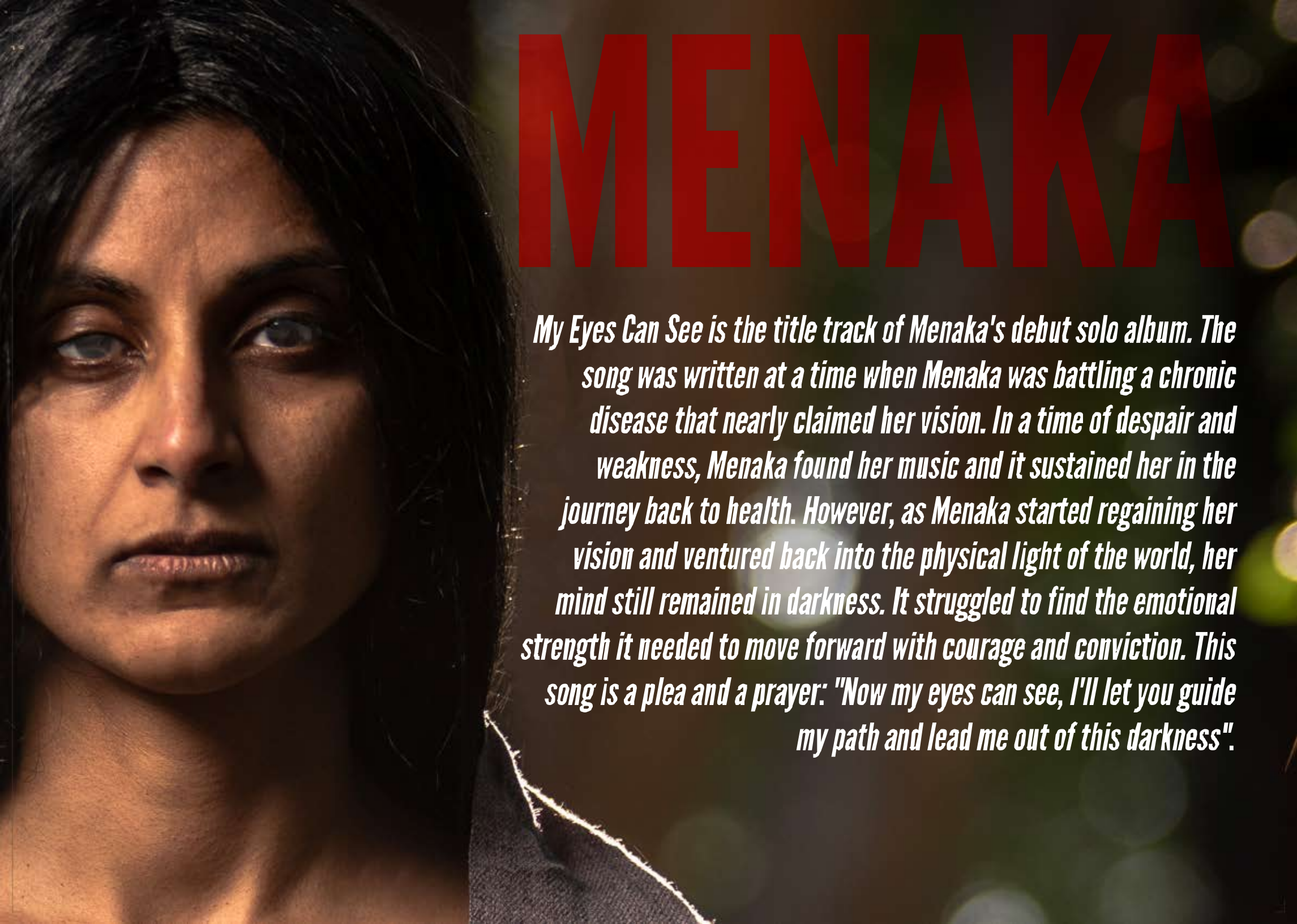


A woman with dark hair and red eye makeup looking directly at the camera against a bokeh background.

WENHAKA

MY EYES CAN SEE



MENAKA

My Eyes Can See is the title track of Menaka's debut solo album. The song was written at a time when Menaka was battling a chronic disease that nearly claimed her vision. In a time of despair and weakness, Menaka found her music and it sustained her in the journey back to health. However, as Menaka started regaining her vision and ventured back into the physical light of the world, her mind still remained in darkness. It struggled to find the emotional strength it needed to move forward with courage and conviction. This song is a plea and a prayer: "Now my eyes can see, I'll let you guide my path and lead me out of this darkness".

