

## AMONG THE BELIVERS (Pakistan-USA/2015/English/84 minutes)



Charismatic cleric Abdul Aziz Ghazi, an ISIS supporter and Taliban ally, is waging jihad against the Pakistani state. His dream is to impose a strict version of Shariah law throughout the country, as a model for the world. A flashpoint in Aziz's holy war took place in 2007, when the government levelled his flagship mosque to the ground, killing his mother, brother, only son and 150 students. With unprecedented access, *Among the Believers* follows Aziz on his very personal quest to create an Islamic utopia, during the bloodiest period in Pakistan's modern history.

The film also follows the lives of two teenage students who have attended *madrassas* (Islamic seminaries) run by Aziz's Red Mosque network. Throughout the film, their paths diverge: Talha, 12, detaches from his moderate Muslim family and decides to become a jihadi preacher. Zarina, also 12, escapes her *madrassa* and joins a regular school. Over the next few years, Zarina's education is threatened by frequent Taliban attacks on schools like her own.

Aziz's foil is nuclear physicist and leading educational activist Dr. Pervez Hoodbhoy. He passionately opposes Aziz through his public appearances, lectures, and the media. Opposition against Aziz comes to a head in December, 2014, when Aziz insults a grieving nation by trying to justify the brutal massacre of 132 school children in Peshawar by the Taliban. The attack ignites a movement to end extremism in Pakistan's mosques and madrassahs. Led by Hoodbhoy and others, Pakistan's moderate majority focuses on Aziz and calls for his arrest.



**Hemal Trivedi** has been a Mumbai and New York City-based documentary film editor/director for over a decade. Her credits include *Outlawed in Pakistan* (Editor, Emmy 2014, PBS Frontline, Sundance); *Saving Face* (Editor, Oscar 2012, Two Emmys 2013, HBO/Channel 4); *Shabeena's Quest* (Director/Editor, Witness, Al Jazeera); *Flying on One Engine* (Editor, SXSW, IDFA); *Laughter* (Editor, BBC); *When the Drum is Beating* (Editor, ITVS, Tribeca 2011); and *Beyond Mumbai* (Director, Camera & Editor, OWN, 2011 Webby nomination). She has produced and edited over 50 award-winning shorts for Odyssey Networks.

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**Mohammed Ali Naqvi** lives between Pakistan and New York, Emmy-winning filmmaker Mohammed is a fellow of the National Endowment for the Arts and American Film Institute's Project 20:20 programme. His work has received numerous awards, including the Amnesty Human Rights Award and the United Nations Association Festival Grand Jury Award, and has been showcased at the Museum of Modern Art. His documentary credits include *Shame* (Showtime-Toronto, IDFA, Tribeca), *Pakistan's Hidden Shame* (Channel 4, NHK, SVT, Sheffield, UNAFF), *Shabeena's Quest* (Al Jazeera), and *Terror's Children* (Discovery). Mohammed has produced two narrative feature films, *Big River* and *I Will Avenge You Iago*, starring Giancarlo Esposito and Larry Pine, and recently directed the narrative short *Happy Things in Sorrow Times*.

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**ATULYA SHODH** (India/2015/19:49 minutes)



*Atulya Shodh* (aka *Mumbaicha Dabbewala*) is a documentary based on the famous Dabbewalas of Mumbai who deliver as many as 1.5 lakh dabbas (lunchboxes) every day. The service started in 1880 and today as many as 3500 to 5000 dabbewalas are in action every day. The dabbewalas make use of a unique numerical code system which ensures that the right dabba (lunchbox) goes to the rightful owner and back to his house. This highly innovative system was even praised by Prince Charles of London.



**Vijay Maruti Bhingarde** completed a G D Art from the Sir J J School of Art and began his career as a graphic artist. Soon he switched to cinema and he began making short films. His animation films on Environment and Prohibition were shown at BIFF 1992 and 1997. Again his films on Anti Smoking and Eye Donation were shown at MIFF 2002 and 2004. He bagged the RAPA Award for 2003 for his animation film on Anti Smoking. He has bagged the Best Short Film (Animation) award for the years 20A2 ,2A04,2005 and 2007 at the Doordarshan Annual Awards. In 2008 he bagged Doordarshan's award for Best Animated Montage.

