

WRITER & DIRECTOR ABHISHEK PARASHER PRODUCER MARCO ALEXIADIS

CINEMATOGRAPHER PETE MOSES PRODUCTION DESIGNER ELEANOR L'ESTRANGE STRANIERI

EDITOR AMY DUNN SOUND SUPERVISOR JAYDEN WHITBREAD MUSIC HAMISH FRANCIS

AFTRS
Australian Film Television
and Radio School

PRESS KIT



## Synopsis

A young woman tries to fashion an escape from her volatile household, as her husband and sister in law demand more in dowry payments. Social Media @durgashortfilm

Sales and Distribution - AFTRS kym-louise.barton@aftrs.edu.au +61 2 9805 6455 Duration 15min 00sec Completed Jan 2023 Shooting Format 2K, ProRes 4444 XQ Screening Format DCP Sound 5.1, Dolby Atmos Aspect Ratio 2:1 Language Hindi, English Country Australia



## **Director's Statement**

Durga is a story that unfortunately hits close to home for many people in the Indian community. The prevalence of dowry, and the subsequent abuse, is one that many people in the community can identify with to differing extents. Nisha's story gives us insight into the trials and tribulations women are routinely forced to endure at the hands of the dowry system. The vital component of the storytelling is communicating the sense of isolation and detachment that Nisha feels towards the world. The tension reflects the great inner anxiety she feels over putting herself in harm's way. Over the course of the film, the team's creative intention was to slowly show how Nisha is able to find her voice and assert herself, as she fashions an escape. From script to screen, every element conform to create a overwhelming sense of pressure that threatens to erupt at any moment. The nuanced and specific performances of the actors aims to explore the complex mindsets that often surround dowry abuse cases. We went to great lengths to convey each characters reasoning, without justifying their actions or alleviating the severity of the consequences. Durga hopes to shed light on the still prevalent tradition of dowry and the potential for the abusive consequences it holds.



## **Director Bio**Abhishek Parasher

Abhishek Parasher is a Director currently studying at the Australian Film Television and Radio School, in Sydney where he is completing his Master's in Directing. After working in every facet of the film industry, Abhishek found his love for directing through the Bachelor of Film program at SAE Creative Media Institute in Victoria, Australia which he completed in 2020.

For the development of *Durga*, Abhishek drew on the personal experiences of those around him and the testimonies from victims of dowry violence, as he hopes to explore the devastating effects of an epidemic not many associate with occurring in Australia.

