

Film "Village Rockstars" is India's Oscars entry



National award winning film by an Assamese filmmaker Rima Das named as "Village Rockstars" has made it as India's official entry for Oscars 2019 under the Foreign Language Film category.

Competing against Alia Bhatt's mega-hit Raazi, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's controversially-famed Padmavat, Ranvir Shorey starring Halka and Sohum Shah's upcoming venture Tumbbad, the novice Assamese film Village Rockstars has been selected as India's official Oscars 2019 entry under the Foreign Language Film category. The film was directed by Rima Das and portrays the story of Dhunu, a 10-year-old impoverished girl from a small Assamese village and here dream of playing the guitar, for which, she forms a band of her own.

The film was premiered at the Toronto Film Festival last year, is in the Kamrupi dialect and has bagged a number of awards like the Best Feature Film trophy at the 65th National Film Awards, Best Child Artist for Bhanita Das as Dhunu and well as Best Location Sound Recordist and Best Editing national awards. Besides these awards and honours, the film has toured more than 70 prestigious international and national film festivals. While Village Rockstar is getting ready to compete at the Oscars in 2019, the film-makers are planning for a country-wide release on September 28, 2018.

Although neither of last year's Oscars entry from India including Rajkummar Rao's Newton (last year), Court, Liar's Dice, Visaranai and The Good Road made it to the cut at final of the Oscars; and no Indian movie has made it to top five in the Oscars' Best Foreign Film category since Lagaan - but India has high hopes from the "Village Rockstar". Perhaps this unique regional film can break the jinx by breaking the record and winning the Oscar in 2019.