

DUKH

A FILM BY AJIT MANN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CHARLIE PAINTER SOUND BY HARRY WHITTINGHAM PRODUCTION DESIGNERS KIAN N SMITH AND SEOEUN HONG HAIR AND MAKEUP TEAM RAINBOW FX
HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST AMMIE SHIPTON GAFFER VISHWA PATHARE MUSIC BY SAM HARRIS SONG BY DALVINDER SINGH UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER SOPHIE LE
1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LORIK KRASNIQI SCRIPT SUPERVISORS RUPINDER KAUR WARAICH AND JACK LIST 1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA MATTHEW HOBSON 2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA EDDIE PAVITT
CAMERA OPERATORS CHARLIE PAINTER AND VISHWA PATHARE SPARK TOM WILLIAMS DIT JACK LIST CASTING ASSISTANT PAAYAL LADWA TURBAN TIER KARAJ BHULLAR
LOCATION MANAGER RAVINDER BINNING PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS SATNAM SINGH HEER AND EDDIE PAVITT BTS BY SATNAM SINGH HEER
PRODUCED BY AJIT MANN LORIK KRASNIQI AND SOPHIE LE WRITTEN, DIRECTED AND EDITED BY AJIT MANN

MY BACKGROUND

My name is Ajit Mann and I was born in Southall, London in 1995.

I have always been into movies since I was a kid and my biggest goal in life is to make films as a full time job. I studied Film at Roehampton University, graduating in 2017.

At aged 9 my parents went through a divorce where my mum received full custody due to domestic abuse that was happening on my dad's side.

My dad completely changed his ways and due to this, we were then granted visitation on the weekends where my parents then maintained a healthy friendship.

Growing up in Southall, I witnessed quite harrowing arguments as well as fights that would occur during the household. I also witnessed really harsh criticism from the men of my family towards the women, which I would then learn that this was emotional abuse.

This film is not to shame my dad as he did indeed change his ways and maintained a healthy relationship with use after this however, I wanted to make this film due to how much domestic abuse infuriates me and especially that this still happens in today's day and age.



Last year, I finally made a short film titled 'Confess' which was my first independent short film.

The film was shot using professional equipment and it has managed to gain success.

We have had a successful film festival run, being selected for multiple festivals as well as winning 2 awards at Lift Off First Time Filmmaker Sessions and a Liverpool Indie Awards.

Confess (2024) by Ajit Mann

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hZMQxqyJQk&t=1420s>







PLOT SUMMARY & THEMES

Jasbir returns back home after studying out of London for **3 years** and to introduce his girlfriend to his family. Upon returning he is quick to learn that old memories of the past have not been put to bed and that his older brother, Sukhbir, has changed.

Themes and Topics: Domestic Violence/Abuse, Abuse, Alcoholism, Religion, Tradition, Ignorance, Family, Hierarchy, Gender Inequality, Emotional Blackmail.

The film will be in both English and Punjabi with actors and actresses going back and forth with both languages.



