

Curriculum Vitae and Filmography : Mandrika Rupa

Mandrika Rupa is an independent artist, born in Gujarat, India. She came to New Zealand as a child in 1960. Her family first left India to come to N.Z. in the early 1900's.

Her artistic sense has developed out of a personal need to explore the social implications of migrant communities and the effect of the new country upon them.

Mandrika began film making in 1993 on a trip to her family village in India. Her films depict individuals from the South Pacific Indian Diaspora who live their lives outside traditional frameworks.

Relying on scant funds has made it extremely difficult, but Mandrika has managed to 'glean' the resources to produce a body of work. The voices she represents have so far been invisible or portrayed in cliché's. Mandrika's work gives viability to some of India's poorest castes that left India to carve out new lives in the South Pacific.

Chronology of Films and Presentations

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| 2007 | "Against Her Will" in pre-production, a documentary that explores domestic violence against women in the west, with focus on dowry abuse, arranged/forced marriage, and polygamy. |
| 2006 | Invitation to present/screen work at Nehru Centre, Mayfair, London (India High Commission Cultural Centre). |
| 2006 | Invitation to screen at University of Cambridge, Department of Archeology and Anthropology at "Pasifika Styles 2006". Exhibition opens May 5, 2006 and runs until February 2008. |
| 2006 | "Inheritance/A lament" Volumes 1-4
Footage of India edited with music themes, text, and poetic voice- consists of four volumes in Maori, Gujarat, and Punjabi, all with English subtitles. |
| 2005 | Work in Progress- "Hidden Apartheid" documentary on discrimination in the United Kingdom |
| 2004 | Screenings and presentations in the United Kingdom. University of Cambridge, University of Warwick, Birkbeck College. |
| 2004 | Archival footage- filmed in Southall and East London within the Indian Diaspora. |
| 2004 | "Taamara/Sangam" 58 mins(The Joining of Two Peoples) screened on Maori TV, Auckland, New Zealand, 5/5/04. |
| 2003 | University of Otago School of Language, Literature, and Arts International Symposium. Keynote speaker: "Recontextualising National Identity "(Indian Diaspora). |
| 2003 | Otago Screen Festival, Dunedin- panel presentations: "The Future of Maori Broadcasting", "Transnational Art forms". |
| 2003 | 'Working Paper Series'- Otago University, Dunedin. Lecture Presentation: "Hidden from History: Imaging the Subaltern". |
| 2003 | "Taamara/Sangam" (The Joining of Two Peoples) distributed to the Capitol Cinema, Auckland, with short film "Laxmi", for a 'season'. Marketed and released independently. |
| 2002 | "Poonam", "Naya Zamana,"Laxmi", "Taamara/Sangam" presented to Columbia College Film School, Chicago, to students and faculty. |

- 2001 Research/Writing/Production of "Taamara/Sangam".
A documentary in classical Maori. TVNZ ONE New Zealand screening on Waitangi Day in Maori language, "Summer Series".
- 1999 Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) New York - Contract with Circulating Library acquisition in its permanent collection:

"Poonam", Naya Zamana", and "Laxmi" Films acquired by New York University Resource and Film Library, New York City.

"Naya Zamana" and "Poonam"- Diaphoretics Film Festival, Manhattan, New York.

Lopdell House Exhibition- Titirangi, Auckland (Art Gallery) Season of films screened for one month.
- 1999 Guest of Trinh T. Minh-ha at Univ. of California, Berkeley, audited lectures and seminars.
Films acquired by Pacific Film Archives, Berkeley.
- 1999 Films acquired by Moffitt Library, UC Berkeley.
Presentations to Departments of Ethnic Studies, Asian Studies Women's Studies, South Asian Studies-students and faculty
Attended lecture series by Dr. Homi Baba on Quasi-Colonialism
- 1998 "Laxmi" 35mm short film, wrote and directed (Creative New Zealand grant).
Invitation to present at Films De Femmes festival, Paris. "Naya Zamana" in competition.
"Naya Zamana" at Rialto with "Kama Sutra"- theatrical release, Auckland.
"Naya Zamana" winner jury prize Torino, Italy .
Winner, Audience Prize, Barcelona Lesbian and Gay festival.
("Naya Zamana" in 28 film festivals to date).
- 1997 "Naya Zamana" premiered New Zealand International Film Festival.
- 1996 Wrote and Directed "Naya Zamana" drama 10 minutes.
- 1994 "Poonam" premiered at Moving Image Centre, First International Short Film Festival, Auckland,
Christchurch Short Film Festival and Wellington Fringe Festival, New Zealand
- 1994 Produced and Directed "Poonam" documentary, 16 minutes
- 1993 Founded 'Nari Shakti' (Indian women's group).
Oral History of Indian women in New Zealand of past 100 years, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand since 1994.
Supervision and Consultation for Indian women's mental health and Community workers
- 1988-1993 "Broadsheet Magazine" publications and member of Collective
- 1986-1988 C.Q.S.W. (Certified Qualification in Social Work) placement in New Zealand and United Kingdom
- 1981-Present Mother, of Mandy Rupa-Reid