

Cuppa Chai



After the passing of her Nani Ji, a young woman looks to recreate the perfect cup of tea.

Running Time	10 min
Genre	Drama
Year	2023
Language	English
Country of Origin	UK
Technical Specs:	10 bit, 24fps, UHD
Sales/Distribution Website	Alta Ambit Productions radha@altaambit.com



Produced by **Radha Bhandari** for Alta Ambit Productions and **Kelly Wong** for Dyzygo Films. CUPPA CHAI is supported by BFI NETWORK & Film Hub South East, under Executive Producer **Thomas Wightman**. **Ameenah Ayub Allen** (Rocks, Ali & Ava) also Executive Produced. Shooting took place in Leicester, UK.

KEY CREDITS

Cast: Raya Dasgupta, Meera Ganatra, Bhawna Bhawsar, Omar Khan, Ruchika Jain.

Director: Amit Kaur

Director of Photography: Beatriz Delgado Mena

Producers: Radha Bhandari, Kelly Wong

Casting: Lane Casting

Production Designer: Ciara O'Rourke

Costume: Rhona Ezuma

Hair & Make-up: Marlina Stencil

Editor: Tanupriya Sharma

Sound Designer: Annu Poojari

Original Music: Hollie Buhagiar



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Cuppa Chai is an ode to our forefathers who left their homelands for a better future for their children.

I came across Radha's beautiful script in a virtual meet up during lockdown. We instantly connected over our shared cultural experiences and a desire to write fresh narrative about immigrant experiences. I was also excited by the challenge of making a film about a cup of tea, led by a textured sound design.

With Cuppa Chai we uncover Britain's multicultural fabric through Mira as she navigates her way to make a cup of tea. Simply the way she prepares a cuppa reveals how her identity and individuality is intertwined with that of her grandparent's homeland. I wanted the audience to step into Mira's headspace and discover this world through her magical adventures. We go on a journey of self discovery, the audience feeling their way through Mira's emotions as she transcends linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Our DoP, Beatriz Delgado Mena, and I chose handheld shots to convey the personability and intimacy of Mira's experience. We observe and follow Mira in long takes and wide shots and gradually move closer as she starts coming into her elements. The film picks up pace as she starts identifying with the world around her. The scenes have been choreographed focusing on Mira's (Raya Dasgupta) body language and eyes which work to convey the emotions without dialogue.

We found a location that was a balance of both worlds we needed. Our Production Designer, Ciara O'Rourke, brought the various story elements to life with meticulous details. Equally careful attention was paid to the costumes where we peeled the layers of intergenerational experiences through Mira's layering of the costumes (Rhona Ezuma).

The interplay of voices and sound transcend time and space. They are an equally important character in the film. Motifs of water and wind have been used to compliment the magical realism world. Cuppa Chai was handcrafted at both the edit and the sound stage.

While the film was shot against extremely challenging circumstances, the crew and cast has put their heart and soul into creating this. I hope this film resonates with you and inspires you to rewrite your own familial narratives.

THE TEAM

CUPPA CHAI			
LENS	SCENE	SLATE	TAKE
40mm	4	8	1
ROLL			
A002			
DIR	AMIT KAUR		BPM 1/2
DOP	BEATRIZ DELGADO MENA		
DATE	10/02/22	INT	DAY
			ND.3



AMIT KAUR- DIRECTOR

Amit Kaur is a Cambridge based film maker who specialises in narrative drama. Her first short film as an Assistant Director with Producer Ameenah Allen "The Road Home" was shortlisted for Oscar (2010) in the Best Short Film category. She has worked with filmmakers Mira Nair and Lydia Pilcher for the BBC Adaptation, A Suitable Boy.

Amit also directed one of India's first web series, ' Life Sahi Hai' and she is working on a south asian music documentary supported by the National Lottery.



