

Monsoon Tide

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Interview Transcript

Nick Fletcher & Stephen Croson

Nick Fletcher It only really got to the stage where I thought it was ready to film probably, this time last year when I started getting some rather pleasing reports back from a number of editors, not just one, but a number of them, saying “Hey! This could be... this could be something. You’ve got something here. You can go and shoot this, it’s ready”. So, I had to take the plunge with that kind of... I... it was a little bit unnerving but I thought there’s no reason... there’s no reason not to do it. The script’s there, that’s the main thing. Let’s get together a production team, another producer to work with and go and make it!

Stephen Croson My background basically is that we’d only, Nick and I had only just worked together on a low budget film as a favour actually to a director friend of Nick’s, um, and I just completely fell in love with it – just the most incredible thing to do and I kind of think Nick must have seen that, so not long after – funnily enough we actually filmed here, in this theatre, so as Nick was saying, we’ve actually come full circle which is, which is quite nice.

Um, then we had a little meeting in a pub over a pint in West Sussex and Nick said that, you know, “Got this script and I’d really like to do something with it, would you like to help me?” And, of course, I immediately said yes, thank you very much and I remember driving home afterwards thinking why did you say that? (Both laugh.) What are you doing? You know, but, I mean, you know, it just basically kicked off from there and you know we, before you knew it we were, you know, out in India on a recce and I just thought oh, yes, this is quite serious now, we really are doing something here, and it’s taken us just over a year I think, amazingly hard work to actually put it together but, I’ve learned so much and I just love it. I mean I can’t imagine ever doing anything else now, I really can’t, it’s just been wonderful.

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Interview Transcript – Nick Fletcher & Stephen Croson (cont.)

Stephen Croson And, obviously, working with Nick as well, it's been amazing because we've, you know, we've had lots of ups and downs, traumas in India and stuff like that but, um, we've never ever had a bad word, never came anywhere near that and I think that's, you know, that's a really... it's a sign of a really, really good relationship and good friendship actually so I'm really glad that Nick got me on board basically.

Nick Fletcher Funding has been very straight-forward for, for, a feature film. We decided early that if we wanted to make it in a hurry, we couldn't really, go to distribution companies before-hand to get pre-sales, pre-sales are notoriously difficult to get hold of these days, um, we did contact a number of major distributors who were interested in the project, but really thought we were mad, or really thought that we needed to put a few more million pounds into the budget which we just didn't have. So they said well go away, make it and we'll look at it and then we'll talk so that's what we're doing. We're doing the best film we possibly can on the lowest amount of money, um, putting the production... putting the money that we have raised, up onto the screen, which we think we've done by choosing to, to, shoot in India.

Stephen Croson Um, we've been... luckily we've had a fantastic crew and cast which has helped us, helped us immensely, um, and they get the idea that it is low budget and, you know, some things are probably not what they're used to I think, some of the actors but, um, they've just rolled their sleeves up and got on with it which has been fantastic, so that's really helped us as well I think, basically, so, yeah, I think we've, yeah, I'm pretty proud of the way we've kept it on budget actually, yeah, definitely.

The most important part of this, obviously, has been the script, um, it's a beautiful script, um, and it has drawn in some really, really quality crew and actors basically. You know, so much so that when we were out in India or in Spain in the evening after dinner we spent hours with them, talking about how we can make the scenes better for the next day. They are just totally, totally bought into the whole thing.

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