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‘Koshish hain sequel banane ki’

Director **Sujoy Ghosh**, who was in the city recently, talks to *After Hrs* about his next film and the making of *Kahaani*

Pallavi Kharade

People might not have been convinced with his film but director Sujoy Ghosh was very much confident about *Kahaani*. Now that the film has received both critical acclaim and box-office success, Sujoy had the last laugh. But the film's success hasn't affected the talented director who was at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) recently. He also interacted with the FTII students.

Sitting under the famous wisdom tree, the maverick director chatted candidly with *After Hrs* about his next film and the making of *Kahaani*.

Sujoy had recently tweeted that he will be making his next film *Badla* with Amitabh Bachchan and Vidya Balan. "Actually, people were troubling me a lot. I was sitting in London and I was getting loads of calls asking whether *Badla* is a sequel of *Kahaani*. Hence, I wanted to make it clear that it's not a sequel," says Sujoy. So there are no plans of making a sequel? "Koshish hain sequel banane ki. On the concept level, everything sounds exciting but one can't be sure till the script takes final shape. Making a sequel of *Kahaani* is tough. Peo-



Sujoy Ghosh

ple have given so much love to me and to the film that they now have too many expectations. If I do anything wrong, they will beat me up," says the director.

Though *Kahaani* became a blockbuster, not many are aware of the struggle Sujoy has to go through to get a producer considering that film didn't had a hero or songs, just

a fully dressed pregnant leading lady. "Getting money for the film was a little difficult. It was right on the part of producers as they need an assurance that the film will work. One looks for certain parameters within the film based on other successful films. One then thinks twice before giving the money. But I was fully convinced about the

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film," he says.

Sujoy's fascination with Kolkata is very much obvious in the film. "I am born and brought up in Kolkata. It is a city of contrasts where old is blended with the new. If you have come from London to Mumbai, it is progressive while Delhi is a political city but I can utilise Kolkata as I know the city and its culture and I could blend everything in meaningful manner," says Sujoy.

Is it true that Sujoy is now eyeing Bengali literature to make films? "I have grown up reading Bengali literature. But when I was growing up, the social scenario was different and now it has changed drastically over the years and so are the references. Now, I have to make films for my children, not for my mother. It would be difficult to make film on old literature. For instance, if I want to show a love story, I have to show physical love otherwise, it will be hard for me to convince today's audience. It's a huge change, you have to explain it to your audience otherwise make a period film."

After making a film like *Kahaani*, will the director ever make run of the Bollywood potboilers? "Yes, why not? Now I can afford to make different kinds of films."

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