BIO

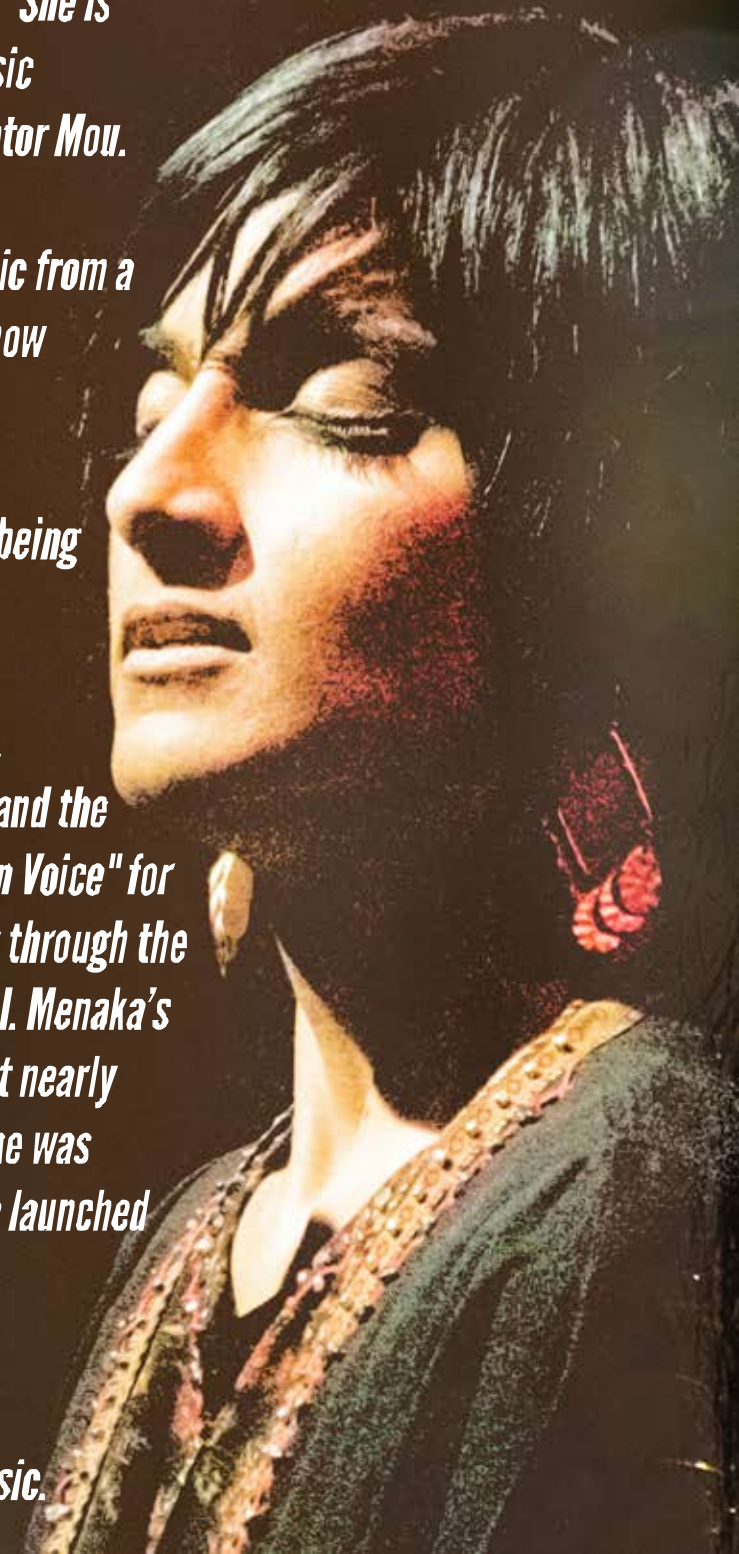
Menaka is a Brisbane-based singer, songwriter, and teacher. She is the Winner of the 2023 Queensland Music Awards (World Music Category) for the single "Space", alongside musical collaborator Mou.

She studied the traditional art of South Indian (Carnatic) music from a young age of 5 from her mother, Vijaya Visvanathan. Menaka now

sings a fusion of traditional Indian vocals with contemporary and other world influences, an intersection of East and West. Menaka experiences a great sense of fulfilment and freedom in being able to express the devotion of Indian music with other world music sounds.

As a singer, Menaka has featured on many musical platforms, including Woodford Folk Festival, Queensland Multicultural Festival, Festival of Tibet, Brisbane Fringe Festival, BrisAsia Festival and the Anywhere Festival. Menaka was a featured cast members for Brisbane Powerhouse's "Women In Voice" for 2022. Most recently, Menaka was a co-creator of the production "Soul Gazing - A Sonic Journey through the Cosmic Skydome" at the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium, as part of the 2023 BrisAsia festival. Menaka's career in song writing unexpectedly commenced after a sudden deterioration in her health that nearly claimed her vision, Menaka found herself writing songs to help her overcome the challenges she was facing. This was the catalyst to putting together her debut solo album, "My Eyes Can See". She launched her album in 2019 at the Queensland Multicultural Centre to a sold-out audience.

