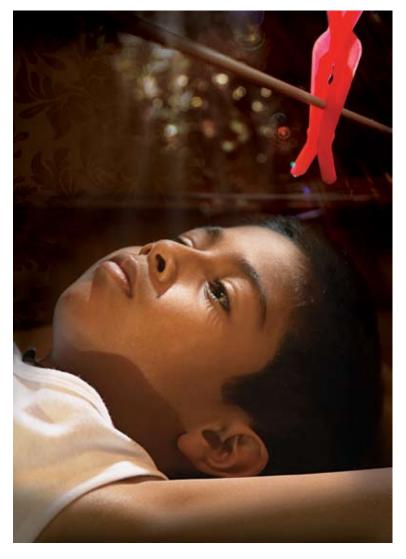
### A NOMADZ UNLIMITED PRODUCTION

## Clean Linen

Director Zia Mandviwalla Writer Shuchi Kothari Producers Sarina Pearson & Shuchi Kothari



Some family secrets won't come out in the wash.

I:1.85, Colour, 35mm, 14.5 minutes Sales Juliette Veber, New Zealand Film, juliette@nzfilm.co.nz, www.nzfilm.co.nz www.nomadzunlimited.com

> New Zealand International Film Festival 2007 Melbourne International Film Festival 2007









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Some family secrets won't come out in the wash.

NOMADZ UNLIMITED INASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION SHORT FILM FUND Director of photography CHRIS PRYOR producers SARINA PEARSON & SHUCHI KOTHARI WRITER SHUCHI KOTHARI DIRECTOR ZIA MANDVIWALLA



Additional funding: Screen Innovation Production Fund, University of Auckland Research Council SALES JULIETTE VEBER, NEW ZEALAND FILM, juliette@nzfilm.co.nz, www.nzfilm.co.nz I:1:85 COLOUR 35mm 14.5mins. www.nomadzunlimited.com





Synopsis

Some family secrets won't come out in the wash.

9 year old Raj will never forget the summer of '82.

Days are spent doing household chores with his sister Renu, and secretly watching their Dad's adult videos. When caught by their mother, Raj blurts out the truth about the video tapes without thinking of the consequences. Clean Linen is Raj's story about the pain of growing up, and realising that some family secrets won't come out in the wash.

1:1:85 COLOUR 35mm 14.5mins.

#### Director's Notes: Zia Mandviwalla

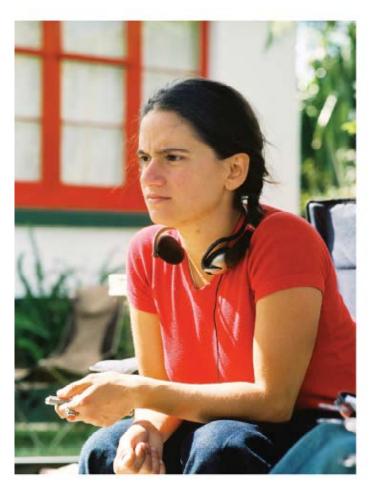
Having grown up in the West in an Indian family, I know what it is to inhabit the disparate worlds that exist inside and outside the home. Straddling two cultures is not unique to my childhood. In fact it is a universal experience of many diasporic cultures. This is what attracted me to Shuchi Kothari's screenplay Clean Linen.

This film is a portrait of an immigrant family whose thin veneer of domestic happiness and success cracks when 9-year-old Raj unwittingly forces them to acknowledge the unhappiness of his parents<sup>1</sup> marriage.

In many respects, Clean Linen is about the lack of loving and open communication. Much of the film rests in the spaces in between: in what remains unspoken rather than said. My aim was to try and capture how a young boy would comprehend his mother's shame, his sister's rejection, and his father's failure to act - if he would comprehend them at all.

The real challenge for me was in working with two children who have never acted before, let alone experienced a film set. Dilan (Raj) and Shivani (Renu) were a pleasure to work with. They were focused, mature, and had amazing endurance. While the emotional nuances of the script may still remain a little beyond their years, Dilan and Shivani's performances bring layers of meaning to the film that I never expected.

I hold hope for Raj. If the events of the summer of '82 influence him to move away from the silence and hurt, and allow him to find another way of relating to others then I feel a sense of optimism. If the film provokes even one audience member to recognize and change similar pathologies in his or her own relationships, I feel even more privileged to have brought this story to the screen.



### C ean inen

#### Writer's Statement: Shuchi Kothari

I wrote Clean Linen while researching stories of Kiwi-Gujarati families in Auckland for a feature- length screenplay. Kiwi-Gujaratis raised in the 1980s often lamented the conservatism and hypocrisy of their parents; while their parents bemoaned the children's failure to understand the pressures of raising family in a largely monocultural society.

Time and again I learnt of estranged relationships, the unhappiness of arranged marriages, and parental fears of children losing their 'Indianness'. Young boys and girls felt they had been denied "an ordinary Kiwi childhood" of tramping, camping and other outdoor adventures with friends. The accidental discovery of porn appeared in many of their stories of growing up. It exposed the family dynamics and brought feelings of guilt, shame and anger to the surface.

