

Johnny Sharma on way to Cannes, Berlin fests

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Vadodara: It took just two characters, a budget of Rs 600 and five minutes to take a short film by city youths to the Cannes and Berlin film festivals.

'Johnny Sharma', made by rookie filmmakers from the city, has won a contest organised by a satellite channel and is on its way to Cannes and Berlin. The movie pipped entries from filmmakers from across the country. Some of those who ate the humble pie are already working with Bollywood or the advertising industry.

The group, Foreshadow Pictures, made six films for a state-level short film festival 'Hot Shorts' held in the city in July. 'Johnny Sharma' was declared the best movie at the event. The movie was also selected for the contest organised by a movie channel and was among the 12 short-listed from 250 entries.

Paritosh Bhole, who directed the movie along with Deep Panjwani, said, "Johnny represents the pres-

Bharat Pathak



Short film *Johnny Sharma's* director duo Deep Panjwani (extreme left) and Paritosh Bhole (extreme right) with Santosh Rane, who plays the lead role in the movie

ent day youth who are in a rat race to succeed in things that may not be practically feasible. He is obsessed with the idea of becoming a successful filmmaker. In the process he fails in both filmmaking and practical aspects of life."

Panjwani said that he liked psychic characters. "We transformed it into this filmmaker in the movie.

He is obsessed, can get on your nerves and is still entertaining," he added.

The movie rotates around the ideas of a youth who ignores studies and daydreams of becoming a filmmaker like Steven Spielberg. Ignoring studies, Johnny Sharma makes a short film for a contest. He fails in his exams for the third consecutive time. Even his movie is not selected for the contest. This sends him into depression. Just when one would feel that he has given up, he springs back saying that a movie could not end that way. The narrative of the movie revolves around his take on filmmaking that is incorporated in the short film.

Panjwani and Bhole have just passed out of college. Other members of the team are Ravi Rajput, Vineet Kanojiya and Rahul Bhole. Santosh Rane, who plays the lead, said, "I definitely felt related to the character and his eccentricities. The movie only introduces him and is not necessarily his story."