



motiroti

www.360degrees.tv

60x60 Secs

Artist Info & Film Synopsis - Britain

Said Adrus

Homebound

Synopsis

Having journeyed from a village in Gujrat to Kenya and then to Switzerland, where she settled since the early 1970s, the artist's mother, now in her eighties, hard of hearing and loosing sight, watches films and soaps on a satellite Indian TV.

Biography

Said Adrus studied Visual Arts in Nottingham and London. He has been working as an artist and tutor for over 15 years, making videos, photos and installations. His most recent exhibition was held at The Lightbox gallery and museum in Woking, Surrey (March 2008).

Said works and lives between Bern, Switzerland and London, UK. Issues of Migration and Diaspora form a strong element in his research and Installations. His major Installation *Pavilion Recaptured* deals with the Muslim Burial Ground and the contributions made by Indian Soldiers in the British Army.

Films from the *Pavilion* project have been shown at Tate Britain, Nottingham Trent University and Southampton City Art Gallery & Museum over the last 2 years.

Khaldoon Ahmed

The Repentance of Nasuh

Synopsis

The 19th century Urdu language of the novelist Nazir Ahmed is resurrected on the streets of London. The novel *Taubat ul Nasuh* is narrated by Tassawur Ali Khan, a rare descendant of an urban North Indian Islamic culture that no longer exists. The film evokes multiple layers of dislocation - of language, meaning, place, and time.

Biography

Khaldoon is a filmmaker born in 1976 to Pakistani parents. His work concentrates on documentary as a visual art. He studied Medicine and Anthropology at University College London and went on to train in filmmaking at the London Film Academy. His film *Kebab* (5 minutes, 16mm) premiered at the Berlinale and was broadcast on Channel 4.

www.khaldoonfilms.co.uk

Nirmal Singh Dhiman

Destination/Direction

Synopsis

Depicting the artist's return to his homeland, India, after fifteen years, the film explores his reactions to the many changes that have taken place. The journey enables the birth of renewed perspectives, encouraging a fresh understanding of heritage, language and self-identity.

Biography

Nirmal is a UK based visual artist, illustrator and designer, who makes intimate, colourful and multi-faceted narrative drawings and paintings. He uses gouache, inks, collage, Letraset, found elements and verse or prose, as well as computers, photographs and video, within his works.

In 1996 an unused diary from 1969 inspired Nirmal to produce daily drawings about his everyday experiences. This evolved into an artistic book project that he has continued to work on ever since. These diaries have been presented on BBC television, radio and on various websites. Currently the visual diary project has over eleven years worth of drawings with approximately 4,000 entries.

Monika Dutta

My Indian Stain

Synopsis

An animation collaged from imagery and ephemera, multi textured and multi contextual, interrogating collective perceptions and preconceptions by reconfiguring relationships through symbol and metaphor.

Biography

Monika was born in South London in 1967 to a German mother and an Indian father. Following a degree in Sculpture at the Winchester School of Art, she undertook postgraduate studies in lens based media at the Slade School and has since worked as an independent artist and filmmaker.

Monika has exhibited widely on an international scale and worked collaboratively to deliver works that interrogate the role and impact of 'new media' practice. Her short film *6 goats* won the Depict award at the Bristol Brief Encounters International Short Film Festival in 2004. Following this success she undertook her first live audiovisual performance at the 404 International Festival of Electronic Arts in Rosario, Argentina. She now writes her own custom software and continues to present her unique brand of live animation and film performance at events including Bradford's 12squared festival, the 404 festival on tour in Trieste and M.A.D Art Making a Difference at London's Truman Brewery.

Sheila Ghelani

My Compass Rose

Synopsis

Staged for the camera. Roses are arranged and then rearranged. A pre-prepared gash in the flesh is dusted with flour. A series of totemic objects and text are inserted and revealed from beneath the skin. Filmed from one fixed viewpoint, close-up, with the soundscape of a heart monitor.

Biography

Sheila originally trained in contemporary dance, and worked as a choreographer, dancer and teacher for several years before making the crossover into live art/performance.

Her solo practice addresses ideas that stem from notions of mixing and 'being mixed'. Informed by her own experience of being mixed heritage, she is interested in hybridity, crossings, blood, skins, skinning, carefully controlled experiments, well-oiled machinery, colour, genetics and love.

