



# THE CONVERSATIONS

ERASE THE ~~MEMORIES~~ GIRL.



## THE CONVERSATIONS

### Synopsis

THE CONVERSATIONS is the poignant story of a young man's journey to overcome heartbreak. Stand-up comedian Ali is desperate to erase the memories of blonde American muse Ellie.

What ensues is a comedic insight into Ali's state of mind and a refreshingly frank portrayal of a troubled man's attempts to deal with his emotions.

# THE CONVERSATIONS

## Q&A with the Directors



### Q> What are the themes and inspiration for the film?

The film is born out of the idea of love and a break up. Being in love with something/one that is unobtainable. As we've all been at some point in the past or present.

We wanted to portray a non-stereotypical perspective of a young man that happens to be British Asian trying to fathom love and loss while trying to maintain moralistic values of culture and identity.

The journey of the film stretches across the landscapes the mind creates when overwhelmed with emotional pain and denial. Al's internal struggles are highlighted by the realisation of his inner angel and demon, which boil up into the dramatic conclusion that in the end we can only really be saved by ourselves from within.

Mental health is still a cultural taboo within the Indian subcontinent and transcends over to the west. Showcasing such stories in the public light may help others to express their own issues.

### Q> How did you get the film made and what budget did you have?

We were determined to get the film made regardless of budget but also wanted to pay everyone and do it properly. A film company was set up and both of us invested 1K up front to 'kick off' production.

As the shoot developed we had further investment trickle through to get the film completed.

We were fortunate to have use of camera and lighting equipment, providing it wasn't being hired out (via Mutiny Media). Due to the nature of the project a huge dedication was needed from everyone involved. Thankfully we managed it.

### Q> What challenges did you face and how long was the shoot?

Filming took place for 24 days over the course of a year, around cast and crew availability.

Major challenges were continuity of script and keeping the actors in character. Most actors are used to playing characters for 3 months max. Even with some of the bigger films that are released they normally do a scene a day for 3-6 months. However on this film it was the case that they did 2-3 scenes per day and then went off for 2-3 weeks before doing anything else. It's a huge testament to the actors for being so professional and maintaining their characters.

(Spoiler)

One particular sequence at the farmhouse that proved difficult was the climax of the film. The scene had an emotional intensity that required shouting and we were only able to shoot a couple of takes before the family staying next door became extremely upset.

### Q> Why did you co-direct?

Being our first movie it felt right. As filmmakers, we have collaborated over 10 years on shorts, skits and pilots. We had always dreamt of directing our own feature.

With THE CONVERSATIONS we were able to kill two birds with one stone or make two dreams a reality with one camera.

### Q> Was the non-linear structure deliberate or an editorial decision?

The non-linear narrative was always going to be case. The script was non-linear from the beginning. Editorially, if anything, it has less non-linear narrative. The original script was zany. It had a gameshow sequence randomly, it had fourth walls within fourth walls and musical sequences. It would have been interesting to see those scenes come to life!

### Q> How did you go about casting the characters and finding locations?

Casting took place over a couple of long 10 hour days – we used 'Casting Call Pro' and found 90% of the cast there. Daniella (ELLIE) was the first to audition for any role and we were both bowled over immediately. We had worked with Anna (JODIE) before and Michael (LAD) came through her recommendation and was the perfect choice for LAD.

Locations were trickier. Due to budget constraints

we had to work our charm in securing suitable environments ad-hoc as the shoot continued. The Farmhouse, Warehouse, 'East Street' Restaurant and 'Heathrow' Airport were our greatest acquisitions.

### Q> What format did you shoot the movie on?

For economical reasons we shot digitally on the Canon C100 HD camera with an Atomos Ninja recorder to achieve a higher bit depth for colour grading.

Haider: Luke Oliver (Cinematographer) and I had previously shot Danny Dyer's Vendetta with the same camera and found it to hold up exceptionally well on the cinema screen.

Sadly, the majority of our audience will be watching THE CONVERSATIONS on a tablet, laptop or television so we knew the image quality was not being compromised.

