

SEVEN HOURS TO BURN PRESSKIT CONTENTS

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SEVEN HOURS TO BURN

SYNOPSIS/SPECS/CONTACT

SYNOPSIS

The filmmaker explores her Danish mother's and Indian father's experiences of two different wars based on ethnic/religious purity.

DESCRIPTION

The filmmaker explores her Danish mother's and Indian father's experiences of two different wars based on ethnic/religious purity. It's the turbulent 1940's: Nazi-occupation in Denmark and Hindu/Muslim riots affect two teenagers' worldview. Ghostly war footage is interwoven with ethereal body-scapes and lush, sensual abstractions. *"Exceptionally imaginative...dreamlike...a visually compelling film."*--Philadelphia City Paper

FILM SPECS

TRT: 09:00 minutes
Format: 16mm film
Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1
Stereo Mix

CONTACT

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DISTRIBUTOR

Women Make Movies
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Tel: +1.212.925.0606
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SHANTITHAKUR 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 25 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 a 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 and the Grand Remi Award (Best of the Fest) in Experimental Film at the Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival, the CINE Golden Eagle Award and the CINE Special Jury Award. Festivals include LA Shortsfest, Mill Valley Film Festival, Athens International Film Festival, St. Louis International Film Festival and NY Shortsfest.

SKY PEOPLE, a short narrative, 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, a 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 colleges and universities, including Bryn Mawr, Bennington, Barnard, MIT and Harvard University. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

- November 2015

SHANTITHAKUR FILMOGRAPHY/SCREENINGS/AWARDS

RED TULIPS, 2012, fiction, S-16mm film to HDCAM SR

- **CINE Special Jury Award**, Fiction Short, 2014
- **CINE Golden Eagle Award**, Fiction Short, 2013
- **Grand Remi Award (Best of the Fest) – Experimental Film**, Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival, 2013
- **Best Narrative Film Award**, Columbus International Film Festival, 2012
- New York Shorts Fest, New York City, May 2013
- High Falls Film Festival, Rochester, NY, April 2013
- Big Muddy Film Festival, Carbondale, IL, February 2013
- Philip K Dick Science Fiction Film Festival – New York City, December 2012
- St. Louis International Film Festival – November 2012
- Mill Valley Film Festival, San Rafael, CA, October 2012
- L.A. Shortsfest, Los Angeles, September 2012
- University Film & Video Association, national conference, Chicago, August 2012
- Southside Film Festival, Bethlehem, PA, June 2012
- Athens International Film Festival, Athens, OH, April 2012

SKY PEOPLE, 2008, fiction, S-16mm film to HDCAM SR

- **Best Experimental Film**, Los Angeles International Short Film Festival, July 2009
- *This event and award is recognized by the Academy, which qualifies consideration for an Oscar.*
- **Best Narrative Film - Silver Chris Award**, Columbus International Film Festival, November 2009
- **Best Narrative Film**, University of Film + Video Association, New Orleans National Conference August 2009
- **Best of the Fest**, Chicago International REEL Short Film Festival, September 2009
- **Platinum Remi Award, Experimental Film**, Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival, 2010
- Philip K Dick Science Fiction Film Festival, New York City, Dec 2012
- Breda International Film Festival, The Netherlands, March 2010
- 360° George Eastman House Film Festival, Rochester, New York, May 2010
- Exground Film Festival, Weisbaden, Germany, November 2009
- Raindance Film Festival, London, UK, October 2009
- Athens International Film and Video Festival, April 2009
- Southside Film Festival, June 2009
- New Filmmakers New York, NYC, January 2009
- Big Muddy Film Festival, February 2010
- Dhaka International Short & Independent Film Festival, Bangladesh, March 2010 (programmed with KAIROS, SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, CIRCLES)
- Vermont International Film Festival, October 2008

