# Rima Das's Not a Hero Wins Best Indie Film at Melbourne

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AT News 15 August 2026 1353 views

**GUWAHATI, August 15, 2026 —** Assam filmmaker Rima Das's latest feature, *Not a Hero*, has won the **Best Indie Film Award** at the 2026 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM), adding another international honour to the film's growing festival journey.

The award came as *Not a Hero* made its Australian premiere at the 17th edition of the festival, which opened in Melbourne on August 13. The win is Das's second Best Indie Film honour at IFFM; she previously won the same award in 2019 for *Bulbul Can Sing*.

The Melbourne recognition follows the film's world premiere at the **76th Berlin International Film Festival** in February, where it was screened in the Generation Kplus section and received a **Special Mention from the Generation Youth Jury**.

*Not a Hero* was also among the IFFM nominees, with Das nominated for Best Director and lead actor Bhuman Bhargav Das nominated in the Best Performance (Male) category.

The film follows 11-year-old Mivan, who is sent from the city to live in his ancestral village. The unfamiliar rural world gradually changes him as he forms friendships and discovers a different sense of belonging. The festival describes the film as a coming-of-age story moving between city life and a rural Assamese village.

Written, directed and edited by Das, *Not a Hero* features Bhuman Bhargav Das, Sukanya Boruah and Mrinmoy Das. The film is an India-Singapore production.

The latest award continues Rima Das's long international journey with films rooted in Assam. Her earlier works, including *Village Rockstars*, *Bulbul Can Sing* and *Village Rockstars 2*, have travelled to major international festivals, helping bring stories from the region to a wider global audience.

For *Not a Hero*, the journey from Berlin to Melbourne has now brought another major recognition for independent filmmaking from Assam.

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