

SWATI BHISÉ

Director | Producer | Writer
Educator | Cultural Advocate



BIOGRAPHY

Swati Bhisé is an award-winning Hollywood filmmaker, producer, writer, and cultural advocate known for her contributions to the arts over four decades. A classically trained Bharatanatyam dancer, she has worn many hats throughout her career, including choreographer, educator, and director. Recently, Bhisé embraced her latest role as a children's book author, inspired by the birth of her grandson. She is dedicated to promoting Indian culture globally and advocating for gender equality since her teen years through her artistic and philanthropic endeavors. By blending traditional Indian arts with contemporary media, she creates transformative works that drive social change.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

PRODUCER & DIRECTOR

PROMOTER OF THEATRE & OTHER ARTISTS


AUTHOR & PUBLISHER

WOMEN'S ADVOCACY

MULTIFACETED PERFORMER & EDUCATOR

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

PRODUCER & DIRECTOR

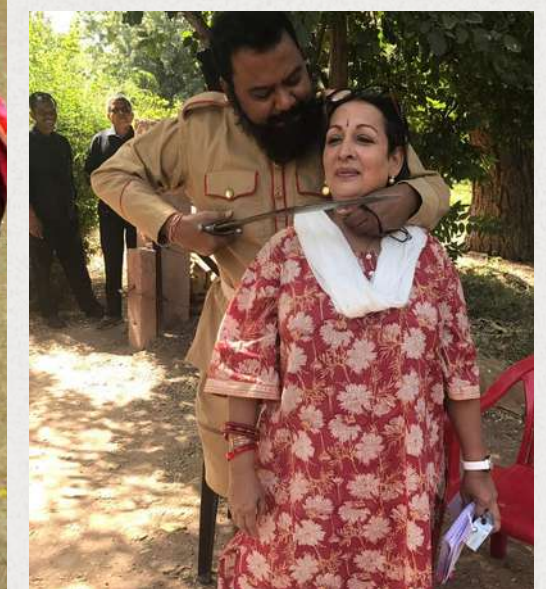
 [imdb.me/cayennepp/cayennepp](https://www.imdb.me/cayennepp/cayennepp)

 Cayennepp.com

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With Stephen Fry

THE WARRIOR QUEEN OF JHANSI (2019)

Director, Writer, Producer



Synopsis

- A period drama based on the life of the iconic Rani Lakshmi Bai, a hero of India's first war of independence.
- Premiered in theatres across the U.S., India, and Canada in November 2019, followed by a VOD release and further global screenings in 2020 across Australia, New Zealand, the UK, and the Middle East.

Achievements

- First Hollywood action film with a female Indian lead.
- Won the WIFTV (Women In Film & TV) Impact Award at the Vancouver International Women in Film Festival.
- Received the prestigious ReFrame (Behind & Front of the lens) Stamp for promoting gender parity in filmmaking.
- The Warrior Queen of Jhansi has been named in the Top Five Historical Women Who Could Kick Your Ass by Frock Flicks



<https://frockflicks.com/top-five-historical-women-who-could-kick-your-ass/>

- WION (World Is One News) has named The Warrior Queen of Jhansi amongst the Top Exceptional Hollywood Films made on the theme of Indian Independence along with the likes of Gandhi, Viceroy's House and A Passage to India.



<https://youtu.be/jKtUQNo1GwM>

Social Impact

- Inspired the creation of the Warrior Queen Project, a nonprofit aimed at empowering women and closing the gender gap.
- The "Spirit of the Rani" Award was introduced to honor 11 trailblazing women in India and the U.S. for their contributions to social transformation.
- Teaching course at the University of Las Vegas, Nevada, under COLA program (College of Liberal Arts).



QUEEN
SOLDIER
LEGEND



DEVIKA BHISE RUPERT EVERETT NATHANIEL PARKER BEN LAMB WITH JODHI MAY AND DEREK JACOBI

THE WARRIOR QUEEN OF JHANSI

STORY BY DEVIKA BHISE, RUPERT EVERETT, NATHANIEL PARKER, BEN LAMB, WITH JODHI MAY AND DEREK JACOBI. DIRECTED BY CHARLES SALMON. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DEVIKA BHISE, CHARLES SALMON. PRODUCED BY CHARLES SALMON. WRITTEN BY CHARLES SALMON. CASTING BY ANITA MANNING. COSTUME DESIGNER ANITA MANNING. HAIR AND MAKEUP BY ANITA MANNING. PRODUCTION DESIGNER ANITA MANNING. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DEVIKA BHISE, CHARLES SALMON. PRODUCED BY CHARLES SALMON. WRITTEN BY CHARLES SALMON. CASTING BY ANITA MANNING. COSTUME DESIGNER ANITA MANNING. HAIR AND MAKEUP BY ANITA MANNING. PRODUCTION DESIGNER ANITA MANNING.

COMING SOON

Facebook Twitter Instagram



With the India cast and crew of The Warrior Queen of Jhansi



With Howard Cohen and Eric d'Arbeloff of Roadside Attractions who distributed the Warrior Queen of Jhansi film



With Rupert Everett and Nat Parkar on the sets of TWQOJ at the Ouarzazate desert in Morocco



Thewarriorqueenofjhansimovie.com



THE MAN WHO KNEW INFINITY (2015)

Producer, CPP, Executive Producer & Indian Cultural Consultant

Synopsis

- A biographical film about Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, starring Dev Patel, Jeremy Irons and Devika Bhisé.