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## FOR THE LOVE OF A MAN (Switzerland/2015/English/80 minutes)



*For the Love of a Man* follows fans of 'superstar' Rajnikanth, whose fandom often becomes integral to their identities and those of people around them. The visual ethic of fandom and star mimicry reveal a form of star worship that is unique to Indian cinema culture. The lives of fans and their families open us to themes of brotherhood, aspiration, political affiliation, or even just means of being noticed. From bankruptcies to reformations from lives of crime, the lives of the fans offer stories that range from the heroic to the horrific, all in a day's work of turning a film star into a deity.

More specifically the film explores the activities of fan clubs through the life and work of a few fans who have been avowed followers of Rajnikanth, a South Indian film star known for his flashy on-screen antics. We follow fans such as Ravi, a politician in a small town who consistently organizes fan events where they plan activities around Rajnikanth's films including a recent climb up a rock mountain on bare knees to please the gods and pray for his success. We follow Mani, a peanut seller and former gangster who turned legit thanks to the moral messages he received from Rajnikanth's films, though he continues to put his family at financial risk by selling his wife's jewellery to fund fan activities, Kamal Anand, who feeds his family by imitating Rajnikanth on stage and finally Gopi, a wage labourer at a gas company who had to sell his home because of debt incurred in fan activities.



**Rinku Kalsy** left her well paying job in Hong Kong and went to study the techniques of Filmmaking in Amsterdam. Along with various workshops she has taken at the prestigious Binger institute in Amsterdam. She also holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Bombay University. She started her Media career working at different studios and advertising agencies in Mumbai, including Dungarpur Films, Avitel and Applause Entertainment. Her repertoire encompasses everything from ideating and researching scripts, Directing, Pre-production, Camera work to Post-production. As well as being an Apple certified Final Cut Pro editor. She has directed, produced and edited Documentaries for Dutch broadcast channels. And documentaries that were made for International film festivals. She started her company Anecdote Films in Amsterdam in 2006

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## **LOOK AT US NOW, MOTHER**

USA-France/2015/86 minutes

What trauma could make a child certain that she was born into the wrong family? What wounds are inflicted when the home that's supposed to be a haven isolates her as an outsider; when her mother's words are rarely nurturing but instead, ruthlessly shaming, demeaning and critical? What will it take for the adult that child becomes to forgive such a past? Is forgiveness even possible?

This is the dilemma that Emmy award-winning filmmaker Gayle Kirschenbaum faces in her relentlessly honest and biting funny documentary, *Look At Us Now Mother!* Comprised primarily of decades-worth of intimate family home movies and videos that were never meant for public viewing it's the story of one determined woman's quest to reconcile with and understand her past, which means forgiving her proud narcissistic and formidable mother Mildred. With raw courage and equal parts humour and pathos Gayle invites the audience take this journey with her.



**Gayle Kirschenbaum** is an Emmy award-winning filmmaker television producer and speaker, better known as the “Nora Ephron of documentaries,” with her trademark self-deprecating humour. Gayle worked in television producing several programmes including *America's Most Wanted* and *Intimate Portraits*. She co-created the show *Judgement Day: Should The Guilty Go Free* that premiered on HBO. She created and Executive Produced several “little people” shows for TLC and Discovery Health. She is a member of the Producers Guild of America, NYWIT and a judge for the Emmys.

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## **SOMETHING BETTER TO COME**

(Denmark-Poland/2014/98 minutes)

Her name is Yula and she is ten years old. She lives in Putin's Russia. Her home is the largest garbage dump in Europe. She has but one dream: to lead a normal life. *Something Better To Come* is Yula's story – a dramatic tale of coming of age and maturing to the point of taking destiny into one's own hands. It is a story of hope, courage, and life, all shot in gripping vérité style that stuns with its directness and immediacy. Oscar-nominated filmmaker Hanna Polak followed Yula for 14 years as she grew up in the forbidden territory of Svalka, the garbage dump located 13 miles from the Kremlin in Putin's Russia.



**Hanna Polak** (born: 1967) graduated in Cinematography from the Cinematography Institute of the Russian Federation. Soon after she worked on various movies as producer, director, cinematographer and still photographer. In 2002, she was awarded Best Producer of Documentary and Short Fiction Movies in Poland for *Railway Station Ballad*. In 2004 she completed work on *The Children of Leningradsky* in collaboration with HBO. The movie received an Oscar nomination (2005), an IDA Award, two Emmy nominations, and the Gracie Allen Award among others. Hanna has been advocating the case of homeless children all over the world. She founded and collaborated with Active Child Aid Foundation and collaborates with UNICEF. Her recent films include *Warsaw Battle 1920* (2010) and *Faces of Homelessness* (2010).