KAIROS, 2002, fiction, 35mm film

- **Best Short, Audience Award**, New Haven Film Festival, September 2003
- **1st Prize, Best Editing**, Rhode Island International Film Festival, August 2003

- **Director's Citation Award**, 22nd Black Maria Film Festival, November 2002
- IFFM: Independent Feature Film Market "Short Narrative Showcase", NEW YORK CITY
- Montreal World Film Festival, CANADA, 2003
- Los Angeles International Short Film Festival, 2003
- Palm Springs International Short Film Festival, 2003
- Hamptons International Film Festival, 2003
- Raindance Film Festival, London, ENGLAND, October 2003
- Exground Film Festival, GERMANY, November 2003
- Southside Film Festival, June 2006
- Dhaka International Short & Independent Film Festival, Bangladesh, March 2010 (programmed with SKY PEOPLE, SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, CIRCLES)
- Harvard Film Archives, Harvard University, USA – purchased for collection, 2003

SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, 1999, documentary, 16mm film

Distributor: Women Make Movies, New York City

- Museum of Modern Art, New York – Best of the Black Maria Film Festival over 25 years
- Cannes Film Festival - FRANCE- Kodak's award-winning "New Filmmakers" showcase
- **Best Documentary Short Film**, Cleveland International Film Festival, USA
- **Gold Prize - Documentary**, New York Expo of Short Films, New York City
- **Best Documentary**, City Paper's Philadelphia Independent Film Contest, USA
- **Best Documentary Short**, CineWomen New York, USA
- **Best Documentary**, Nextframe Film Festival, USA
- **Best Editing**, Nextframe Film Festival, USA
- **Bronze Plaque**, Columbus International Film Festival, USA
- **Director's Choice Award**, Black Maria Film and Video Festival, USA (+ tour to 60 US cities)
- **Bronze Award-Experimental Film**, Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival, USA
- **Honorable Mention**, Big Muddy Film Festival, USA
- Right to Have Rights Film Festival, Modena, ITALY (Retrospective: w/CIRCLES, DOMINO)
- Ann Arbor Film Festival, USA
- Aspen Shortsfest 2000, USA
- Doubletake Documentary Film Festival, North Carolina, USA
- THAW 2000 Film Festival, USA
- Humboldt International Film Festival, USA
- Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema, USA
- Athens International Film Festival, USA
- BBC British Short Film Festival, ENGLAND
- Robert Flaherty International Film Seminar, NY, USA
- Edinburgh International Film Festival, SCOTLAND
- Pacific Film Archives, Berkeley, CA, USA
- Nashville Independent Film Festival, USA
- Northwest Film Center at the Portland Art Museum, USA
- Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, USA

- Brooklyn Arts Council International Film Festival, NY, USA
- Mill Valley Film Festival, San Francisco, USA
- Maryland Film Festival, USA
- Leipzig Documentary and Animated Film Festival, GERMANY
- Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival, BRAZIL
- One World Film Festival, Ottawa, CANADA
- Santa Cruz Documentary Film Festival, Los Angeles
- Vermont International Film Festival, USA
- Cinematheque Ontario, Toronto CANADA (screened with Shanti's film CIRCLES)
- Margaret Mead Film Festival, New York, NY, USA (included in international tour)
- Shorts International Film Festival, New York, NYC, USA
- Asian American International Film Festival - San Francisco
- Asian American International Film Festival - Los Angeles
- Asian American International Film Festival - New York City
- Museum of Natural History, NYC, NY
- A.I.R. Gallery, New York City
- Museum of Fine Arts - Boston -- for Women Make Movies 25th anniversary
- American Short Shorts 2001 - Tokyo, JAPAN,
- Tampere 30th International Short Film Festival, FINLAND
- Southside Film Festival, USA
- Dhaka International Short & Independent Film Festival, Bangladesh, March 2010 (programmed with SKY PEOPLE, KAIROS, SEVEN HOURS TO BURN)
- Harvard Film Archives, (purchased in collection), Harvard University, USA

