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rajan khosa on...

DANCE OF THE WIND

My film explores the tradition of classical music being passed through generations, in this case from mother to daughter, a young woman called Pallavi. She is already a successful singer and her life comes to a sudden halt when her mother, her teacher, dies.

Almost every Indian has a guru tucked away somewhere and even in contemporary India oral traditions run parallel with formal education. I was brought up in the oral tradition where the teacher-pupil relationship is of utmost importance. My father was a painter, my grandfather also a painter and my great-grandfather a spiritual teacher. I am interested in tradition and what is happening in India. There you still learn to see the world through your teacher's eyes. Then the time comes when you have to fly the nest and find your own wings. It's a universal concern, not just an Indian one, but I think because of this guru "thing" it is harder in India – there are fewer alternatives than here.

I set the film in contemporary New Delhi, where I was brought up, and tried to cast it with "real" people. Kitu Gidwani (*right*), who plays Pallavi, acted in my short films as a teenager and went on to become a model and a TV star. Now she is probably India's best-known TV face but she's struggling to find her voice as an actress. Bhaveen Gosain, who plays her husband, is a musician and a painter. Dr Yatsyayan, who plays the mother, is a scholar, a former Secretary Of Culture who is now head of the Indira Gandhi Centre For The Arts. The old man who plays her guru, B.C. Sanyal, really is a guru, the father of Indian painting.

Dance Of The Wind opens Friday 24 July.