Sheila also works collaboratively and is a longstanding member of Pacitti Company and a Blast Theory Associate artist. She has toured and performed nationally and internationally for both companies and regularly leads artists' workshops for Pacitti Company in the UK, and abroad. She also teaches in Academic contexts.

Seema Gill

60 Years in 60 Seconds

Synopsis

From a shy village girl to an independent woman riding her bike to emancipation, this film depicts the life of an Indian Punjabi Sikh woman, artist, poet, and writer.

Biography

Seema Gill left India in 1973 to live in Denmark where she became an over glaze painter, a social worker fighting for the rights of immigrants and also founded a magazine, Soldue. She then spent several years travelling through Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda working as journalist, art workshop leader and filmmaker. In 1992, she was commissioned to produce a film on women and the environment in Tanzania titled *KUNI*. Since then, she has lived in England where she has become an award winning poet and international performer of poetry, editor of Artpadd magazine and co-producer of the Paddington International Poetry Festival.

She now lives in Derbyshire where she has produced 30 murals working interactively with children and had held several exhibitions of paintings. Seema calls herself an 'international gypsy', a midnight child born at the time of the partition of India and Pakistan and all her life she has opposed racial conflicts. Her experiences have resulted in a search for peace and harmony, which has assisted her metamorphosis into a poet, writer, artist, photographer and video filmmaker.

Harjinder Grewal

Portrait of a Ghetto

Synopsis

Seen through the eyes of an immigrant girl, the film is an intimate portrayal of *Southall*, a London suburb known for its Asian communities. Fusing black and white photography with an urban soundscape, a different narrative and aesthetic approach is explored to give a new perspective.

Biography

After graduating in Film and Broadcast in 2003, Harjinder began directing and producing his own short films and documentaries. In 2006 he was commissioned by Film London and Ealing council to make a film within an immigrant community for which he wrote and directed *Thoughts of Yesterday, Feelings of Today*. Since then his films have been screened internationally and recently he completed *Meditations on Maria*, a short film set in the Canary Islands. In 2008 he established his own production company Respiro Films Ltd, producing short films, music videos and documentaries alongside commercial projects for councils and organisations. Harjinder is now writing his first feature film.

Seemab Gul

Pass Port

Synopsis

She dares to dream of change and does whatever it takes for it to happen, even if it means forging legal documentation. Knowing that this journey to the 'West' may change her life forever, she feels anxious, as she reaches the port of her final destination.

Biography

As an Asian artist based in London, Seemab's identity and the notion of displacement inform her work. After graduating from the Surrey Institute of Art & Design, she has curated and exhibited in London, Paris and Finland.

Her video works occupy a space between everyday and cinematic vision, exploring a point where different cultures intersect. Her works reveal an incendiary subtext, whether they are questioning power relationships or testing the role of women within a patriarchal society.

Seemab believes that Art reflects the journey to understand one's own relationship to life, as well as being a utilitarian record of the moment, reflecting culture, politics and means of communication.

As a multi-media artist, her practice spans installation, sculpture, moving image and documentary.

Shobna Gulati

Akshay

Synopsis

In Sanskrit *Akshay* means 'to aim towards'. This film looks through the eyes of a 13-year-old boy at the changing iconic, rural, industrial and urban landscapes of England in 2008. He turns 360 degrees in the exploration of his own identity and heritage, aiming towards a discovery of his personal truth.

Biography

Shobna is an actor, writer, dancer and choreographer. She is committed to lifelong learning as part of her everyday experiences. She continues to generate fresh ideas, creativity and to consolidate the last 21 years of performance. She has worked extensively in theatre, dance, on television and on film. It is in the spirit of this, the 360° commission, and her film *Akshay*, that she has been able to begin a new journey 'behind the camera' and to renew and work on established collaborations with motiroti and with Disruptive Element films.

Shahnaz Gulzar

Relative

Synopsis

An autobiographical film exploring connections of the past with the evolving self, using 'costumes of ethnicity'. The individual remains the same but the cultural landscape changes to a soundtrack created by Inder Goldfinger.

Biography

Shanaz works in theatre and digital media. In 1996, she joined Chol Theatre, an arts and performance company that produces community/professional theatre, video and art projects. Until recently she was Chol's Associate Director. Shanaz has directed a short film with young refugee children, *The Bag, the Book and the Chocolate Mountain*. In February 2004, she visited Pakistan and produced a short film entitled *Bokata* about the Lahore Spring Kite Festival. Her video installation, *Face2Face* opened at Cartwright Hall, Bradford in March 2005, and she produced a new video commission entitled *I*, which was projected onto the face of Bradford Library to launch the Yorkshire Urban Cities Program.

