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SKYPEOPLE

SYNOPSIS (74 words)

In 1905, scientists discover that the farther you are from earth, the slower time passes and therefore, the longer you'll live. A lyrical satire on class in New York City, the film follows 21 different characters' race to be a "sky-person" - the elite one percent who live above the 13th floor. The rest, are mere earth people. Social conventions are formed which separate these groups, until one day, science makes a new discovery....

LOGLINE (50 words)

Scientists discover that the farther you are from earth, the slower time passes and therefore, the longer you'll live. A lyrical satire on class in New York City, the film follows 21 different characters' race to be a "sky-person" - the elite one percent who live above the 13th floor.

(32 words)

A lyrical satire on class in New York City, the film follows the race of 21 different characters to be a "sky-person" - the elite one percent who live above the 13th floor.

CONTACT INFO:

Shanti Thakur
Producer, Director, Writer, Editor
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DETAILS:

TRT: 13:00 minutes
Format: Shot on Super-16mm film, finished on HDCAM SR
Aspect ratio: 16:9
Audio: Stereo mix
Color and B/W mixed

SKYPEOPLE bios: key creatives

SHANTITHAKUR – PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, WRITER, EDITOR

Shanti Thakur's award-winning films have been screened at over 200 international film festivals including the Cannes Film Festival, Montreal World Film Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival, and the Museum of Modern Art (New York). Working easily between fiction, documentary and experimental, her films "Red Tulips, A Story About Forgetting" "Sky People" "Kairos" , "Seven Hours to Burn" , "Two Forms", "Circles" and "Domino" have won 25 awards and have broadcast in 22 countries, including the Sundance Channel and PBS. "Sky People" won Best Experimental Film at the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival which qualifies "Sky People" consideration for an Academy Award. Her directorial work has been supported by the National Film Board of Canada, the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts and the Pew Fellowship of the Arts. Raised in Montreal, she now lives in Brooklyn, New York where she is Associate Professor in Film and Media Studies at Hunter College, City University of New York. Please see www.shantithakur.com for more details.

BENJAMINWOLF – CINEMATOGRAPHER, CO-PRODUCER

Benjamin Wolf's skills in composition and lighting, and his intuitive ability to support a director's vision make him a much sought after collaborator on a wide range of topics. These range from the landmark and Emmy winning PBS series "Slavery and the Making of America" to multiple seasons as First camera on "Trading Spouses" the popular Fox reality series. Benjamin's work has taken him to far flung places like Brazil, Lebanon, and Nigeria with clients including the acclaimed historical documentary series "American Experience," as well as A&E, Nickelodeon, MTV, VHI, Dateline, Discovery Channel, History Channel, Court TV, Sundance Channel and TNT. With over a dozen features and shorts to his credit, Benjamin has expanded his reputation for artistic storytelling on films such as the critically acclaimed "Talking to Stan," "A Day Off," and "Pater Familias." In addition he shot the theatrically released documentary "Losing It" in Hong Kong and New York. Seamlessly expanding to the role of Director, Benjamin recently worked as Director/Cameraman on the upcoming Sundance Channel series "Nimrod Nation" about a high school basketball team and the community that supports them.

DAVIDGILMORE: ORIGINAL MUSIC, COMPOSER, PERFORMER

Over the past decade, guitarist and composer David Gilmore has recorded and performed with some of the most highly influential and innovative artists in modern music today including Wayne Shorter, Dave Douglas, Muhal Richard Abrams, Sam Rivers, Steve Coleman, Don Byron, Cassandra Wilson, Uri Caine, Randy Brecker and David Sanborn. He has appeared on over 50 recordings and been a major presence on the international touring scene. In the early 1990s, Gilmore became an active member of the popular jazz/fusion group Lost Tribe, co-producing their first two recordings for the Windham Hill Label. He has also lent his skills to pop/commercial acts including Me'shell N'Degeocello, Japan's Monday Michiru, Tom Lang of Austria, and Rise Robots Rise. In 1995, Gilmore got the call to join sax legend Wayne Shorter's group, and appears on Mr. Shorter's Grammy Award winning album, *High Life* on Verve. He can be found most recently on recordings by Christian McBride, Carolyn Leonhart, Don Bryon and Uri Caine. Mr. Gilmore was recently voted into the Rising Stars category in DownBeat Magazine's Critic's Poll.

