


INDRANI KOPAL

DOCUMENTARY

 Indranikopal@gmail.com

 www.indranikopal.co

 +61 499 1699 30
+6019 606 8262 (WA)

 Sydney, Australia

PROFILE



About me

I decided to pursue a journey where my heart feels more at home with documentary storytelling. I believe it is through the process of documentary and sharing that our mundane stories become profound.

EMPLOYMENT

SENIOR LECTURER

SUBANG JAYA
Mar 18' – PRESENT

CREATIVE DIRECTOR & FOUNDER

KUALA LUMPUR
JAN 2016 – PRESENT

DOCUMENTARY FILM EDITOR

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE
2015-2016

INDUSTRY TRAINING

NEW YORK
2014 – 2015

VIDEO JOURNALIST

KUALA LUMPUR
2006 – 2012

TV PRODUCER

KUALA LUMPUR
2004 – 2006

TAYLOR'S UNIVERSITY

Taught a wide range of film, television, and broadcasting courses to undergraduate students at the School of Media and Communication.

FAR EAST DOCUMENTARY CENTRE

Founder of Far East Documentary Centre. Through various collaborations, Far East produces documentary films and web content that promotes cultural, social awareness and change.

BUNDAY PRODUCTION

Editor of the feature-length documentary, *"Before the Trees Was Strange"*, a film that explores the meaning of race and how it plays a role in the formation of both individual and cultural identity.

AUSTIN STREET PRODUCTION

Assistant producer of various program proposals and an editor of the in-house program trailers. Austin Street specializes in the development, production, and post-production of cable television and on-line programming.

MALAYSIAKINI


Shot and edited over 50 short web documentaries and news features focusing on social and political issues, especially the issues of marginalized rural Malaysian Indians.

MITV NETWORK SDN BHD

Produced over a dozen Tamil TV Magazine programs with 13 episodes each for Varnam Channel.

SOCIAL

 [indra3012](#)

 [indra05](#)

 [indranikopal](#)

 [indranikopal](#)

 [indra05](#)

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts (MFA)

NEW YORK, USA
Fall 2012 – Fall 2015

BSc in Communications

MALAYSIA
2006 - 2011

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

Master of Fine Arts with Distinction (MFA) with a major in Documentary Studies and Production, 2012 - 2015

OPEN UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

Bachelor of Multimedia Communications (Hons.), Web Broadcasting, 2006 – 2011

INDRANI KOPAL

DOCUMENTARY



Indranikopal@gmail.com



www.indranikopal.co



+61 499 1699 30
+6019 606 8262 (WA)



Sydney, Australia



SKILLS

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Award winning documentary film director, producer and editor.
- Adept cinematographer: can operate various semi-pro series and DSLRs.
- Proficient video editor: Adobe Premiere Pro, Avid Media Composer and Apple Final Cut (20 years of editing experience)
- Working knowledge of Adobe After Effects and Photoshop.
- Proficient in researching video content and archival material.
- Skilled educator in documentary production, video editing and audience outreach strategy.

CITIZEN JOURNALISTS MALAYSIA TRAINER

2008-2011

Video Trainer for the Citizen Journalism Program (cj.my), Malaysia

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

GUEST SPEAKER 2006 - PRESENT

- 2021** FINAS: Documentary Storytelling and Producing Workshop
- 2021** Ways of Seeing: Storytelling through documentary, George Town Literary Festival (GTLF)
- 2021** The Theme of Reimagine: Storytelling in Motion, G-Short Short Film Festival
- 2020** The Troublemakers' Assembly Conference, Taylor's University
- 2020** Women Make Waves Film Screening & Panel
- 2018** Mobile Film Workshop, University of the Bahamas
- 2018** The 6th iLEAD Conference 2018, Taylor's University, Malaysia
- 2016** The Art of Telling Real Stories on Screen, Curtin University, Sarawak, Malaysia
- 2016** Women: Girls - The Young Changemakers Summit
- 2016** AGNI Filmmaking Camp in Malaysia
- 2015** PEO Convention in Albany, New York

TRAINER, TLMDC, TIMOR-LESTE 2009

Conducted Video Journalism Workshop at The Timor-Leste Media Development Center (TLMDC), East Timor.

