



SINGHING BEE
Film by Aby Rao

SINGHING BEE

29 minutes, short

2011

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

Director's Bio

Aby Rao is an Indian-born filmmaker based in Durham, North Carolina. He grew up watching Bollywood movies in a middle-class suburb of Mumbai.

Oblivious to the fact that some of the top film personalities like Ang Lee, Roger Ebert, Gene Hackman and Andy Richter went to the same school; Aby Rao obtained a Masters degree in Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. While working at Drexel University, he decided to earn a second Masters degree, this time in Television Management. He then went on to produce several mini-documentaries for public television.

Dabbling in various forms of experimental filmmaking, Singing Bee is Aby's latest short film venture as a director in the mockumentary genre. The film was shot on a High-Definition DSLR with very few crew members, and on a shoe-string budget. He hopes to turn this effort into a feature film in the near future.

Aby resides with his wife and enjoys traveling and taking advantage of the many outdoor activities afforded by North Carolina's climate and natural beauty during his spare time.

Director's Filmography

- Singing Bee, short, 2011 – Director, Writer, Co-Producer, Co-Editor
- The Priest and the Psychologist, short, 2010 – Co-Director, Co-Producer
- Male Implants, short, 2010 – Director of Photography and Co-Editor
- MiND series, TV Documentaries (10 episodes), 2008-2009 – Director, Producer

Synopsis

Harjinder (Honey) Singh is a 10-year-old Indian-American boy poised on the brink of a major turning point in his life. His parents' obsession with raising a national spelling bee champion sharply conflicts with his desire to pursue more creative interests. This humorous short film chronicles Honey's journey to determine the right path for him.

Cast and Crew list

Cast in Order of Appearance:

- Ashwin Punj - Harjinder (Honey) Singh
- Meghan King - Spelling Bee finalist
- Camden Watts - Liz McCann
- Omer Siddiqui - Khalid Khan
- Owen Daly - George Rutherford
- Anita Punj - Rani Kaur Singh
- Jas Sidhu - Drona Singh
- Balbir Kaur Brar - Grandmother
- Keith Kittrelle - LeBron Jackson
- Shalizeh Nadjmi - Leeza Lopes (reporter)
- Awinash Bawle - Devendra Chandrabose
- Alena Koch - Tina Fonteyn
- Samira Rao - Alka Shridhar
- James T. Joseph - himself
- Jeffery James - himself
- Kinjel Desai - Kamakshi Dev
- Aby Rao - Waiter
- Linda Davis - Herself
- Grover - Steve Dev (dog)
- Preeti Vidwans - Spelling bee M.C. (voiceover)

Original Screenplay and Directed By

Aby Rao

Director of Photography

Mandeep Lehal

Edited by

Aby Rao

Mandeep Lehal

Sound Recording Assistant

Jeffrey James

Produced By

Aby Rao

Mandeep Lehal