

# SUNNY TRIPATHY

My life. So far.

# INTRODUCTION

- My name is SUNNY TRIPATHY and I am 25 years old.
- I work for... myself. But I have employers, one of them being 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox.
  - I work as a:
    - Screenwriter, Director and Producer.
- Sometimes it's scary. Sometimes it's exciting. But I'm enjoying every second of it.



# MY CHILDHOOD

- TORONTO, CANADA → SAN FRANCISCO → LOS ANGELES



Apparently my parents thought it would be helpful for my career if there were lots of pictures of me naked.

I LOVED CAKE. In fact I ate so much of it, I got fat. Really fat.



# I STILL LOVE CAKE





# ESPECIALLY PANCAKES





# MY FAMILY

- My family, is well, kinda crazy. But I love them. More than anything.





# MY HIGH SCHOOL

- I went to Foothill High School in Pleasanton, California.



I wasn't bullied as much as I was in Middle School, but I still got teased. I got extremely skinny, avoided social circles, and hung out with only other supernerds like myself.

And then I tried to become cool by acting ghetto. And no one bought that either.

# HIGH SCHOOL

- At least I studied really hard. I was always interested in film and video productions the most but I did every AP class I could think of to try to keep my parents happy and to get into a good college.

.....

- I was in the top 5% of my class and teachers loved me for my studiousness. Part of the help came from keeping a really smart group of friends who were always better than me. This kept me motivated to want to do better each and every day.

- I was really bad at sports.
  - I STILL AM.
    - I was good at dance, and so I used to do dance.
    - I also led an Indian dance team at school and people fell in love with the idea of Indian Bollywood dances and a form of dance called "Bhangra"



# THE CURVE BALL

- Junior Prom
  - I was attacked by Neo-Nazi gang-members while on route to pick up my tux.
  - I was hospitalized on and off for months, ending up with a shattered clavicle, compressed disc, broken arm, broken nose, multiple fractures, and numerous other injuries.





# HOW THAT CHANGED ME

# GETTING INTO COLLEGE

- The top few things I did to ensure I got into college were:
  - Make sure I had a good GPA
  - That I studied endlessly and did really well on my SATS and SAT 2's. (Those still exist, right?)
  - Had a bunch of extracurricular activities
  - Volunteered
  - Wrote amazing essays!

# COLLEGE

UCLA



# COLLEGE

What I did in College outside of classes





# STRUGGLED TO FIND ANY JOB OUT OF SCHOOL

- Wanted to be a writer / filmmaker but had no idea how to break into the industry.
- Worked as a tutor, model, assistant, and almost any job while waiting to try to find an agent.
- Started to run out of money
- Made a webseries as a final attempt to do something, and it starred my own family.



# KEEPING UP WITH THE GUPTAS



YouTube

Keeping Up with the Guptas - Vishnumas

SunnyTfilms · 28 videos

60,079

Subscribe 660

1:23 / 8:48

A screenshot of a YouTube video player. The video shows a woman with long dark hair, wearing a black jacket, sitting on a bed with a colorful quilted blanket. The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar showing 1:23 / 8:48, and a search bar at the top. Below the video, the title 'Keeping Up with the Guptas - Vishnumas' is displayed, along with the channel name 'SunnyTfilms' and '28 videos'. There is a 'Subscribe' button with '660' subscribers and a view count of '60,079'.

# AND THE SERIES BECAME FAMOUS

## THE WEBSERIES

'Keeping Up with the Guptas' premieres in Beverly Hills tonight

BY GINN WOLFMANN  
Armed with an idea, a video camera and a little help from his family, a recent Football High School grad is ready to make his mark in Hollywood.

Sunny Tripathy didn't exactly open his YouTube video to go viral, much less receive a spot for a TV show. He said the whole thing began on a trip home from UCLA for winter break when he got the idea to make a video about his family.

"I have a very funny and comical family. I was thinking it would be kind of funny, some of the things that went on back home," he explained.

"When I got home, I told my family about the idea. At first they were hesitant, because they're a very traditional family. My dad's an engineer, my mom's a teacher—regimen, I was able to persuade them."

Tripathy, which majoring in economics with a minor in film, posted his short video about his family on the internet, without expecting much to come of it. "We filmed it and we put it on YouTube and just shared it with friends and family," he said. "We just thought it would be some kind of an in-joke." Before too long, though, the video "Keeping Up with the Guptas" had been viewed 30,000 times. There was fan mail and even website with responses.

"It took us by surprise. There were celebrity tweets about it, it was in the newspaper," Tripathy said. "I had a friend at NBC—the one I said, 'You guys have some potential there. It's actually a serious show that could go somewhere.'"