VISITING SCHOLAR 2017

MacEwan University, Edmonton
Canada



HONORS & AWARDS

2007-PRESENT

- 2019** Asia Tatler's Generation T, Malaysian honouree
- 2018** Mira Nair Award for Rising Female Filmmaker for "Incarcerated Rhythm".
- 2016** AGNI Youth Icon Award.
- 2015** Kalai Payanam Award, Certificate for International Achievement.
- 2015** Great Women of Our Time Award for "Arts & Media" by The Malaysian Women's Weekly Magazine.
- 2015** Best Student Documentary Award at The American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at Cannes, France.
- 2014** Bustle's Annual Upstart Award.
- 2014** Best Short Documentary at 9th Annual Harlem International Film Festival, New York.
- 2008** Most Outstanding Asian Youth Ambassador (AYA) Award, Runner up.
- 2007** Justin Louis Award in Freedom Film Festival, Film 'She's My Son'

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP 2012 - 2015

2012-2015 Fulbright Malaysian Graduate Study and Research Scholarship Award

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2012-2013** PEO Scholarship
- 2014-2015** Provost Scholarship (Hofstra)

FILM FESTIVAL JURY 2014-PRESENT

- 2021** International Documentary Association's (IDA) David L. Wolper Student Documentary Award Jury
- 2021** G-Short Film Competition (Georgetown Festival)
- 2021** Harlem International Film Festival - Mira Nair Award Jury, USA
- 2019** BMW Shorties Film Festival
- 2018** Freedom Film Festival
- 2017** Pesta Film Kita
- 2016** Freedom Film Festival
- 2014** Hofstra Student Film Festival


FELLOWSHIPS 2010

2010 The 2010 International Emerging Documentary Filmmakers Fellowship at The Documentary Center at The George Washington University, DC.

INDRANI KOPAL DOCUMENTARY

 Indranikopal@gmail.com

 www.indranikopal.co

 +61 499 1699 30
+6019 606 8262 (WA)

 Sydney, Australia

PORTFOLIO



Incarcerated Rhythm (Feature Documentary)
80-min/USA-Malaysia/2018
Directed/Edited by Indrani Kopal

The film focuses on the re-entry journey and the integration process of the men back into society.

1. World Premiere and the Winner of Mira Nair Award at the 13th Annual International Harlem Film Festival 2018, New York
2. Official Selection of the 32nd Annual Edmonton International Film Festival 2018, Canada
3. Official selection of the Bucharest Film Awards 2018, Romania
4. Official Selection of the Portland Film Festival 2018, USA
5. Semi-finalist at the Courage Film Festival 2018
6. Winner, Award of Merit, The Accolade Global Film Competition (May 2018)
7. Official Selection of REEL DOCS: Documentary Film Series 2020 at San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
8. Official Selection of DUMBO Film Festival 2019, USA



Before The Trees Was Strange (Feature Documentary)
1hr 25 min/Bahamas/2016
Edited by Indrani Kopal

A personal documentary about race, family, love, and forgiveness.


1. Premiered at the 13th Bahamas International Film Festival (BIFF) 2016
2. Official Selection of 12th Annual Harlem International Film Festival 2017
3. Official Selection of Flathead Lake International Cinemafest 2017
4. Official Selection of San Diego Black Film Festival 2017
5. Official Selection of the 12th edition of the CaribbeanTales International Film Festival (CTFF2017)
6. Official Selection of the 4th Annual New Zealand Film Awards 2017
7. Screened at REEL DOCS: Documentary Film Series 2017 at San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

INDRANI KOPAL

DOCUMENTARY

 Indranikopal@gmail.com

 www.indranikopal.co

 +61 499 1699 30
+6019 606 8262 (WA)