### Q> How was the original score composed?

Haider: I was late for a filmmakers networking event and bumped into Nina Humphreys (Composer) in the lift whom was also delayed. We ended up sitting next to each other and shared what either of us did. Coincidentally we were searching for a composer and Nina her next project. The law of attraction.

Our influences were Cliff Martinez and Trent Reznor in creating a diverse soundscape for the varying emotions the film transpired.

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## About the Cast

### HAIDER ZAFAR/AL

It was at the age of 13, when his father bought their first camcorder that Haider began shooting the family home videos with Spielberg inspired reverse zoom dolly shots to handheld 'shaky cam' that would have made CLOVERFIELD(2008) look static.

Shifting from behind to in front of the lens came from an early age, Zafar was always keen to step into a thespian's shoes. From School plays portraying Darius the Mede to a capulet servant in Romeo and Juliet there was always a looming interest to perform.

Having never formally trained, he acted in numerous short films throughout high school and well into his working life.

Initially he had dreamed of working as visual effects artist for ILM(Industrial Light and Magic) and went on to study Creative Visualisation at Teesside University.

Whilst enjoying 3D modelling and animation he ended up in the universities film and television department, dabbling with video cameras and went on to produce a live action short mixed with CGI(computer

generated imagery) for his final dissertation, A date with Doris - following a blind date with a robot.

After graduating he joined an architectural practice as 3D Visualiser utilising his skills earned at university but ultimately unfulfilled creatively. The 2009 credit crunch brought unemployment and Zafar began to pursue freelancing. He was now able to focus energy on filmmaking and continued making shorts and music videos.

2011 brought him his first feature gig as Cinematographer on The Rise and Fall of a White Collar Hooligan, a success in the world of home entertainment he went on shooting 15 Features in under 5 years.

His work for Danny Dyer's 'Vendetta' was praised by Mark Kermode as, "talented cinematographer Haider Zafar adds a level of visual gloss that belies the tight budget," with TOTAL FILM adding, "Made for 100k but looking a million dollars thanks to the gleaming images of DoP Haider Zafar."

THE CONVERSATIONS marks both his acting and co-directorial debut, and has recently finished shooting Marcus's second feature, 6 Rounds.

### DANIELLA DOWN/ELLIE

Trained in contemporary theatre in the UK and having worked as an actor and voice artist in Hong Kong, Daniella now focuses on acting for film. The Conversations (2016) is her third feature and reflects her passion for quirky storytelling. She's known for her role as 'Sam' in the Nigerian-British comedy 'Mum, Dad, Meet Sam'(2015), directed by Tony Sebastian Ukpo. 'The Shell Collector', an American- Hong Kong film, is currently in post and set to release in 2017.

She's worked on varied creative projects, from an underwater music video (Coldplay Ghost Stories Live Tour), voiced Anime cartoons (Gundam, Inazuma 11 Go), made experimental short films such as 'The other Violence' (directed by Michael Sewandono) and commercials to writing a children's play and short stories.

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About the Cast

## ANNA LEONG BROPHY/JODIE

Anna trained at East 15 Acting School.

Theatre includes: P'yongyang (Finsborough Theatre), Pitcairn (Chichester Festival Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe), Yeh Shen (Yellow Earth), How to Waste Money on Mere Happiness (New Diorama Theatre), Shelf Life (Theatre Delicatessen) The Art of Fugue (Soho Theatre), BattleActs (Roundhouse), Paradise Street (Futures Theatre) and Cure (Underbelly Edinburgh).

Anna is a founder member of award-winning improv troupe BattleActs, and half of comedy duo EGG, whose debut hour will be premiering at the Edinburgh Fringe this summer. She is currently appearing as Lotus Blossom in Anders Lustgarden's The Sugar-Coated Bullets of the Bourgeoisie at the Arcola Theatre.

## MICHAEL KEANE/LAD

Michael studied at University College Cork and trained at East 15.

Theatre includes Waiting for Godot (London Classic Theatre), Henry VI (Union Theatre), Once Upon A Christmas (Look Left Look Right), Dry Rot (Fricker/Kenwright Prods), The Winter's Tale (ETT/Old Vic Tunnels), The Ride of Your Life (On Theatre/Polka), The Inconsiderate Aberrations of Billy the Kid (2Headed Pigeon), The Night Before Christmas (Signal), The Meeting (Fiddy West), Macbeth (Love & Madness), Trying Jokes (Hammergrin), Fireface (Granary) and Chatroom (Boomerang/NT Connections) at the National Theatre.