SHANTI THAKUR PRODUCER • DIRECTOR • WRITER • EDITOR

Shanti Thakur's visually poetic films have been screened at over 200 international film festivals and museums including the Cannes Film Festival, Montreal World Film Festival, Edinburgh Film Festival, and the Museum of Modern Art in NYC. Crossing various genres, RED TULIPS, A STORY ABOUT FORGETTING, SKY PEOPLE, KAIROS, SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, TWO FORMS, CIRCLES and DOMINO have won 25 awards and have broadcast in 22 countries.

SKY PEOPLE, a short fiction film, was considered for an Academy Award nomination. A lyrical satire on class in New York City, the film follows the race of 21 different characters to be a "sky-person" - the elite one percent who live above the 13th floor. It was awarded Best Experimental Film – LA Shortsfest, Best Narrative Film – Columbus International Film Festival, Platinum Remi Award: Experimental Film – Worldfest Houston, Best Narrative Faculty Film –University Film and Video Association and Best of the Fest – Chicago International REEL Shorts Film Festival.

Continuing to cross the line between the real and surreal, her latest film RED TULIPS, A STORY ABOUT FORGETTING, a short fiction film, is about a magical world where memory lasts only a few hours. Executive produced by Mark Lipson, producer of TABLOID and THE THIN BLUE LINE. Festivals include LA Shortsfest, Mill Valley International Film Festival, Athens International Film Festival and St. Louis International Film Festival. It won Best Narrative Film - Columbus International Film Festival, Grand Remi Award - Worldfest Houston International Film Festival. the CINE Golden Eagle award and the CINE Special Jury Award.

SEVEN HOURS TO BURN an experimental-documentary, was the film that shifted her work towards poetic, visually lush, storytelling. This personal memoir about the two different wars based on racial/religious purity experienced by her Danish and Indian parents. This experimental-documentary screened in over 50 film festivals, won 10 awards and was broadcast on the Sundance Channel. It is distributed by Women Make Movies in New York City.

Thakur originally began as a documentary film director at the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) in Montreal. It was here where she began her pursuit of stories that peel back the construction of identity, history and memory. CIRCLES (58 min.), explores aboriginal justice in the Yukon, DOMINO (45 min.) portrays interracial families through the children's eyes and CROSSING BORDERS (30 min.) about the cross-cultural tensions in a mixed neighborhood after a black-on-white murder.

Thakur has received support for her filmmaking from the Independent Film Project (IFP), the National Film Board of Canada, the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts, and the Pew Fellowship in the Arts for Film and Media.

She is Associate Professor in Film and Media Production at Hunter College, City University of New York. She has given artist presentations at numerous colleges and universities, including Bryn Mawr, Bennington, Barnard, MIT and Harvard University. She lives in New York City.

- January 2015

SHANTITHAKUR filmography/screenings/awards

RED TULIPS, 2012, fiction, S-16mm film to HDCAM SR

- **CINE Special Jury Award**, Fiction Short, DC 2014
- **CINE Golden Eagle Award**, Fiction Short, DC, June 2013
- **Grand Remi Award** (Best of the Fest), Experimental Film, Worldfest-Houston Int'l Film Festival 2013
- **Best Narrative Film - Silver Chris Award**, Columbus International Film Festival, Nov 2012
- New York Shorts Fest, New York City, May 2013
- High Falls Film Festival, Rochester, NY 2013
- Big Muddy Film Festival, Carbondale, IL 2013
- Philip K Dick Science Fiction Film Festival – New York City, December 2012
- St. Louis International Film Festival – November 2012
- Mill Valley Film Festival, San Rafael, CA, October 2012
- L.A. Shortsfest, Los Angeles, September 2012
- University Film & Video Association, national conference, Chicago, August 2012
- Southside Film Festival, Bethlehem, PA, June 2012
- Athens International Film Festival, Athens, OH, April 2012

