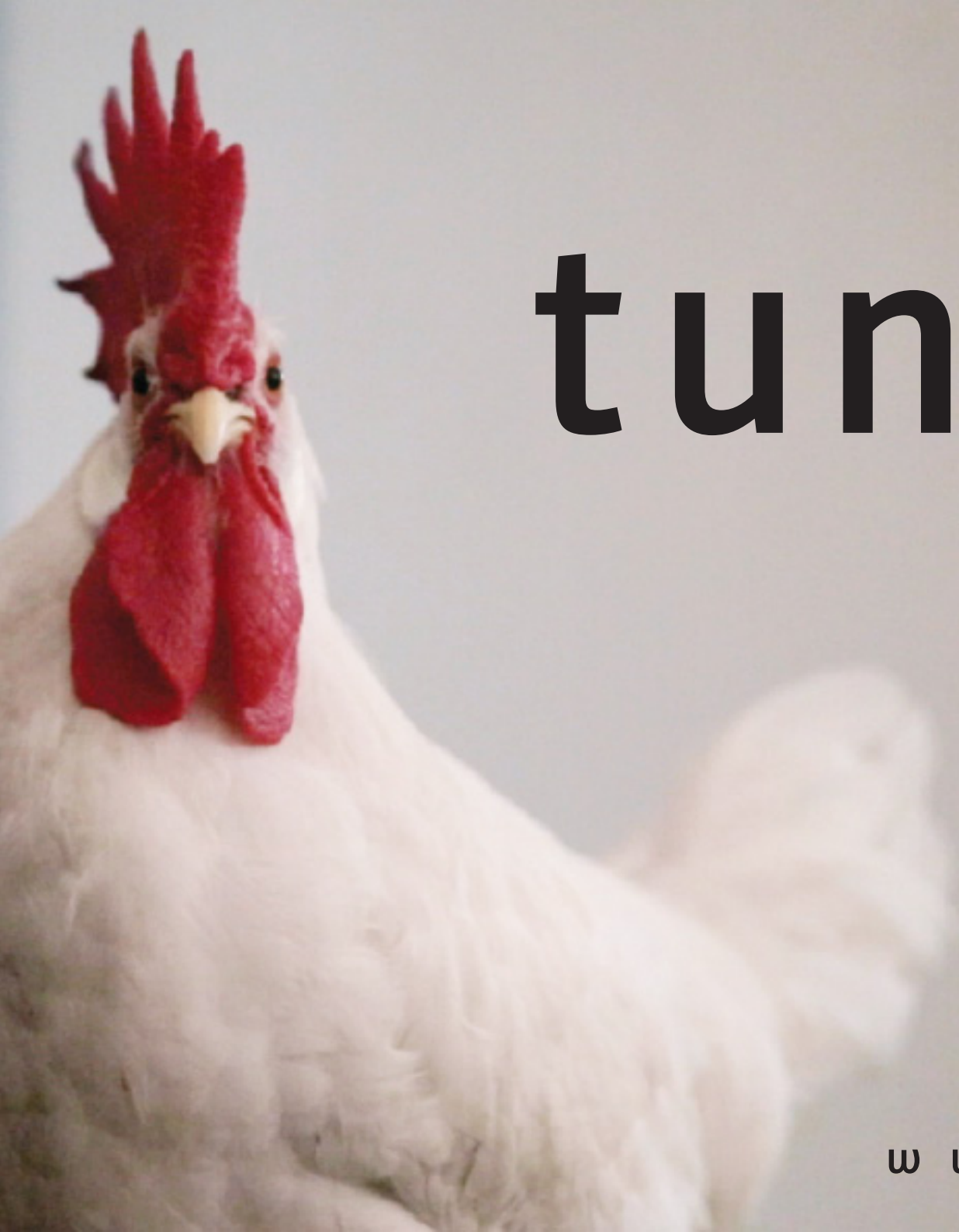




press kit



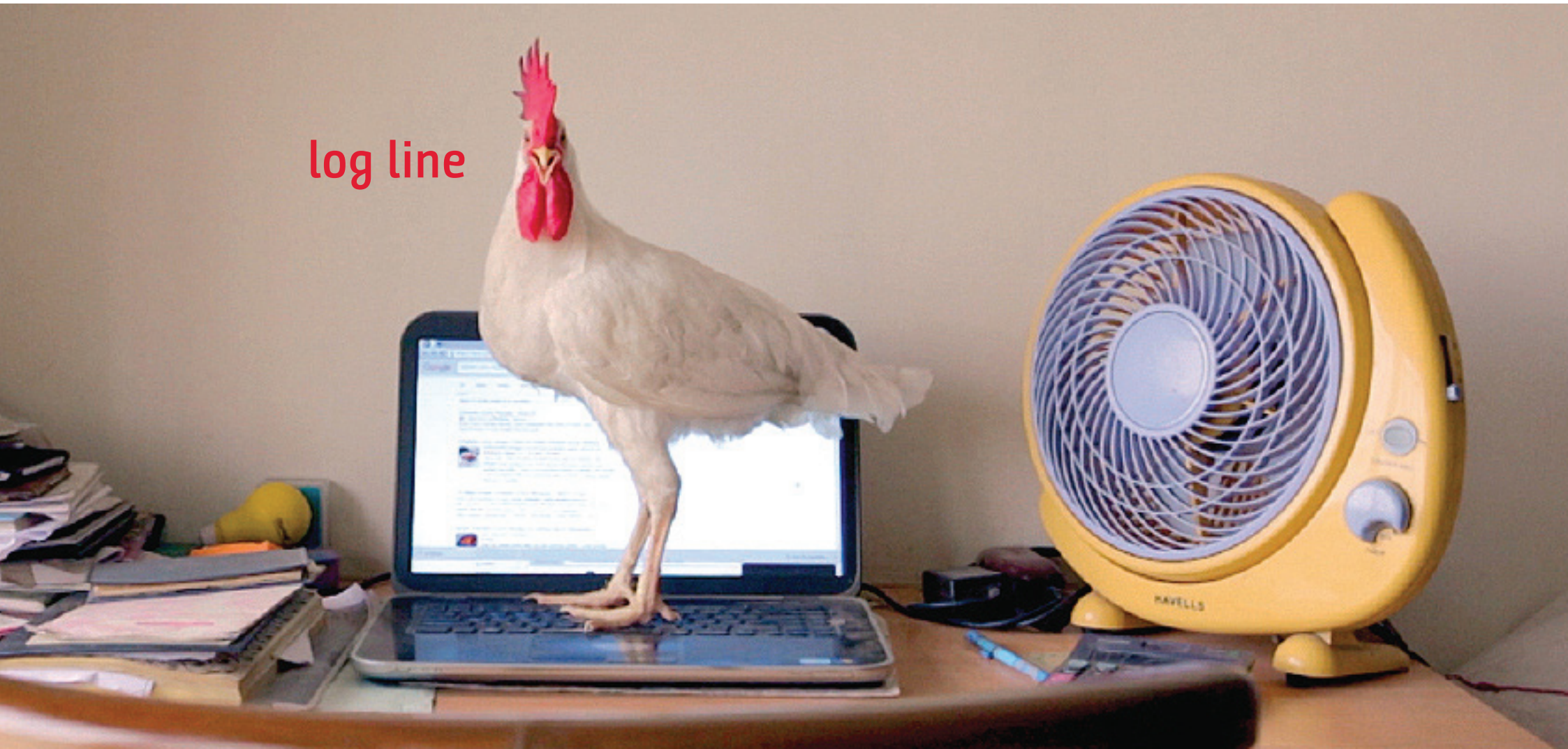
tungrus

a film by rishi chandna

www.tungrus.com

In a cramped apartment in Mumbai, an eccentric patriarch and his family consider killing and eating their hell-raising pet **rooster**, so that they can reclaim their lives.

log line





Tungrus is a short documentary that observes a week in the peculiar lives of a middle-class household in Mumbai, which turns topsy-turvy when the eccentric patriarch brings home a baby chick for his cats to play with.

What follows is an alternately absurd, nerve-jangling and heart-warming set of accounts about the latest addition, from each member of the family. The once adorable chick has survived his early days and grown into a hell-raising, willful rooster. The family's mundane, bourgeois existence becomes farcical because of this crowing beast that now walks among them - forever taking up a touch too much of their space, defecating on their spotless floors, bullying their cats, crowing at ungodly hours, and generally making life in the already-crowded apartment unlivable.

The film follows the thoughts of each person to their inevitable conclusion – the rooster's got to go. And as his fate hangs in the balance, the family debates the question that lingers in the air: should he be given the gift of life, or served for dinner?



director speak

I grew up in a city, in a meat-eating family, where we ate chicken at least thrice a week. As a small boy, my mother would often send me to the local butcher to buy meat, and I was fascinated by the sight of chickens being slaughtered, without any fuss or bother. So, I never thought of chickens as pets, the way we think of dogs and cats as pets. It was always an animal meant for consumption, without any guilt or remorse.

