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College of Art and Design, Rochester Institute of Technology

Filmography

2019 **BIRD WOMAN**

Feature-length screenplay in development, Writer-Director.

Awards

The Gitner Family Prize 2019

The Athena Screenwriting Lab 2019

Sundance Lab with writer-director Ritesh Batra, 2019

Sundance Screenwriters Lab, Shortlist, 2018

2018 **AYESHA**

Writer – Director, Producer, Editor. HD Video, 18 min, USA

Short narrative about Ayesha; an American Muslim woman; whose secret weekend plans with her boyfriend take an unexpected turn when her immigrant father encounters a US veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress.

Awards and Screenings

Emerging Filmmaker Award, Queens World Film Festival, 2018

Award of Distinction, Canada Shorts Film Festival, 2017

Honorable Mention, Experimental Forum, 2017

Best Ensemble Narrative Short Nomination, Queens World Film Festival, 2018

Official Selection, Women of Color Film Festival, MAGIC Spell Studios, NY, 2019

Official Selection, New Filmmakers, Anthology Film Archives, NY, 2018

Official Selection, Canada Shorts Film Festival, 2017

Official Selection, Oil Valley Film Festival, 2017

Official Selection, Trenton Film Festival, 2017

Official Selection, Queens World Film Festival, 2017

The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, 2017

The American Center India-US Cultural Film Festival, 2017

Rochester Institute of Technology, Faculty Showcase, 2017

Ben Lazaroff Screenwriting Award for Best Original Screenplay

Temple University Thesis Award

**OUTSIDE A MOSQUE**

Writer-Director, Cinematographer, Video, 3 mins

An experimental video about being an outsider.

Borders in a Single Shot: After Farocki / Ehmann's Labor in a Single Shot, The Farocki Academy, Berlin.

2017 **REBELLIOUS AS THE WIND**

Feature-length screenplay in development. Writer-Director.

Awards

Sundance Screenwriters Lab, Shortlist 2017

### **AMERICAN DREAM**

Director, Cinematographer, Editor. HD Video, USA ((In- production).

Filmed since 2011, a documentary about an Indian immigrant taxi driver in U.S. chasing his dream of becoming a filmmaker.

#### Work-in Progress Screening

Indo-US Week, The American Center, India 2017

The Little Theatre, Rochester Documentary Filmmakers Showcase, 2016

College of Art and Design Faculty Showcase, RIT 2016

### 2016 **BEYOND BORDERS**

A community performance project celebrating the legacy of Susan B. Anthony.

Video, 2 mins.

### 2012 **THE GHETTO GIRL**

Director, Producer, Editor and Sound Designer. 35 min, HD & Mixed Media, USA-India

A personal-essay documentary that unfolds as a third person narrative of a girl who walks the streets of her Muslim neighborhood in India and interrogates how the Partition of 1947 casts a shadow on the everyday lives of Muslims.

The film was censored for television broadcast in India.

#### Awards and Screenings

Society for Visual Anthropology Film Festival, American Anthropological Association  
Best Graduate Student Film Award, USA 2014

Indian Documentary Producers Association Award for Excellence, India 2012

Special Jury Award, Federation of Film Societies of India-SIGNS 2012

Official Selection, International Women's Film Festival in Seoul, Korea 2013

Official Selection, Tempo Dokumentär Festival, Stockholm 2013

Official Selection International Association of Women in Radio and Television, Our  
Lives to Live 2012

Official Selection, The Open Frame Film Festival, India, September 2011

Elephants in the Dark, Refractions on Muslim Identity, Pennsylvania Museum of  
Archeology and Anthropology, USA 2012

International Visual Sociology Association 2012

International Conference on Islam, Gender and Youth in South and South-East Asia,  
Berlin, Germany 2012

Deptt. of Visual Anthropology, Towson University, Maryland, USA 2013

Huret and Specter Gallery Boston, MA (work in progress, interactive version) 2013

William Harris Gallery, Rochester Institute of Technology, September 2015

India National Television Broadcast 2011

Young India Fellowship Program, Ashoka University, India, 2017

Kriti, New Delhi, India, 2014

Alliance Française, Mumbai, India, 2016

### 2008 **FOUR WOMEN AND A ROOM**

Director, Producer, Editor. HD Video, 40 min, India

A documentary about sex selective abortions, son preference and the misuse of reproductive technologies in India.