SKY PEOPLE, 2008, fiction, S-16mm film to HDCAM SR

- **Best Experimental Film**, Los Angeles International Short Film Festival, July 2009
- *This event and award is recognized by the Academy, which qualifies consideration for an Oscar.
- **Best Narrative Film - Silver Chris Award**, Columbus International Film Festival, November 2009
- **Best Narrative Film**, University of Film + Video Association, New Orleans National Conference August 2009
- **Best of the Fest**, Chicago International REEL Short Film Festival, September 2009
- **Platinum Remi Award, Experimental Film**, Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival, 2010
- Philip K Dick Science Fiction Film Festival, New York City, Dec 2012
- Breda International Film Festival, The Netherlands, March 2010
- 360° George Eastman House Film Festival, Rochester, New York, May 2010
- Exground Film Festival, Weisbaden, Germany, November 2009
- Raindance Film Festival, London, UK, October 2009
- Athens International Film and Video Festival, April 2009
- Southside Film Festival, June 2009
- New Filmmakers New York, NYC, January 2009
- Big Muddy Film Festival, February 2010
- Dhaka International Short & Independent Film Festival, Bangladesh, March 2010 (programmed with KAIROS, SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, CIRCLES)
- Vermont International Film Festival, October 2008

KAIROS, 2002, fiction, 35mm film

- **Best Short, Audience Award**, New Haven Film Festival, September 2003
- **1st Prize, Best Editing**, Rhode Island International Film Festival, August 2003
- **Director's Citation Award**, 22nd Black Maria Film Festival, November 2002
- IFFM: Independent Feature Film Market "Short Narrative Showcase", NEW YORK CITY
- Montreal World Film Festival, CANADA, 2003
- Los Angeles International Short Film Festival, 2003
- Palm Springs International Short Film Festival, 2003
- Hamptons International Film Festival, 2003
- Raindance Film Festival, London, ENGLAND, October 2003
- Exground Film Festival, GERMANY, November 2003

- Southside Film Festival, June 2006
- Dhaka International Short & Independent Film Festival, Bangladesh, March 2010
(programmed with SKY PEOPLE, SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, CIRCLES)
- Harvard Film Archives, Harvard University, USA – purchased for collection, 2003

SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, 1999, documentary, 16mm film

