

# Saraswathi 'Vani' Balgam

## Dancing Atoms Studios

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### Saraswathi 'Vani' Balgam

Director - Creative Producer - Consultant

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### Skills

- Film making
- Visual Storytelling,
- Creative Direction
- Production
- Virtual production
- Setting up start up studios
- Leadership
- Creative Talent Management
- Excellent Communication Skills

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Highly-motivated narrative filmmaker with over 20 years of visual storytelling experience directing, filming, editing, and producing video content.

Directed & Written films that have won awards & screened at various film festivals.

Have an extensive experience in 2d animation , 3d animation , and virtual production that demonstrates originality in everything from documentary ,narrative, short films, live action ,animated feature film , series , virtual production, immersive technology etc. .

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### Experience

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#### Dancing Atoms Studios /Director - Producer - Writer

MAY 2015 - PRESENT, LOS ANGELES , CA

Currently pitching original preschools shows and Developing animated feature films . Collaborating with studios as a consultant.

Dancing Atoms are positioned to bridge the gap between Asian and North American storytellers and bring their content to the world. It focuses on powerful storytelling told through the authentic voices of a diverse team of creatives. [www.dancingatoms.com](http://www.dancingatoms.com)

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#### Unreal Fellowship - Virtual Production - Epic games / Mentor

FEB 2021 - Present , Los Angeles ,CA

Mentor for Epic Games - Unreal fellowship 4 ,5& 6. Creatively mentored the artists to polish their story and produced 40 short films using Unreal Engine.

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**Dreamworks Animation (Oriental Dreamworks ) / Head of Creative Management & Training**

OCT 2014 - JULY 2015, China , Shanghai

Creatively managed the Art and Storyboard departments at Oriental DreamWorks, the new joint venture for DreamWorks Animation in Shanghai, China.

Managed the creative development of Chinese artists, to train their storytelling and artistic design sensibilities to the highest caliber at ODW.

- Co-Managed the creative Chinese development team
- Developing and designing Chinese centric animated feature film concepts for the global market
- Designed creative strategies and managed the art and storyboard departments in Shanghai
- Partnering with the DreamWorks teams in Los Angeles to establish smooth communication
- Championed Chinese artists to tell their own stories with authentic voices
- Built a process driven appraisal system, for transparent performance reviews
- Promoted masterclasses within Oriental DreamWorks
- Implemented the training program for Chinese artists
- Managed outreach with the Top Universities and colleges in China.

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**Rhythm & Hues / Executive Director -Founder of Asia Studios**

MAY 2001 - MAY 2013, INDIA, MALAYSIA, TAIWAN,

Founded a startup, grew and managed four studios in India, Malaysia and Taiwan. These studios eventually grew to a total crew of 700+ employees, 40+ managers, and 80+ leads.

- Translated the core values of R&H into all studios, creating harmonious and collaborative teams
- In charge of all departments of the studios including Production, HR, Recruiting, Finance, Technology, and Artistic development.
- Aesthetically designed and managed the construction of the physical studios in order to maximize team building and ensure efficient work flow

- Responsible for integrating and managing LA talent alongside the Asian talent
- Established a talent development program which included, skill development, training, education and cross department training
- Supported and facilitated around 80 apprenticeship programs
- Worked closely with the Malaysian and Taiwanese government authorities to conduct government funded training programs
- Managed retention by promoting favorable work environment that reduced personnel turnover to less than 6% in all the locations
- Headed the studio's efforts in developing original content in India
- Creatively produced the original animated short film, "Fulwanti"

#### Roles and Responsibilities

Head of Studio, Studio Manager, Head of Operations, Corporate Officer, Founder, COO, Production Manager

#### Education

#### Qualifications

- Masters in People Management
- Bachelor in Economics

#### Accreditation

- President of Asifa India (community dedicated to the art of Animation) (June 2004 - Present )
- Advisor - Tau films (Jan 2013 - Present)
- Mentor - Unreal engine fellowship program (Feb 2021- Present)
- Mentor for Sony Talent League ( 2019- Present )
- Assisted Karen Dufilho in organizing Writing in Unreal Program conducted by Tribeca (Nov 2021)
- Jury - Siggraph Asia (Jan 2017 - Jan 2018)
- President for Animation In India ( July 2005- Oct 2013)
- Advisor - FMX Conference on Animation, Effects, Games and Immersive Media (Jan 2011- Jan 2013)

#### Awards

German Star of India Audience Award - [Sisya the disciple](#)

Issued by Indian Film Festival Stuttgart 2018 · Jun 2018

Best Foreign Language Short Film - [Bhauvra](#)

Issued by Southern States Indie Fan Film Fest · Jan 2018

Best Short Film - [Rinn](#)

Issued by Rishikesh International Film Festival · Jan 2018

Best International Short Film - [Baba](#)

Issued by Women's Only Entertainment Film Festival · Jan 2017

**And many more**