

a Munsur Ali film

SHONGRAM

The struggle for love and survival

"...Truly breathtaking..."
-BBC

"Shongram deserves a place in
British & Bengali film history!"
-Asiana Magazine

"This is a must see film!"
- London Indian Film Festival

Special Selection
East End
Film Festival

Netpac Award
(International)
KIFF

Asian Select
Kolkata
International Film Festival

Official Selection
Kewick
Film Festival

Official Selection
London Indian
Film Festival

Official Selection
Dagupan - Singapore
Film Festival

SHONGRAM MOTION PICTURES PRESENTS
A MUNSUR ALI FILM

ANUPAM KHER
ASIA ARGENTO
AMAAN REZA
DILRUBA YASMEEN RUHEE
ARMAN PARVEZ MURAD
ANANTA HIRA

A ROMANTIC DRAMA SET DURING
THE UNTOLD ERA OF GENOCIDE, RAPE AND WAR
IN BANGLADESH 1971

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SHONGRAM

The struggle for love and survival - Bangladesh 1971

SHONGRAM MOTION PICTURES PRESENTS A FILM BY MUNSUR ALI "SHONGRAM" / "TIER SHONGRAM" - STARRING ANUPAM KHER, ASIA ARGENTO, AMAAN REZA, DILRUBA YASMEEN, ARMAN PARVEZ, MURAD - DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY LORENZO LEVRINI - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CHARLENE CAMPBELL - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ANITA AHMED - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MUNSUR ALI - MUSIC BY JAMUNA SINGH BY EMIN SARA - PRODUCTION DESIGNER RICHARD GORDON COLEBROOKE - EDITOR RICHARD GORDON COLEBROOKE - COSTUME DESIGNER MUNSUR ALI - SCRIPT EDITOR BILLY MACKINNON - PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY MUNSUR ALI

FACEBOOK.COM/SHONGRAMTHEMOVIE

WWW.SHONGRAM.COM

"The **first** British
Bangladeshi based film that
stars with **award winning**
Hollywood, Bollywood
and Bangladeshi cast members
as well as an
international crew!"

"This is a must see film!"
- London Indian Film Festival

"Shongram deserves a
place in British & Bengali
film history!"
- Asiana Magazine

"The cinematography of the
landscape was truly
breathtaking..."
- BBC (Jamsheda Young)

"It's an entertaining
dramatic portrayal of a
modern tragic era."
- The Independent - BD

A
MUNSUR ALI
FILM

CINEMATOGRAPHY - LORENZO LEVRINI
EDITED BY - RICHARD GORDON-COLEBROOKE
SCRIPT EDITOR - BILLY MACKINNON
MOVIE SOUNDTRACKS - ARMEEN MUSA

WRITER / DIRECTOR / PRODUCER - MUNSUR ALI

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PRESS KIT

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SHONGRAM

The struggle for love and survival

Synopsis



Four decades after the 1971 liberation war of Bangladesh, a British Bangladeshi on his deathbed speaks to a daring London reporter finally revealing his past.

He reveals a simple way of life, now all but forgotten, ravaged by war, genocide and abduction, which forces him to go underground and join a small band of freedom fighters. He must now face new challenges and seek revenge before he can search for the love of his life.

It's a fictional drama based around factual events.

"For the first time a British film being produced, written and directed by a British Bangladesh film-maker, looks at a forgotten era. Shongram is a romantic drama, set during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation struggle, aimed at an international audience."

Background

2017 will mark the 46th Anniversary of Bangladesh's independence, now celebrated worldwide. The US State office reports that "one in every fifty people on the planet is a Bangladeshi!"

The volatile history of Bengal before during and after the days of the British Empire, including the turbulent days of partition in 1947 all set the scene for the inevitable separation and creation of Bangladesh.

The film starts with original archive footage setting the backdrop to the film, which is produced in its authentic languages of Bangla and Urdu, while it is also wrapped in English

It's an entertaining dramatic portrayal of a modern tragic era that was largely missed by the world.

Shongram is a historic film; it is gritty, raw, romantic and nostalgic, while having an international appeal through the production techniques and a subject matter which is still very relevant today.

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The struggle for love and survival

Key Characters



OLD KARIM (Anupam Kher)

A quiet and long suffering man, finally reveals his past. His voice narrates as the visuals come to life in a flashback tale

SARAH (Asia Argento)

A daring London reporter looking to report on undiscovered stories, creating a bond with Old Karim who she sympathises with and believes his story needs to be told.

KARIM (Amaan Khan)

Karim is a cheery, childish and energetic village lad with no goals in his life except trying to impress Asha. That is until the war directly affects him and his village, forcing him to grow up very quickly and to take new challenges and decisions. He becomes a freedom fighter and now must do his part for the cause before he can search for the love of his life.

ASHA (Dilruba Yasmeeen Ruhee)

An attractive young lively Hindu girl, who is fiery at Karim, hiding a softer side from him. She is a loudmouthed beauty that has her part to play in this era.

MAJOR IFTHIKAR (Murad Parvez)

A cool and cruel cigar smoking character. He is not faze easily and is very used to war and the benefits he can reap from them.

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The Cast

The film is wrapped around Old Karim, played by world class actor Anupam Kher, as we start and end the film with him while his narration guides us through the film. While Sara, played by Asia Argento, provides the anchor as a journalist who extracts untold stories.