CAST & CHARACTERS



SANDIP BESELY

As Jasbir



PARVINDER SHERGILL

As Gurleen



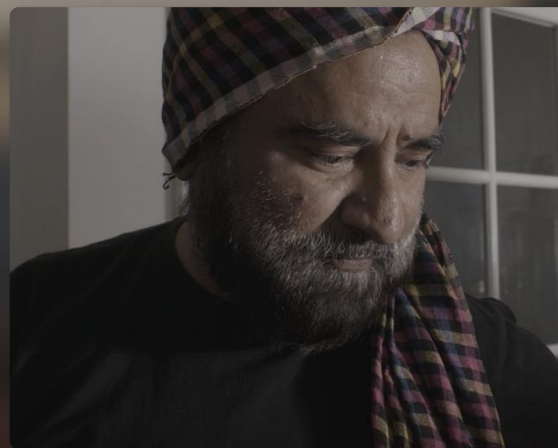
LUCKY AZAD

As Sukhbir



RUPINDER KAUR

As Harjit



BEN SURA

As Baldev



NARINDER UPPAL

As Manjit

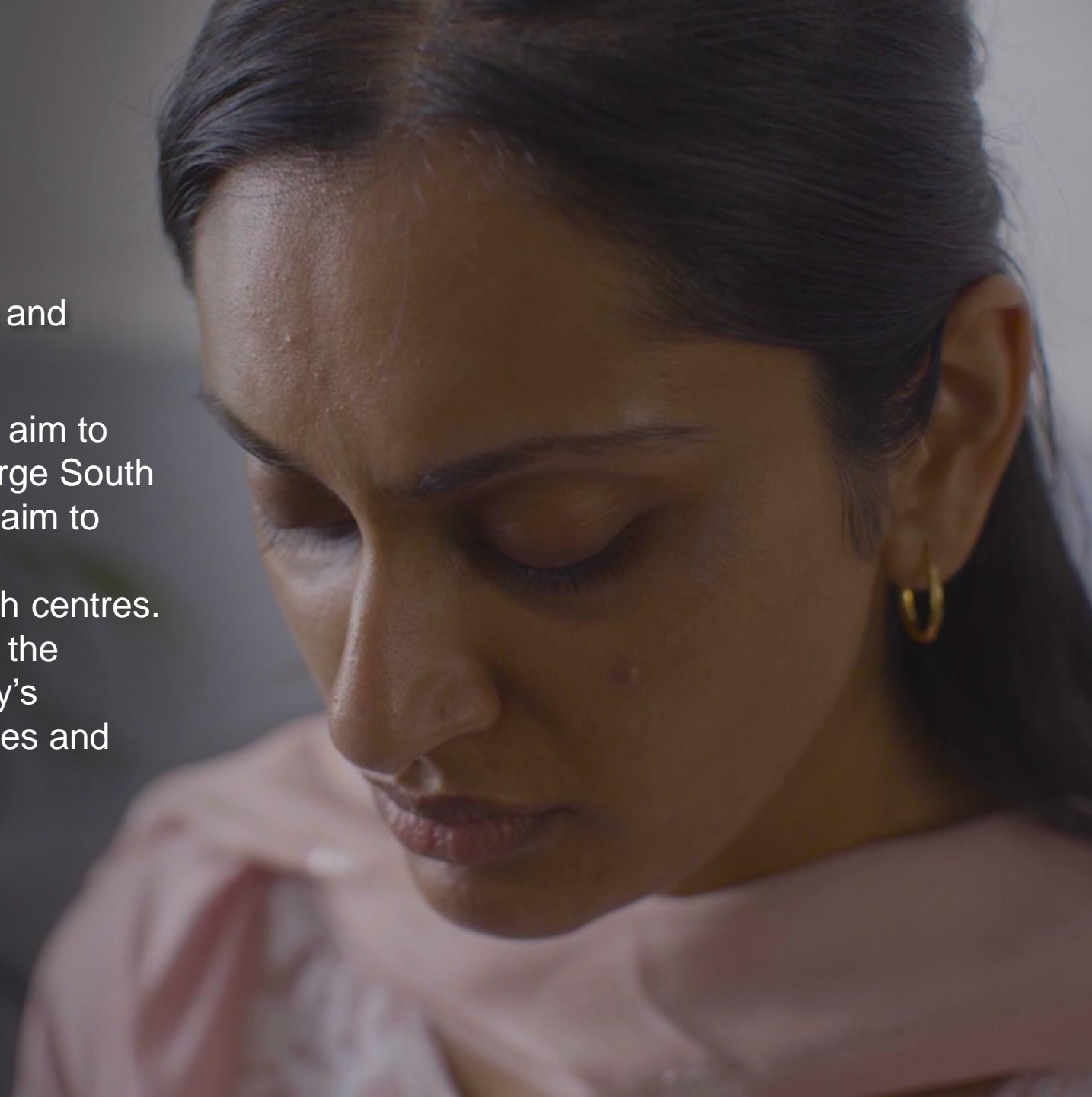
CREW

Writer, Director and Editor: Ajit Mann
Producers: Ajit Mann, Lorik Krasniqi and Sophie Le
Director of Photography: M Charlie Painter
Camera Operators: Charlie Painter and Vishwa Pathare
1st Assistant Camera: Matthew Hobson
2nd Assistant Camera: Eddie Pavitt
Gaffer: Vishwa Pathare
Spark: Tom Williams
Sound Recordist: Harry Whittingham
DIT: Jack List
Music by: Sam Harris and Avirat
Song "Soh Khawa" by: Dalvinder Singh
Casting Assistant: Paayal Ladwa
Production Designers: Kian Smith and Seoeun Hong
Hair and Makeup Team: Rainbow FX
Hair and Makeup Artist: Ammie Shipton
Turban Tier: Karaj Bhullar
Unit Production Manager: Sophie Le
1st Assistant Director: Lorik Krasniqi
Script Supervisors: Rupinder Kaur Waraich and Jack List
Location Manager: Ravinder Binning
Production Assistants: N Satnam Singh Heer and Eddie Pavitt
Social Media Footage and BTS Stills: Satnam Singh Hee

FILM TIMELINE

We shot the film from **7th August to 10th August** and completed in **December**.

Whilst the film is making the film festival run, we aim to run screenings across towns and cities with a large South Asian demographic. Listed below are where we aim to screen the film. We would also want to do this in independent cinemas, theatres, community/youth centres. We then aim to have talks and discussions after the screenings to raise awareness and with a charity's backing, we can also raise awareness for charities and helplines that victims of abuse can reach out to.





TOWNS AND CITIES WE AIM TO HOST SCREENINGS:

LONDON

- Southall
- Hounslow
- Hayes
- Ealing
- Wembley
- Harrow
- Barking
- Ilford
- East Ham

MIDLANDS

- Birmingham
- Coventry
- Leicester
- Derby
- Wolverhampton
- Leamington

NORTH

- Bradford
- Leeds
- Bolton
- Blackburn
- Manchester
- Newcastle

OTHER

- Slough
- St Albans
- Bedford
- Luton





GENRE

The film will be more within the family drama genre and more on the social realism side of drama.

The film primarily will show abuse in a realistic way and how it occurs within Indian households, particularly Punjabi Sikh households which has a high demographic.

The aim is to show how abuse should not be normalised within this culture and how we need to actually talk about this issue rather than burying it.