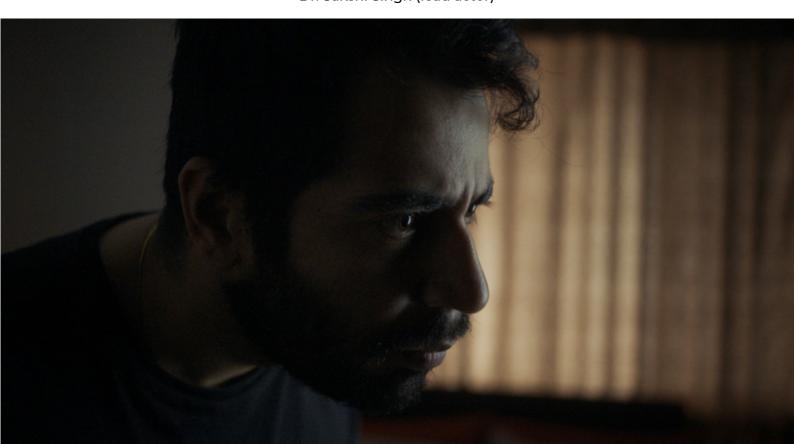


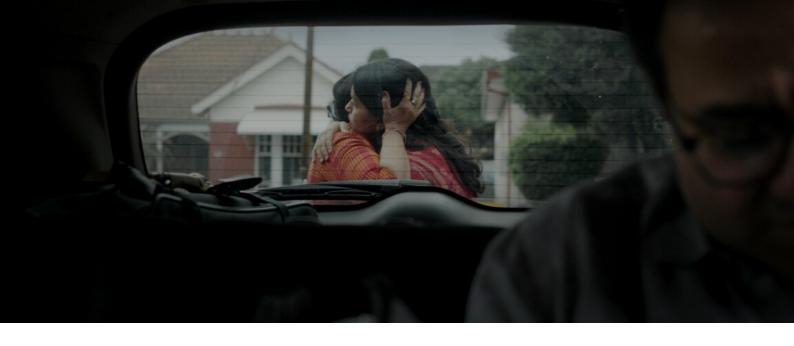
"Violence against women exists, and it's a tragic reality of many. There are numerous cases of intimate partner violence in Australia every year, and the South Asian community is not spared. Through my work as a psychiatry trainee, I have encountered many such cases of domestic violence during my clinical practice.

Part of accepting the role of Nisha was not only to raise awareness about domestic violence but also to shed light on the enduring physical and mental health burden, the survivors face.

I felt a great sense of responsibility providing a voice to those countless women, who have suffered in silence."

Dr. Sakshi Singh (lead actor)





**CAST** 

NISHA

SAKSHI SINGH

**YASH** 

SAHIL SALUJA

**KAVITA** 

SHALVI SINGH

**ANJALI** 

**ENAIYA SAINI** 

**MEENA** 

APARNA TIJORIWALA

**VIJAY** 

**RUSHI DAVE** 

CREW

WRITER, DIRECTOR

ABHISHEK PARASHER

**PRODUCER** 

MARCO ALEXIADIS

**CINEMATOGRAPHER** 

PETE MOSES

**EDITOR** 

**AMY DUNN** 

**ORIGINAL MUSIC** 

HAMISH FRANCIS

**PRODUCTION DESIGNER** 

**ELEANOR LESTRANGE-STRANIERI** 

SOUND DESIGNER

JAYDEN WHITBREAD

**DIALOGUE** 

VIRAT NEHRU

STORY CONSULTANT

SAKSHI SINGH

**ON SET TRANSLATOR** 

VIRAT NEHRU VIVEK KUMAR

**CULTURAL CONSULTANT** 

DR. MANJULA O'CONNOR

SUPRIYA SINGH

**MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANT** 

XAVIER MULENGA

PRODUCTION MANAGER

**BIANCA SAPPEY** 

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

PETER SKINNER

2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**SEAN MARTIN** 

**1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA** 

JAMES NOLAN NEYLAN MEREDITH WILLIAMS

2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA

MIA SCHIRMER

LUCA BLADES

**GAFFER** 

JULIAN PERTOUT

**GRIP** 

TOBY PETCH

**BEST PERSON** 

JAMES BARTLETT JUSTIN MCLEAN MAX NORINGTON MAKE-UP

BRIANA-LEE GARBUTT

RITU VERMA

**CULTURAL ART DEPT CONSULTANT** 

GITA RAJU KASHYAP

CONTINUITY

EVIE ALLISON MOLLIE HINE

**CATERING** 

SOUTH DOWLING SANDWICHES

NIEO'S GRILLE

ALI DINE IN & TAKE AWAY

**PHOTOGRAPHERS** 

HENRY HU

MONIQUE PLACKO

**ASSISTANT EDITOR** 

CHIMENE KHOO

**COLOURIST** 

**ALINA BERMINGHAM** 

**VFX ARTIST** 

**ALEX HOETZER** 

**ADR RECORDING ENGINEER** 

**GERARD MACK** 

**FOLEY RECORDER** 

DANIEL HACKETT

**MUSIC MIXER** 

ROSE MACKENZIE PATTERSON

MUSIC RECORDING ENGINEER

**GREG WISE** 

**VIOLINS BY** 

**ALEX NORTON** 



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