

SHANTI THAKUR - PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, WRITER, EDITOR

Shanti Thakur's visually poetic films have been screened at over 200 international film festivals and museums including the Cannes Film Festival, Montreal World Film Festival, Edinburgh Film Festival, and the Museum of Modern Art in NYC. Crossing various genres, RED TULIPS, A STORY ABOUT FORGETTING, SKY PEOPLE, KAIROS, SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, TWO FORMS, CIRCLES and DOMINO have won 26 awards and have broadcast in 22 countries.

Crossing the line between the real and surreal, her latest film RED TULIPS, A STORY ABOUT FORGETTING (14min.) is about a magical world where memory lasts only a few hours. Executive produced by Mark Lipson, producer of TABLOID and THE THIN BLUE LINE. RED TULIPS won Best Narrative Film at the Columbus International Film Festival, the Grand Remi Award (Best of the Fest) in Experimental Film at the Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival, the CINE Golden Eagle Award, the CINE Special Jury Award and the Award of Excellence from the Accolade Global Film Competition. Festivals include LA Shortsfest, Mill Valley Film Festival, Athens International Film Festival, St. Louis International Film Festival and NY Shortsfest.

SKY PEOPLE, a short fiction film, was considered for an Academy Award nomination. A lyrical satire on class in New York City, the film follows the race of 21 different characters to be a "sky-person" - the elite one percent who live above the 13th floor. It was awarded 5 top awards: Best Experimental Film – LA Shortsfest, Best Narrative Film – Columbus International Film Festival, Platinum Remi Award: Experimental Film – Worldfest Houston, Best Narrative Faculty Film –University Film and Video Association and Best of the Fest – Chicago International REEL Shorts Film Festival.

SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, short experimental-documentary, was the film that shifted her work towards poetic, visually lush, storytelling. This personal memoir about the two different wars based on racial/religious purity experienced by her Danish and Indian parents. This experimental-documentary screened in over 50 film festivals, won 10 awards and was broadcast on the Sundance Channel. It is distributed by Women Make Movies in New York City.

Thakur originally began as a documentary film director at the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) in Montreal. It was here where she began her pursuit of stories that peel back the construction of identity, history and memory. CIRCLES (58 min.), explores aboriginal justice in the Yukon, DOMINO (45 min.) portrays interracial families through the children's eyes and CROSSING BORDERS (30 min.) about the cross-cultural tensions in a mixed neighborhood after a black-on-white murder.

Thakur has received support for her filmmaking from the Independent Film Project (IFP), the National Film Board of Canada, the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts, and the Pew Fellowship in the Arts for Film and Media.

She is Associate Professor in Film and Media Studies at Hunter College, City University of New York. She has given artist presentations at numerous universities, including Bryn Mawr, Bennington, Barnard, MIT and Harvard University. She lives in New York City.

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