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## THE LOOK OF SILENCE

Denmark/2014/ Indonesian, Javanese /103 minutes

Oppenheimer's first film *The Act of Killing* exposed the consequences for all of us when we build our everyday reality on terror and lies. *The Look of Silence* explores what it is like to be a survivor in such a reality. The film is a monument to silence – a reminder that although we want to move on, look away and think of other things, nothing will make whole what has been broken. Nothing will wake the dead. We must stop, acknowledge the lives destroyed, strain to listen to the silence that follows. Through Joshua Oppenheimer's work filming perpetrators of the Indonesian genocide, a family of survivors discovers how their son was murdered and the identity of the men who killed him. The youngest brother is determined to break the spell of silence and fear under which the survivors live, and so confronts the men responsible for his brother's murder – something unimaginable in a country where killers remain in power.



**Joshua Oppenheimer** (born: 1974, USA) has worked for over a decade with militias, death squads and their victims to explore the relationship between political violence and the public imagination. Educated at Harvard and Central Saint Martins, his debut feature-length film is *The Act of Killing* (2012), which bagged several international awards including the Oscar, the BAFTA and the European Film Award for Best Documentary. His earlier works include *The Globalisation Tapes* (2002), *The Entire History of the Louisiana Purchase* (1998), *These Places We've Learned to Call Home* (1996), and other shorts. Oppenheimer is artistic director of the International Centre for Documentary and Experimental Film, University of Westminster. Oppenheimer is based in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he is a partner at the production company Final Cut for Real.

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## WITH THIS RING

Canada/2015/90 minutes

Winning four world titles is not enough to get noticed in India, just ask 27-year-old boxing champion Mary Kom. She could have been a household name by now if she had chosen to pursue a more “ladylike” sport like tennis or field hockey. Instead, she is fighting against centuries of tradition in a country that expects women to be sweet and docile. With cropped hair, defined shoulders and a mean left hook, she is anything but your typical Indian girl.

*With This Ring* lets you step into the ring with members of the Indian Women’s National Boxing Team. From their villages to the podium, these girls quickly rise to the top of their game. At the 4th World Women’s Boxing Competition in 2006, the Indian team makes a clean sweep, winning eight medals and the Championship Team title. They officially become the best women’s boxing team in the world. And the most under-appreciated!



**Anna Sarkissian** and **Ameesha Joshi** met at a café by their school when they were undergraduates at the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema (Concordia University, Montreal, Canada). They started working together on film projects and became fast friends. In autumn 2006, Ameesha approached Anna to help her make this film, and eventually they created a partnership and became codirectors. They both live in Montreal. While film is their first love, they’ve got day jobs and night jobs. Anna is working as a writer and studying Arabic while Ameesha is working as a videographer and completing her Master’s of Fine Arts at Concordia.

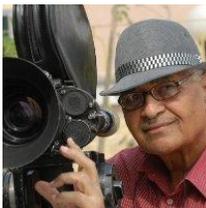
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## **EDUCATING TRIBAL GIRLS** (India/English/10 minutes)



In 1974 Purnima Pakvasa started a school under a tree with just 15 tribal girls in the tribal district of Saputara on the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra. The school was the Vishwa Vidyapeeth Girls High School and it was meant for Dangi tribal girls. Purnima Pakvasa is 103 years old today and is still active.

She also happens to be the mother of the great classical dancer Sonal Mansingh.



### **BHARDWAJ, Gurcharan Lal**

He taught himself photography while he was still at school. While he was doing his first year in college his education was interrupted by the partition (1947). He came to Bombay and worked as an apprentice to D.C.Mehta, Shanti Verma and Prahlad Dutt at the Ranjit Film Co. as unpaid apprentice. He then went to Mussoorie and set up a photo studio where he attracted the attention of Raj Kapoor's assistant Prakash Arora who introduced him to his boss. He then joined R.K.Studios as still photographer (1952). While at R.K.Studios he had made his first film on the Maharashtra Sugar Mills. By 1962 he had made The Fifth Eye for the Birlas which brought him recognition. He has worked for producers like Paul Alley of U SA; Tim Hewat, David Samuelson, Rolf Izzard, John Duff of U K; Dr. Schulz, Han Gregor, Rolf Olsen, Schiber, Germany. He has made number of films for Films Division as well as corporate films for noted private companies. His films won many National and International awards. He has served on many Juries and attended many International Film Festivals.

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