

CORONATION



by Zimran Jacob



• MAIN CHARACTER & STORY •

Coronation is the story of Rani, a 16th-century warrior queen chosen by the Goddess of War to conquer India for the good of her countrymen and women. She wants prosperity for her people to fulfill the legacy of her mother and father, the former Queen and King.

Her Arc: Princess Jasmine becomes Genghis Khan.

Rani's main rival is Emperor Humayun, the Mughal ruler who is bent on conquering Rani's kingdom for her trading routes. His army has been unstoppable and kills or enslaves everyone in its path.



• MAIN CHARACTER & STORY •

When Rani is approached by the Goddess of War, she learns that Humayun has access to a magical Tree of Power which grants his kingdom mystical help. Rani vows to destroy the Tree so it may never be used for destruction again.

All the while, Rani is aware that her husband, the former king, was murdered. She must find the killer or be susceptible to a similar attack. Her Queenship revolves around the interests of the few vs. the interests of the many. The feudal lords have their interests that must be balanced with the interests of the people as a whole.



• OVERVIEW •

Just as Homer wrote the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* for Greece and Tolkien wrote *Lord of the Rings* as a mythology for England, *Coronation* is mythology for the Indian-American that is unapologetically Indian and feminist.

Why this story? Author Joseph Campbell said that “setting stories in the past illuminates the present.” The issues the ancient Kings and Queens faced are the issues that our modern Presidents and Prime Ministers face. By portraying old history resembling the present moment, the story poses the question: can a good leader trump a bad system?



• THE WORLD •

The story is told in medieval India with a mythological twist. There are swords and sandals, but also gods and demons fighting alongside human beings.

We see the story unfold through the eyes of 16th-century Indian nobility and warriors: the top of an intricate social hierarchy.



• T O N E •

The show feels dark, mysterious and cerebral. Instead of “good conquers evil,” the dominating theme is, “evil consumes good.”

It is a murder mystery that presents serious dilemmas.

It is a political drama that poses large questions about humanity.

It has edge; gut-wrenching, and devastating.

It is epic.

• CHARACTERS •

Emperor Humayun

Humayun is Rani's rival and the leader of the powerful Mughal Empire. His goal is to conquer India and Rani is in his way.

He wants to keep his brothers happy in his conquest, but they keep plotting against him nomatter how much he appeases them.





• CHARACTERS •

Inanna

Inanna is the Goddess of War. Her goal is to purge the world of evil.

She has chosen Rani to be her ally as she tries to rid the earth of demons who have allied with the Mughals.

While Inanna's strategies are more violent than the merciful Rani, Inanna goes from trusting of Rani's character to skeptical as Rani delves into anti-heroism.



• CHARACTERS •

Uma

Uma is Rani's mother and mentor. She was a Queen before Rani took the throne, and her assistance to Rani is motivated by her desire to further her legacy.

While Rani trusts her, Uma teaches Rani that she must make difficult decisions that go against Rani's morals.

Uma knows a secret that will haunt Rani and force Rani into an impossible decision.



• CHARACTERS •

Mahi

Mahi is a demon set on world conquest. He sees Rani as a dangerous roadblock in his mission.

He was summoned by the Mughals and has allied with them in their expansion. Mahi comes from the underclass of demon society and his conquest is his chance at unbridled power.



SEASON 1

The Battle of the Haldighati Pass

As Rani investigates the murder of her husband, she gains new allies in her war with the Mughal Empire. She creates an alliance with the Vijayanagara Empire and brings one of their princes into her army, a move designed to protect her kingdom. The alliance backfires because it sows dissent within her own ranks. Rani builds an army of lady warriors to help fight Mahi.

Rani Builds Her Infrastructure and Her Army

While Rani has survived the first onslaught, she knows her survival will be short-lived if she does not expand her kingdom. She begins a campaign to rebuild her country's trade of tea, spices, indigo dye, ships, textiles, and war horses. In order to do so, she must get the people in her kingdom on board with embracing, as workers, the untouchables: the lowest caste in Indian society. She uses her trade to bolster her army with cannons, mercenaries, and other tools of war.



SEASON 2



SEASON 3

Rise of Sher Shah, a New Enemy for Rani

Rani's attack on the Mughals has deposed Humayun, but now Sher Shah and his dangerous, nomadic army have taken Agra. Sher Shah puts a bounty on Humayun's head to prevent any overthrow. Paradoxically, when the assassination attempt fails, Humayun realizes that he must take back his kingdom if he is going to have any semblance of safety in his life.

Rani Defeats Sher Shah

Rani learns Uma's dark secret, yet refuses to kill her own mother. Rani has Uma carry out secret missions. She starts to get Uma to do the dirty jobs that she does not want to be known for. Uma tries to warn Rani against these missions, but it is to no avail. Rani begins a campaign of sabotage of Sher Shah's trade and steals his war elephants to use against him. Humayun begins reconquering his land.



SEASON 4



SEASON 5

Rani's War Tactics Turn Ugly, Civil War Erupts

Through Uma, Rani begins to wage war on Zamindars (Mughal tax collectors) which is seen as an attack on civilians. When people find out, Rani scapegoats her mother. Inside Rani's kingdom, Tarun allies with religious leaders to begin a civil war against Rani for control of the kingdom.

Rani Controls the Tree of Power

Rani has defeated Humayun and taken the remains of the Tree of Power. Now, Humayun is hell-bent on recovering the remains in Rani's kingdom. Rani has built her empire but now is corrupt. She now believes that her conquests were purging of the sins of the conquered and that she was "the punishment of God." She has betrayed her mother and her son is now fighting age, and she goes on to betray him as well. She sends her troops on suicide missions to provoke other kingdoms.