Screenings & Recognition

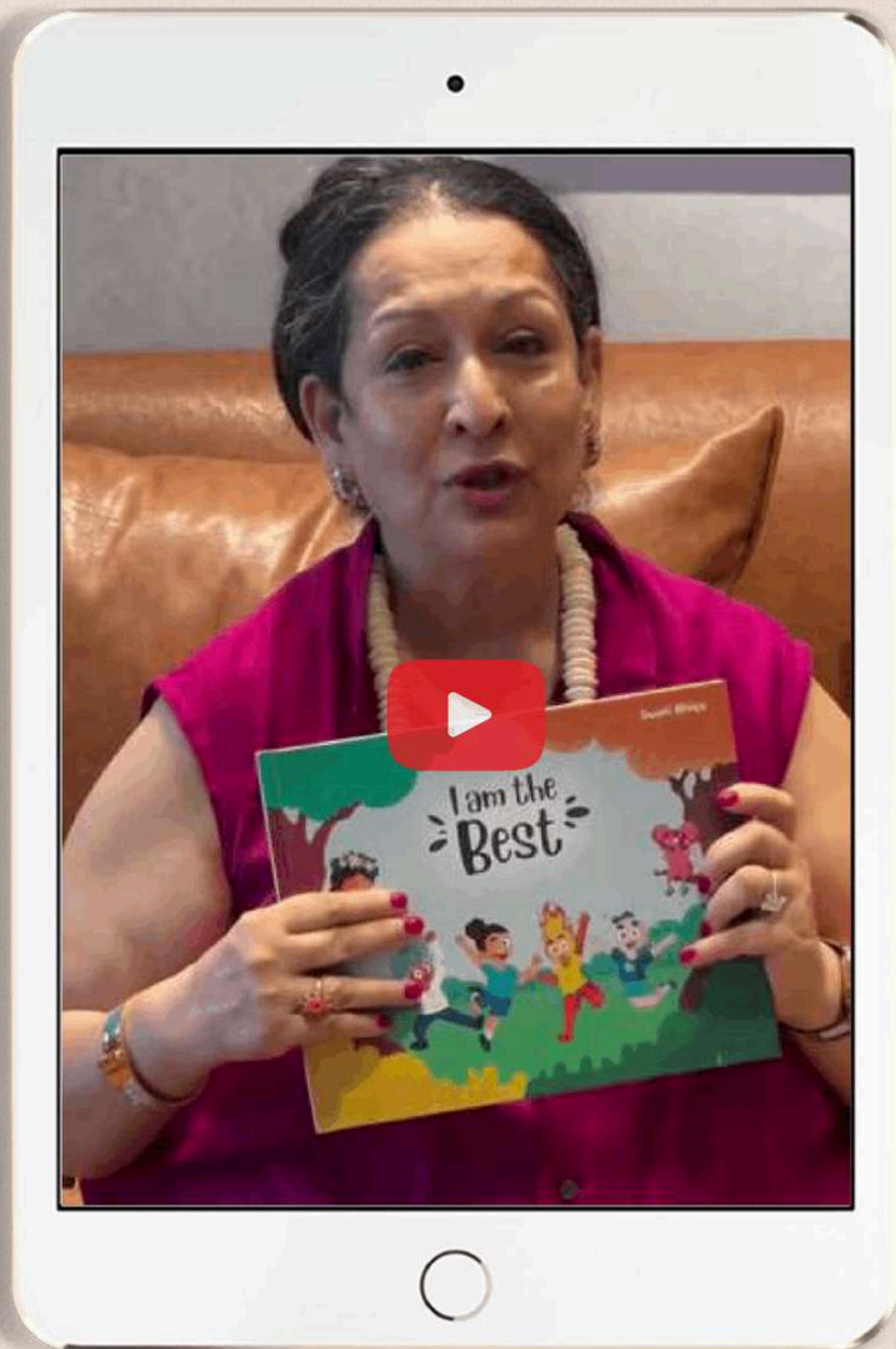
- Premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.
- Screened at prestigious venues, including The White House, and festivals in Zurich, India, Dubai, and Singapore.
- Gained international acclaim for its portrayal of Indian culture and Ramanujan's genius.

Interview with Swati Bhisé | On her journey



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K18uVSD_va4





AUTHOR & PUBLISHER

Swati Bhisé is an accomplished author with a diverse portfolio of written work across various genres, reflecting her wide-ranging interests.