Television and film includes: Mr Turner (Thin Man Films), The Hollow Crown (BBC/Neal St Prods), Warhol (Ditto Prods), The Conversations (HKZ Prods) and The Strangest Story of Six Strangers (Many Thoughts).

Michael is also a writer, recent commissions are Hweol, New Atlantis and The Lost Carnival, all for LAStheatre. He wrote and directed The Perils of Love & Gravity (Bedlam Theatre & New Wimbledon Theatre) and is a member of the award-winning improv troupe Battleacts!

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## KUBRA KHAN/PERFECT GIRL

London-based-Pakistani actress and fashion model.

Before acting in films, Kubra worked as a fashion model after being found by Marcus Flemmings, owner of Europe's biggest Asian modelling agency TMP Agency who signed her up. Resulting in shoots with fashion designer Umer Syed and London based boutique Jasmanique.

She rose to stardom with her acting debut in 2014 Pakistani comedy-thriller film Na Maloom Afraad, which earned her a wide critical acclaim and recognition in the industry. Khan also marked her bollywood debut in 2015 film Welcome to Karachi.



## LLILA VIS/KAZ

Llila trained at CSSD and Actors Temple. Some of her theatre credits include 'Baba Shakespeare' (The Arcola and RSC Courtyard, Stratford Upon Avon), The Two Gentleman of Verona, (Cockpit Theatre), Occupy Love (Cockpit Theatre) and Young Harts at Lyric Hammersmith. Film credits include 'The Conversations' and 'Scott and Sid' to be released later this year.



# THE CONVERSATIONS

About the Filmmakers



## MARCUS FLEMMINGS - WRITER/ PRODUCER/ CO-DIRECTOR

Having decided to venture into filmmaking at the tender age of 17, it's been a bit of a roundabout journey since. Having a book published back in 2005 - *Sexy Utopia*. Then moving into owning a media brand - a successful model agency before eventually doing some fashion photography and being published in various magazines across the globe.

2016 has become something of a purple year for Flemmings - 4 fashion films being screened at the BYRON BAY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, *THE CONVERSATIONS* marks his co-directorial debut; his solo directorial debut *SIX ROUNDS* premieres at the EAST END FILM FESTIVAL in July.

The screenwriter slash director is heavily influenced by Stanley Kubrick, 70's cinema, Woody Allen and the modern works of Charlie Kaufman.