Menaka continues to perform and create original work, as well as facilitate vocal classes and workshops for people of all ages. Her vision is to unite, connect and inspire people through music.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I still remember the first time I heard the title track, MY EYES CAN SEE, from Menaka's debut album. I was sitting in her lounge room, enjoying a warm cup of masala chai she had lovingly prepared for me. From the first note I was entranced by the haunting melody of her voice, the intricate musical arrangement of classical and contemporary instruments from around the world, all blending in perfect harmony. It was a coming together of the musical souls of the East and the West. MY EYES CAN SEE etched a beautiful imprint upon my heart.

Not long after, Menaka asked me if I would direct the music video for the song. I was honoured as I knew how much her debut single meant to her. It was a profoundly personal piece that she had written after overcoming one of the darkest periods of her life. As a young woman, her vision had started to rapidly deteriorate, and she almost lost all her sight. She embarked on a journey of healing, trying everything from modern Western medical interventions to ancient Indian ayurvedic treatments. Ultimately, after many years of immense struggle, she was able to find a cure. Like an alchemist, she transformed these extremely difficult physical and emotional challenges to create a life overflowing with serenity and love.

Our music video explores these issues metaphorically through a fantastical fairy tale. We transport audiences to the deep recesses of our protagonist's mind and her fight to survive against her internal demons. Ultimately, the protagonist learns that fighting life (and herself) is not the answer. Only after you surrender to love will you find your ultimate peace.

MY EYES CAN SEE speaks to all of us who may be dealing with our own challenges and sometimes letting our negative voices take hold of us. We all face the darkness at some time in our lives. The song is about hope and the belief that the sun will rise again tomorrow, bringing the light of love once more into our lives.

DIRECTORS BIO

A close-up portrait of Kaushik Das, an Indian Australian actor, writer, and director. He has a beard and mustache, and is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

Kaushik Das is an Indian Australian actor, writer and director who works in both English and Indian cinema. He was recently seen in Apple TV's television adaptation of Gregory David Robert's best-selling novel "Shantaram" and the award-winning Australian western, "The Furnace" which premiered at the 77th Venice Film Festival.

As a child, Kaushik witnessed the horrifying civil unrest in his mother's hometown of Dhubri in Assam, India. The horrific violence he saw as a young boy on the streets of this small town, never left him and inspired him to pursue a career in Law. Kaushik spent his college days volunteering in Legal Aid services providing advice on legal matters for those who could not access legal help. He also worked in the Criminal Courts in Queensland, Australia until one day he was ambushed by a criminal he was prosecuting. On that day, he decided to trade in the real life drama for some "reel" life drama.

Growing up on a childhood diet of Bollywood and Western films, Kaushik decided it was time for a career change and finally pursued his childhood dream of becoming a performing artist and storyteller. His first performance as a child was that of playing the Indian Monkey God "Hanuman" in an outdoor theatre in front of a packed house of more than 500 people.

In 2021 he was awarded the John Dommert Medal from his old alma mater the Australian Performing Arts Conservatory for outstanding industry achievement.

Kaushik also produced "ReFraction" which won Best Short Film at Delhi International Film Festival and also screened at the prestigious New York Indian Film Festival and the Kolkata International Film Festival.

Kaushik is currently in development of a television series and a feature film.

CREATIVE TEAM



HING ANG (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)

Hing was born in Cambodia in 1974 and came to Australia with his family as a refugee in 1976. He has spent most of his life in Queensland where he has worked as a Marine Biologist and Educator and Photographer. In 2014 he and his wife Esther created Aesop Media, a Digital Media Content Production Company on the Sunshine Coast of Australia. Hing has worked as a DOP for many commercial and corporate projects, as well as 6 independent films and 2 animated shorts. He has won 3 awards for his debut short film "The Tipping Point".

ESTHER DE SCHONE (PRODUCTION DESIGNER)

Esther was born in Brisbane, Australia in 1976 and worked in Education as teacher aide and campus minister until 2014 when she met Hing and agreed to join his quest for adventure in the film and video production industry. She has worn many hats in the industry and has worked as an editor, animator, camera assistant and producer. Recently she has worked in the wardrobe and art department for several projects including Refraction (2016), The Tipping Point (2021) and the upcoming feature film The Demon Disorder (2023).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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