I AM THE BEST

Children's Book

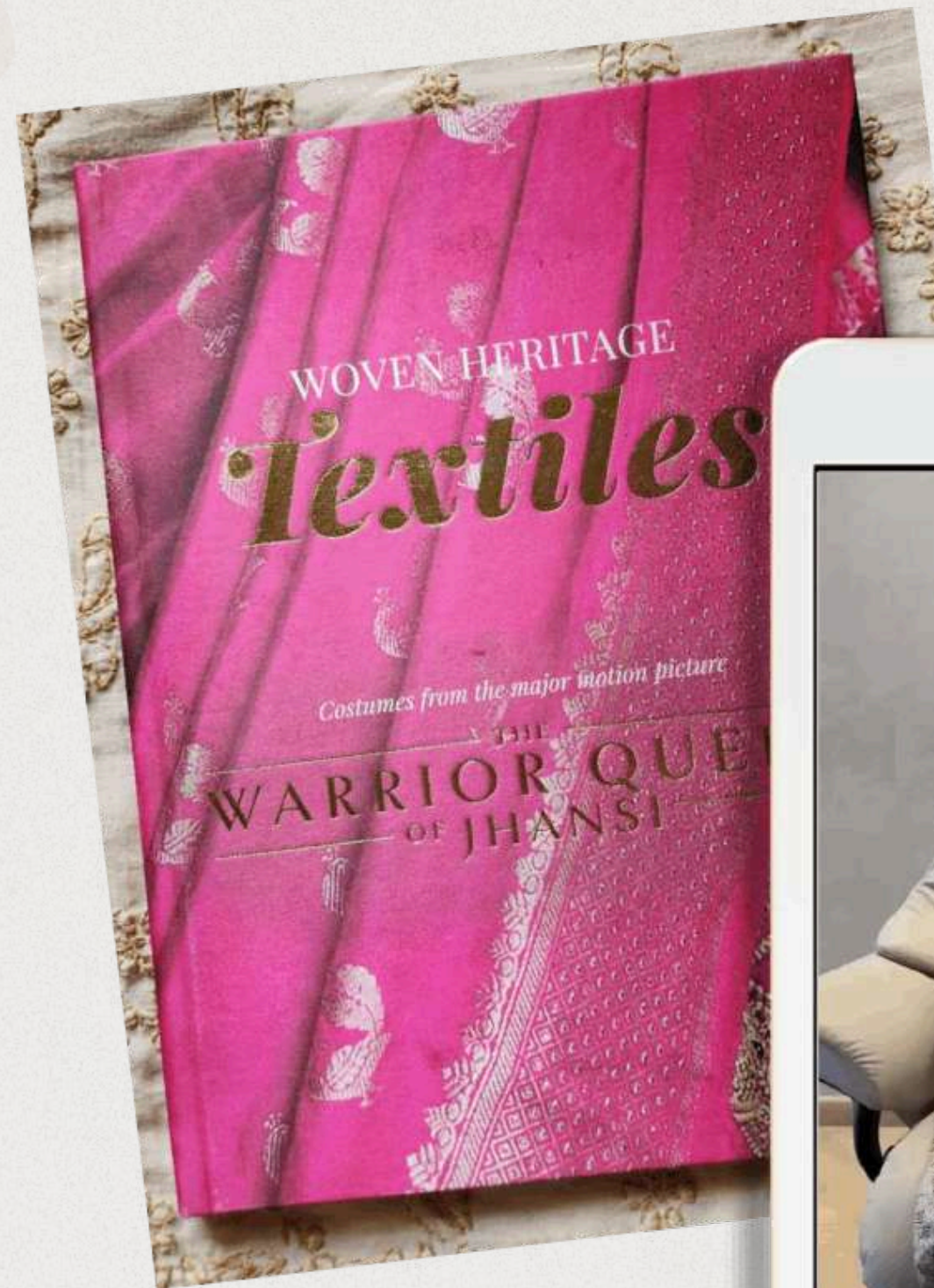
Embracing her new avatar of *Nani ma* (Granny), Swati wrote this heartfelt children's book with a message. This book is dedicated to her grandson and his generation, encouraging them to take responsibility for the future, particularly in matters of environmental sustainability and climate action. The book is a message of hope and inspiration for young readers, motivating them to make the world a better place.



WOVEN HERITAGE TEXTILES

Costumes from the Major Motion Picture the
Warrior Queen of Jhansi

- A visual and narrative exploration of the textiles and costumes featured in the film, celebrating the artistry and cultural significance behind them.