RADHA BHANDARI- WRITER/PRODUCER

Radha Bhandari is a Manchester-based writer/producer. She produced the short film 'For Heidi' which premiered at BFI London Film Festival 2022 and was the associate producer on upcoming feature film, 'In Camera' by PrettyBird and Public Dreams Ltd. She previously produced shorts for BFI NETWORK, ARRI & Director's UK and now works as a Development Executive at Public Dreams Ltd. A television and film production company launched by Executive Producer & CEO Mary Burke.



KELLY WONG- PRODUCER

Kelly currently works in development at DNA Films & TV (TRAINSPOTTING, EX MACHINA, NEVER LET ME GO), working across film and television projects, including for BBC, Film4, and FX/Disney+. Previously, in 2020, Kelly was selected for the BFI Creative Producers Lab, and in 2021/2 produced three BFI NETWORK-funded short films with emerging filmmakers.



BEATRIZ DELGADO MENA- DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Born in Spain, Beatriz started working in camera department when she moved to London after studying Film and TV in Bournemouth University. Based in the UK, Beatriz believes filmmaking is a collaborative art where the most precious thing is to trigger together emotions and feelings in the audience through lighting, pace and framing. Her work ranges from drama to fashion, commercials and documentaries and it has been seen in festivals like LFF, Encounters, BFI Flare among others.



TANUPRIYA SHARMA - EDITOR

Tanupriya Sharma, is a visual editor working out of Mumbai/ Delhi. She started working with Documentary filmmaker Madhureeta Anand, as an assistant director before she went to study film editing in Whistling woods International. In 2011, She assisted Shimit Amin on Mira Nair's The Reluctant Fundamentalist and God Room (segment from Words with God), edited ad films with directors like Bharat Sikka, Richard D' Alessio.

In 2019, she edited her BBC television drama a Suitable Boy directed by Mira Nair. Her latest film, Gulmohar is currently streaming on Disney Hotstar and Hulu.



HOLLIE BUHAGIAR- COMPOSER

Hollie Buhagiar is a multi award-winning Gibraltarian composer based in London. Having completed her Masters at the prestigious NFTS, she has worked on Film4's 'White Ant' premiering at Sundance Film Festival, scored a Netflix Original 'Seal And The City', the three-part BritBox series 'Extinction Rebellion: For Life', 'UNFAIR' a Comedy Pilot with Channel 4 and 'Sandstorm (ملاقات)' the first short Pakistani Film ever to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival.

CREDITS LIST

BFI NETWORK presents
An Alta Ambit and Dyzygo Production

MIRA
SONIA
MRS GUPTA
LALITA
SUNIL

Directed by

Written by

Produced by
Produced by

For BFI NETWORK:
Executive Producer
Project Coordinator

Executive Producer

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
EDITOR
SOUND DESIGNER AND MIXER
COMPOSER

Raya Dasgupta
Ruchika Jain
Meera Ganatra
Bhawna Bhawsar
Omar Khan

Amit Kaur

Radha Bhandari

Kelly Wong
Radha Bhandari

Thomas Wightman
Jo Strachan

Ameenah Ayub Allen

Beatriz Delgado Mena
Tanupriya Sharma
Annu Poojari
Hollie Buhagiar

GAFFER
SOUND RECORDIST
1st AD

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
COSTUME DESIGNER
HAIR & MAKE-UP ARTIST

Lane Casting
Lane Casting

1st AC/DIT
2nd AC
SPARK
STILLS PHOTOGRAPHY

Production Manager (Dailies)
Production Assistant
RUNNER
1st AIDER

VFX ARTIST
COLOURIST
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
POST PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
STORYBOARD ARTIST

Peter Banks
Dafydd Mann
Rebecca Kibble

Ciara O'Rourke
Rhona Ezuma
Marlena Stencil

Priyanka Patel
Hannah Ashby Ward

Joanna Cuper
Joe Nichols
Charlie Harris
Lara Dunn

Daljinder Johal
Shriya Pancholi
Ciaran Shea
Manju Tahim

Sandeep Gupta
Chris Shaw
Sankalpa Raychaudhury
Meenakshi Verma
Dhruv Vyas

Shift 



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 NETWORK

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| PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS |
Unit Stills & BTS Photos - Credit: LARA DUNN, 2022.