

WIDC 2007 DIRECTOR PARTICIPANT



SMITA ACHARYYA, Calgary, AB

Smita Acharyya is an award winning independent filmmaker, working as a Writer, Director, Producer and Editor. Smita's debut film **SECOND COMING IN THE 2nd GRADE** was chosen by the National Screen Institute for the 2002 NSI ZeD Drama Prize Award. The film was produced by her twin sister, Rita Acharyya, through their production company Twinsletown Productions. The film explores the story of a young Hindu girl, Jhorna, who attends Catholic school and learns a life lesson when her best friend steals the Eucharist for Jhorna to try.

In 2005, Smita received the Lotus award for "Best Locally Produced Narrative Short Film" at the Calgary Asian Film Festival for producing **SUPERHERO WANNABE** the story of a 16-year-old boy who dreams of being a superhero, but whose first job goes awry. **SUPERHERO WANNABE** was an official selection of the Toronto International Film Festival in 2004, as well as an official selection of the Vancouver International Film Festival, Calgary International Film Festival, Whistler Film Festival, Raetihi Film Festival (New Zealand), and High Falls Film Festival (New York) 2004. The film was broadcast on Bravo! and won Best Film of the 2004 Seven Minute Film Festival.

VIVA BENGALI a one hour documentary written by Smita tells her story as a second-generation Bengali Canadian woman who elopes in Las Vegas, as her mother begins to plan a second wedding – a traditional Hindu ceremony to rival any Calcutta nuptial. Mother and daughter struggle to reconcile personal differences and bridge an enormous cultural chasm. The film was nominated for an AMPIA (Alberta Motion Picture Industries Association) award and was broadcast on Toronto-1 and A-channel as well as Discovery India.

ENOUGH Smita's third short film, tells the story of a man surrounded by commercialism and crowds, who finds his way to the true meaning of Christmas. Shot in the style of a music video, **ENOUGH** was produced and directed by Smita. The film was an official selection of the Calgary Asian Film Festival in 2005.

Smita was short listed out of 25 entries to compete for a place in the 2005 Reel Diversity Program initiated by the National Film Board of Canada for her documentary **MATCH-TRIMONY**. The documentary explores the modern Canadian twist on the age old tradition of arranged marriages.

Smita's recent accomplishments include writing, directing and co-producing the short film **DOWNSIZING** which was selected for EMMEDIA's Bar & Tone program and received an AMPIA nomination for "Best Short". The film screened at the 2005 Calgary International Film Festival, and the Herland Film & Video Festival in May 2006.

Smita is actively involved as an executive board member of Women In Film and Television Alberta, and is a member of the Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers, EMMEDIA Gallery and Production Society and NUTV.