When I heard about a family living with a rooster as their pet in a tiny apartment in Mumbai, it struck me as unique and bizarre. While such a thing may be conventional in a rural household, it was unheard of in an urban environment. I was hooked, and I knew I had to find out more.

Tungrus is essentially a human story, because each character in the film must probe the nature of affection, of loyalty, and even the ethics of eating another creature. And because we use animals as reflections of human consciousness, Tungrus is also an ironic testimony to human folly, and is meant to give the viewer food for thought (pun intended).

about the filmmaker



Rishi Chandna is a filmmaker based out of Mumbai, and Tungrus is his first independent short film.

He has a discerning eye for the everyday anomalies of life in India. In the current environment of censorship, he believes that independent cinema is one of the last remaining bastions of honest storytelling. When he is in doubt, he looks to Werner Herzog, John Ashbery and Fela Kuti for inspiration.

"A perfect setup for conflict, comedy
and contemplation" - *The Hindu*

"An illuminating Indian behavioural
drama" - *Film Companion*

"A little cocky" - *India Today*

"Charming Mumbai-set film, feathers and
tempers fly over the unusual addition to
the household" - *Scroll*

"Subtle takeaways on family dynamics and
the human-animal relationship" - *Mint*



CREDITS

Cast: The Bharde Family
Cinematographer: Deepak Nambiar
Editor: Neha Mehra
Sound Design: Vinit D'Souza

TECH SPECS

Country of origin: India
Languages spoken: English, Hindi
Year: 2018
13 minutes, 1.1:85, DCP Stereo



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