 Sydney, Australia

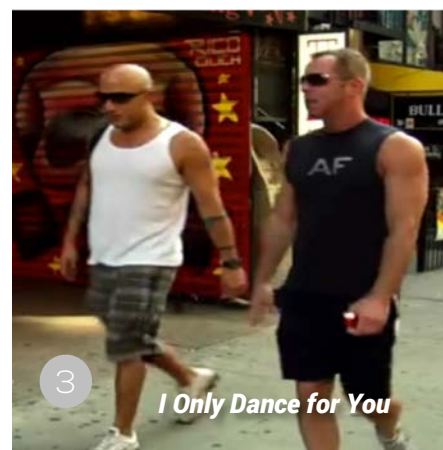
PORTFOLIO

1 **The Game Changer**
(USA, 2014, 17 minutes)
Notable Awards

- The American Pavilion's Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at Cannes Film Festival 2015
"BEST STUDENT DOCUMENTARY AWARD"
- Harlem International Film Festival
"BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY AWARD"



2 **Love in Despair**
(Malaysia, 2009, 5 minutes)
Short News Features for
Malaysiakini.tv
(2006-2012)



3 **I Only Dance for You**
(USA, 2010, 10 minutes)
GWU's International Emerging
Filmmakers Fellowship
(May - July 2010)

4 **She's My Son**
(Malaysia, 2007, 13 minutes)
Freedom Film Festival 2007
Justin Louis Award Winner




5 **Living Jazz with Bill Saxton**
(USA, 2013, 11 minutes)
Official Selection of the 2013
10th Annual Langston Hughes
African American Film Festival in
Seattle, WA.

Official Selection of the 2014 9th
Annual Harlem International Film
Festival, New York.

INDRANI KOPAL DOCUMENTARY

 Indranikopal@gmail.com

 www.indranikopal.co

 +61 499 1699 30
+6019 606 8262 (WA)

 Sydney, Australia

PORTFOLIO

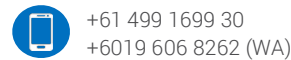
NON-COMMERCIAL PERSONAL & COMMISSIONED WORKS

Films/Awards	Role	Project Type	Duration/Country/Year
Uncharted Vision (Feature Documentary)	Director/Editor	Commissioned (In-Post)	60-min/Malaysia/2022
Antha Naal (13-Episode Documentary Series)	Producer	Commissioned (In-Production/Post)	30-min x 13 Episode / Malaysia/2022
Inclusion Equals Love (Short Documentary)	Director/Editor	Commissioned	26 min/Malaysia/2018
Dr Hartini Zainudin-Biography (4-Part Web Series)	Director/Editor	Commissioned	30-min/Malaysia/2017
Saving Malaysia (Short documentary)	Editor	Commissioned	30-min/Malaysia/2017
Teacher, The Tradition Bearer (Feature Documentary)	Director/Editor	Collaborative Project	48-min /Malaysia/2018
The Young Changemakers (Short Documentary)	Director/Editor	Commissioned	2-min/Malaysia/2016 & 2018
The Garden (Film-Poem)	Co-Director/Editor	Personal	5-min /USA/2017
An Artist in Search (Short Documentary)	Co-Director/Editor	Personal	11 min/Bahamas/2017
KataKatha: The Conversation (Feature Documentary)	Editor	Commissioned	1hr 50 min/Malaysia/2016
KataKatha: Chaos in Motion (Video Essay)	Editor	Commissioned	12-min/Malaysia/2016
The Journal (Short Film)	Co-Director/Editor	Personal	6-min/USA/2015
Allons-y (Short Film)	Co-Director/Editor	Personal	4-min/France/2015
Unafraid of The Shadows (Short Documentary)	Director/Shooter/Editor	Personal	7-min/USA/2013
Video: The People's Voice (Short Documentary)	Director/Editor	Personal	15-min/Malaysia/2011
Oily Hair (Short Documentary)	Co-Producer/Director/Editor	Fellowship Project	5-min/USA/2010
I Only Dance for You (Short Documentary)	Director/Editor	Personal	10-min/USA/2010
She's My Son (Short Documentary) <i>Freedom Film Festival 2007 / Justin Louis Award Winner</i>	Director/Editor	Personal	15-min/Malaysia/2007

