



“BOLLYWEIRD” WEB SERIES PRESS KIT

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Meet “Bollyweird”: A COVID Bingewatch for a COVID World

Fall into a funny, timely, inclusive and historic incremental web series shot and set in a COVID-19 world—from some of the talents behind “Titans,” “iZombie,” “Zoey’s Extraordinary Playlist,” and more)



Sandhya is a smart, beautiful young woman who dreams of a life filled with the vibrant color and fantasy of her Bollywood-filled childhood. Yet still she slogs through a life that feels flat and tired, and where part of her is still yearning for the richness of the Bollywood dramas she’d loved and dreamed of throughout her early life.

Then COVID-19 sweeps the world, and Sandhya moves back in to care for her Indian mother, Jaya (who has a dark secret of her own). And suddenly, Sandhya finds her life filled not only with the life and drama of the Bollywood she loves—but also with a surprising sense of purpose. Plus a division of the heart. Because Sandhya falls in love—not once, but *twice*. And finds herself in a romantic triangle between the woman she loves—and the charming yet enigmatic man who arrives with her mother’s blessing. Meet **“Bollyweird.”**

There’s never been a better time for an addictive new series with love, lust, fun, and drama, and “Bollyweird” is the antidote. As the entertaining new incremental web series addiction from the minds of [Prathi Srinivasan and Joshua Levy](#) (“iZombie,” “Titans,” and HBO’s “F**ked Up”), “Bollyweird” is the perfect recipe for a bingewatch, and with a gifted, attractive cast of multifaceted, rootable characters, both LGBTQ and straight, Indian and American, that everyone can root for.

Brought to life by a team from some of the most popular fandoms today, “Bollyweird” stars series co-creator and actress-writer [Prathi](#)



[Srinivasan](#) as SANDHYA, alongside heartthrob [Kapil Talwalkar](#) (“Zoey’s Extraordinary Playlist,” “American.ish”) as TYLER, popular gamer icon and actress Briana White (Aerith in the [acclaimed “Final Fantasy VII Remake,”](#) and popular helmer of “Strange Rebel Gaming” on YouTube) as KAITLYN, and Taylor Williamson (“[America’s Got Talent](#)”) as JACOB. The cast also includes the popular, talented (and very funny) [Dana Donnelly](#) (ASPYN) and Pooya Mohseni (JAYA).

“Bollyweird” will air its smart, funny and compelling premiere episode on Wednesday, **June 17, 2020**, along with all other 8 episodes, simulcast across [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#). It’s the perfect bingewatch!

“Bollyweird” Show Summary: Sari-Tinted Dreams...



*Prathi Srinivasan as
Sandhya*

As a beautiful and modern young woman who’s spent her life infatuated with the emotion and romance of the windswept blood-red saris, kohl-lined gazes, and beautiful characters of Bollywood, **Sandhya** has spent her life divided between her family’s traditional past and her own desire for a vivid modern future, even as she waits for the real world to live up to her Bollywood fantasies.

And it’s no surprise that nope, unfortunately, the world hasn’t measured up to Sandhya’s fantasies so far. Which is why, in the meantime, Sandhya spends her days as a pizza-slinger, while bar-hopping (pill-popping and drinking) through her nights as a barely-working DJ—all while trying to find the magic, color and meaning of the Bollywood world she loves. But it’s not showing up. Yet.

Then COVID-19 pauses the world, and Sandhya moves back home to help her sick mother, Jaya, get through the pandemic. What Sandhya doesn’t know is that her mother is terminally ill, and that she is now living only to see her daughter’s future secured in a traditional marriage to a boy, with all the trappings.

Yet fate has other plans for Sandhya, who finds herself first falling in love with her former friend Kaitlyn (now her mother’s nurse), a beautiful woman who is still recovering from Sandhya’s sudden ghosting years earlier—and then further confused when the appearance of Tyler provides an unexpected third point to the triangle. Is Tyler a soulless devil, the suave player he seems, or a better guy underneath? It’s not at all clear. All Sandhya knows is that things suddenly got a lot more exciting. And messy. As in, bisexual love triangle messy.

And everyone she meets has a secret. What’s the danger Sandhya’s overlooking? Who’s an enemy hiding in plain sight? Will Kaitlyn ever forgive Sandhya for leaving without a word years ago? Will Jaya ever free her daughter to pick her own future? And who will win Sandhya’s heart? At last, Sandhya has found that vibrance, magic and purpose she’s been dreaming of... but be careful what you wish for!

