

The Colour of Darkness

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TRAILER

M15+ Suitable for Mature Audiences

G K MAKWANA FILMS

SAHIL SALUJA & VIDYA MAKAN IN **THE COLOUR OF DARKNESS** STARRING DERRYN HINCH DAVINI MALCOLM SANJEET PAHIL
MUKESH MECWAN THAKOR MAKWANA MICHELLE CELEBICANIN PRIYANKA PANCHAL MOTI SOLANKI MUKESH KAHAR

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER GITA KHATRI PRODUCER LORRAINE GRIGG LINE PRODUCER DARREN POINEN ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS DR. RASHMI, & SANJAY SALUJA S. SALUJA
CO PRODUCERS SHARDA & KANTI MAKWANA PRODUCTION MANAGER INGRID GANG PRODUCTION MANAGER INDIA SHIVRANJANI N MAKWANA PUBLICITY SUPERVISOR GEORGIA GRIGG

DOP RANDEV BHADURI CINEMATOGRAPHERS ALEX POWER & FABIO CAPODIVENTO ADDITIONAL MUSIC STRAING ARRANGMENT NICOLAS BUFF

D.I. GRADE PAUL SUMMERS SOUND DEPT SUPERVISOR ALAN JANSSEN POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR KEN KHAN

WRITER, MUSIC & DIRECTOR
GIRISH MAKWANA



www.thecolourofdarkness.com



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SYNOPSIS

TRUTH ABOUT THE STORY

The Colour of Darkness is set in two continents dealing with themes of discrimination and violence. These themes manifest within both the intercultural tensions in the cosmopolitan city of Melbourne and the ongoing struggles within the caste system in India.

All the colour, depth and mystery of India's complex and riotous cultural heritage is brought to light in a single action which changes two countries forever. A proud Indian international student is attacked in a brightly lit train carriage against a backdrop of darkness. Unknown to his attackers his high caste status has little relevance, and in one poignant moment, he is rescued by his counterpart, an 'untouchable', a low caste. They are united by what would otherwise be impossible. The highly publicized event sends shock waves through the international community. As the climate escalates, Maria Kris a young Australian journalist of Indian descent is sent to investigate, and what happens from there uncovers long established and inherent prejudices between the two countries and what lies between In her quest for truth, she meets a young Indian student Giriraj, who changes her life forever through an unlikely meeting. Throughout their ensuing friendship, Maria is taken by Giriraj for a journey through the darkness of India's social history and via the laneways of her own city, exposing a side she had never imagined.

A young Australian journalist is sent to investigate the attack of an Indian student setting in motion a chain of events with significant personal and societal consequences. Inspired by the frenzied media coverage that followed the 2010 Indian student attacks in Melbourne, director Girish Makwana has crafted a detailed and immersive narrative that explores the real ramifications of deep-rooted discrimination.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Dir. **Girish Makwana**

Sahil Saluja

Vidya Makan

Derryn Hinch



Girish Makwana, moved into the world of filmmaking when he enrolled at RMIT University in Melbourne for a Screen and Media course. He now holds a Diploma and a Masters degree from RMIT University with majors in Film and TV Production. "The Color of Darkness" showcases Girish's many skills and talents as script writer, producer, director, composer and musician. He has lived in Australia for over 15 years and is an Australian citizen. He completed his Masters at RMIT in Melbourne majoring in Film & TV Production and a Masters in Performing Arts (Music) at M.S. University of Baroda, Gujarat, India.

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4 South Asia Times COMMUNITY AUGUST 2016

GIRISH MAKWANA EXPLORES THE COLOUR OF DARKNESS

BY SAT NEWS DESK

Melbourne: Travelled villages, Gujarat, 1965, back in India, back in the village, back in the day. Melbourne 2000, the scene of violence against Indian overseas students, so sets the backdrop for Girish Makwana's premiering film, *The Colour of Darkness* at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2016 (IFFM-2016), exploring the themes of prejudice, politics and power as a young journalist Maria Krishna (Vidya Makant) tries to unravel the story behind the story of these so-called racist attacks.

"It is a love story exploring prejudice on messy levels. It could be racist or caste based," says Girish Makwana.

In assignment Maria meets Girish (Nadir Sattar) who gives her insight into the culture which is part of her heritage but can't understand. Together they explore their connections, differences and their love.

Politics comes into play and Peter McCallum (Derryn Hinch) a rising candidate for the post of the Premier of Victoria gives exposure of the inner workings of the public office.

One travels back and forth across generations and cultures to see people and power play. What they do with it, how they wield it, how they grasp for it and how they'll hold on to and for life.

For the post of the Premier of Victoria gives exposure of the inner workings of the public office.

One travels back and forth across generations and cultures to see people and power play. What they do with it, how they wield it, how they grasp for it and how they'll hold on to and for life.

Girish was studying law and television at the IIM when during a weekly conversation with his father these topics came up. He wrote the first draft of the script in his native Gujarati language in three days, it then took six years to become a reality.

The movie was shot in Melbourne and India. An accomplished Indian and Western musician, it comes as no surprise that Girish is responsible for the melody and rhythm in the film. He spent many weeks in Mumbai and Gujarat auditioning vocalists and recording musicians for the brilliant soundtrack.

Singers travelled from New Delhi, Calcutta and Azeem. Many of the orchestras had played on the original sound scores from

This movie is a rare piece of social drama crossing lands and cultures. It's going to be a unique experience watching the movie.

With inputs from Lorraine Coore.