FEATURED IN



INDRANI KOPAL DOCUMENTARY



MALAYSIAKINI (2006-2012) NOTABLE NEWS FEATURES AND WEB DOCUMENTARIES



1. Nov 25 | Behind the Revolt (24-min, 2008, Director/Editor)

<https://vimeo.com/1300882>

The documentary analyzes and highlights the chronology of the events that led Malaysian Indians to the street protesting on Nov 25, 2007. Despite repeated warnings and a court order which allowed the police to 'arrest on sight', they came out in the thousands on Nov 25 into the streets of Kuala Lumpur.

2. Revisiting Malaysia '1988' Judiciary Crisis (9-min, 2007, Director/Editor)

<https://vimeo.com/1555720>

Two decades have passed since the 1988 judiciary crisis. But the effects still linger. The phrase 'judiciary crisis of 1988' is generally understood as relating to the suspension and sacking of Supreme Court judges, including the then Lord President Salleh Abas.



3. Bersih Rally 2007: A Cry for Royal Help (13-min, 2007, Director/Editor)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGdvo-idYs4&feature=youtu.be>

The Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections (Bersih) wanted an election system that was free and fair. Bersih organised a massive rally in Kuala Lumpur on Nov 10. Despite a police cordon and water cannon, and tear gas, some 40,000 protesters managed to march to Istana Negara (Royal Palace), where a petition was handed to

the King's representative.

INDRANI KOPAL DOCUMENTARY



Indranikopal@gmail.com



www.indranikopal.co



+61 499 1699 30
+6019 606 8262 (WA)



Sydney, Australia

4. **The Forgotten Malaysians** (9-min, 2007, Director/Editor)

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/2033963>

It is hard to imagine that people living just 400km away from the capital city do not know who their prime minister is. "What Merdeka? Merdeka from whom?" asked the local Orang Asli elders (indigenous or first peoples in Malay) when the Malaysiakini team visited them to coincide with the nation's 50th anniversary.



5. **High Chaparral: The Tale of the Villagers** (7-min, 2009, Director/Editor)

<https://vimeo.com/5904426>

The plight of the villagers in Kampung Buah Pala, or as 'Tamil High Chaparral' as it is popularly known to Penangites, hit the headlines after they received a court order to vacate their old settlement of which three generations have lived to make way for a modern condominium.

6. **Love ... in despair** (5-min, 2009; Director/Editor)

<https://vimeo.com/4607093>

Forced by poverty and disability, a woman contemplated suicide. She wanted to take her 13 children with her. Just when N Parameswari had concluded that death was the only remedy, fate had a pleasant surprise in store.

7. **'They stole 11 months from me'** (17-min, 2008, Director/Editor)

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/2331076>

This is the story of a vulnerable young single mother who shared her tragic story of how 11 months was stolen from her life. Rajeswary, a Malaysian woman was mistakenly locked up for 11 months by her own government. The single mother was six months pregnant when she was accused of being an 'illegal' Sri Lankan immigrant.



INDRANI KOPAL DOCUMENTARY



Indranikopal@gmail.com



www.indranikopal.co



+61 499 1699 30
+6019 606 8262 (WA)



Sydney, Australia

8. Deleted from victors' history: The other freedom fighters (10-min, 2008, Director/Editor)

<https://vimeo.com/6376200>

A story about unrecognized members of the 10th Regiment of the Communist Party of Malaya led by Abdullah CD and their role in gaining independence for the country. They have lived in a rural village at the border of Malaya and Thailand area since 1953.



9. 'Penans will die if the jungle is destroyed' (4-Part Series, 2009, Director/Editor)

<https://vimeo.com/7916214>



The Penans, are an indigenous group of people who live in Ulu Baram Sarawak, Malaysia, who are waging a battle on two fronts. On the one hand, they are trying to protect their jungle from being destroyed by loggers, while on the other hand, they are trying their best to get the authorities to provide basic necessities required for their village.