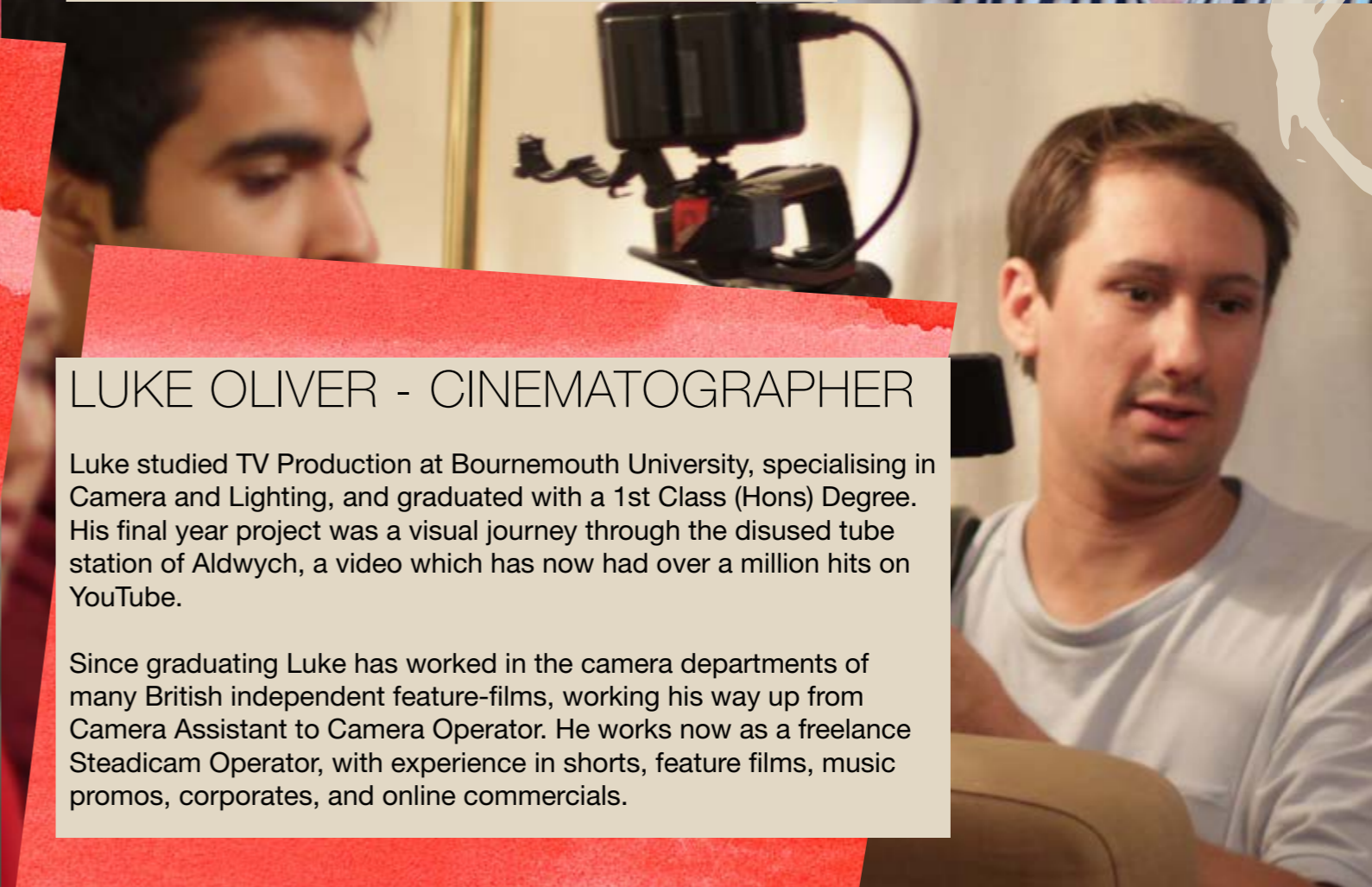
## JON THOMPSON - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Starting off for Oscar winning director Lindsay Anderson and Two time Oscar Winner, Freddie Frances. Jon worked with Freddie on the world's first digitally shot feature, *RAINBOW* directed by Bob Hoskins. Jon went onto work for Lucas film developing work flows for the Star Wars Ep1 to Ep3 as well as working on the digital versions of Ep4 to Ep6. He worked for all six of the Hollywood studios on the Digital Cinema Initiative creating the digital standard that is deployed in all cinemas around the globe.

Jon was instrumental in the UK Film Council's (UKFC) Digital Cinema deployment in the UK. He worked on numerous movies using cutting edge digital technology and work-flows including: *KILL BILL:VOL. 1*, *BATMAN BEGINS*, *MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3* and *STAR WARS* Episodes 1 to 8.

He is also an executive producer on *THE BENGALI DETECTIVE*, which won the Grierson Award - one of highest awards for Documentary films and is currently producing *CUBAN SOUL*, a documentary following actor and singer David Soul on a mission to help the Cubans re-build Ernest Hemingway's long-lost 1955 Chrysler New Yorker.

Jon is currently producing the horror thriller, *HARBOUR*.



## LUKE OLIVER - CINEMATOGRAPHER

Luke studied TV Production at Bournemouth University, specialising in Camera and Lighting, and graduated with a 1st Class (Hons) Degree. His final year project was a visual journey through the disused tube station of Aldwych, a video which has now had over a million hits on YouTube.

Since graduating Luke has worked in the camera departments of many British independent feature-films, working his way up from Camera Assistant to Camera Operator. He works now as a freelance Steadicam Operator, with experience in shorts, feature films, music promos, corporates, and online commercials.