THE MAKING OF

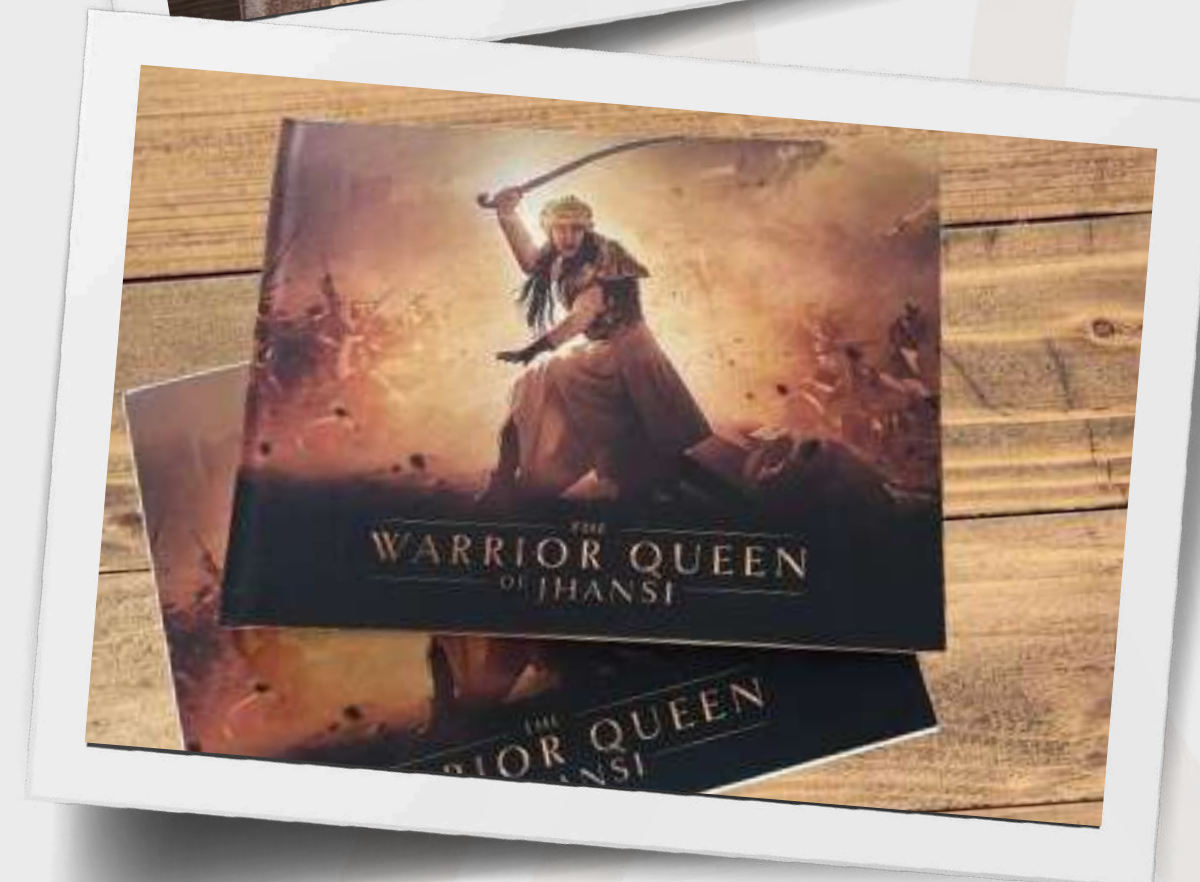
The Man Who Knew Infinity

- An insightful exploration behind the scenes of the acclaimed film The Man Who Knew Infinity. Detailing the journey in two continents - India and Europe. Ramanujan's (the Indian mathematician genius) story premiered on the International screen.



The Warrior Queen of Jhansi

- A comprehensive look at the creative process and production of the period drama, highlighting the challenges and triumphs faced during the filmmaking journey.



AAI'S RECIPES

**Traditional CKP (Chandraseniya Kayastha Prabhu)
Cuisine**

- A cookbook cum hostess guide featuring traditional recipes from Swati's maternal lineage of this Maharashtrian community. Celebrating the rich flavors and cultural heritage of this Indian cuisine.

TELL ME A STORY

- In 2005, she produced and wrote a musical children's stories CD, launched in New York City, combining storytelling with music to captivate young audiences.




Aai with Tarla Dalal

MULTIFACETED PERFORMER & EDUCATOR

Swati Bhisé - Performance & Interviews:

Spot Light - India Broadcast Network

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VC4U_mUZfac&t=636s

CBS Religion Special "The Arts Within Religion"

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6b1uJvS0w4>



BHARATNATYAM DANCER

Training

- The first disciple of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Sonal Mansingh.

Performances

- Bhisé has performed Bharatanatyam extensively, gracing stages across the globe, including Lincoln Center, Asia Society, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the National Centre for the Performing Arts (India).
- She is known for blending classical Indian dramaturgy with contemporary choreography in her performances.



With Dr. Sonal Mansingh





With Vasant Sathe - Minister of
Information and Broadcasting



Swati Bhisé featuring on the Bill Boggs show on CBS Prime Time



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGH59f541SQ>



FOUNDED SANSKRITI CENTER

A non-profit organisation that taught and promoted Indian culture in NYC

Purpose

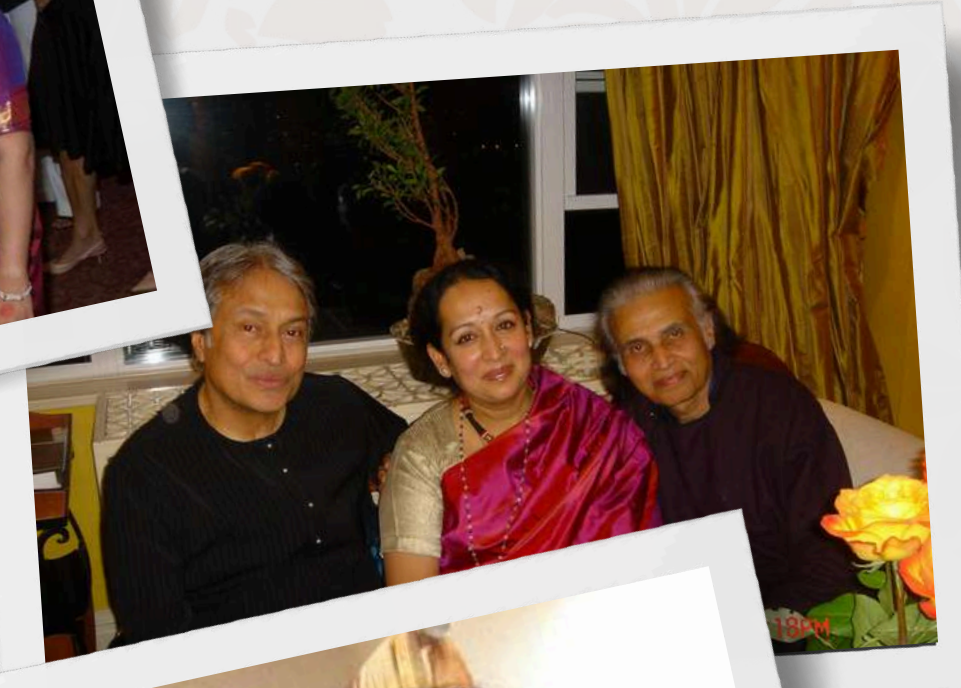
- A non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Indian classical arts among American children.
- As the founder, Bhisé led initiatives to introduce Indian music, dance, and theatre to new audiences in the U.S. for over 40 years, making a lasting cultural impact.



With Pawan Verma, head of ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations), Saswati Sen (Kathak) and Lakshmi Vishwanathan (Bharatnatyam) at the Harvard Club



With Dr. Sunil Kothari, Indian dance critic and Amjad, Ali Khan, Sarod maestro.