#### Awards and Screenings

Indian Documentary Producers Association Silver Award for Excellence, India 2009

Official Selection, Karachi International Film Festival, Pakistan, 2009  
Official Selection, Indian Panorama Section, International Film Festival of India 2008  
Official Selection, Federation of Film Societies of India SIGNS 2008  
Official Selection, Mumbai International Film Festival 2010  
Official Selection, International Documentary and Short Film Festival, Kerala 2009  
Official Selection, Indo-Korea International Women's Film Festival 2009  
Official Selection, 9<sup>th</sup> International Social Communication Cinema, India 2009  
Included in UNESCO package on gender training and sexual health distributed by The Public Service Broadcasting Trust, New Delhi  
India National Television Broadcast 2008

Television Broadcast

National Public Service Broadcast, India

2005 **ELSEWHERE**

Co-Director, Cinematographer, Editor. 28 min, Video, India-Spain  
A cross cultural visual exploration of Muslim lives between India and Spain.

Awards and Screenings

Best Documentary Gold, International Digital Film Festival of India 2006  
The EU-India Conflict Resolution Programme, UK, 2007  
The Thompson Foundation, Cardiff, UK 2007  
The British Council Library, New Delhi, India 2006

Television Broadcast

Channel 4 Community Network, 60 years of Indian Independence, UK 2007

2003 **WHO CAN SPEAK OF MEN?**

Director, Cinematographer, Editor. 35 min, Video, India  
A documentary about three cross dressing Muslim women living in a segregated Muslim neighborhood in India.

Awards and Screenings

Official Selection, The British Film Institute Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, UK 2004  
Official Selection, The Berlin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival 2005  
Official Selection, London Gay and Lesbian Film Festival 2005  
Official Selection, Copenhagen Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Denmark 2005  
Official Selection, Paris Feminist and Lesbian Film Festival Cineffable 2005  
Official Selection, Austin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival 2005  
Official Selection, Larzish International Festival of Gender and Sexuality Mumbai 2004  
Official Selection, The Indo-Korea International Women's Film Festival 2009  
Official Selection, The Public Service Broadcasting Trust International Film Festival on Gender and Sexuality, India 2007  
The Rialto Theatre, Amsterdam 2006

Community Engagement Screenings

Jagori, India (Non-Profit Community organization working on empowerment of women)  
TARSHI (Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health in India)  
Action India  
Kriti Film Club, New Delhi

Aawaz-e-Niswan (Voice of Women) Mumbai, India  
Bebaak Collective (Fearless Collective), Mumbai  
Umang (Support group for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transpersons) India

### Education

M.F. A in Film & Media Arts, Center for Performing and Cinematic Arts  
Temple University, Philadelphia, USA  
Fulbright-Nehru Leadership Development Fellow, 2009-2012

M.A. in Mass Communication  
A.J.K. Mass Communication Research Center  
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India  
Second Position Honors with distinction, 2000-2002

B.A. in English Literature and Modern European Languages  
Jamia Millia University, New Delhi, India  
First Position Honors with President's Award, 1998-2000

### Fellowships and Awards

- 2019 The Gitner Family Prize  
*Artistic achievement and pro bono contribution of outstanding professional work for a community organization within the Muslim community in Albany, NY.*
- 2017 The Virginia Center for The Creative Arts, Amherst, Virginia.  
*Competitive International Artist Fellowship.*
- 2017 Mid Atlantic Creative Arts Fellowship Award  
*Competitive Artist Fellowship in Mid-Atlantic region.*
- 2013 International Television Services (ITVS) Women and Girls Lead Global Fellow  
*Competitive International Fellowship.*
- 2012 University Project Completion Fellowship, Temple University  
*Competitive Temple University Thesis Award.*
- 2012 Ben Lazaroff Screenwriting Award  
*Competitive Temple University Award for Screenwriting.*
- 2010 University Exhibition and Distribution Grant, Temple University  
*Competitive Temple University Award.*
- 2009 Fulbright-Nehru Leadership Development Fellow, Temple University  
*Competitive International Fellowship.*
- 2005 The Thompson Foundation, European Union-India Documentary and Conflict Resolution Exchange Program. *Competitive International Award.*
- 2002 Center for the Study of Developing Societies (SARAI), New Delhi, India