Shanaz's current projects include: *White Washed* - a Big Screen Commission for BBC Bradford explores and creates a living portrait of Bradford. The project comprises two components: a filmed series of portrait videos which have been 'ethnically cleansed' - de-saturated of all colours so that the faces are colourless - and an interactive component that will be introduced through a live feed from Centenary Square and superimposed upon video; and *Zenab's*, a two-hander based on the life of her family and the decline of the Asian corner shop.

Sanchita Islam

On the Moon

Synopsis

A character journeys through London, Bangladesh, Cuba, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and New York ending up at her final destination on the moon.

Biography

Sanchita Islam is an artist, writer and filmmaker. She completed her BSc (Econ) and MSc (Econ) at the London School of Economics before embarking on a Channel 4 sponsored MA at the Northern Media School in Directing and Screenwriting, and a BA in the Practice and Theory of Visual Art at Chelsea School of Art and Design. She has exhibited and screened her films in London, New York, Paris, Bangladesh, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Rome and Frankfurt. Sanchita has produced fifteen films to date including shorts and one-hour films. She recently signed with the publishers Chipmunka Press. The Arts Council, BBC, motiroti and British Council have funded her films and five books. These include *From Briarwood to Barishal to Brick Lane*, *Old Meets Young*, *Hidden*, *Connecting Kids* and *Avenues*. Sanchita's company, Pigment Explosion, recently branched out into book publication producing its first publication *The Cloud Catcher*. Sanchita has been running Pigment Explosion, an organisation specialising in international art projects, for the last nine years. She lives and works in London and Brussels.

Simon Kallow

Dawn

Synopsis

Set alongside a mix of dreamlike sounds: some from the Punjab, some from London, *Dawn* features the filmmaker's three year old daughter as she wakes. The film shows the child struggling to gain consciousness, which is used as metaphor to reflect on how and when cultural identity is formed.

Biography

Simon Kallow was born in Leicester in 1978 where he lived until moving to Cardiff to study Fine Art. He now lives and works in London. His mixed parentage influences his artwork, which seeks to construct sacred and secular representations and questions how identity relates to imagery - his father, born a Sikh in the Punjab who converted to Christianity, and his mother, from a rural farming community in Leicestershire.

In a departure from his usual work of painting, for 360° Simon's film *Dawn*, explores the meaning of these themes for future generations. His work has been included in a number of exhibitions in the UK and for the past eight years Simon has been engaged in community work, in particular homelessness.

Rizwan Mirza

Musafir (Traveller)

Synopsis

Heading to an unknown destination, an old man looks out of the window of a moving train and retraces the deep lines mapped out on his weathered hands. He recalls fragmented memories, reminiscing and reflecting on the longer journey he has made from his childhood to the present.

Biography

Rizwan Mirza was originally introduced to image making as a documentary photographer. His personal work whether within book form, on the gallery wall or on film, is underpinned and informed by his interest the socio-political. His work often draws on human perceptions of 'boundaries', whether physical or imagined, man-made or natural, separating distinctly differing forces.

Since graduating from the MA in Screen Documentary at Goldsmiths College, London, in 2004, he has been involved with documentary film and personal projects. He has also edited and published a photography/literature book *Poetry Seen*, of portraits and the work of contemporary Liverpool poets. His work has been widely exhibited in the UK and abroad.

www.rizwanmirza.com

Rummana Naqvi

Bulbul

Synopsis

Capturing the beauty of the everyday, *Bulbul* explores themes of longing and belonging, transporting the viewer from the ordinary to the extraordinary through the juxtaposition of sounds and images. In a blink, our imagination is left to make assumptions between what we see and what we hear, thereby conveying what is lost in translation and also what is simply untranslatable.

Biography

Rummana Naqvi was born in Karachi, Pakistan in 1979 and moved to London with her family aged two. She is completing a BA in Fine Art at Central Saint Martins, having obtained a BSc in Mathematics and Business Studies from Queen Mary and Westfield College in 2000.

Working primarily with film, video and installation, her work explores issues of cultural longing and belonging through the beauty of the everyday. Previous exhibitions include *There's Something I've Been Meaning to Tell You*, Space Station 65 (2006), and *Precocious Lands*, Waterloo Gallery (2007).

