SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES &
SOUTH ASIAN DIASPORA
DOCUMENTARIES
DAUGHTERS OF MOTHER INDIA

A FILM BY VIBHA BAKSHI

This documentary reveals the aftermath of the horrific rape and murder of a 23-year-old medical student in Delhi in December 2012. Indian journalist and filmmaker Vibha Bakshi questions how Indian society is changing after the 2012 events. Although an anti-rape law was passed and reforms were made within the police force and the judiciary, gender violence still persists. Did anything change?

Winner of the New York Indian Film Festival Best Documentary Award, this film features interviews with Justice Leila Seth, Member of the Anti Rape Recommendation Committee; Indira Jaising, Additional Solicitor General Supreme Court; Dipankar Gupta, Sociologist; Suman Nalwa, Head of Delhi Police Unit for Women and Children; Kiran Bedi, Activist; Abha Sahgal, Principal of Sanskriti School; Syed Mubin Zehr, Social Analyst; Arvind Gaur, Activist and Founder of Asmita Theatre Group; and local residents of Delhi. (2013, 45 min, English, DVD/Digital File $400, call for public library and high school rates)

How to Order: www.twn.org, twn@twn.org, (212) 947-9277 ext. 11
CLAIMING OUR VOICE
A FILM BY JENNIFER PRITHEEVA SAMUEL

CLAIMING OUR VOICE follows members of Andolan, a New York City-based organization founded and led by South Asian domestic workers as a means to support each other and collectively organize against exploitative work conditions. Domestic workers generally face underpayment of wages, extended work hours without rest, sleep deprivation, lack of health care, verbal and emotional abuse, and sometimes, physical assault and sexual abuse. This film presents the women of Andolan as they create, rehearse and refine acts for their first multi-lingual theater performance with the help of Sri Lankan-American performing artist YaliniDream.

There are 1.8 million domestic workers in the United States, nannies, housekeepers and caregivers, among others. Of these domestic workers 99% are foreign born, and 93% are women. CLAIMING OUR VOICE helps raise awareness and foster discussion about the hidden issues of domestic work and immigration both within and outside of the South Asian community. (2013, 21 min, English, Bangla & Hindi with English subtitles, Spanish and Hindi versions available, DVD/Digital File $200, call for public library and high school rates)

ALSO AVAILABLE: Maid to Stay

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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 with English subtitles, DVD/Digital File $500, call for public library and high school rates)

ALSO BY RICHARD FUNG: Orientations

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“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

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BOMBAY CALLING
A FILM BY BEN ADDELMAN AND SAMIR MALLAL

Bombay provides American and British outsourcing firms with access to well-educated, English-speaking youths eager to get ahead and willing to sacrifice almost anything to do it. For their efforts, they are paid more money than their parents ever dreamed of earning. And they spend it frequenting a new brand of all-night discos that cater to their unusual office hours. In BOMBAY CALLING, filmmakers Ben Addelman and Samir Mallal dive into this bustling world of late nights, long hours and hard partying. The result is a compelling insider’s look at youth culture in India and at the growing number of young people who choose to follow the American dream... Indian style. A National Film Board of Canada production. (2006, 71 min, English, DVD $225, call for public library and high school rates)

AN INSIDER’S LOOK AT THE GROWING NUMBER OF INDIAN YOUTH WORKING AT AMERICAN AND BRITISH OUTSOURCING FIRMS.

“BOMBAY CALLING shows the reality that lies beyond the exoticized India we are most familiar with on screen. The film illustrates this blend of influences audially and visually - intermixing pulsing techno beats with traditional tabla, real call center activity with fictional Bollywood scenes.”

AMY MILLS, NORTHWEST FOLKLIFE
I’M BRITISH BUT...  
This unique look at Asians in Britain offers first-hand views of second generation Asians, adding archival footage and invigorating Bhangra and Bangla music–traditional Punjabi songs updated with hip-hop and house music influences. (1989, 30 min, DVD $175)

A NICE ARRANGEMENT  
Set in the London home of an Indian family on the morning of their daughter’s wedding, this film is a wry depiction of one of the most central of Indian traditions -- the arranged marriage. (1990, 11 min, DVD $95)

ACTING OUR AGE  
Director Gurinder Chadha assists the residents of a South Asian home for the elderly in Britain in directing their own video. The result is an examination of politics, ageism, and cross-cultural communication in contemporary British society. (1992, 30 min, DVD $95)

WHAT DO YOU CALL AN INDIAN WOMAN WHO’S FUNNY?  
This humorous short brings the laughs and dreams of four Indian women performers while posing the questions: What is comedy and who defines it? Is it culturally specific, or can anyone enjoy the joke? What, ultimately, do you call a funny Indian woman? (1994, 19 min, DVD $95)

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DASTAAR The New York City Sikh community has organized to confront the bias and attacks, through legal suits, pressure on city officials and proactive public education. $25

DESI REMIX CHICAGO STYLE Three Punjabi bands use their music as a bridge between the competing cultural influences of India and America. $225

FORGOTTEN LESSONS A video essay on the possibility of a non-violent resistance to the war in Afghanistan. $30

INBETWEEN A personal exploration of the filmmaker’s identity as a Sri-Lankan post-colonial subject in the diaspora. $225

JAREENA, PORTRAIT OF A HIJDA The Hijdas work as sex workers and are a close-knit group who live and work communally. $175

KABUL KABUL The filmmaker journeys back to Afghanistan after a 23 year absence. $225

LEAVING BAKUL BAGAN This moving documentary follows the filmmaker’s cousin’s imminent departure from India to pursue studies in the U.S. $225

LEST WE FORGET Shot after 9/11, this doc covers the roundups and racial attacks that occurred in the name of national security. $225

MAID TO STAY This is the story of four South Asian domestic workers in New York. $175

MA/BAAP The filmmaker’s Muslim father and Hindu mother talk about their forbidden relationship in India, their elopement and eventual separation. $175

THE PYRE A look at the images that present themselves “glittering behind glass” when you go window shopping in Little India. $125

RISING UP: THE ALAMS A Bangladeshi family living in Coney Island faces deportation after following the Special Registration procedures. $25

THE SISTERS OF LADAKH Filmed on the Himalayan border between India and Tibet, this doc is an inquiry into the feminine vision of Buddhism. $225

STUBBORN CITY Poor communities in Bombay survive and thrive after 8 inches of rain fell in one day. $50

TAXI-VALA/AUTO-BIOGRAPHY This doc focuses on the lives and dreams of South Asian immigrant taxi drivers in New York City. $225

TURMERIC BORDER-MARKS A Korean-American returns to South Korea where she meets South Asian migrant workers. $175

TWO MONTHS TO HOME Samira Rahman is taken away by Homeland Security agents in the middle of the night. Her husband Abdul and their two young boys await news of her fate. $25

WAITING FOR MERCY Were these two Muslim men who had no prior criminal history set-up to appear as criminals or were they possible terrorists? $225

WHAT ARE OUR WOMEN LIKE IN AMERICA? An Indian man attempts to come to grips with “Americanized” Indian women. $79.95

WE TOO SING AMERICA This short doc presents the thoughts, hopes and fears of Muslim, Arab-American and South Asian children immediately after the events of September 11th. $30

ZULAIKHA An Afghan shopkeeper shares her reactions to the attack on the World Trade Center and her own memories of war in Kabul. $30

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