

# PHANTOMS



Media Kit

# SYNOPSIS

A woman with long dark hair is sitting on a bed in a bedroom. She is wearing a dark, sleeveless top and looking off to the side with a serious expression. The room is dimly lit, with a framed picture on the wall behind her and a doorway visible to the right. The overall color palette is dark and moody.

## SHORT

Two young women live together in a happy, domestic relationship, one of whom, 'Saira', is pregnant. Her existence takes a dark turn, resulting in a moment of horror that leads Saira to believe her unborn baby is in danger.

## LONG

Saira and Francesca live together in domestic bliss, expecting their first baby. One evening while taking a bath, Saira has a horrifying vision that leads her to believe her unborn baby may be in danger. She tries to find out what could be causing these disturbances, but what she discovers instead makes her question everything in her life that she believed to be true, including her own sanity. Things will never be the same for her again.

# CAST & CREW

Parvinder Shergill - 'Saira'

Christine Walsh - 'Francesca'

Shazia Mirza - 'Dr Hayes'

Alex Kavanagh - Director

Blake Ridder - Cinematographer

Oliver Goodrich - Gaffer

George Mean - Sound Recordist

Mike Ellis - Stills & Video

Alice Heapey - Make Up & FX

Elisa Mondini - Editor

Annabel Grace Steele - Original Score

Heinz Donnelly Schmidt - Colourist

Alex Wastnidge - Sound Designer

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Phantoms is about the emotional pain that can be caused by an abusive or toxic relationship. It was initially conceived as a horror short, but once the story and the character arcs were in place, it became more of a psychological drama, focusing on the anguish and confusion of Saira, following a traumatic relationship with her partner Francesca.

We wanted to explore complex themes of mental health that can arise from such difficult relationships, especially those related to maternal and post-natal complications. We also wanted the all-female cast to be ethnically diverse to address the stigma of LGBTQ relationships amongst minority groups. We felt that there were not enough lead roles available for BAME women, so created our own.

We were influenced by psychological thrillers like 'Black Swan', 'Mother!' and 'Enemy' for their unsettling atmosphere and creeping sense of dread. 'Revolutionary Road' and 'Marriage Story' for those devastating moments in relationships that can haunt us forever. And horror classics like 'Rosemary's Baby', and more recently 'The Babadook' for the way they put us in the unreliable perspective of their main characters and make us suffer with them.

We made this film from scratch with a grassroots crowdfunding campaign, and everybody worked incredibly hard to help complete it. We are eternally grateful to all of them and hope the finished result does the team justice!

# TECHNICAL INFO

## COMPLETION DATE

16.12.20

## DURATION

7m 59s

## ASPECT RATIO

2.35 : 1

## SHOOTING FORMAT

5K / 4K

## SOUND MIX

Stereo

## BUDGET

£2,500

## LANGUAGE

English