Rummana currently works part time at The Photographers' Gallery in London.

Hetai Patel

1 Minute Study of 10 Beats

Synopsis

The rhythms usually performed by hands on the tabla drums, are translated into full body movements as the torso is marked with *Kanku* (the red pigment traditionally used in Hindu ceremonies to mark a dot on the forehead). The chanting and clapping form part of an ancient percussive language, which in this instance, shapes the 10 beats called *Jhaptal*.

Biography

In 2004, having graduated just a year earlier, Hetai Patel received the decibel award from Arts Council England, East Midlands. Since then, his photography, video and live works have been exhibited nationally and internationally.

Hetai's work examines various sensory forms of language, communication and cultural identity. Often using his own body as a site for these discussions, he strives to find a connection with his heritage through the exploration of physics, rituals and Indian classical music. Employing techniques ranging from fashion photography to tabla drumming, he is interested in processes. This he believes is often where work becomes less culture specific and more about the general communication between bodies.

Having just completed a two-year residency at Lakeside Arts Centre Nottingham, and continuing to tour his Sine Language exhibition nationally with beatboxer Jason Singh, Hetai is currently working on a number of new collaborations with dancers, musicians and electrical engineers.

Rajyashree Ramamurthi

Guide

Synopsis

This 60-second film tells the story of Rekha Ramamurthi, a woman living and working as a tourist guide in Kolkata, India. Rekha guides us through the unique, multi-faceted city that is Kolkata, talking passionately about her womanhood, her profession and her city.

Biography

Rajyashree Ramamurthi trained as an Odissi dancer in India and then subsequently obtained a first Class degree in Dance and Visual Art and also a Masters degree in Design from the University of Brighton, UK. Her work spans Screen Dance, Installation Art and site-specific performance. She has been making screen dance works since 2003. Many of her works such as *Kathak In A Pool Of Light* and *The Incomplete Autobiography* have been screened worldwide in international film and dance film festivals. In 2007, *More Stories*, shot on location in Kolkata, India, was screened at the Moves International Festival of Dance and Film and was a part of South East Dance's curation within the Cine City Festival, Brighton. This year it is to be screened at the Reeldance Festival in Australia and New Zealand. She has been based in Brighton for the last nine years.

Daniel Saul

National lottery

Synopsis

Sitting alone in the night as a watchman, Henry Kelly (the artist's cousin) is angry and sad about a lot of things – his dream of being in England came true as he was finally given permission to settle, but London was a shock and not the dream he cherished... he now hopes to win the lottery one day to go back to Calcutta.

Biography

Daniel is a painter turned filmmaker, directing and producing unusual hybrid films for television, cinemas, galleries and festivals nationally and internationally. At the core of his practice is a devotion to storytelling, portraiture through personal biographies and a fascination with the ever-shifting complexity of cultural dynamics.

Recent projects have included a commission for the ACE/Channel4 scheme *Animate*, *The Nuclear Train*, a complex and layered film telling the story of a family living with the train that carries nuclear waste through London. In 2006 Daniel co-devised *Priceless* with motiroti; a large scale participatory arts project involving the major institutions in South Kensington's Exhibition Road. As part of this project Daniel directed 9 site-specific films. The project was launched at the Serpentine Gallery and each film, in addition to being installed inside the museums, was projected on the outside of the Natural History Museum. In 2004 Daniel did a 3-month ACE/Visiting residency in Taipei resulting in several documentary and visual arts projects. He is currently developing a new project entitled *Bedlam*, from ideas formed in Taiwan.

Semonara Chowdhury & Sashwati Mira Sengupta

The Sword of Swaraj

Synopsis

Exploring the synergies of innovative technologies with the legacy of past and present generations of the Diaspora, the film immerses the viewer into a First-Person-Shooter (FPS) scenario. Originally inspired by events leading to the autonomy of Bangladesh, the narrative of the 'computer game' relates to the many accounts of war, border struggles and mass migration throughout the sub-continent since 1947.

Biography

Semonara Chowdhury is a visual artist working in multi media, ranging from installations, book art and photography to printmaking as well as having done illustration work and writing for various magazines and commissions by Comme de Garçons, Levis and motiroti. Her work explores the inner arenas of our everyday primarily through the interplay of words and images. She has also exhibited extensively around the U.K since 1995 and organised several group exhibitions in London and Manchester.

