

"The only place where I  
feel truly free is the sky"

ADAM HARRY

# ചിറക് wing CHIRAKU

FILM BY  
NEELU BHUMAN

*Defying Gravity: First trans pilot from  
India takes flight across three  
continents in this feature-length  
documentary*



Neelu Bhuman (he/him)  
Director & Producer

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India South Africa Australia UK USA

CHIRAKU (Wing) tells the story of Adam Harry, a young Muslim aviator who defies India's aviation authority to spark national change. Battling family rejection, poverty, and relentless bureaucracy, he chases freedom across continents — determined to reclaim his wings and soar beyond every limit imposed on him.

PITCH TRAILER (5mins)



SUPPORTED BY





## CHALLENGE

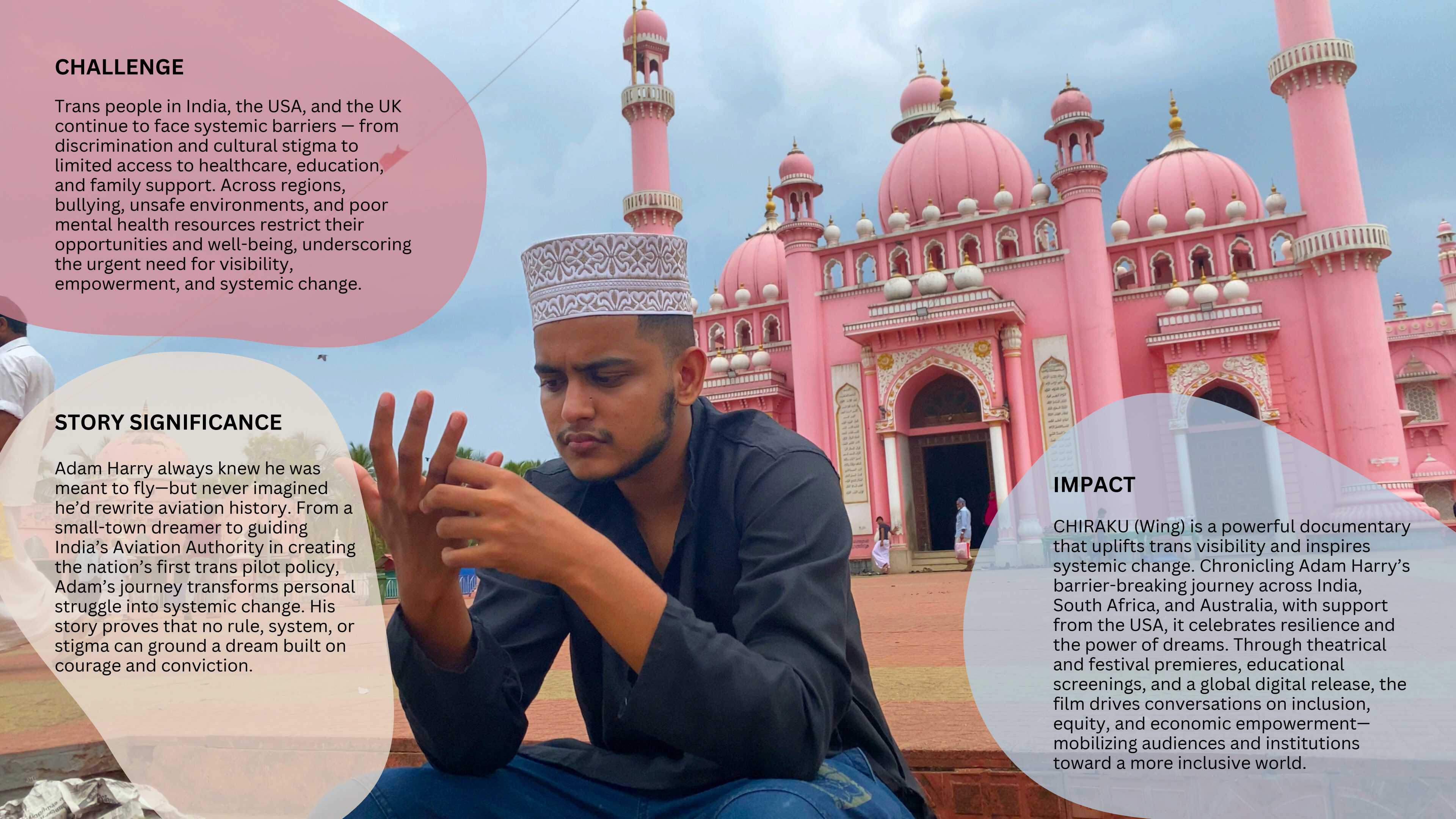
Trans people in India, the USA, and the UK continue to face systemic barriers — from discrimination and cultural stigma to limited access to healthcare, education, and family support. Across regions, bullying, unsafe environments, and poor mental health resources restrict their opportunities and well-being, underscoring the urgent need for visibility, empowerment, and systemic change.