I wanted to write a story from a young boy's point of view that dealt with an oppressive family environment. But rather than just show the children as victims of parental tyranny, I explored the alienated relationship between a father and mother that created this domestic suffocation. I hoped have captured that moment when 9 year-old Raj realizes the fragility of his parents. Though this revelation is painful, it also liberates Raj from his parents' power over him.

Producers' Statement: Sarina Pearson & Shuchi Kothari

The stories that are most important to us are about dislocated people. Our stories may begin as immigrant stories but they are also much more than that. They are stories about human relationships that have been fundamentally shaped by the experience of departure, arrival and settling – of wanting to belong but resisting assimilation.

When the time came for choosing a director for this project, we approached Zia. Her previous film Eating Sausage and her background as a diasporic Indian filmmaker meant that she had not only been thinking through some of the same issues surrounding displacement that interested us, but that she might also have a personal connection to the world that was central to this story. These qualities plus Zia's ability to work with non-actors made her the best director to bring this story to screen.

Making a period film with Indian children and pornography as a central conceit posed its own set of challenges. Casting had to be handled at a community level. While the children never saw or heard adult material during the shoot we had to make sure that their parents knew the truth. We were grateful that all the parents involved understood the nuances of story and allowed their children to take part in this project.

Short films are always a triumph of vision and chutzpah over economics. This project was no different. The good will of cast, crew, facilities and post-production professionals was integral to making Clean Linen possible. We thank them for believing in our need to tell multicultural stories in New Zealand.

This film was funded by the Screen Innovation Production Fund, the University of Auckland and by the New Zealand Film Commission's Short Film Post-Production Fund.

### Production stills by Adam Muir





#### Contact

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### Clean Linen Full Cast & Crew Credits

Raj Renu Ash Manhar Ajay Neela

Director Writer Producer

Director of Photography Art Director Editors

Music

Production Manager First Assistant Director Continuity Focus Puller Clapper Loader Video Split Operator Stills Photographer Grip/Gaffer Lighting Assistants

Lighting Equipment & Grip Gear Dolly

Sound Recordist Boom Operator

**Casting Director** 

Dilan Dhanji Shivani Pulpa Anne Chengappa Ajayshri Vashist Rayhan Ghadiali Shanez Akhtar

Zia Mandviwalla Shuchi Kothari Sarina Pearson & Shuchi Kothari

Chris Pryor Angeline Loo Zia Mandviwalla & Chris Pryor

Andrew Morton (Submariner)

Rebekah Kelly Jennifer Butcher Aria Harrison Ryan Spearman Sky Davies Denise Faust Adam Muir Spencer Locke-Bonney Brandon Chan 3 Norwegians

Eversden Lighting The Dolly Shop

Mike Westgate Ande Schurr

Mike Dwyer 321 Action

Makeup & Wardrobe Art Department Graphics Art Department Assistants

Location Manager Chaperone Catering Unit Managers

**Production Assistants** 

Runners

Online Editor Visual Effects Neg Match

iQ Grade Digital Intermediate Supervisor Digital Intermediate Artist Title Graphics Rostrum Camera Opticals Optical Grade Sound Mixing Facilities PRP Post Production Producer PRP Post Production Coordinator

#### Tracklay

Sound Mixer Sound Mix Assistant

Additional Dialogue Recording Maya Lewis Dione Christie Mythily Meher Natacha Chossudovsky

Hamish Mortland Alicia Dowsett Usha Aggarwal Jessica Munna Dennis Liu Keitha Haycock

Melissa Kent Sarah Root

Zuleika Gilbert Jack Woon Lydia Jenkin

Roger Grant Andrew Shanks Upper Deck Film Services Ltd. Olin Turrall Adam Scott Shanon Moratti Wynter Blathwayt Reiner Schoenbrunn Brian Scadden Lynne Reed Park Road Post Wendy Cuthbert Peter Amies

Jeremy Cullen, Marmalade Audio Gethin Creagh Buster Flaws



#### Clean Linen Full Cast & Crew Credits

#### Additional Sound Recording

Voice Artists

Extras

Film Stock Film Processing & Transfers Tape Transfers Camera Equipment Legals Insurance Chris Pryor

Chrissy Diamond Alicia Dowsett Shuchi Kothari MAK Shailesh Prajapati Phil Ward

Ajay Ravindra Andie Dougherty Sarah Henderson Zelda Ladefoged

Kodak Park Road Post Next Technology Metro Film Tim Riley, Dominion Law AON Insurance Thank you: Antipodes Grant Campbell John Coulter Dept. of Film, TV & Media Studies (UA) Catherine Fitzgerald Martin Hansen Nick Hopkins **Owen Hughes** Annamarie Jagose Natalie Jordan Danielle King Thegn Ladefoged Marc Laureano Jacob McIntyre Soonu and Ronny Mandviwalla Marmalade Audio Dr. & Mrs. Narshai John Neill, Park Road Post Ranjana Patel Sunny Patel Rebecca Russell David Scott Supreme Coffee **Dianne Taylor** Toybox James Wallace Adam White Whittaker's Chocolate Olivier Wardecki Nabeel Zuberi

In Association with the Short Film Fund of the New Zealand Film Commission

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