Sponsoring in New York, the art of Koodiyattam, the oldest form of Sanskrit drama. For the first time it was brought to NY and presented at the Asia Society.



With Koodiyattam dancer Kapila Venu

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

- The Brearley School, New York
- Lincoln Center Institute, New York
- Symphony Space, New York

Promoting artists like Malavika Sarukkai in NYC



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFbNWN4ivD0>



TV ANCHOR & MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

- Bhisé was the U.S. correspondent for *Sruti Magazine*.
- She also anchored the TV program, *Spotlight on Culture* - India Broadcasting Network (IBN)

With Protima Bedi

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcpjSJgYaag>

With Vijaya Mehta

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHv4xK9PawQ>

With Satya Narayan Charka

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q896dAJ-LGY>

With Urvashi Vaid

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyJGDNjOrPw&t=123s>



JAZZ & CARNATIC FUSION

Notable Performances

- She also conducted a Carnatic-Jazz symphony at **Jazz at Lincoln Center** in 2015 to a sold-out audience, earning praise in the Wall Street Journal for her innovative fusion of Indian and Western music.
- In 2017, Bhisé opened the renowned **Newport Jazz Festival** with an original Carnatic-Jazz fusion composition.



Newport Jazz Festival



Lincoln Center Orchestra

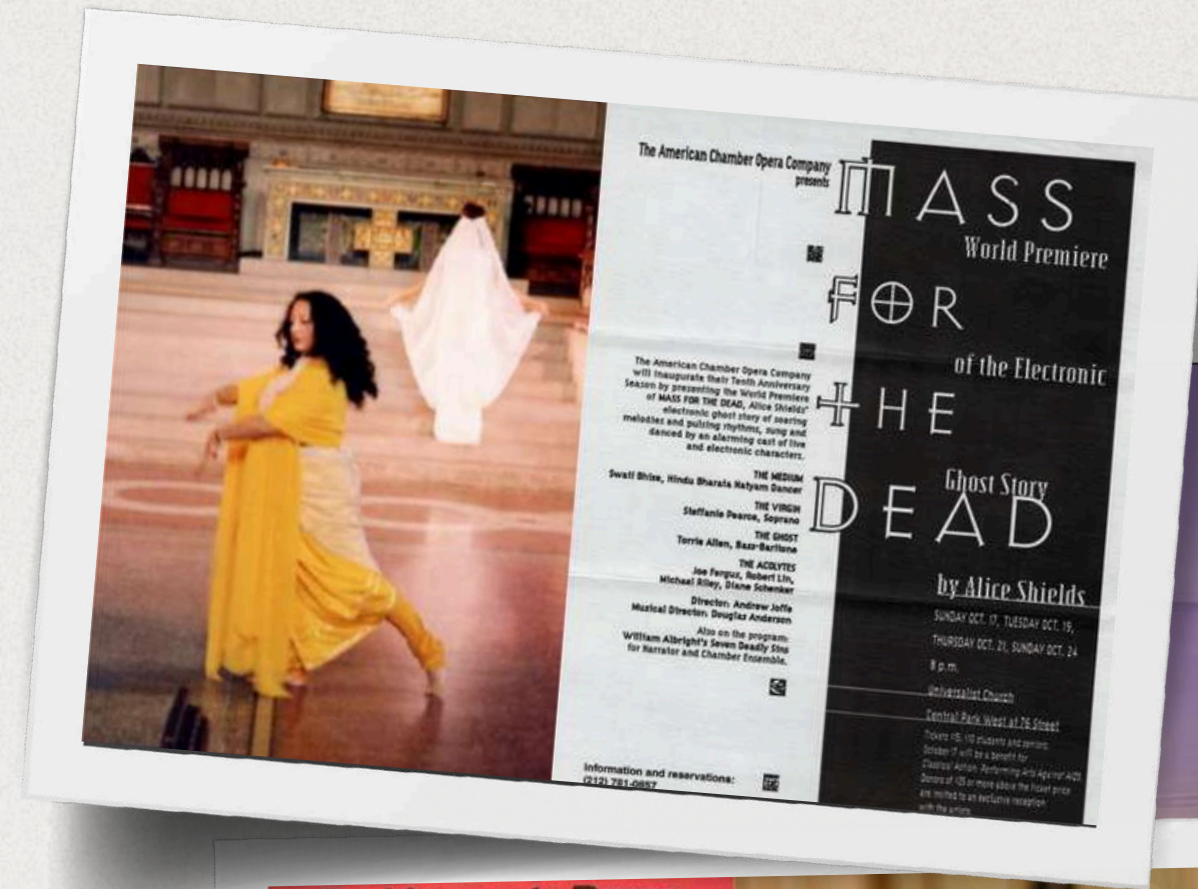
Celebrating Classical Music Month with Swati Bhisé

 <https://youtu.be/D79xtwGe2IQ>



CHOREOGRAPHY & ACTING

- Choreographed Broadway shows including *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Transposed Heads*.
- Acted in productions such as *Daddy Meets Durga* and *Mass of the Dead*.
- Created “*Naari Tu*,” : A one-woman solo performance addressing the plight of women in patriarchal societies, performed at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi and the United Nations Council CSW67.