Independent Research Fellow. *Competitive National Fellowship in India for media practioners writers and artists.*

### Professional Grants

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| 2019 | Advance Connect Grant, Rochester Institute of Technology<br><i>Competitive University Award.</i>                  |
|      | Faculty Development Grant, Rochester Institute of Technology<br><i>Competitive Department Award.</i>              |
| 2018 | Advance Connect Grant, Rochester Institute of Technology<br><i>Competitive University Award.</i>                  |
|      | Faculty Development Grant, Rochester Institute of Technology<br><i>Competitive Department Award.</i>              |
| 2016 | Faculty Development Grant, Rochester Institute of Technology<br><i>Competitive Department Award.</i>              |
| 2012 | Pennsylvania Council for the Arts: PIFVA<br><i>Competitive Regional Grant.</i>                                    |
| 2012 | The Carole Fielding Grant, University Film and Video Association<br><i>Competitive National University Award.</i> |
| 2011 | Pennsylvania Council for the Arts: PIFVA<br><i>Competitive Regional Grant.</i>                                    |
| 2012 | The Public Service Broadcasting Trust India, National Film Commission<br><i>Competitive International Grant.</i>  |
| 2009 | The Public Service Broadcasting Trust, India National Film Commission<br><i>Competitive International Grant.</i>  |
| 2007 | The Public Service Broadcasting Trust, India National Film Commission<br><i>Competitive International Grant.</i>  |

### VISITING FILMMAKER TALKS

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| 2017 | <b>Intersectionality and Documentary Practice: In Conversation with<br/>noted Indian feminist writer, publisher and activist, Urvashi Butalia.</b><br>Ashoka University, New Delhi |
|      | <b>Found in Transit: Notes on Hybrid Practice</b><br>Faculty Speaker Series, Rochester Institute of Technology   |
|      | <b>Cinema and Virtual Reality: Notes on Practice</b><br>Frameless Labs Symposium, Rochester Institute of Technology  |

- 2016 **Transmedia Storytelling**  
 AJK Mass Communication Research Center, Jamia Millia Islamia  
 New Delhi, India.
- Stories for Change: Us and Them**  
 Connectology Leadership Conference, Rochester Institute of Technology
- 2013 **Improvisation and Indian Theatre:** an illustrated conversation with  
 actor and theatre-director Mr. M.K. Raina AJK MCRC, Jamia Millia  
 Islamia
- 2012 **Documentary Practice, Personal and Political Spaces: The works of  
 Nishtha Jain**  
 Vadhera Art Gallery, Modern Indian and Contemporary Art India.
- New Mobilities and Evolving Identities: Islam, Gender and Youth in  
 South and South-East Asia**  
 Humbolt University, Berlin; Goethe University, Frankfurt and the Berlin  
 Graduate School of Muslim Cultures and Societies, Berlin
- 2010 **Community as site of Refuge, Stereotyping, Violence and  
 Autobiographical Filmmaking**  
 The Kym Preusse Speaker Series at The Ontario College of Art and  
 Design University of Toronto and The York University Film Programme
- 2009 **Personal, Political and Autobiographical Filmmaking**  
 Indo-Korea Women's International Film Festival, Chennai, India
- 2008 **Women, Conflict and Filmmaking**  
 The Open Frame Film Festival, New Delhi, India