A lot of elements are drawn out from my own childhood in order to make the film more realistic and believable. This potentially may cause backlash within my own family and community however, I am passionate about this topic as members of my family have gone through domestic violence and I want to highlight this to mainly, the south asian demographic as it will get people to have this discussion on the normalisation of abuse.



RESEARCH

In doing research for the film, an estimated **1.6 million** women and **712,000** men experienced domestic abuse at the end of March **2024**.

Only **851,062** cases were recorded to the police.

In the film, I wrote that the women in the household are the ones experiencing abuse due to women being the higher demographic.

One of the main sources of inspiration for writing this story was from reading this article below which highlights all the factors on why abuse is common within Sikh and Punjabi families and specifically talks about 'Emotional and Psychological abuse being commonplace' and also talks about 'the normalisation of abuse in families with women being told by their own mothers and mother in laws that I had it worse'.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-59375954>







OUR MISSION

Our mission for the film is to reach out to charities to either sponsor the film or help promote the film.

We would be happy to put links on our social media to where people can donate and promote the charity via social media. The charity would also be within the credits of the film with the appropriate contact numbers for those seeking help.

We believe that we have done an accurate portrayal of what domestic abuse is like within a Punjabi, Sikh household and want to raise as much awareness as we can to a large audience as well as let people realise that abuse should never be normalised.





TRIGGER WARNINGS

Due to the topic of the film, we will have clear trigger warnings in place. During the film, certain characters will also be saying discriminatory remarks towards certain religions and castes. There will also be heavy threat within the film as well as one scene of one of the female characters being slapped. This has been added in the film to show some of the negative conversations that is normalised in Sikh families.

A FILM BY AJIT MANN

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