Naari Tu



Daddy Meets Durga

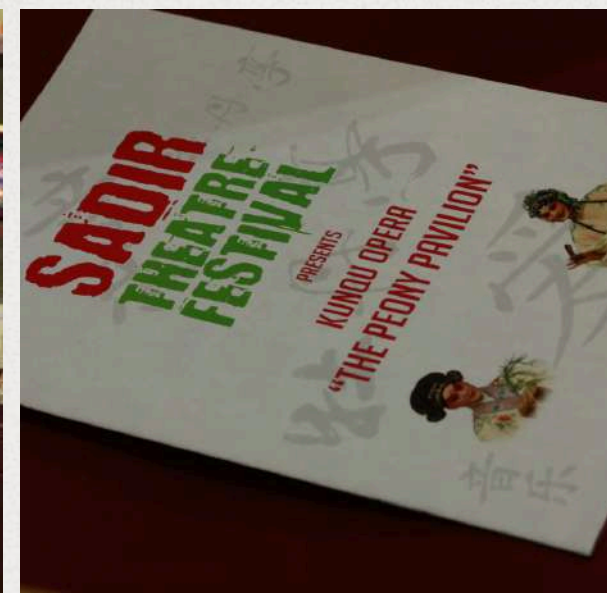
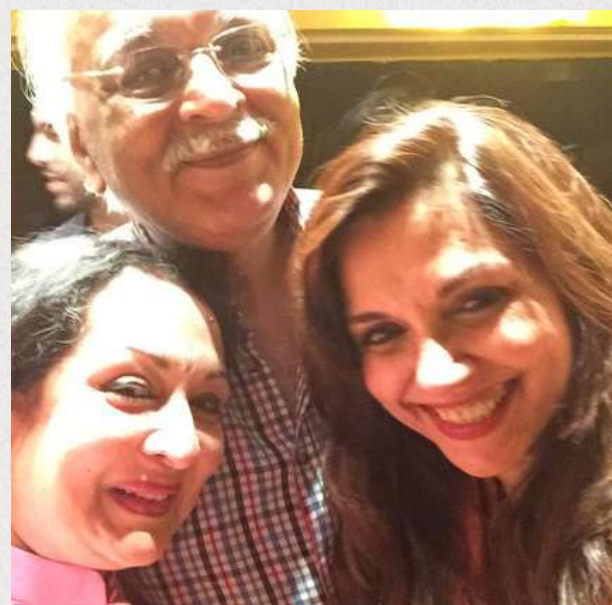
Interview with Swati Bhisé | On her short film 'Anamika'



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-pvOXNastQ>



PROMOTER OF THEATER & OTHER ARTISTS



SADIR THEATER FESTIVAL

Ten years of bringing musical theater with cutting edge themes to Goa

Role

- Founder & Artistic Director

Details

- In 2012 Swati Bhisés launched a three-day annual theatre festival in Goa focused on thought-provoking performances, featuring critically acclaimed theater stars. The festival remains a space for engaging artistic content under Bhisé's leadership.



<http://sadirfestival.org/>

The Sadir Theater Festival, an annual 3-day fest in Goa showcases theater from India.