#### Commercial Experience

- 2009 Editor/Sound Designer/ Sound Mixer for **LAYING JANAKI TO REST**  
 Documentary about the symbolic relationship of Sita, the Goddess from  
 the epic Ramayana, with the image of women in India.  
 Client: PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING TRUST, INDIA
- 2008 Producer for **WE CAN**, an Oxfam India campaign to end violence  
 against women. Client: OXFAM GLOBAL TRUST
- 2007 Co-editor for **DINNER WITH THE PRESIDENT**  
 From on-the-street interviews, audiences with religious leaders to  
 dinner with the President of Pakistan; the film takes the temperature of a  
 culture on issues from politics to women's rights.  
 Supported by the SUNDANCE FILM INSTITUTE, ZDF, Arté and Vidhi  
 Films, the film has been broadcast on PBS INDEPENDENT LENS.  
 Director Sabiha Sumar.
- 2005 Producer/Director/Editor for **BAREFOOT DOCTORS:  
 EXPERIMENTS IN RURAL HEALTH.** Client: HIVOS India

- 2004                      Producer/Director/Editor for **RAINBOWS**  
A documentary on primary school education in India.  
Client: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATION RESEARCH AND  
TRAINING, INDIA
- 2003                      Assistant Director/Assistant Editor of **THE CITY BEAUTIFUL**  
Documentary about a community of traditional weavers facing loss of  
livelihood under globalization. Client: UNESCO, INDIA
- 2002                      Production Assistant, **SILENT WATERS**. Director Sabiha Sumar  
Golden Leopard Locarno Film Festival 2003

### Professional Development Training

Sundance Collabs Directing Workshop with Peter Sollett, 2019  
Sundance Documentary Fundraising Webinar 2018  
Sundance Screenwriting Webinar, 2018  
Catapult Documentary Funding Webinar 2018  
ITVS How to Create an effective work sample Webinar 2018  
Development Funds for Documentary Filmmakers, Women Make  
Movies Webinar, 2018  
Documentary Fundamentals: Post Production, Union Docs, NYC 2017  
Filming in Cuba with Abbas Kiarostami 2016

### Teaching Experience

- 2015- present                      **Assistant Professor**, College of Art and Design  
Rochester Institute of Technology, NY  
Courses taught:  
Directing  
Screenwriting  
Hybrid Forms: Theory and Practice  
Film History and Theory  
Documentary Processes  
Film Production  
Fiction Film Workshop  
Capstone Advising, Thesis Advising, Independent Studies
- 2012-2014                      **Assistant Professor**, Anwar Jamal Kidwai Mass Communication  
Research Center  
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India  
Courses taught:  
Advanced Workshop for Graduate Thesis Projects  
Graduate Documentary Seminar  
Graduate Screenwriting  
Filmmaking Seminar  
Thesis Advising

2009	<b>Assistant Professor</b> , Anwar Jamal Kidwai Mass Communication Research Center Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India Courses taught: Advanced Workshop for Thesis Projects Aesthetics of Editing and Post Production
2007-2009	<b>Lecturer</b> , Anwar Jamal Kidwai Mass Communication Research Center Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India Courses taught: Live Editing and TV Studio Production Lighting for Television Editing and Post Production Filmmaking Seminar
2003-06	<b>Teaching Associate</b> , Anwar Jamal Kidwai Mass Communication Research Center, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India Courses taught: TV Studio Production Lighting for Television Editing and Post Production Fundraising

#### Professional Affiliations

2018	Asian American Documentary Filmmakers Collective Women Make Movies Center for Asian American Media Brown Girls Doc Mafia
2017	Union Docs, New York City
2016-	Fulbright Alumni Association
2015-	Independent Filmmaker Project, New York City
2013-Present	International Women's Association for Radio and Television
2011-Present	University Film and Video Association
2011-Present	Philadelphia Independent Film and Video Association
2016-Present	Rochester Documentary Filmmakers

#### Additional Skills

16 mm Film  
Digital Videography: High Definition Workflows and Formats  
Digital and Analog Post Production workflows  
Adobe Creative Cloud  
Distribution, Grant writing, Fundraising

#### Languages

English, Hindi, Urdu  
Arabic (Read-only)