



PRESS KIT

A reflection on migrant assimilation and the shedding of identity.

ROOTS -SHORT FILM-

SYNOPSIS

A couple looks hopefully into the future. They soon discover the obstacles they must overcome to be accepted. As generations evolve their position alters in what was once a foreign land.

WRITER AND DIRECTOR

Hussina Raja

TECHNICAL SPECS

Length: 3 min 46 secs
Shooting Format: Super 16mm
Delivery Format: HD/2K
Aspect Ratio: 16:9

ABOUT THE FILM

ROOTS is a short film that explores what it means to be British, and the experience of immigrants who adapt their identity to fit in with the cultural norms and values of a new environment.

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ROOTS reflects on the filmmakers' own experience as a second-generation South Asian Brit. She examines the process that migrants must go through in order to be accepted, and questions at what stage an immigrant becomes integrated into society and 'one of us'.

When does the colour of one's skin, their accent, cuisine, culture and traditions transcend the British test and permit their existence to form part of British society?

CAST



Hussina Raja is an actress for screen, stage and radio. Her work has been shown on BBC, Channel 4, Sky and LA & London Film Festivals. Her film credits include *A Moving Image*, *Zoo-Head* & *The Survivalist*. TV credits include *Back to Life*, *Informer* & *Murdered for Love?* Samia Shahid. She has appeared on stage at *The Other Room*, *The Gate*, *Arts Theatre* & *Albany*.



Zia Ahmed is from North-West London. He is part of London Laureates, having been shortlisted for London's Young Poet Laureate 2015/16. He is a former Roundhouse Slam Champion and Writer in Residence at Paines Plough as part of Channel's 4 Playwrite Scheme. His debut play *I Wanna Be Yours* premieres at the Bush Theatre in December 2019.

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Hussina Raja — Writer & Director

Hussina Raja is a British artist and actress based in London. Born and raised in Luton, she studied Criminology at the University of Greenwich and later went on to Law school. She is a graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama with a Masters in Acting for Stage, Screen & Radio. Whilst working as an actress she began exploring different art forms and delving into film, photography and installations. Her work has been exhibited at *Index on Censorship*, *RichMix*, and for *Amnesty International*. Hussina is currently developing two documentaries and a short film on themes of identity, heritage and culture.

Felix Schmilinsky — Cinematographer

Felix Schmilinsky is a German-born Cinematographer based in London. He studied at FAMU in Prague and graduated from Bournemouth Film School. Felix shoots narrative film, commercials, documentary, music videos and video art. His passion lies in authentic storytelling. Collaborations on international projects have led him to work in places such as Cambodia, India, Japan, Mexico, USA and all over Europe. His debut award-winning feature film *A Moving Image* premiered at LA Film Festival and was screened at London Film Festival.

Janka Troeber — Editor

Janka Troeber is a film editor with 10 years of experience working in commercials, branded content, short film and documentaries. She is based in London and works internationally.

Sarathy Korwar — Composer

Sarathy Korwar has established himself as one of the most original and compelling voices in the UK jazz scene. Born in the US and having grown up in India, he moved to London to train as a classical tabla player under the guidance of Sanju Sahai at SOAS. Sarathy has led the UPAJ Collective residency at the Jazz Café in London and collaborated with the likes of Shaba Hutchings, Arun Ghosh and producer Hieroglyphic Being. His second studio album, More Arriving, came out in July 2019.

CREDITS

Written & Directed Hussina Raja
Cinematography Felix Schmilinsky
Editor Janka Troeber
Music Composer Sarathy Korwar
Woman Hussina Raja
Man Zia Ahmed
Focus Puller Raúl Menendez
Clapper Loader Robyn Skead
1st Assistant Director Ruth Cook

Colourist Caroline Morin
Title Design Marc Rühl
Makeup Zainab Hassan
Costume Yasmeen Hasan
With thanks to Four Corners, Fava Rental, Pixi Pixel, Tina Boles, Poplar Union, Agim Begolli, Kodak, Mikael at Wash Post
Funded with the support of Project Phakama UK Artist Bursary



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