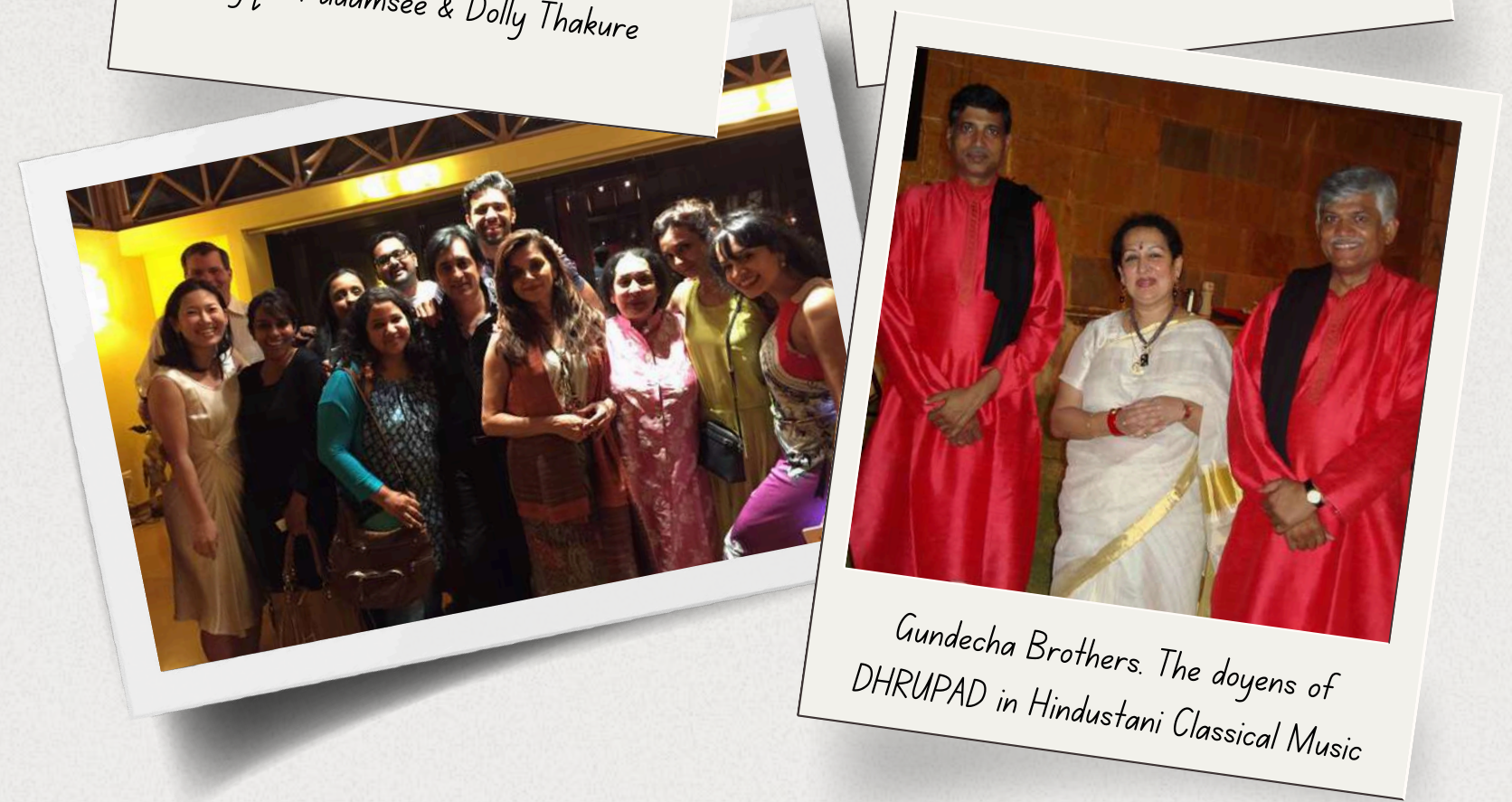


<https://youtu.be/OsZFs2g60pY>



Alyque Padamsee & Dolly Thakure

Utkarsh Mazumdar & Dr. Mohan Agashe



Gundecha Brothers. The doyens of DHRUPAD in Hindustani Classical Music



KUNQU OPERA IN INDIA

Significance

- In the year 2014, Swati Bhisé brought the UNESCO heritage Chinese KunQu opera to India for the first time.

Performances

- Hosted at The National Centre for the Performing Arts in Mumbai and Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi, marking an important cultural exchange between India and China.



"The Peony Pavilion"



WOMEN'S ADVOCACY



Indian Embassy, NY



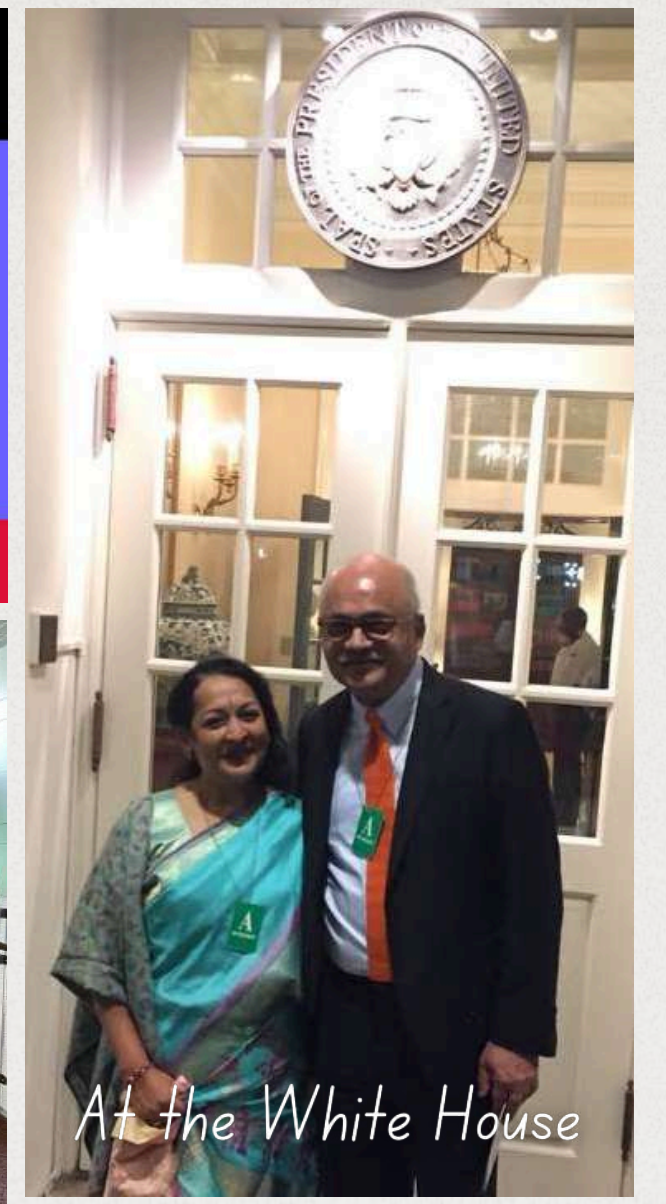
NGO CSW67 Forum

**Right to an Inclusive,
Safe and Secure Digital
Existence for Women ...**

By Swati Bhise

Monday March 13, 2023 / 08:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Powered By Whova



At the White House

AN ACTIVE PROMOTER OF WOMEN LEADERS

- Supported Women for Biden 2020
- Exchanged ideas with Kamala Harris & Hillary Clinton
- Met the UN Ambassador from Afghanistan, Royya Rahmani
- Interacted with Nancy Pelosi speaker of the house at the LBJ (Lyndon B Johnson) foundation event in DC



With Nicole Gaouette, CNN's National Security Reporter for CNN Politics



Democrat Congresswoman Dina Titus



THE WARRIOR QUEEN PROJECT



Founded

- In 2020, as a women's advocacy organization for the upliftment of marginalized parts of the community

Mission

- To close the gender gap and promote economic empowerment for women globally.

Vision

- A civic, activist and legislative movement driven by women to ensure dignity and empowerment for all.

Launch

- Swati launched the project at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), making it part of the curriculum at the COLA School to educate and empower young women to find their VOICE.

The Warrior Queen Toolkit

- Integrated into the curriculum at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, empowering students to champion gender equality and leadership.