10. SPECIAL REPORT: Escape from slavery (4-Part Series, 2006, Director/Editor)

<https://vimeo.com/9694396>

On August 2005, while 200 estate workers were gathering for a Hindu festival at a temple, one man had only one thing on his mind - escape. It was an opportunity for P Ramudu and his heavily pregnant wife, A Kalaivany, to dash for freedom. They were escaping their 'owner' who 'forced them to work on the plantation'.



INDRANI KOPAL DOCUMENTARY



Indranikopal@gmail.com



www.indranikopal.co



+61 499 1699 30
+6019 606 8262 (WA)



Sydney, Australia



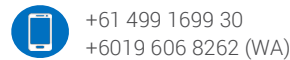
The Tale of Three Women's Struggle for Justice and Equality

Shot & Edited by Indrani Kopal

<https://www.engagemedia.org/Members/indra05/videos/the-tale-of-three-womens-struggle-for-justice-and-equality/view>

The tale of three women's struggle for justice and equality. Guppy Union was started by women workers who worked in a plastics factory in Balakong, Cheras. Their struggle and desire to form a union began 14 years previously when they were frustrated with their bosses for increasing their wages by a mere ten-cents annually.

INDRANI KOPAL DOCUMENTARY



BIOGRAPHY

Indrani Kopal is an award-winning filmmaker, a Fulbright scholar, and the Far East Documentary Centre's founder and creative director in Malaysia. She is a former video journalist at Malaysiakini.com, an independent online news organisation in Malaysia and one of the first to initiate web videos to cover daily news and features of Malaysia's current issues.

Her documentary 'The Game Changer' was screened at 17 international festivals and won multiple awards, including the best documentary award at the 2014 Harlem International Film Festival and the American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase 2015 Cannes, France.

In 2018 she was awarded the **Mira Nair Award for Rising Female Filmmaker** at the Harlem International Film Festival for her feature-length documentary 'Incarcerated Rhythm'. Currently, Indrani is finishing another feature-length biography film, produced by her friend and long-time collaborator, Kat Khalid (Radhikal Films), that explores the sensibility, temperament, and aesthetics of the acclaimed Malaysian photographer Ismail Hashim.




She founded the Far East Documentary Centre in 2016 and formed a biography film project to support the sharing of our personal stories that reminds us that we are not alone. She believes it is through the process of a documentary that our mundane stories become profound. Indrani Kopal often employs various filmmaking methodologies such as participatory video and video diaries that allow community members to engage within their own story and find their narrative.

Indrani also works part-time as a Senior Lecturer in the School of Media and Communication at Taylor's University. Her primary research interests focus on biographical films as cultural memory and national identity.

INDRANI KOPAL DOCUMENTARY

 Indranikopal@gmail.com

 www.indranikopal.co

 +61 499 1699 30
+6019 606 8262 (WA)

 Sydney, Australia



PERSONAL STATEMENT

Over the years, I relentlessly pursued one passion: making films that could change hearts and minds and ignite social change around the issues that I care about in my community.

This strong 'purpose' has constantly motivated me to keep going throughout difficult circumstances, and stay true to my core values, and impart them in the stories I tell.

My most successful films are undeniably stories about resilient women who have overcome incredible challenges – *The Game Changer*, *Teacher the Tradition Bearer*, Dr Hartini's HERWORLD series, and my first documentary, *She's My Son*. I am aware of the complexity of their character and how they fight their everyday storms for justice, equality and freedom. I am also fascinated about how they live, love, and how their values allow them to represent themselves in the world.

I truly believe everyone wants to be part of something bigger than themselves. Everyone wants to be part of something special that inspires them, and that's what good stories do. I look for stories that inspire me, and in telling that story, I get to share it with others, and these are the stories that I want to leave behind as my legacy.