TWO FORMS, 1998, experimental, 16mm film

Distributor: Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre, Toronto, Canada

- American Cinematheque, Alternative Screen Program, Los Angeles, USA
- Mill Valley Film Festival, CA, USA
- Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema, USA
- Montreal Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, CANADA
- Toronto Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, CANADA
- Dhaka International Short Film Festival, BANGLADESH
- Images Film Festival, Toronto, CANADA
- Women Make Waves Film Festival, TAIWEN
- Ann Arbor Film Festival, Michigan, USA (Award Winners Tour to 22 US cities)
- UFVA CD ROM: Journal of Film and Video (summer 1999)
- UFVA Annual Conference, USA 1998
- Calgary Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, CANADA
- Women's Art Resource Center, Toronto, CANADA
- Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA USA
- "Independent Exposure" Black Chair Productions, Seattle, USA
- "Independent Exposure" Tour by Blackchair Productions:
 - Transat Vidéo, Caen, FRANCE
 - Barcelona Independent Film and Video Festival, SPAIN
 - Media Non Grata Festival, Tallinn, ESTONIA
 - No Dance Film Festival, Park City, Utah, USA
 - Wollongong Film Festival, AUSTRALIA

- CRASH Audiovisual Festival, MEXICO
- CANADIAN FILMMAKERS DISTRIBUTION CENTER'S "25 Years of Experimental Film Tour"
- Dhaka International Short & Independent Film Festival, Bangladesh, March 2010 (programmed with SKY PEOPLE, KAIROS, CIRCLES)

TWO FORMS - BROADCAST

- WYBE Public TV "Through the Lens"- Philadelphia, USA
- DUTV - "Tuesday Night Special" - Philadelphia, USA (up to 6.5 million viewers)Spring 1999
- WHYH - "Independent Images" - (PBS affiliate) Philadelphia, USA, Fall 1999

CIRCLES, 1997, documentary, Beta SP,

Distributor: National Film Board of Canada

- **Silver Apple Award**, National Educational Media Network, Oakland, CA
- **Bronze Plaque**, Columbus International Film Festival, USA
- **Award of Merit**, University Film and Video Association, USA
- **Nominated for Best Documentary Feature:** American Indian Film Festival San Francisco, USA
- **Nominated for Best Educational Documentary:** Dreamspeakers Film Festival, Edmonton
- Vancouver International Film Festival, CANADA
- Festival Presence Autochtone, Montreal, CANADA
- Toronto Human Rights Film Festival: Rights on Reels, CANADA
- INTERCOM (Int'l Communication Film and Video Festival), Chicago, USA
- IDA Annual Awards Competition, Los Angeles, USA
- Southside Film Festival, USA
- Right to Have Rights Film Festival, Modena, ITALY
- (Retrospective of work: SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, CIRCLES, DOMINO)
- Dhaka International Short & Independent Film Festival, Bangladesh, March 2010 (programmed with SKY PEOPLE, KAIROS, SEVEN HOURS TO BURN)
- Cinematheque Ontario, Toronto CANADA -screened with Shanti's SEVEN HOURS TO BURN
- Museum of Natural History, New York City, NY - May 2001

CIRCLES BROADCAST RIGHTS SOLD TO:

SWITZERLAND/PARIS: Radiotelevisione della Svizzera: commercial TV

JAPAN: TM International Inc, cable TV, satellite TV, home video

ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, CHILE, COLUMBIA, ECUADOR, MEXICO, PARAGUAY,

PERU, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA: Televised Learning Company, California: all TV rights

DOMINO, 1994, documentary, 16mm film

Distributor: National Film Board of Canada

- International Documentary Awards (IDA), Los Angeles, USA
- **Bronze Apple**, National Educational Film Media Network, Oakland, CA
- Human RightsWatch, NYC