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### CARMELA IANDOLI - EDITOR

Carmela Iandoli studied editing at the National Film & Television School in the UK. After graduating in 2013, she spent six months co-editing one of Ilya Khrzhanovky's DAU films alongside David Freeman (Full Monty) before editing her first feature LONG FORGOTTEN FIELDS directed by Jon Stanford. Since then, she has edited four more

features: DON'T HANG UP directed by Alexis Wajsbrot and Damien Mace, THE CONVERSATIONS, directed by Marcus Flemmings and Haider Zafar, SPACESHIP directed by Alex Taylor, and STARFISH, directed by Bill Clark. She has also cut numerous short films including OAKWOOD directed by Andrew Cumming for the BBC. Her films have screened at festivals around the world including: Sundance, Berlin, SXSW and Cameraimage. Her documentary SODIQ won a Grierson award in 2013.



### NINA HUMPHREYS - COMPOSER

Nina Humphreys is an award-winning composer for the screen. Known for lyrical, dark and quirky scores, her eclectic credits range from emotive character-led stories for contemporary and period settings to comedy, sci-fi and thrillers. Recent projects include contemporary feature films, K Shop : a Sweeney Todd-inspired thriller due for theatrical release this summer; and Greyhawk, which premiered at Edinburgh International Film Festival. Also Kipling's Indian Adventure : a documentary film recently aired on BBC2.

Prime-time TV includes BBC comedy, The Worst Week of My Life and Julia Davis' award-winning period-set creation Hunderby,(Sky Atlantic).

Nina's break-through drama was Jimmy McGovern's The Lakes II, followed by other contemporary stories : Lie With Me (dir. Susanna White) and Abi-Morgan written White Garland Murder (dir. Beeban Kidron) for which the score was RTS nominated. She has also written for period dramas such as World War II adaptations; The Night Watch and Sword of Honour - winning the RTS 'Best Original Score'. Nina has also composed for Theatre, Radio, Dance, Animation and Silent Film.





# THE CONVERSATIONS

## Credits

UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER  
NAVKIRANJIT DHALIWAL

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
DOMINIC DAVEY

SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
JULES BROWN

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS  
SAJID SUMRA  
IQRA ESOFJEE  
USMAN MALIK  
CHRISTOPHER PRESSWELL

### CAST

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

ALI NAWAAB	HAIDER ZAFAR
ELLIE GOLDSMITH	DANIELLA DOWN
LAD	MICHAEL KEANE
JODIE	ANNA LEONG BROPHY
SCIENTIST #1	JULIAN LAMORAL-ROBERTS
SCIENTIST #2	TOM BONINGTON
SCIENTIST #3	LUCIEN MORGAN
WARRIOR GIRLS	ANOUSKA MOND
	JULIE SHACKLETON
	JOY OGUNBOWALE
	NEMISHA DHOKIA
	NIMA PATEL
FRANK	FRANK JAKEMAN
CASHIER	JAANKI MAJITHIA
KAZ	LLILA VIS
FEMME FATALE	ISABELLE MARLOWE
BILL HOWARD	MARTIN PREST