SEASON 6



• EPISODE IDEAS •

1. Rani meets an ally from the Vijayanagara Empire.
2. Rani goes into battle for the first time.
3. The protest by soldiers and the freeing of Narendra.
4. Mahi/Inanna origin story episode.
5. Rani finds a red herring clue in her search for Dalpat's killer.
6. Humayun gets confronted by his father about his affair.
7. Humayun's lover is killed.
8. Rani uses a stealth attack on the Mughals. Her soldiers voyage to Mughal markets dressed as civilians, then attack once on the inside.
9. The voyage into the Haldighati Pass to recruit the fire god, Kojin as Mahi and the Mughals try to kill Kojin. Rani saves Kojin in her effort to recruit him for her mission.

• HOW WE SHOOT IT •

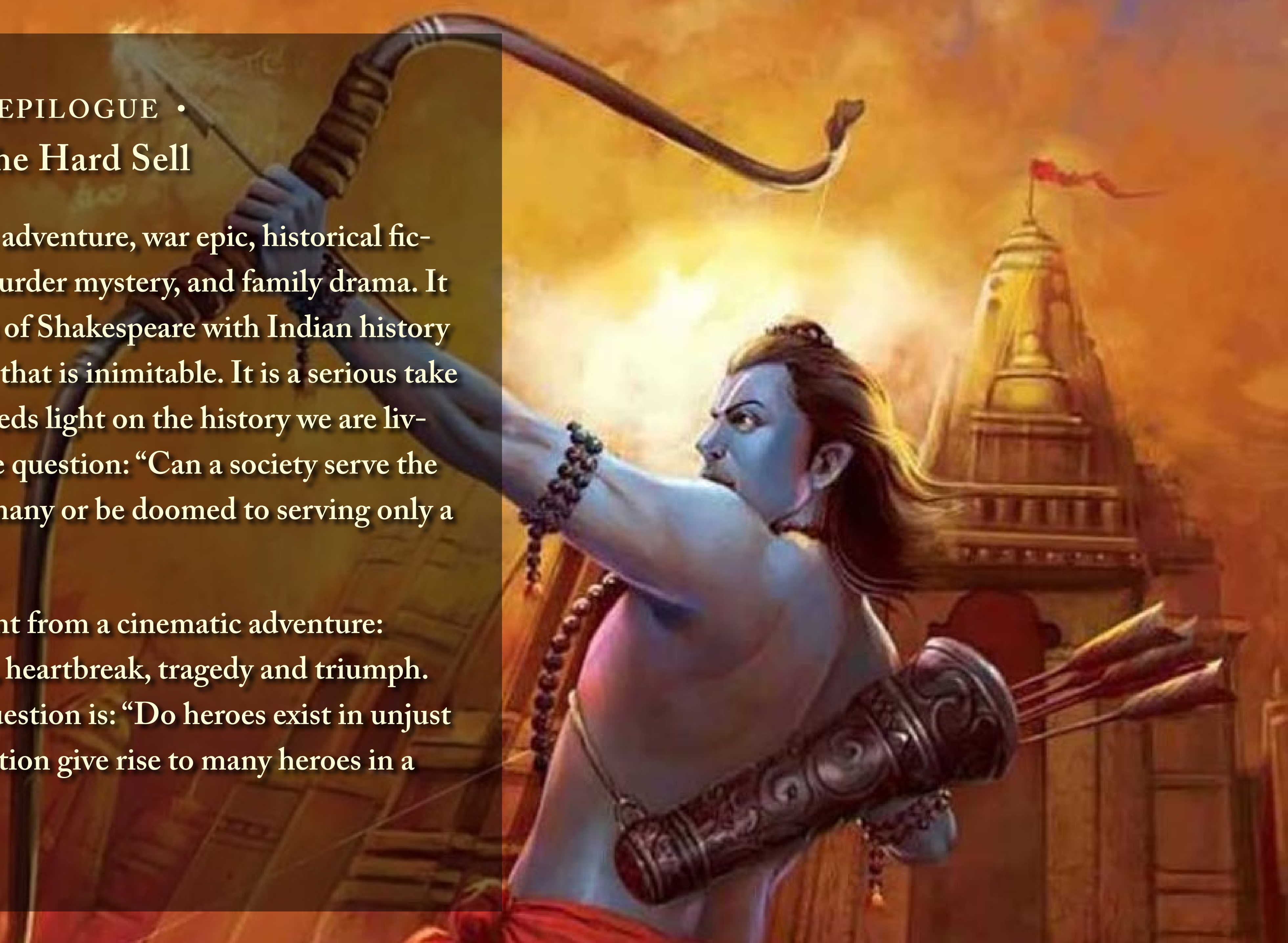
Making this show requires sets, special effects, and costume design. One of the most interesting options is to shoot using LED walls as they did in *The Mandalorian*.



• EPILOGUE •
The Hard Sell

Coronation is an adventure, war epic, historical fiction, fantasy, murder mystery, and family drama. It mixes elements of Shakespeare with Indian history and mythology in a way that is inimitable. It is a serious take on world history that sheds light on the history we are living through. It poses the question: “Can a society serve the greater interests of the many or be doomed to serving only a selected few?”

It has everything we want from a cinematic adventure: romance, thrills, laughs, heartbreak, tragedy and triumph. Coronation’s greatest question is: “Do heroes exist in unjust systems?” May this question give rise to many heroes in a just world.



Thank you for your time and consideration!

Let's build our kingdom.

REVIEW