Filled with life, love, danger, humor, and romance, “Bollyweird” tells a unique and timely story set in today’s COVID world, in which Sandhya discovers that her life and dreams have merged. Somehow, she’s finally living in a world right out of the crazy Bollywood movies she’d grown up with—complete with all the twists, turns, lies and love triangles galore. But will her heart survive?



*Pooya Mohsenii as Sandhya’s conflicted and
overprotective Mom Jaya.*

A Dream Project and Labor of Love (The Story Behind the Show)



Writer-actress Prathi Srinivasan as Sandhya

“Bollyweird” was a labor of love for writer-actress **Prathiksha Srinivasan** and her frequent creative partner, writer-director **Joshua Levy**. For Srinivasan, the project was a work of tremendous significance, and the culmination of a lifelong dream. “Being an immigrant to the United States from Chennai, India, I’ve been dying to see someone of my cultural heritage and struggles portrayed onscreen,” comments Srinivasan. “But, predictably, I soon realized that if I wanted that to happen, I needed to make it happen myself.”

With this in mind, Srinivasan and Levy embarked upon “Bollyweird,” in which they distill the rich, vibrant world of Bollywood into a fast-paced and friendly update it for the modern U.S. audience. “Everyone knows of Bollywood, but they may not have necessarily experienced it,” adds Srinivasan, to which Levy adds, “There’s so much love,

danger, tragedy, comedy and insane plot twists to those stories! If you haven’t seen a Bollywood movie—wow, are you missing out.”

Srinivasan is excited to see the show reach fruition, especially with the opportunity to create and play a character as complex, real and relatable as Sandhya. “With Sandhya, I really wanted to create a complex and flawed heroine who experiences fantastical plot elements in a way that’s real—way too real.” Adds Levy, “It was also vital to us to include LGBT characters as part of this world, because they are an integral part of our world and this show stands at the intersection of cultures.” Srinivasan agrees, noting, “Frequently, female characters in Bollywood must be chaste and a ‘good girl’—yet Sandhya is anything but those things. She’s simply a searching, flawed human who’s confused by the situation in which she finds herself.”

Creating and Producing in a COVID World

A historical milestone, “Bollyweird” was conceived of, written, shot, and edited during COVID. It represents a timely and never-before accomplished combination of distance filmmaking with emotion, talent and heart. It’s a uniquely pandemic-born work.

“We brought eleven people from across the US together, hosted a mini writer’s room over *Zoom*, and sent lenses, sound equipment, and lighting to actors,” comments co-creator Joshua Levy. “All of whom we taught how to operate everything.” Adds Srinivasan, “This show was born of my immigrant upbringing and includes a deliberately diverse story—a new romance for a new world. The world is changing and filmmaking needs to keep up. We’re so proud of what we have created in the meantime.”

“COVID-19 presented challenges, yet it also presented creative inspiration as well,” adds Levy.

“Like millions, we were devastated and grieved by the pandemic, yet as artists, we also saw that it might offer a unique opportunity for new exploration and production.” Srinivasan agrees. “We realized we could tell our story by having our actors self-shoot during quarantine, and then recount the crazy events in their lives as if they were on *Zoom* with their best friends. For this reason, their stories intersect, and sometimes contradict—in “Bollyweird,” and in fact one person’s version of events might be completely different from another’s, as in the classic film *Rashomon*.”

Ultimately, “Bollyweird” is deliberately referential of life under COVID but is also always respectful of both its boundaries and its unexpected lighter moments. “It’s been a dream to create ‘Bollyweird,’ and we’re definitely excited to try something new in the comedy web series space,” says Srinivasan, summing up. “We’ve got a fantastic team and cast that includes some favorite names fandoms will love, from genre and reality TV to gaming and more. We definitely want them to check it out—and to share it when they do!”



Kapil Talwalkar as complex potential heartbreaker Tyler

Cast of Characters



Priya Srivastava as Sandhya

SANDHYA (20s). With stars in her eyes and spice in her veins, Sandhya grew up obsessed with Bollywood movies, and loved the drama, the beauty and color, and dramatic twists and turns. Unfortunately, life for Sandhya hasn't given her the Bollywood ending she yearns for, so in the meantime, she slings pizza by day, and hops from bar to bar by night as a barely working DJ. She's trying to fill the emptiness in her life, dreaming of the richness of Bollywood, when in a twist of fate, she finds it in the midst of the COVID pandemic, as she returns home to live with her mother while finding herself caught in a love triangle between her best friend, and the suave new guy who blindsides her.

