

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE  
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## HANSAL MEHTA (1967 - )



### LIFE

Hansal Mehta was born into a middle-class Gujarati family in Bombay in 1967 or 1968 (the lack of a specific day or even month is somewhat unusual). He began his show-business career in television, when he directed a popular cookery show and later several drama series. His debut as a tv director came in 1999 with *Triumph (Jayate)* and his first feature film was released in 2000. He became a household name in Indian cinema with *Shahid* (2013), which was a bio-pic of Shahid Azmi, a Muslim human rights lawyer who was murdered in 2010. Continuing his interest in real-life dramas, he then directed *Aligarh* (2016), which told the story of a gay professor who was fired and later committed suicide (or was murdered). While his list of films may not be long, his impact on Indian cinema culture has been significant.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

Hansal Mehta won the Indian National Film Award for Best Director for *Shahid* (2013).

### FEATURE FILMS (as director)

*Don't Take it to Heart (Dil Pe Mat Le Yaar!!)* 2000  
*Ruse (Chhal)* 2002  
*What's Happening? (Yeh Kya Ho Raha Hai?)* 2002  
*Fearless (Anjaan)* 2005  
*Raak: A Poem Masked in Blood*, 2007  
*Woodstock Villa*, 2008  
*Shahid*, 2013  
*City Lights*, 2014  
*Aligarh*, 2016  
*Simran*, 2017  
*Omerta*, 2017