'Director Girish Makwana has crafted a detailed and immersive narrative that explores the real ramifications of deep-rooted discrimination' ~ Indian Film Festival Melbourne, IFFM

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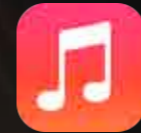
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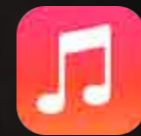
SONGS

SYMPHONY COMPOSED SOUNDTRACK

Song O Re Piya



Song Naina



Song Aab Pal

Song Zara Thumka



Girish Makwana, born in India but now a citizen and resident of Australia, began life in Gujarat State, India. He initially studied to be a microbiologist, but felt overwhelmingly drawn towards a musical career. He embarked on a course of studies in music performance in India and later in Australia. From an initial focus on Indian classical styles he moved to also embrace Western classical music. He holds Bachelor and Masters Degrees in music performance from the MS University of Baroda in India, in Australia Girish is a much acclaimed and respected member of the Indian community and has worked tirelessly to promote India's musical culture and traditional Indian instruments to wider audiences in Australia.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Dir. Girish Makwana

Sahil Saluja

Vidya Makan

Derryn Hinch



Sahil Saluja - Lead Actor



Sahil Saluja is an Indian actor who has been training at the Melbourne Actors Lab under Peter Kalos since 2013. Additionally, he has been trained at Second City School of Improv in Chicago. In 2015, he had the opportunity to play the lead actor in 'The Colour of Darkness', an independent feature directed and written by Girish Makwana. He plays a PhD student who hails from the lowest caste in India. The film focuses on the discrimination that exists in the Indian society and has been beautifully shot in India, Australia and New Zealand. Sahil is a stand-up comic and performed at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2015. He is currently in India as part of the NCPA (National Centre of Performing Arts) Repertory Theatre Company which is currently in the process of building its first performance scheduled for September 2016.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Dir. Girish Makwana

Sahil Saluja

Vidya Makan

Derryn Hinch



Vidya Makan hails from the sunshine a state of Queensland, where she grew up fostering her great love for art and music. She is extremely excited to be making her screen debut in 'The Colour of Darkness', having made her professional stage debut earlier this year playing the role of 'Little Inez' in the Australian Tour of 'Hairspray: The Arena Spectacular'. Vidya holds a Bachelor of Music (Musical Theatre) from the Queensland Conservatorium, where she had the opportunity of playing a variety of lead roles in shows including Oklahoma!, Hair, Godspell and A Chorus Line. Vidya would like to thank her amazing sister/bud and family for their incredible and ongoing support and belief in her. Finally, Vidya's work is non-existent without her team mates, and would like to thank the amazing team working on The Colour of Darkness for their love and commitment on this wonderful and important project.

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The **Colour of Darkness** is an astute contemporary drama that considers the effects of rigid racial prejudice.

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'**Director Girish Makwana** has crafted a detailed and immersive narrative that explores the real ramifications of deep-rooted discrimination' ~ Indian Film Festival Melbourne, **IFFM**

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The Colour of Darkness

GK Makwana Films is the brainchild of Girish Makwana and reflects his interests and creative impulses. Since it was first set up as an independent production company in 1995/1996 it has grown and evolved in its scope as an independent production company. Originally it was a vehicle to produce live music performances of a broad range of musical genres in India. Over time, the company moved into broadcasting, creating background music for radio programmes, television commercials and serials, all the while continuing to produce music performance which bridges the cultural divide of musical genres on an international level.

As part of this ongoing work, the group "Tihai3" was formed in 2004/2005. "Tihai3" has as its focus Indian classical music, but works in collaboration with different musicians and musical styles. It comes then as no surprise that the music of "Tihai3" combines traditional Indian instruments with non-Indian instruments.

By 2010 GK Makwana Films had diversified to include film and documentary productions, a reflection of Girish Makwana's evolution as musician, script writer, director, producer and filmmaker. The company, now based in Australia, has firm cultural and creative ties with India.



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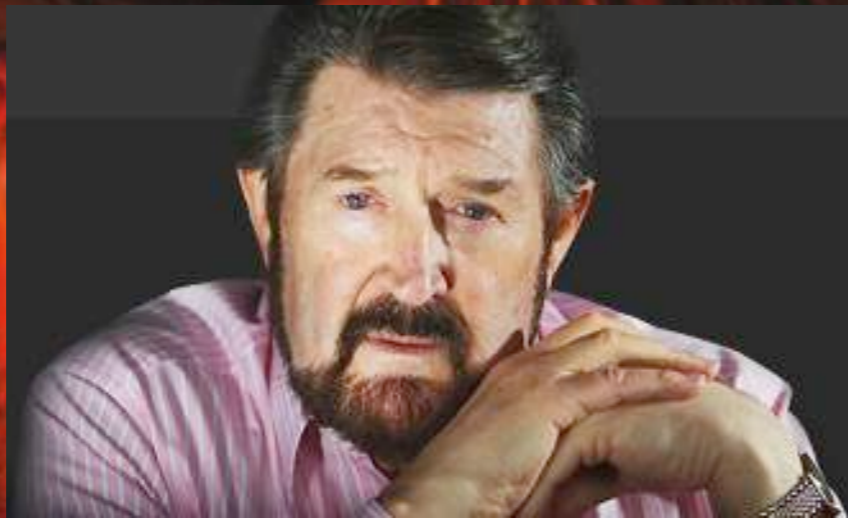
BEHIND THE SCENES

Dir. Girish Makwana

Sahil Saluja

Vidya Makan

Derryn Hinch



Derryn Hinch On Triple M's national drive show Merrick and Australia, Hinch talked about the film, as well as chatting about the issues of the day. Australia Day I spent the day in country Victoria, in Keilor, playing a corrupt opposition politician trying to plot the overthrow of the Victorian Government.”

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