



DURGA

STARRING SAKSHI SINGH, SAHIL SALUJA, SHALVI SINGH

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

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Sales and Distribution - AFTRS
kym-louise.barton@aftrs.edu.au
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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 RECORDNG ENGINEER

GERARD MACK

FOLEY RECORDER

DANIEL HACKETT

MUSIC MIXER

ROSE MACKENZIE PATTERSON

MUSIC RECORDNG ENGINEER

GREG WISE

VIOLINS BY

ALEX NORTON



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