JAYA (40s). Sandhya's hand-wringing mother Jaya can serve a perfectly executed thali alongside an exquisitely timed helping of guilt, yet she's also a genuinely caring woman. When the epidemic hits, Jaya, apparently anxious and fearful for Sandhya's safety, begs her to come home. What Sandhya doesn't know, however, is that Jaya has a secret—terminal breast cancer. And all she's living for now is to secure her daughter's future before she dies.



Raza Mehra as Jaya



Briana White as Kaitlyn

KAITLYN (20s). As Sandhya's onetime best friend who's now Jaya's nurse, Kaitlyn is cautious and guarded, using cynicism and humor to protect her broken heart. She still hasn't gotten over the fact that Sandhya ghosted her when she left for the big city years back, although Sandhya swears she had a reason that she can't reveal. Complicating Sandhya's homecoming with unexpected romance, Kaitlyn quickly finds her way back into Sandhya's heart.

TYLER (20s). Determined to arrange Sandhya's marriage to a "proper boy," Jaya pressures Sandhya to go on a series of dates even as she's already falling for Kaitlyn. Things get messy in true Bollywood fashion, however, when one of these dates turns out to be stone cold fox Tyler, who has a gift for breaking hearts. Sandhya finds herself conflicted, and drawn to Tyler, who seems to be a devil on the outside. But what if it's all an act and there's a nice guy underneath?



Rajat Palankar as Tyler



Dinesh Dhanraj as Aspyn

ASPYN (20s). Aspyn is here to make money (and enemies), and take names in the process. She has her own agenda. Will she ruin Sandhya's potential for happiness and true love?

JACOB (30s?). And there's another danger on the horizon in Jacob, who has his own past and humiliations... and whose revenge is like his beer —frothy and potent, and served up cold.



Angler Williamson as Jacob



“Bollyweird” Principal Cast and Crew

Prathi Srinivasan (SANDHYA)

Prathiksha Srinivasan is a talented writer and actress, known for “iZombie,” “A Girl's Guide to Her Early 20s,” and “Wasted.” She is the co-creator of “Bollyweird” as both an immigrant story and as a complex and rich LGBTQ plotline.

Kapil Talwalkar (TYLER)

Kapil Talwalkar is an Indian-American actor who was raised in the Bay Area by Umesh and Uma Talwalkar, tech industry professionals, alongside his sister Mira, who is also an actor. While studying acting at the University of Southern California, he made his professional stage debut when he was cast in a lead role alongside C.S. Lee of “Dexter” fame in East West Players' critically acclaimed production of *Animals Out of Paper*. His credits include “Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist,” *American.ish*, “American Princess,” “Arranged,” and *False Profits*.

Briana White (KAITLYN)

Briana White is an actress and digital content creator who graduated from NYU's prestigious Tisch School of the Arts with a B.F.A. in Theater. She achieved worldwide notice in the viral hit “Princess Rap Battle: Snow vs. Elsa,” which achieved over 200 million views worldwide. Her credits include “Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping,” “Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders,” and the award-winning lead in the hit indie feature *Occupants*. She is the voice of lead character Aerith Gainsborough in the video game *Final Fantasy VII Remake*, and she

helms the popular channel “Strange Rebel Gaming,” with a loyal viewer base of over 150,000, and with over 10 million views across Twitch, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. She has also made a variety of additional live hosting appearances in “ArcadeCloud” from Omnia Media, Machinima’s “Game Night,” “Game the Game” from Geek & Sundry, and more.

Taylor Williamson (JACOB)

Taylor Williamson is an actor and writer, known for “America’s Got Talent,” “Last Comic Standing,” and the TV special *Taylor Williamson: Please Like Me*. His other credits include “Laugh Factory,” “Acting Out,” “Foursome,” “Setup, Punch,” and the TV movie *Listen to Grandpa, Andy Ling*.

Pooya Mohseni (JAYA)

Pooya Mohseni is an Iranian American actress, writer, filmmaker and activist who was born and raised in Tehran, Iran. She moved to New York in her teens, where she discovered her love of acting and storytelling, graduating from the esteemed Maggie Flanigan Studio. Her credits include “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit,” “Grosse Misconduct,” “Falling Water,” *Stray*, “Big Dogs,” and *Everybody Loves Dick*. She continues to expand a resume of diverse and widely ranged characters all while exploring their humanity and fragility. She is fluent in Persian/Farsi and is a transgender advocate, as well as a voice for immigrant and women’s issues. She is also involved in writing and consulting on original LGBT stories to shed light on an otherwise under-represented community.

