



motiroti Creative Team

Ali Zaidi Artistic Director

Indian by birth, Pakistani by migration and British by chance, Ali Zaidi draws upon this cultural displacement to pursue creative explorations of commonality and difference through art. Zaidi creates fresh participatory experiences for new audiences by inviting them to collectively reflect on issues around identity and question static perceptions of culture. Moving fluidly between diverse art forms, including film, live art, installation and digital technology, he fuses them with great ease and ingenuity.

Zaidi leads the artistic vision of **motiroti**, which he co-founded with Keith Khan in 1996.

Nila Madhab Panda Creative Associate, India

Film maker and broadcaster, Madhab represents Eleanora Images, a multimedia organisation creating awareness of social issues and transforming them into mainstream entertainment through film and television. He has produced and directed over 70 films, including two mega soap operas. He has received the UN Visual Media Award 2002, Heroism in Cinematography Award 2003, UK Environment Film Fellowship and special mention for his recent film *Climate's First Orphans* at Granada Film Festival, along with the Longest Journey Award by Creative Future of India- British Council.

Apart from producing films and experimenting with techniques within the medium of audio-visual, the periphery of Madhab's career extends to sharing knowledge and experience with fellow and aspiring film-makers. He is actively involved as an advisor and advocates the role of audio-visual communication by developing media strategies with organisations like the UN, Ministry of Home Affairs, The World Bank, and the Governments of Rajasthan and Orissa.

Shalalae Jamil Creative Associate, Pakistan

Artist and educator, Shalalae explores the pervasive psychology of 'difference' exemplified by class, culture and morality. She exhibits her works internationally, teaches at universities and other schools, and collaborates on long-term cultural projects with various organisations. Her work emphasises the social, political and interventionist capabilities of art and contributes to the creation of an alternative order in Pakistan.

Shalalae graduated from Bennington College, Vermont and School of the Art Institute of Chicago, concentrating on photography, film, video and new media. While in the USA, she curated screenings and exhibitions that focused primarily on the South Asian diasporic experience. Following completion of her M.F.A and return to Pakistan, she is currently teaching at Karachi University, Beaconhouse National University, and has been one of the central organisers of *Shanaakht* (The Identity Project) launched by the newly formed Citizens Archive of Pakistan.

60x60 Secs Pilot Films Artists

Britain

Shanaz Gulzar

Shanaz works in theatre and digital media. In 1996, she joined Chol Theatre, an arts and performance company that produces community/professional theatre, video and art projects. Until recently she was Chol's Associate Director. Shanaz has directed a short film with young refugee children *The Bag, the Book and the Chocolate Mountain*. In February 2004, she visited Pakistan and produced a short film entitled *Bokata* about the Lahore Spring Kite Festival. Her video installation, *Face2Face* opened at Cartwright Hall, Bradford in March 2005, and she produced a new video commission entitled *I*, which was projected onto the face of Bradford Library to launch the Yorkshire Urban Cities Program. Shanaz's current projects include: *White Washed* - a Big Screen Commission for BBC Bradford, which explores and creates a living portrait of Bradford. The project comprises two components: a filmed series of portrait videos which have been 'ethnically cleansed' - de-saturated of all colours so that the faces are colourless - and an interactive component that will be introduced through a live feed from Centenary Square and superimposed upon video; and *Zenab's*, a two-hander based on the life of her family and the decline of the Asian corner shop.

Daniel Saul

Daniel is a painter turned filmmaker, directing and producing unusual hybrid films for television, cinemas, galleries and festivals nationally and internationally. At the core of his practice is a devotion to storytelling, portraiture through personal biographies and a fascination with the ever shifting complexity of cultural dynamics.

Recent projects have included a commission for the ACE/Channel4 scheme *Animate*, *The Nuclear Train*, a complex and layered film telling the story of a family living with the train that carries nuclear waste through London. In 2006 Daniel co-devised *Priceless* with **motiroti**; a large scale participatory arts project involving the major institutions in South Kensington's Exhibition Road. As part of this project Daniel directed 9 site-specific films. The project was launched at the Serpentine Gallery and each film, in addition to being installed inside the museums, was projected on the outside of the Natural History Museum. In 2004 Daniel did a 3 month ACE/Visiting residency in Taipei resulting in several documentary and visual arts projects. He is currently developing a new project entitled *Bedlam*, from ideas formed in Taiwan.

India

Nitin Das

Originally an electronics engineer with an MBA in marketing, Nitin left his corporate career to become a filmmaker. Whilst working as a Brand Manager with *India Today* (India's biggest news magazine), he started a weekend theatre group called 4Play. After a few street-plays the group graduated to films. Finding his calling in life, Nitin then pursued a short course in Filmmaking in New York (2005), and on his return to India set up a production company called Filmkaar Productions. The main objective of Filmkaar is to promote independent filmmaking in India by making extraordinary films with ordinary people. The company has recently completed a sci-fi comedy film entitled *Formula 69*. This feature length digital film has been made entirely with the students, staff and alumni of IIT Delhi – India's leading engineering college. Filmkaar are currently working on another feature length film comprising eight interconnected short stories that will be made with the slum children of Delhi. These are tales of magic and mischief, of ghosts and clever thieves, of a cricket match and a math's test. Nitin has recently won a special award from the British Council for social entrepreneurship in the creative sector.

Nila Madhab Panda

Biography as above

Pakistan

Maheen Zia

Maheen graduated in Journalism & Mass Communication from Drake University, USA in 1996 and returned to Pakistan in 1997 to join a post-production facility as editor. In the following year she left regular employment to pursue her own projects and has since directed several short films and documentaries, including: *Baba Snooker* (Short / 2001), *The People vs Lyari Expressway* (Docu / 2002), *Multan - City of Living Crafts* (Docu / 2003), *Doctor* (Short / 2003), *Eclipse* (Short / 2005), *A Pakistani Love Story* (Short / 2006), *Gwadar - Between Golden Acres and the Deep Blue Sea* (Docu / 2006) and *Aaj Bazaar Mein / In Spirit & Flesh: The Women of Lahore's Diamond Market* (Docu / 2006). Maheen has also worked as writer, editor, cinematographer for several other film projects in Pakistan.

In addition to her own work, Maheen is a founding member of the KaraFilm Society and has been working as a producer and programmer of the KaraFilm Festival since its inception in 2001. She has also served as an International Jury Member for the Hyderabad International Film Festival, India (2007), the Tehran International Short Film Festival, Iran (2005) and the Tampere Film Festival, Finland (2006). At present she is in production for a documentary on the state of policing in Pakistan and pre-production for two feature film projects. One is loosely based on a short story by the twentieth century literary giant Sadat Hasan Manto, the other is adapted from a novel due to be published by Roli Books (India) in 2007 by writer and frequent collaborator Shandana Minhas. She also teaches filmmaking at the Department of Visual Studies, University of Karachi, and has conducted several community video training workshops in rural Sindh.

Shalalae Jamil

Biography as above