Newport Beach, New York, Las Vegas, Brazil, garnering several awards, stellar reviews and high praise for its inventiveness and creative vision. In addition, his short script YOU & ME won the Grand Prize at the inaugural BEIJING INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, meriting a visit to China, where the short was subsequently filmed.

In India, he has worked at the United Nations and World Health Organization, where he wrote the scripts for multiple documentaries, particularly for UNESCO.

Mayank has an MFA in Film Production from Loyola Marymount University and an MA in Communication & Film from Wake Forest University. He currently resides in Los Angeles.

DIRECTOR’S FILMOGRAPHY
SUPERNUMERARY – Musical Short (2010)
ETHEREAL PONDERING OF A SIGHTLESS GAZE – Music Video (2007)
EDUCATION

Loyola Marymount University; Los Angeles, CA 2007-2010
Masters of Fine Arts – MFA (Production)

Wake Forest University, Winston Salem, NC 2005-2007
Masters of Arts – MA Communication & Film

Annamalai University, Chennai, India 2004-2005
Post Graduate Diploma – Journalism & Mass Communication

University of Delhi, New Delhi, India 2001-2004
Bachelor of Arts (Honors) – BA (H) Economics

FILM EXPERIENCE

Short films:

**Writer/Director:** **EMIT** – Sci-fi drama starring Jack Coleman (Heroes, The Office, Scandal)
*(Official selection: Played at over 30 film festivals world wide, including – Fantasia, NBC | Universal Short Cuts, Sci-fi London, SFF Athens, Newport Beach etc. Won best short at Philip K. Dick festival in NY, FRAPA in Brazil, Little Dracula Trophy at the Dracula Film Festival in Romania, UFVA, Chinese American film festival, and garnered several other awards. Script won Grand Prize at 2012 Table Read my Screenplay, taking it to Sundance)* [http://emittheshort.weebly.com](http://emittheshort.weebly.com)

**Director:** **Ethereal Pondering of a Sightless Gaze** – Music Video (Radiohead)
*(Official selection: London Independent Film Festival, Newport Beach Film Festival, Reynolda Film Festival, Cinegear Expo (played at the Paramount Studio lot))*

**Writer/Director:** **Supernumerary** – Musical short
Panavision New Filmmaker’s Grant – 35 mm camera package
BMI Film Grant
Fuji 35mm filmstock grant
*(Official selection: Newport Beach Film Festival, Reynolda Film Festival, Cinegear Expo (played at the Paramount Studio lot))*

**Writer:** Script for a 30 minute documentary on Right to Information called **SHIFTING POWER** for SDC (Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation).

**Scripts:**

Screenwriter

Represented by ICM Partners and Ensemble Entertainment.

Developing TV Pilot **BLANK AFFECT** with producer Matt Gross (Body of Proof, Across the Universe) at Europacorp (Luc Besson’s company – Taken, Fifth Element, The Professional).

Developing TV series **THE PARDONER** with Vince Gerardis (co-executive producer – Game of Thrones).

Developing TV series **KIDNAP RADIO** and **SECTOR GENERAL** with showrunner Jonathan Prince (American Dreams, The Cleaner).
In pre-production on first feature (directorial debut) **THE DEAD WIVES CLUB** with British company Future Films (The Queen, Transsiberian).

Short script **YOU & ME** won the Grand Prize at the inaugural Beijing International Screenwriting Competition, meriting a trip to China, where the short was filmed.

Hired to write feature **ALBATROSS** for director Joseph Castelo (The War Within, Preppie Connection).

Hired to write feature **OFF THE GRID** for producer Jonathan Shukat (Other People’s love letters).

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Western State Colorado University; Gunnison, CO

**Concentration Director: Screenwriting Track – MFA Creative Writing**

July 2010 – Present

In charge of the low-residency MFA Creative Writing program’s Screenwriting track

Teach in Gunnison every summer for the campus residency, and teach the rest of the year remotely from Los Angeles.

Oversee other professors, curriculums, student queries, coarse loads etc.

Mentor and advise Thesis candidates.

Loyola Marymount University; Los Angeles, CA

**Graduate Assistant for Film Festivals**

September 2007 – May 2010

Assistant to Film Festival Coordinator

Helped organize the annual LMU film festival – Film Outside The Frame event, held at the Directors Guild of America (2008) and on the Twentieth Century FOX Lot (2009).

Planned film festival trips to Cannes, Palm Springs, SXSW, Berlin, Tribeca and Clermont-Ferrand.

Attended the Sundance Film Festival (2009 and 2010)

Oversaw the creation and distribution of the Graduate Screenwriting Directory (2007-09).

Helped organize annual LMU|SFTV event – Business of the Business (BOB), with panels from NBC (Heroes), Showtime (Dexter), Participant Productions (Charlie Wilson’s War), Reality shows (COPS) etc. (2008-10).

Wake Forest University; Winston Salem, NC

**Graduate Assistant / Teaching Assistant**

August 2005 – May 2007

Assistant to Graduate program director

Teaching assistant for 2 film classes – Screenwriting, Film Theory

**OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE:**

TERI: The Energy and Resources Institute & WHO / UNESCO / UN, India

July 2004 – June 2005

**Media Assistant**

Worked at Asia’s largest Not-for-profit organization

Core team member in the Communication services Division at TERI.

Key member in the organizing committee for TERRAQUIZ, a television quiz show based on environmental issues, broadcast on Doordarshan as a National telecast.

**UNDP (United Nations Development Program):** Wrote the contents for an interactive CD, which currently serves as a guide for civil servants and IAS officers etc.

**CHRI (Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative):** Organized round table conferences for Editors-in-chief of all the major newspapers in New Delhi

SUN Magazine

**Columnist**

June 2004 – March 2006

Wrote a biweekly column in the national magazine
ACTIVITIES

» Selected by Robert Deniro for the 2010 TRIBECA ALL ACCESS program. One of the 15 narrative filmmakers chosen for the year.

» President of the “GRAD SOCIETY” at Loyola Marymount University, a student run organization that brings in Film and TV industry guests to talk to graduate students about their experiences. (2008-present) Have personally moderated and interviewed guests such as Director DJ Caruso (Eagle Eye, Disturbia), screenwriters John August (Go, Big Fish), Derek Haas (Wanted, 3:10 to Yuma), Producers/Studio Head Paula Wagner (Mission Impossible, Last Samurai) and Mark Gordon (2012, Speed, Day After Tomorrow).

» Organized the South-Asian Winter Conference in 2004 for the University of Delhi, inviting students from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and all over India.

» Editor-in-chief of “DISEQUILIBRIUM”, the college magazine, 2001-2004

» Top 0.1% of the nation in Mathematics (India) – National Merit Scholarship 1999