Dana Donnelly (ASPN)

Dana Donnelly is a Los Angeles-based writer, actor and self-proclaimed “crop-top comedian.” After graduating from college, she was one of only eleven writers selected to develop a pilot for the prestigious HBOAccess Writing Fellowship. Dana has opened for Ilana Glazer, and you can find her performing at clubs and theaters around Los Angeles, on Twitter (@danadonly), on Instagram (hottestdana) or at your local Brandy Melville.

Prathi Srinivasan and Joshua Levy (Series Co-Creators)

Prathi Srinivasan and Joshua Levy are a successful and acclaimed co-writing team whose credits include “Titans” (DCUniverse/Netflix), “iZombie” (CW), and the HBO pilot presentation “F**ked Up” (HBOGO, HBONOW). Prathi is an immigrant who grew up in the bustling city of Chennai, India. Moving to America was a culture shock that resulted in her passion for characters who are stuck between where they come from and where they are going. She graduated with a B.A. in literature from University of Texas at Dallas, and she now resides in sunny California. Meanwhile, Joshua writes about his own unique family, friends and experiences, and credits his Chinese grandmother (a survivor of WWII), and his father (a street-kid from the projects in Brooklyn), for giving him his obsession with storytelling. Joshua received a B.F.A. in film and TV production from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. Prathi and Joshua met back in High School in Plano, Texas, and have been best friends ever since.

“Bollyweird” Episodes Schedule and Summaries



Prathi Srinivasan as Sandhya

Episode 1 (“The Quarantine”) is the perfect introduction to “Bollyweird.” Here, Bollywood-obsessed Sandhya has been living the high life as a Las Vegas DJ, forcing down her own sadness and emptiness night after night spinning tunes and hoping for magic. Then her mother drops the Covid-19 card and drags her ass back home. Sharing a roof with her overbearing Mom isn’t even the worst of it, because Sandhya’s worst nightmare (Kaitlyn, the best friend she ghosted) has just answered the front door—and her life just became a Bollywood nightmare. Or dream? Or... both?

Episode 2: (“The Truth”) Here, we find Kaitlyn and Sandhya stuck together under the same roof... And, of course, it’s *The Clash of the Titans*. Sandhya’s life unravels in front of her eyes as her Mom Jaya reveals a devastating secret. And yet...

Episode 3: (“The Ultimatum”) Sandhya is still reeling after her mother’s confession, feeling like a terrible daughter and full of contrition. Then she meets Tyler, the stone-cold fox who just got cut off by his father and dumped (if she can believe him). Sandhya’s interested in spite of herself, and then...

Episode 4 (“The Secret”) Getting an arranged marriage is Sandhya’s mother’s dying wish, and Sandhya is trying hard to aim for that... on her own terms. She and Tyler meet on the Indian matrimony website, so even though they’re like cats and dogs, they decide to take a leap of faith. They’re not just going to get married, they make an agreement; they’re gonna *game* the system, and get *sham*-married. Sandhya and Tyler are going to fake an engagement, marriage, and life together—what could possibly go wrong? Until emotions enter the fray.



Briana White as Kaitlyn



Dana Donnelly as Aspyn

Episode 5 (“The Friendship”) A step back into the past... and into the complicated friendship of Sandhya and Kaitlyn, as told by the man who holds Sandhya’s worst secret: Jacob.

It turns out that Jacob knows the *real* story of Sandhya and Kaitlyn and... he’s willing to talk. To anyone. Dun dun *DUN!*

Episode 6 (“The Pooja”) True love hits the rocks when Jaya reveals her daughter’s situations and conflicts. There are a million lies up in the air and poor Sandhya is about to have the worst one crash on her head. Will she get her happy Bollywood ending? Or not? Tune in to find out!

Episode 7 (“The Bollywood Ending?”) This is it. Sandhya’s dead meat.

Her mom now knows about her sexual past, and things get ugly. Sandhya turns to her superficial connection with Tyler and genuinely questions their situations.

What will happen?

Will Sandhya finally have her Bollywood ending with Tyler, or will she return to Kaitlyn?

Only “Bollyweird” viewers will truly be able to guess!



Taylor Williamson as Jacob

Press Images and Screen Shots



“Bollyweird” stars include Taylor Williamson, Briana White, Prathi Srinivasan, Kapil Talwalkar, and Pooya Mohseni.

Links and Contact Info

To discuss “Bollyweird,” Prathi Srinivasan, Joshua Levy, and the show’s talented principal cast members are currently available for streaming interviews and media appearances. To request an interview, please contact Angela Mitchell at news@paranoidpr.com or (904) 982-8043.

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Social Media Links:

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGOfdcGxRzE&t=4s>

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