"Keeping Up With the Guptas is simply a perfect combination of comedy and family love."  
- MISS USA, RIMA FAKIH

"Finally! A funny show about South Asians that doesn't rely on quirky accents, spicy curry and exotic facades"

- DR. GYANAM MAHAJAN  
(CHAIR, UCLA)



### "THE DAILY BRUN"

Vice President of Legal Affairs at Sony Pictures Entertainment's Worldwide Acquisitions and UCLA alumna David Desser also met Tripathy through UCLA's Entertainment Networking Night. Although Desser does not speak on behalf of Sony Pictures, he said that he personally found Tripathy dynamic and engaging and agreed that Tripathy has promise.

"He has so much energy and so many good creative ideas coming out of him, that it's only a matter of time before a lot of them pop," Desser said.

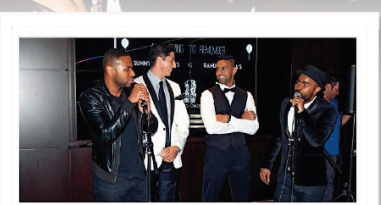


"True Blood" star Bailey Noble attends the "Keeping Up With the Guptas" webseries premiere with friends.  
- GSA Daily



"This Friday's screening and event takes the YouTube phenomenon beyond its Internet fame."

- DAILY BRUN



HOW AUTHENTICITY ATTRACTS MORE SUCCESS: A CELEBRATORY NIGHT WITH RAHUL SHARMA & SUNNY TRIPATHY

November 20, 2014 | by DoozyFab | in Bollywood

"An extremely kind and passionate guy who oozes his love of filmmaking the minute you spark a conversation with him... This hilarious, well-written and relatable series is an amazing pioneer in the future of television."

- DOOZY FAB





# AND THEN THIS HAPPENED

## Training lacks at UCLA

Information an assault received from filing a Title IX complaint. Title IX, part of the Education Amendments of 1972, is a law that requires federally funded schools to report all incidents of sexual assault.

UCLA's sexual harassment training means only the bare minimum. As California requires, UCLA faculty and staff undergo such trainings every two years. But as a university where numerous students have expressed concern about sexual assault, UCLA should strive for more than just the minimum.

Currently, all faculty are given a "red folder" that has information on how to handle a student asking for help. The university is interested in providing training to UCLA's Counseling and Psychological Services or campus Assault, Resources and Education to receive professional guidance, said UCLA Vice Chancellor of Legal Affairs

## UCLA alum comes with trigger warnings

Without giving students prior warning has the potential to detract from their learning.

Students unexpectedly come across trauma-inducing material the rest of the class or even focus on the class completely. In the case of this student, it's to suffer, said Savannah

Opponents of trigger warnings argue that the warnings detract from the experience that comes from addressing the issues that trigger warnings or other students is uncomfortable or controversial material to avoid addressing issues, and professors

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## Alumnus makes deal with 20th Century Fox

The prolific creator of 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' is working on a pilot for possible series

BY SAVANNAH TATE  
A&E contributor  
savannah.tate@ucla.edu

UCLA alum Sunny Tripathy has entered a general licensing deal with 20th Century Fox for his own TV development deal. Tripathy and 20th Century Fox agreed that he would produce a comedy series based on his personal and family experiences. Although the show's title and details are still confidential, Tripathy is already working on the pilot script. The show's premise is to go in along just to see if they have any other level of writing positions on different shows. Tripathy said, "And through discussion of my family and some of the stories that I've shared about my family, they wanted to do a TV show."



UCLA alum Sunny Tripathy recently reached a television deal with 20th Century Fox. While most of the show's details are undisclosed, Tripathy's series will be based on his personal and family experiences. The show pairs a common thread with 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians'.