FILM CREW

PHIL MACDONALD  
LUIS CELUMONDO  
ADAM BROWN  
EMILY MEECH

DR. FRANKLIN

BERNADETTE WOOD

KAM

NITIN PARASHER

AL'S FATHER

BHARAT MISTRY

AL'S MOTHER

NORMA DIXIT

AL'S AUNTY

MARIE CHANTAL RENE POWELL

AL'S UNCLE

MOHAMMED ALI

AL'S COUSINS

SHARIF ISLAM

LEENA DEVI

PERFECT GIRL

KUBRA KHAN

PERFECT GIRL'S MOTHER

KANCHAN RAVAL

PERFECT GIRL'S FATHER

SAJID SHEIKH

PERFECT GIRL'S SISTER

KARISHMA BHANDARI

PRAYING MAN

SUFI SAAB

RUDEBOYS

RAJA PUREWAL

NOOF McEWAN

IMAM

LIQUID THOMAS

AARON

EDDIE BAGAYAWA

TELEVISION EXECUTIVES

BELINDA O'BRIEN

JON THOMPSON

CLUB GUESTS

SAMUEL ANTHONY MARTIN

CHARLIE HOPKINS

CHRISTOPHER STONE

DENTAL PATIENT

ADAM BROWN

GEEZER

SCOTT SAMAIN

WAITER

DURAN FOULTON BROWN

RESTAURANT GUESTS

ARRIGO REUSS

NICOLETT NADIO

ALI ZAIDI

PETER Y KYEI

STOBHAN BERMINGHAM

ANNIE B

NINA FAY ROBINSON

ADAM BROWN

COMEDY CLUB AUDIENCE

ANDRÁS FORGÁCS

MUDEER KHWAJA

USMAN MALIK

DIPAK PATEL

JOELLE STEPHANIE KOISSI  
MICHAEL CHAPMAN  
PHELIM KELLY  
JESSICA CLASBY  
ANDREW CLASBY  
JENNIE WRIGHT  
ANNA WRANG  
SACHA LEWIS  
CHAY FARADAY-BROWNE  
RAY NEVILLE  
JONATHON DALEY  
AYODEJI OLUWA  
MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN  
DOLTON WYNTER  
MICHAEL KEATING  
KAREN WOOD  
AMY-MAY O'CONNELL WOOD  
YAA SERWAA OSEI-BOBIE  
CINZIA TAFFAGLI  
DAVIDE FUMAGALLI  
JEFF KELLUM  
AULIA BEG  
EMILY CHOW  
RIYAH BEGUM  
LUKE OLIVER  
JAS BIRK  
DOMINIC DAVEY  
JULES BROWN  
FEDI GIOIA  
MARCUS FLEMMINGS  
JASVIR LOTA  
MARTIN WHEATLY

LAUGHING MAN  
HECKLER

AL'S DOUBLE

SECOND UNIT PHOTOGRAPHY  
ADDITIONAL FILMING BY  
GAFFER (DAILIES)  
ASSISTANT CAMERA (DAILIES)

STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS

HARIDAS STEWART  
JONATHON JAMES COFFEY  
LEO OLESKAR  
PHIL MACDONALD  
JONATHON JAMES COFFEY  
CHRISTOPHER COLLINSON

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

SOUND RECORDISTS

SOUND DESIGN BY

SOUND ENGINEER

LOCATION SCOUTS

CASTING

MAKE-UP ARTISTS

ADDITIONAL COSTUME

ADDITIONAL PROPS SUPPLIED BY

BANSRI DATTANI  
JEMINI PATTNI

ADAM BROWN  
MICHAEL SHEPHERD  
ELIZABETH MARSHALL  
MANAV BHINDER

BILL CARGILL  
LUIS CELEMONDO  
LOIS JONES  
JAMES BULL  
PHIL MACDONALD

MAGNETIC GIRAFFE

STEVE PARR

CHARLIE HOPKINS  
CHRISTOPHER STONE

TMP

MIN SANDHU  
NINA ROBINSON  
JOANNA CICHUTA  
PRIYANKA KAUR NARAIN  
AMARA AKRAM  
CLAIRE APPLEBY  
ALEYSHA MAWANI  
MALAIKA RAZZAQ  
TAMASH SHARKAN  
ANNIE B  
JENNIFER PARKER  
SONEEYA ADIL  
JAS BIRK  
SHINDY

MANPREET KAUR GILL

MATTHEW STRANGE

JEMINI PATTNI

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS ADAM BROWN  
MICHAEL SHEPHERD  
ELIZABETH MARSHALL  
MANAV BHINDER

SOUND RECORDISTS BILL CARGILL  
LUIS CELEMONDO  
LOIS JONES  
JAMES BULL  
PHIL MACDONALD

SOUND DESIGN BY MAGNETIC GIRAFFE

SOUND ENGINEER STEVE PARR

LOCATION SCOUTS CHARLIE HOPKINS  
CHRISTOPHER STONE

CASTING TMP

MAKE-UP ARTISTS MIN SANDHU  
NINA ROBINSON  
JOANNA CICHUTA  
PRIYANKA KAUR NARAIN  
AMARA AKRAM  
CLAIRE APPLEBY  
ALEYSHA MAWANI  
MALAIKA RAZZAO  
TAMASH SHARKAN  
ANNIE B  
JENNIFER PARKER  
SONEEYA ADIL  
JAS BIRK  
SHINDY