Ongoing Work

- Continues to collaborate with educational institutions and NGOs to further the movement for women's rights, including a partnership with the Center for Social Research (CSR) in New Delhi.



<http://warriorqueenproject.org/>



<http://instagram.com/warriorqueenproject>



UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL CSW67

- Invited to speak on "Right to an Inclusive, Safe, and Secure Digital Existence for Women and Girls."
- Performed her solo piece "Naari Tu" at the event.

Swati Bhise performing her original piece 'Naari Tu' at CSR's session at CSW67



<https://youtu.be/kGuCoOC3xXk>





ADVISORY BOARD

- For Lotus Circle Asia Foundation
- Provides guidance on women's empowerment initiatives in Southeast Asia
- Advisor to CSR (Centre for Social Research - New Delhi), which empowers women and girls in Asia through education and advocacy.
- Foreign Policy's inaugural global women's summit with Managing Editor - Ravi Agrawal, CNN.



Foreign Policy's inaugural global women's summit with Ravi Agrawal



At the Arthritis Foundation

Director, Writer, Producer Swati Bhise @Foreign Policy
Her Power 2019 Summit in Washington DC

 <https://youtu.be/hhVnq2LEKrc>



Swati Bhisé featuring on the Bill Boggs show on CBS Prime Time

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

The Warrior Queen of Jhansi wins Impact Award at Vancouver International Women In Film Festival .

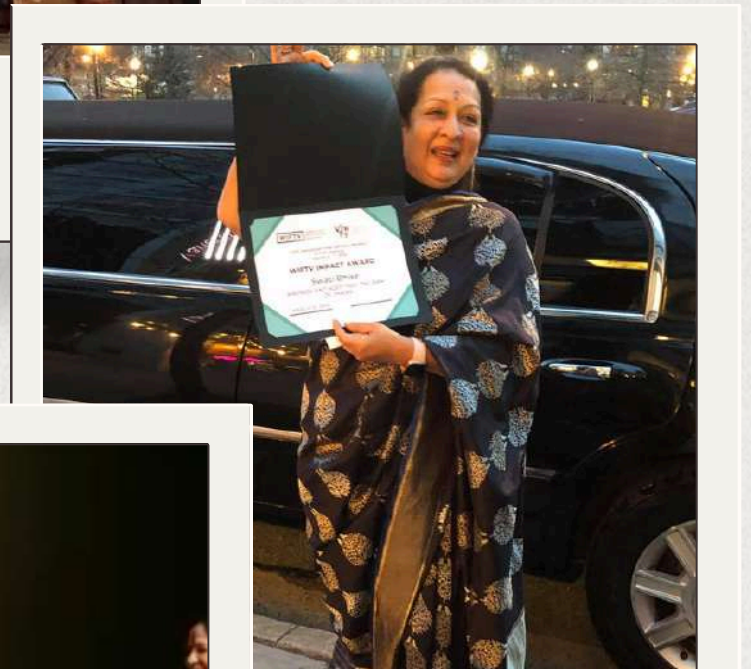
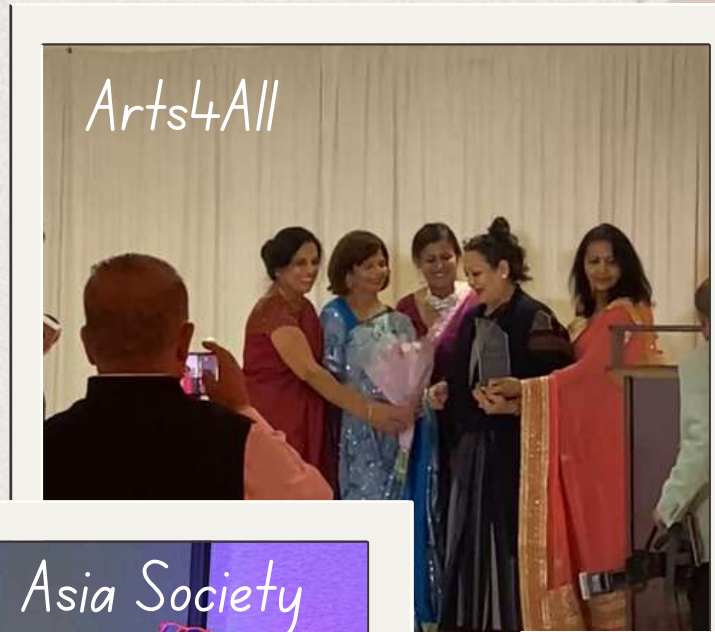


<https://youtu.be/FEeMmWdvrdM>



RECOGNITION & AWARDS

- 2023 Asian Arts Game Changer & Visionary Award by the Asia Society, joining the ranks of past honorees such as His Highness Aga Khan, YO-YO Ma, Jack Ma, and Malala Yousafzai.
- 2022 Leadership Award by the Arts4All Foundation, shared with Congresswoman Caroline Maloney.
- Honored by Padma Vibhushan Dr. Sonal Mansingh and former Deputy Prime Minister Mr. L. K. Advani in 2017 and 2022 for her contributions to the arts.
- Won the WIFTV (Women In Film & TV) Impact Award at the Vancouver International Women in Film Festival.
- Received the prestigious ReFrame (Behind & Front of the lens) Stamp for promoting gender parity in filmmaking.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Social Media



[instagram.com @swatibhise](https://www.instagram.com/swatibhise)



<https://www.facebook.com/share/bbpyuLNCxxkwqY5e/?mibextid=kFxxJD>



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[Linkedin.com/in/swati-bhise-wqp](https://www.linkedin.com/in/swati-bhise-wqp)