



the journey of West Indian rotis across three continents

Dal Puri Diaspora

A Documentary by Richard Fung

A Third World Newsreel Release
545 8th Ave, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018
(212) 947-9277, distribution@twon.org, www.twn.org

DAL PURI DIASPORA

A FILM BY RICHARD FUNG

The recipe for dal puri traveled with indentured workers from India's Gangetic plain to southern Caribbean colonies of Britain and the Netherlands in the 19th Century. In the 1960s the wrapped roti migrated from Trinidad to North America, where it is known as Caribbean or West Indian roti and is popular in cities like New York and Toronto. As the dish moved from home fire to street stall to restaurant chain, and from festival to fast food, the flatbread was radically transformed in ingredients, cooking method, ways of eating and identity. Shot in Toronto, Trinidad and India, this award-winning documentary tracks dal puri's remarkable passage across space and time, linking colonialism, migration and the globalization of tastes. The documentary features interviews with leading food writers and scholars including Pushpesh Pant, Naomi Duguid, Brinsley Samaroo, Radhika Mongia and Patricia Mohammed.

(2012, 80 min, English & Bhojpuri, English subtitles)



Richard Fung is a Toronto-based video artist, writer, theorist, educator and public intellectual who has pushed forward the debates about queer sexuality, Asian identity and the uneasy borderlands of culture and politics. His work comprises of a series of challenging videos on subjects ranging from the role of the Asian male in gay pornography to colonialism, immigration, racism, homophobia, AIDS and his own family history. His work, which include MY MOTHER'S PLACE (1990), SEA IN THE BLOOD (2000) and UNCOMFORTABLE (2005), have been widely screened and collected internationally, and have been broadcast in Canada and the United States.

Richard is a past Rockefeller Fellow at New York University and has received the Bell Canada Award for Lifetime Achievement in Video as well as the Toronto Arts Award for Media Art. He holds a degree in cinema studies as well as an ME in sociology and cultural studies, both from the University of Toronto. He is Associate Professor in the Integrated Media program at the Ontario College of Art and Design.



THE JOURNEY OF WEST

INDIAN ROTIS ACROSS THREE CONTINENTS

"Sound, smell and taste can act as powerful memory triggers giving food the power to transport the eater back through time, perhaps even home."

Michele Henry, Toronto Star



Educational Purchases:
Third World Newsreel
545 8th Avenue, Suite 550
New York, NY 10018
E: twn@twn.org
T: (212) 947-9277 x 10
F: (212) 594-6417

WWW.TWN.ORG

written, directed & narrated by: Richard Fung

camera: Richard Fung

additional camera: Tanweer Ahmed (Delhi), Arun Jaiswal (Patna), Igor Drljača, Felix Chan, Ryan A. Randall (Toronto), Selwyn Henry (Trinidad)

offline & online editor: Dennis Day

score and sound design: Phil Strong

additional narration: Ramabai Espinet

animation & drawings: Evan Tapper

additional animation & coloring: Dennis Day

research & production manager: Pearl Sandhu

script editor: Tim McCaskell

Bhojpuri translation: Pearl Sandhu

Trinidad locations: Wendy Siung

Research funded by Chalmers Arts Fellowship
Production supported by The Canada Council for the Arts and The Ontario Arts Council