ADDITIONAL COSTUME MANPREET KAUR GILL

ADDITIONAL PROPS SUPPLIED BY MATTHEW STRANGE  
FELIX COLES

LAURA HISCOKE

ARTWORK COURTESY OF ELLEN LAPPER

DIGITAL VISUAL EFFECTS BY DORMANT WEIRDOS

ILLUSTRATOR ALI CHARM

PUBLICIST SARAH WILBY  
SUHAN RAZZAQUE

PRODUCTION ACCOUNTANT A&L CHARTERED ACCOUNTS

INSURANCE PROVIDED BY LARK INSURANCE

SONGS

"WITHOUT YOU"  
WRITTEN BY N.CHAG & M.BAROUAGUI  
PERFORMED BY NIRAJ CHAG FT. MAJDA BAROUAGUI  
COURTESY OF BUZZ-ERK RECORDS © 2008

"BOLLYWOOD SONG AND DANCE"  
WRITTEN BY N.CHAG & J.KAUR  
PERFORMED BY NIRAJ CHAG FT. JAPJIT KAUR  
COURTESY OF BUZZ-ERK RECORDS © 2007

"WHAT IS THIS?"  
WRITTEN BY N.CHAG  
PERFORMED BY NIRAJ CHAG  
COURTESY OF BUZZ-ERK RECORDS © 2003

"SUPERSTAR"  
WRITTEN BY Z.KHURRAM-QAYYUM & A.COOMARASWAMY  
PERFORMED BY ZEESHAN KHURRAM & ARJUN COOMARASWAMY  
COURTESY OF ZKQ RECORDS

"A KID"  
WRITTEN BY KIRK SPENCER & LOUIS SCOTT  
PERFORMED BY KIRK SPENCER & LOUIS SCOTT  
COURTESY OF STRANGERZOO

"BOLLYWOOD BIG DANCE"  
WRITTEN BY N.CHAG & J.KAUR  
PERFORMED BY NIRAJ CHAG FT. JAPJIT KAUR  
COURTESY OF BUZZ-ERK RECORDS © 2007

"TAKE ME AWAY"  
WRITTEN BY N.CHAG & C.MCINTOSH  
PERFORMED BY SHINY BEAN FT. T-MAC  
COURTESY OF BUZZ-ERK RECORDS © 2007

"TOKI WA TOMEDONAKU HARETA SORA WO SI"  
WRITTEN BY TATSUJIRO 'POP' OTO  
PERFORMED BY POP N PUNK  
COURTESY OF STEREOART RECORDS

KEYBOARD SONATA IN B MINOR, K. 27 (PIANO VERSION)  
WRITTEN BY DOMENICO SCARLATTI  
PERFORMED BY RAYMOND SMULLYAN

[HTTPS://MUSOPEN.ORG/MUSIC/2785/DOMENICO-SCARLATTI/KEYBOARD-SONATA-IN-B-MINOR-K-27/]

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THE DIRECTORS WISH TO THANK

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PLAIN JANE EVENTS ALEX SMITH CATHERINE ARNOLD  
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BRIGHT AND WHITE DENTAL SPA HARPREET KHAMBAY BEIRUT NIGHTS ALI SALMAN  
VICTORIA LESIW FARAZ MOIN JOHN GROBSTEIN KATIE McCULLOUGH  
HEATHROW AIRPORT RACHEL BETTS EAST STREET RESTAURANT HOOT'N'ANNIE'S  
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SUPPORTING



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**ERASE THE MEMORIES GIRL.**



“This is a bold and inventive piece  
of filmmaking”

David Parkinson, The Oxford Times

“Incredible freshness, biting comedy, and  
poignant melancholy”

Chris Olson, UK Film Review

“Witty, Inventive and packed with  
great ideas”

Chris Watt, Watch This  
Space Film Magazine

“Excellent gem of a film”

Aly Lalji, Flickfeast