## STORY SIGNIFICANCE

Adam Harry always knew he was meant to fly—but never imagined he'd rewrite aviation history. From a small-town dreamer to guiding India's Aviation Authority in creating the nation's first trans pilot policy, Adam's journey transforms personal struggle into systemic change. His story proves that no rule, system, or stigma can ground a dream built on courage and conviction.

## IMPACT

CHIRAKU (Wing) is a powerful documentary that uplifts trans visibility and inspires systemic change. Chronicling Adam Harry's barrier-breaking journey across India, South Africa, and Australia, with support from the USA, it celebrates resilience and the power of dreams. Through theatrical and festival premieres, educational screenings, and a global digital release, the film drives conversations on inclusion, equity, and economic empowerment—mobilizing audiences and institutions toward a more inclusive world.







## MEDIA COVERAGE



DGCA opens doors for transgender pilots

[READ](#) ▶



Adam Harry: India transgender pilot's long fight to fly.

[READ](#) ▶



KK Shailaja helps Trans Man Pilot's Dream Take Wing

[READ](#) ▶



Transgender pilot blazes trail in India

[READ](#) ▶





**NGPA**

**The Worldwide LGBT  
Aviation Community**

“We would like to congratulate Adam on his recent selection by the National Gay Pilots Association (NGPA) to receive the Delta Advanced Flight Training Scholarship. Delta is committed to developing a diverse workforce that is reflective of the communities we serve domestically and around the world. We are constantly exploring opportunities, including our support of industry organizations like the NGPA, to remove unnecessary barriers and help create a broad spectrum of pathways for qualified and talented pilots to join us. We wish Adam the best of luck in his journey to become an airline pilot.”

**Benjamin P. Zhang**  
Corporate Communications: Media  
Relations and Brand Reputation





A photograph of two men standing in front of a large commercial airplane on a tarmac. The man on the left, Adam Harry, is wearing a white pilot's uniform with a black tie and a lanyard around his neck. He is giving two thumbs up. The man on the right, Neelu Bhuman, is wearing a red patterned shirt, a floral headband, and sunglasses, and is making a peace sign. The background shows the tail and wing of a white airplane with red and blue stripes under a clear blue sky.

## Adam Harry

PROTAGONIST

I feel this film must be made because trans men have very little visibility—even within the transgender community. Stories about us are rare, yet our lives deserve to be seen, understood, and felt as human.

This film shares my journey to become a pilot: the struggles, the generosity of strangers, and the dream that kept me going. If it inspires even one person to chase their dream or gives hope to young trans people around the world, I will know it has truly flown.

## Neelu Bhuman

DIRECTOR

From a young age, I learned that “don’t ask, don’t tell” was the policy for peace at home. That silence informed my storytelling, shaping a film practice that resists erasure with cinematic ambition, tenderness, and unapologetic heart.

As a transmasculine, queer, immigrant filmmaker of color, I’ve lived the contradictions I explore on screen — from gendered airport lines to love that defies borders. I cultivate cross-cultural, cross-identity teams where filmmaking becomes a space of care, learning, and transformation — proving that collaboration itself can be an act of resistance and hope.





## NEELU BHUMAN (he/him)

### Director-Producer

USA, UK

Neelu Bhuman is a bold, playful filmmaker whose tender, intersectional lens resists erasure by amplifying joy. His debut feature TRANSFINITE (2019) was nominated for Frameline’s Outstanding First Feature Award, premiered Opening Night at the San Francisco Transgender Film Festival, won the TranScreen Audience Award, and is distributed via Amazon Prime, OUTtv, and OTV. Supported by Sheffield DocFest, Firelight Media, BFI Doc Society, and the Netflix-backed Film Fund, Neelu has been twice nominated for Sundance’s Trans Possibilities Intensive and for IDA’s Logan Elevate. His films center on the “preferably unheard,” using contradiction, absurdity, and beauty to reveal emotional truth.



## FOWZIA FATHIMA (she/her)

### DP

INDIA

Fowzia Fathima is an award-winning cinematographer who co-founded the INDIAN WOMEN CINEMATOGRAPHERS COLLECTIVE (IWCC) during the Indian #MeToo movement. In addition to garnering the best cinematographer awards for many short films and Tamil feature films such as UYIR and IVAN, she has chaired many Film and Television juries.



## NEO PAULUS (they/she)

### DP

SOUTH AFRICA

Neo R Paulus is a Johannesburg based South African award-winning cinematographer, photographer, director and influencer. She is the director of a boutique film production company MONEO FILMS. Neo is known for hit telenovelas, reality shows, documentaries, drama series like: Women Now (2021), Timbita (2021) and Amalegends (2018).