Sashwati Mira Sengupta is a classically trained musician/composer and instrumental teacher. As a graduate from the School of Oriental & African Studies, she specialised in performance and the music of South Asia & Africa, as well as a recent foray into film under the guidance of the Workers Film Association, Manchester. Her upbringing between Jamaica, Saudi Arabia and the UK has greatly influenced her direction: exploring the politics and issues stemming from migration, borders and personal experiences. Whilst living in London, Sashwati was very active in the UK roots and world music scene, working with The Shrine clubnight in London, including involvement in its launch.

Aliya Salahuddin, Abdullah Chhadeh & Nico Piazza

Grey

Synopsis

As seemingly different identities blend into a tangled mesh, it becomes impossible to separate the black from the white. And hence, is born, a shared culture and a common future.

Biography

Aliya Salahuddin has worked as a producer for television in Pakistan since 2002. She has been in the UK since 2006, first completing a degree in documentary filmmaking, and now, making films.

Abdullah Chhadeh is a Qanun player from Syria based in London for the last ten years. Since late 2007, Abdullah has become actively involved in documentary filmmaking and aims to combine both his talents for future projects.

Nico Piazza runs a production house called Moonweed. He stepped into production initially as a sound engineer, and by 2004, had taken up cinematography and editing as his main passions. He takes on both these roles in his documentary filmmaking, and travels, all over the world.

Rajni Shah

Living the Dream

Synopsis

A playful visual and aural meditation on identity, exposing the internal lines of geography and history that we inadvertently draw from inside ourselves and use to shape our own and others, identities.

Biography

Rajni's work as an artist leans gently but clearly across disciplines, countries and thought structures. She is a quiet voice of change, creating and curating visually engaging performances, interventions and writings that open up new spaces for conversation and meeting. Whether in a public space, in a theatre or on the page, Rajni looks for ways to shift perspectives and invite intimate dialogue with strangers.

Rajni has been creating original performance work since 1999. Her work ranges from large-scale performance installations made through an in-depth collaborative process to small solo interventions in public spaces. She has performed in the UK, Europe and USA, including the National Review of Live Art, Alternate ROOTS, Tanzquartier Wien, Arnolfini Bristol, Nuffield Lancaster, Chisenhale Dance Space and the Chelsea Theatre. Ongoing collaborators include Lucille Acevedo-Jones, Lucy Cash and Manuel Vason.

www.rajnishah.com

Yam Boy

The Great Identity Swindle

Synopsis

Exploring what it means to be Br-Asian, while deconstructing the identity myth through poetry and comics, using his rhyming couplets and snappy editing from director Videowallah. An MTV generation piece of poetry, full of attitude, bluster and visual flair.

Biography

Yam Boy (Nikesh Shukla) is an author, songwriter and Saved By the Bell enthusiast caught between the cityscapes of Bombay and the low-swinging chariots of London. His writing has been featured on BBC2, Radio 1 and 4, Resonance FM, Tell Tales and Transmission Magazine. He has performed at the Royal Festival Hall, Apples and Snakes, Soho Theatre, The Big Chill, Rise Festival, The London Mela and Glastonbury. He has travelled to America Europe India and Africa to perform and read his words. He recently completed his first book, *I've Forgotten My Mantra*, as well as a full-length novel. He records under the name Yam Boy. He plays guitar and mandolin. He recently spent a year in Kenya, where he produced a solo folk album, tentatively titled *Kidologies and Amazing Fantasies* as well as an Arts Council-commissioned book of poetry. This is his first collaborative piece with Videowallah. www.yamboynet

Ali Zaidi

Arriving

Synopsis

A journey against the backdrop of ever-changing shapes of rain evokes memories and spaces beyond the visible.

Biography

Indian by birth, Pakistani by migration and British by chance, Ali Zaidi draws upon this cultural displacement to pursue creative explorations of commonality and difference through art. Zaidi creates fresh participatory experiences for new audiences by inviting them to collectively reflect on issues around identity and question static perceptions of culture. Moving fluidly between diverse art forms, including film, live art, installation and digital technology, he fuses them with great ease and ingenuity.

Zaidi graduated in graphic design from National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan. Started work as an illustrator, soon became art-director for an advertising agency, won awards for many print and media campaigns, moved on to lecture in photography at his old art school and through British Council fellowship did his masters from Chelsea School of Art. In 1988 he met with artist Keith Khan, made prolific work together and co-founded motiroti in 1996. Zaidi has been leading the artistic vision of motiroti since 2004.