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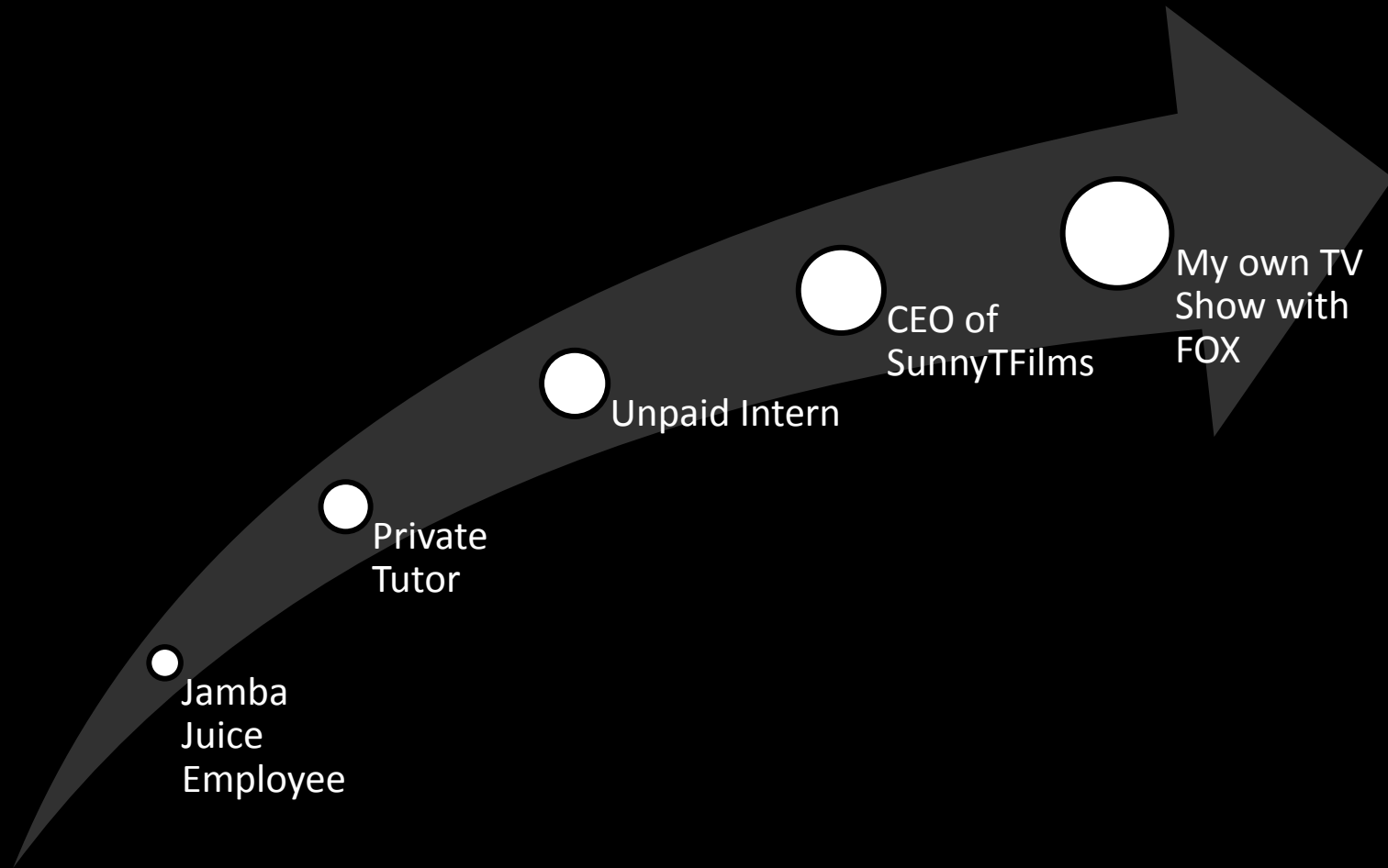


# I GOT TO MEET MY HEROES

People I imagined I would never even get to see in real life. Yet alone be able to call a friend.



# MY CAREER PATH



# MY CAREER

- The worst job I have ever had was:
  - None of them. I have no regrets.
    - I learned from all of them. Some of them included:
      - Jamba Juice
        - (where my mom used my job to sneak away free smoothies for everyone we knew)
      - Souplantation
      - California Mortgage Group
      - Unpaid Internships with insane hours
      - Assistant
      - Tutor
      - Model
      - Writer
      - CEO

# ADVERSITY

- Challenges I have had to overcome throughout my career are:
  - Racism
  - Sexism
  - Age-Discrimination
  - Prejudice
  - Impossible Odds
  - Relationships and Trust
  - Health Issues
  - Years of Unemployment and Poverty
  - Fear of the Unknown (which still exists today)

**THE LAST FIVE YEARS HAVE  
BEEN BY FAR, THE MOST  
IMPORTANT THUS FAR.**

So what kind of things do I do?  
What does my day look like?  
Well sometime's a bit like this...

VIDEO

<https://vimeo.com/visceralpr/reel>

Password: reonly

# DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN?

- Yes.
  - Every benchmark has been crucial to getting me to where I am today.
  - And more than any of the successes, it was actually the FAILURES that have got me here today.
    - The things I've learned from every time I was knocked down were the most important part of this journey.



# ANY QUESTIONS?