- Asian American Film Festival, NYC
- Asian American Film Festival, Los Angeles
- Asian American Film Festival, Seattle
- Asian American Film Festival, San Francisco
- Desh Pradesh Film Festival, Toronto, CANADA
- AMTEK, Waterloo, CANADA
- Western Psychological Association Film Festival, Los Angeles
- American Psychological Association Convention, NYC
- Bombay International Film Festival, INDIA
- Right to Have Rights Film Festival, Modena, ITALY -- to screen May 2000
(Retrospective of work: SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, CIRCLES, DOMINO)

DOMINO BROADCAST RIGHTS SOLD TO:

AUSTRIA

CANADA: - Vision TV

CANADA :CFCF TV - Quebec TV

CANADA: SaskTV - Saskatchewan

CANADA :Knowledge Network - British Columbia and Yukon

GERMANY, INDIA,KOREA,SPAIN, SWITZERLAND

USA - Free Speech TV, Colorado

USA - WMVS Milwaukee Public TV

HOMEVIDEO:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Venezuela

CROSSING BORDERS, 1992, documentary, video

Distributor: V-Tape, Toronto, Canada

- Banff Centre of the Arts, CANADA
 - Ontario College of Arts, Toronto, CANADA
 - Concordia University, Montreal, CANADA
 - Harbourfront Festival, Vancouver, CANADA
 - CineVision Video Festival, NYC
 - True Colours Film Festival, Toronto, CANADA
- BROADCAST: CANADA: Vision TV National TV; CFCF TV Quebec TV, USA:
FreeSpeech TV, Colorado

SEVEN HOURS TO BURN CREDITS

director, writer, camera

shanti thakur

cast

sushila

shivaani selvaraj

hari

thomas ponniah
ken wyatt

ruth

laila smith
kara barnes

narrator

shanti thakur

offline edit

shanti thakur

online edit

mary goreeno

voice-over recording

jim hamilton

sound edit

shanti thakur

sound mix

bill seery

sound edit

shanti thakur

titles

heavylight inc.

film to tape transfer

colorlab

tape to film transfer

four media

archival footage

national archives

“two studies on ancient greek scales”
performed by the kronos quartet
composed by harry partch, published by smith publications
courtesy of nonesuch records
by arrangement with warner special products

“long-ge”
performed by the kronos quartet
composed by jack body, published by witeata music press
courtesy of nonesuch records
by arrangement with warner special products

“ulet-khem”
performed by the kronos quartet
composer unknown, published by shanachie music works
courtesy of nonesuch records
by arrangement with warner special products

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warren bass
janet benton
paul lee
joe ruscitto
jeff rush
lynne sachs
david semmes
jc todd
hari & ruth thakur

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© 1999, shanti thakur

SEVEN HOURS TO BURN



"A visually expressive personal documentary that explores a family's history. Filmmaker Thakur mixes richly abstract filmmaking with disturbing archival war footage to narrate the story of her Danish mother's and Indian father's experiences. Her mother survives Nazi-occupied Denmark while her father experiences the devastating civil war in India between Hindus and Muslims. Both émigrés to Canada, they meet and marry, linking two parallel wars. Their daughter lyrically turns these two separate histories into a visually rich poem linking past and present in a new singular identity."
–Doubletake Documentary Film Festival catalogue

"Exceptionally imaginative...dreamlike...a visually compelling film." –Paul Curci, Philadelphia City Paper

- Gold Award - Documentary, New York Expo of Short Film
- Best Documentary Short Film, Cleveland International Film Festival
- Best Documentary and Best Editing, Nextframe International Film Festival
- Best Documentary, Philadelphia City Paper Independent Film Contest
- Director's Choice Award, Black Maria Film Festival

A film by Shanti Thakur • 9 minutes, 16mm film, Color/BW • shantithakur.com • +1.646.338.1979
Distributor: Women Make Movies • wmm.com • Tel: +1.212.925.0606 Fax: +1.212.925.2052