Anupam Kher

Over 100 plays and almost 450 films stand testament to this eternal optimism that gave rise to the drive and passion that catapulted Padma Shri award-winning actor Anupam Kher to the heights of being considered one of the greatest actors of contemporary cinema.

He worked with acclaimed directors such as Gurinder Chaddha, David O Russell, Ang Lee and Woody Allen. He is the only Indian actor to have shared screen space with the legendary actor Robert De Niro in the Oscar nominated movie "Silver Linings Playbook."

Take the histrionics of an acting guru, add the genius of a thespian, combine the flair of a producer and director, and the humanitarian aspect of a Dalai Lama award-winner for his contribution to Cinema and social work, and you have some measure of Anupam Kher.



Asia Argento

Born into a family of actors and filmmakers, she made her debut when she was only nine years old in Sergio Citti's "Sogni e bisogni" (1985).

In 1994 Asia turned her hand to directing and turned out two short films: "Prospettive" (an episode of the film DeGenerazione (1994) and "A ritroso". In 1999 Asia made her feature-directing debut with Scarlet Diva (2000), in which she was the leading actress and author of the screenplay. The film was released in May 2000 in Italy and the rest of the world. It won an award at the Williamsburg Film Festival in Brooklyn, New York. In 2001, after directing a number of music videos, she gave birth to her first daughter, Anna Lou. In 2002 she starred in "La sirène rouge" (2002) by Olivier Megaton with Jean-Marc Barr and the action thriller "xXx" (2002), directed by Rob Cohen, with Vin Diesel. She also starred in Marie Antoinette (2006) a historical comedy-drama film, written and directed by Sofia Coppola

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The Cast



Aman Khan
'Karim'

Aman Khan

An LLB Honours graduate, Aman has a transcended from a modelling background to the big screen. He has worked on 27 films including "Ekti Aprtisthanik Sikha Safar." Aman was awarded "Best New Comer" by Ideal Cultural Society presented by the Honourable Home Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Dilruba Yasmeen
Ruhee
'Asha'



Dilruba Yasmeen Ruhee (Playing Asha)

Been on the ramp since 2006, Ruhi has been involved in over 400 national and international fashion shows. Her TV commercial brands include Hyundai to Diamond World. She has a strong Drama background including three other features and Tagore's Parachuit to celebrated TV dramas such as "Obogunthon" to "Britter Vitor Eka."



Arman P Murad
(Playing Major Ifthikar)

Arman Parvez Murad is a National Award winning film and television actor and a vocal artist. Murad's major work includes film; Bachelor by Mostafa Sarwar Farooki, Khelaghor by Kazi Morshed, and various TV programmes.

Ananta Hira
(Playing Altaf)



Ananta Hira is a playwright, director & actor, playing the role of Karim's elder brother, a freedom fighter. His method of delivering a strong character is rare.



Subrata
(Playing Suraj)

Subrata is a celebrated actor in Bangladesh with three decades in the film and TV industry. He enjoyed many years as playing the lead hero in Bangladeshi cinema and has built a global fan base.

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Munsur Ali

Producer / Writer / Director

A Film graduate turned social entrepreneur, civic award winner, CEO of Limelight Film Awards, and a Film maker. Munsur Ali is challenging our perception of history and truth through his thought provoking and eye opening films!

Munsur graduated with honours in 'B.A. Film and TV Production' a decade ago and set up his film production company in 2003, since then he has worked alongside global US, UK and Bollywood names. He has also produced various documentaries and short films discussing social issues such as policing, knife crime to gang violence.

He is the founder and CEO of Limelight Film Awards, an initiative to identify and celebrate emerging film talent. It is the largest independent short film awards ceremony attended by over 500 film makers, media personalities and celebrities. It is now recognised by national and international organisations and educational institutions. He also founded the London Bengali Film Festival.

In 2012 Munsur was presented with a Civic Award for his contribution to Arts, via the Limelight Film Awards. In the same year he was invited to meet HRH Prince of Wales as a successful local social entrepreneur. He has participated in various dialogues and been featured on TV, Radio and press, including BBC, BBC London, East End Life, Wharf and many others.

In January of 2014 he was honoured at the Houses of Parliament in London where he was listed on the 'British Bangladeshi Power and Inspiration 100' list.

Crew

Lorenzo Levrini - Director of Photography

Hailing from an engineering background, Lorenzo went on to focus on photography and eventually found cinematography. He works on both fiction projects (credits include American feature "Nightmare Box" directed by Jon Keeyes) and commercials (clients include Ben Sherman, Cad & the Dandy and Lucozade).

Billy Mackinnon - Script Editor

William "Billy" MacKinnon has written screenplays for several critically acclaimed films including Small Faces and Hideous Kinky, starring Kate Winslet. He has also worked on screenplays as a script-editor, such as Jane Campion's Academy Award winning script The Piano. William MacKinnon has lectured at various institutions such as the Scottish Film Council and BAFTA.

Armeen Musa - Movie Soundtrack Composer

Armeen Musa is a singer, songwriter and composer from Bangladesh. Starting her career in high school with hit single "Bhromor Koio Giya" she has journeyed through the International music scene in Dhaka, London and North America.