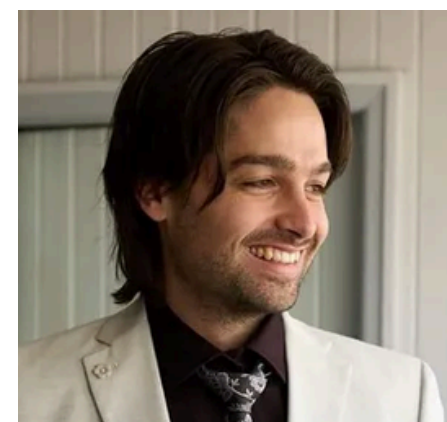


## REENA SHAH (she/her)

### Producer

USA

Reena Shah is a multidisciplinary producer, artist, and activist dedicated to storytelling that uplifts courage, inclusion, and social change. A PBS Independent Lens narrator, U.S. Cultural Ambassador, and internationally acclaimed performer, she brings deep cross-cultural insight and global networks to her producing practice. With experience spanning media, performance, and advocacy, Reena fosters powerful collaborations that bridge art and impact—making her uniquely poised to advance CHIRAKU (Wing) as a transformative film of visibility and hope.



## SHANE Van LITSENBORGH (he/him)

### DP

AUSTRALIA

Shane is an award-winning Director and Cinematographer. He loves shooting and colour grading films, commercials, music videos, and online content. As a WA Screen Academy alumnus, he has been nominated for Best Direction at the Australian Directors' Guild Awards. He enjoys the humanity of storytelling while engaging, and entertaining audiences.



## JILLIAN SCHLESINGER (she/they)

### Consulting Creative Producer

USA

Jillian Schlesinger is an award-winning independent producer and director of collaborative, character-driven documentaries. She co-directed and produced HUMMINGBIRDS (2024), winner of the Berlinale Generation Grand Prize and a New York Times Critic’s Pick, and directed MAIDENTRIP (2014), SXSW Audience Award winner. A Sundance Producers Fellow, she teaches and mentors emerging filmmakers at DCTV.



**BUDGET**

TOTAL \$632,671 USD  
RAISED \$120,000 USD  
  
GAP \$512,671 USD

**PROPOSED TIMELINE**  
(Pending Funds Raised)



POST-PRODUCTION  
SUMMER 2026



FINE CUT  
SUMMER 2027



WORLD PREMIERE  
2028







## Soar with Us: A First-Class Mission for Global Trans Visibility No Middle Seats Required!

### CAPTAIN \$316,000 USD

50% OR GREATER: PRESENTATION CREDIT

Applicable to a distributor, broadcaster, company or individual. Affords a static or animated company logo (if applicable) at the top of the film and up to four individual Executive Producer credits in the main titles, if requested.

### THIRD OFFICER \$47,450 USD

7.5% CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CREDIT

Affords a credit in the main titles or in the end credits, and affords a static company logo (if applicable) in the logo section of the end credits.

### FLIGHT CREW \$15,800 USD

2.5% CONTRIBUTING PRODUCER CREDIT

Affords a credit and a static company logo (if applicable) in the logo section of the end credits.

### GROUND CREW \$5000 USD - \$15,800 USD

Affords a name credit in the end credits.

### FIRST OFFICER \$127,000 USD

20% OR GREATER: IN ASSOCIATION WITH CREDIT

Affords a static or animated company logo (if applicable) at the top of the film and up to two individual Executive Producer credits in the main titles, if requested.

### SECOND OFFICER \$63,000 USD

10% OR GREATER: 1 EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CREDIT

Affords a credit in the main titles and a static company logo (if applicable) in the logo section of the end credits.

- Financiers who typically invest as a duo (e.g. a married couple or business partners) may be treated as a single entity.
- Additional individual Executive Producer credits can each be acquired for a supplemental 2.5% of the total budget.

Fiscal sponsor



tax-exempt & company matches accepted





## DIRECTOR'S MISSION

- To support Adam Harry in completing his commercial pilot training and becoming one of the world's first openly trans commercial pilots—breaking barriers in a historically exclusionary industry.
- To bring CHIRAKU to life as a visually bold, emotionally resonant film that amplifies trans resilience and serves as a global catalyst for visibility, healing, and possibility.

We're seeking committed partners who believe in the power of cinema itself—to help take the film to completion, support a theatrical, awards-caliber release, and steward its journey so the work can be seen and felt across borders.




# THANK YOU

Neelu Bhuman (he/him)  
Director & Producer

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[www.chirakufilm.com](http://www.chirakufilm.com)

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