



PRESS BOOK

FADING MAGIC: THE STORY OF KOLKATA'S MAGICIANS

ABOUT THE FILM

Kolkata, or Calcutta as it was known earlier, has been known as India's key cultural hub and incubation pool for all forms of fine arts including the art of Stage magic. In the '60s and '70s the art of magic moved from the domain of street performers to large scale theatres and stage as the city of Kolkata grew to become a global centre for stage performing magicians.. Stage Magic is a unique art form which demands decades of practice and dedication as well as knowledge of the intricacies of handling large audiences. The city has perhaps the richest history of magic and magicians in the country.

However, with changing times, diverse forms of entertainment coupled with a fading attraction for stage magic, the demand for this once beloved art form is floundering. A number of these once legendary artists are now facing financial and personal crisis. Audiences no longer want to spend money to watch magic in the very city which groomed it. Some magicians do not have the funds to take care of their ailing health and some have passed away leaving behind families in debt and facing extreme hardship. The documentary film enters the lives of some such legendary stage magicians and looks at the gritty and real face of the life which they are leading. The glamour has gone and the arc lights have faded for many of these artists who have dedicated their lives to honing their skills and amazing their audiences. Today, times are difficult for these magicians and it seems that the future is bleak.

This 50 minute English documentary film shot in full HD is not only the most in-depth look into the history of magic in the city but a compelling and personal journey into the lives of magicians who were once legends but today are fighting for their very survival.



Presenting a DVD of the film to Hon'ble Shri K.N. Tripathi Governor of West Bengal

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

This is Amit Sahai's debut as an independent documentary film maker. While his profession is that of International software sales, Amit's passion has been cinema and moreso the art of storytelling.

The idea for this documentary came to Amit during an event when he saw how the general crowds would appreciate latest film music but not have enough time for magic artists. After meeting with various magicians, he felt that the story of the artists who were once legendary names but now have been forgotten was one which the world needs to be told.

He spent months in researching for the film, meeting magicians and filmmakers, trying to come to terms with the levels of indifference the audiences were now showing for the art of stage magic. Eventually, Amit dipped into his own savings to make the documentary and to give the magicians the much needed visual platform to tell their story. Over a period spanning many months, balancing his day job and his passion, Amit eventually had the film ready. His debut documentary has received critical acclaim and has been appreciated the most by the magicians themselves who now had a voice..



The Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal with the featured magicians during the screening of the film



With legendary American actress Ms. Alice Krige at IFCOM 2015 Jakarta, Indonesia



Winner of International Gold Award for Short Documentary at IFCOM Festival 2015 Jakarta, Indonesia



Winner of Special Jury Mention for Documentary at 3rd Indian Cine Film Festival 2015 Mumbai, India



Winner of Special Festival Mention for Documentary at 4th Kolkata Shorts International Film Festival 2015 Kolkata, India

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