



# SUNNY BOY

A FILM BY SARA MORALO WITH KUMAR MUNIANDY

CO-PRODUCED BY KUMAR MUNIANDY & SARA MORALO  
EDITOR & DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SARA MORALO  
SOUND DESIGN BY ANTHONY BULLINGER, POST-PRODUCTION BY SARA MORALO

[WWW.SARAMORALO.COM](http://WWW.SARAMORALO.COM)

Year of Production ..... 2019

Running Time ..... 00:42:02

Country of Production ..... UK

Genre ..... Documentary

Language ..... English & Tamil

Picture ..... Colour

Aspect ratio ..... 16:9 – 1.78:1

Shooting Format ..... H.264 1080p 25fps

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## SYNOPSIS

**Sunny Boy** is an intimate portrayal of a gay Indian man in his late thirties. Born and raised in Malaysia, Kumar Muniandy moved to the UK in 2003. He takes us through his journey from Kuala Lumpur (KL) to London, reflecting on his family, his cultural heritage, what it means to be a man and gay in his homeland, and what it now means to be brown and gay in London.

Kumar comes from a working class Tamil Hindu family. As a young boy growing up gay in a repressive society meant his childhood was complicated. He was bullied at school for being feminine and his first sexual encounter was with a paedophile. He has never come out to his parents and as a teenager he lived a clandestine gay life in KL. In search of sexual freedom and a desire to pursue an acting career, Kumar moved to London. The city offered him that freedom and good friends but that came with its own price as he tells us of the racism he experienced on a daily basis.

He discusses toxic masculinity, his own insecurities and the lack of intimacy that he finds in the gay scene, going to saunas and using dating apps for sex. We hear about his successes in explicit detail and the problems he encounters as an Indian man on the scene where attractiveness is dictated by white standards of beauty.

Images of him reacting to his own narration are combined with those of Kumar practicing yoga -as he explains yoga is his way of life. The footage is also interwoven with intimate images of the subject himself interacting with his own portraits, him washing, sleeping or praying to Ganesha.



## DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY



Sara Moralo is a visual artist and filmmaker born in Merida, Spain, on 2nd January 1984. She currently lives in London.

In 2007 she graduated from her *BA degree in Audiovisual Communication* at Complutense University of Madrid, where she received the Scholarship of Excellent Academic Progress and taught *Literature and Audiovisual Media*. She also graduated from her *MA in Fine Art Photography* at the London College of Communication in 2012.

*Sunny Boy* is her debut documentary film (42 minutes, UK 2019). She was also involved in the filming of the documentaries *Born Naked* and *When We Are Together We Can Be Everywhere*. Moralo's photography work has been internationally exhibited in several shows in Spain, London and Berlin, and published in VICE, El País, Dust and Uncertain States magazines.

## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

*My work is informed by feminist and queer theory, and deals with issues related to gender identity, race, culture, the politics of the body and sexuality. It aims to challenge (hetero)normative conceptions of gender and sexuality by exploring and subverting the concepts of masculinity and femininity.*

*My subjects are often women and/or people who belong to underrepresented groups. I strictly follow a consensual and collaborative process with the subjects I portray. In this sense, the ethics of the process are as important as the artistic result itself, aiming to create a safe and empowering space for the people involved in which they have power at all times over how they are represented.*

## CAST



Kumar Muniandy is an Indian-Malaysian actor and writer born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 25th November 1979. He is currently based in London and Berlin.

He migrated to the UK in 2003 to pursue acting where he graduated from Guildhall School of Music & Drama in 2008.

His recent credits are Philip Glass's opera, SATYAGRAHA, which is his fourth appearance as an Ensemble Skills at The Los Angeles Opera, California, in 2018; at The English National Opera, London, in 2013 and 2018; and at The Metropolitan Opera, New York, in 2011.

He was a lead actor in Tom Frederic's short film SAUNA THE DEAD which was premiered at the BFI Flare Film Festival in 2016. He also appeared in Anthony Horowitz's thriller drama series NEW BLOOD in 2016.

Other roles include being part of an ensemble in Bizet's opera THE PEARL FISHERS at The English National Opera in 2009, 2013 and 2016, as well as at MESSIAH. He was an ensemble member for the Pina Bausch's Tanztheatre Wuppertal performance NUR DU at the Barbican Centre in 2012.

Kumar tells us his story in the documentary *Sunny Boy*, where he reflects on masculinity, sexuality, race, Tamil culture, faith, and importantly, how all these multiple identities intersect.



CREDITS

Director ..... Sara Moralo

Producers ..... Sara Moralo  
Kumar Muniandy

Script ..... Kumar Muniandy  
Sara Moralo

Editor ..... Sara Moralo

DOP/Cinematographer ..... Sara Moralo

Sound Designer ..... Anthony Bullinger

Key Cast ..... Kumar Muniandy



## FESTIVALS

*Reel Desires International Queer Film Festival: Official Selection*  
Goethe Institute, Chennai, India, 2019

*New Filmmakers New York: Official Selection*  
Anthology Film Archives, 2019

*Berlin Porn Film Festival: Official Selection, 2019*

*International Queer & Migrant Film Festival: Official Selection*  
Amsterdam, 2019