

## **Dr. Nagesh - director's intentions**

*Dr Nagesh* is not, like many AIDS films, about the leaders of the fight against HIV. It gives a voice to people who cannot disclose their HIV status because of fear: the fear of losing their job, the fear of rejection by their neighbors and by their family.

Dr. Nagesh treats AIDS patients since 1992. His office struck us as a place where the camera could grasp the untold reality faced on a daily basis by million of persons infected by HIV worldwide. The emotional intensity of the patient/doctor relation and the stakes -- life and death --- leave no escape, the truth has to come out. The camera placed in the back of the patients, and facing the doctor, engages viewers within the privacy of the medical consultation while preserving anonymity.

This set up seamlessly addresses many issues: women rights in the Indian society, discrimination against persons living with HIV, AIDS and childhood, access to, and cost of anti-HIV drugs. The film was shot while, after more than a decade of therapeutic helplessness, Dr Nagesh could prescribe antivirals to 50 patients in critical condition, thanks to the generosity of a rich business man. This exceptional situation demonstrates that today lives can be saved with modest amounts of money --- rich countries have no excuse for not doing so.

*Dr Nagesh* is also a tribute to the work of a doctor we admire very much. "Our doctor", as his staffs call him, was among the very first to help AIDS patients in India. Twelve hours of work per days and the deaths of hundreds of his patients over the years did not erode his profound humanity.

Beyond AIDS, *Dr. Nagesh* develops through universal emotions that make human life: the fear of death, and the strength that solidarity and love provide in the midst of major difficulties one may face.