Distributor: Women Make Movies, New York City

- **Cannes Film Festival** - FRANCE- Kodak's award-winning "New Filmmakers" showcase
- **Museum of Modern Art (NYC)** – Best of the Black Maria Film Festival over 25 years
- **Best Documentary Short Film**, Cleveland International Film Festival, USA
- **Gold Prize - Documentary**, New York Expo of Short Films, New York, NY, USA
- **Best Documentary**, City Paper's Philadelphia Independent Film Contest, USA
- **Best Documentary Short**, CineWomen New York, USA
- **Best Documentary**, Nextframe Film Festival, USA
- **Best Editing**, Nextframe Film Festival, USA
- **Bronze Plaque**, Columbus International Film Festival, USA
- **Director's Choice Award**, Black Maria Film and Video Festival, USA (+ tour to 60 US cities)
- **Bronze Award-Experimental Film**, Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival, USA
- **Honorable Mention**, Big Muddy Film Festival, USA
- Right to Have Rights Film Festival, Modena, ITALY (Retrospective: w/CIRCLES, DOMINO)
- Ann Arbor Film Festival, USA
- Aspen Shortsfest 2000, USA
- Doubletake Documentary Film Festival, North Carolina, USA
- THAW 2000 Film Festival, USA
- Humboldt International Film Festival, USA
- Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema, USA
- Athens International Film Festival, USA
- BBC British Short Film Festival, ENGLAND
- Robert Flaherty International Film Seminar, NY, USA
- Edinburgh International Film Festival, SCOTLAND
- Pacific Film Archives, Berkeley, CA, USA
- Nashville Independent Film Festival, USA
- Northwest Film Center at the Portland Art Museum, USA
- Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, USA
- Brooklyn Arts Council International Film Festival, NY, USA
- Mill Valley Film Festival, San Francisco, USA
- Maryland Film Festival, USA
- Leipzig Documentary and Animated Film Festival, GERMANY
- Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival, BRAZIL
- One World Film Festival, Ottawa, CANADA
- Santa Cruz Documentary Film Festival, Los Angeles
- Vermont International Film Festival, USA
- Cinematheque Ontario, Toronto CANADA (screened with Shanti's film CIRCLES)
- Margaret Mead Film Festival, New York, NY, USA (included in international tour)
- Shorts International Film Festival, New York, NYC, USA
- Asian American Int'l Film Festivals - San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City
- Museum of Natural History, NYC, NY
- A.I.R. Gallery, Soho, New York City
- Museum of Fine Arts - Boston -- for Women Make Movies 25th anniversary
- American Short Shorts 2001 - Tokyo, JAPAN,
- Tampere 30th International Short Film Festival, FINLAND
- Southside Film Festival, USA

- Dhaka International Short & Independent Film Festival, Bangladesh, March 2010 (programmed with SKY PEOPLE, KAIROS, SEVEN HOURS TO BURN)
- Harvard Film Archives, (purchased in collection), Harvard University, USA

TWO FORMS, 1998, experimental, 16mm film

Distributor: Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre, Toronto, Canada

- American Cinematheque, Alternative Screen Program, Los Angeles, USA
- Mill Valley Film Festival, CA, USA
- Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema, USA
- Montreal Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, CANADA
- Toronto Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, CANADA
- Dhaka International Short Film Festival, BANGLADESH
- Images Film Festival, Toronto, CANADA
- Women Make Waves Film Festival, TAIWEN
- Ann Arbor Film Festival, Michigan, USA (Award Winners Tour to 22 US cities)
- UFVA CD ROM: Journal of Film and Video (summer 1999)
- UFVA Annual Conference, USA 1998
- Calgary Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, CANADA
- Women's Art Resource Center, Toronto, CANADA
- Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA USA
- "Independent Exposure" Black Chair Productions, Seattle, USA
- "Independent Exposure" Tour by Blackchair Productions:
 - Transat Vidéo, Caen, FRANCE
 - Barcelona Independent Film and Video Festival, SPAIN
 - Media Non Grata Festival, Tallinn, ESTONIA
 - No Dance Film Festival, Park City, Utah, USA
 - Wollongong Film Festival, AUSTRALIA
 - CRASH Audiovisual Festival, MEXICO
- CANADIAN FILMMAKERS DISTRIBUTION CENTER'S "25 Years of Experimental Film Tour"
- Dhaka International Short & Independent Film Festival, Bangladesh, March 2010 (programmed with SKY PEOPLE, KAIROS, CIRCLES)

TWO FORMS - BROADCAST

- WYBE Public TV "Through the Lens"- Philadelphia, USA
- DUTV - "Tuesday Night Special" - Philadelphia, USA (up to 6.5 million viewers) Spring 1999
- WHYY - "Independent Images" - (PBS affiliate) Philadelphia, USA, Fall 1999

CIRCLES, 1997, documentary, Beta SP,

Distributor: National Film Board of Canada

- **Silver Apple Award**, National Educational Media Network, Oakland, CA
- **Bronze Plaque**, Columbus International Film Festival, USA
- **Award of Merit**, University Film and Video Association, USA
- **Nominated for Best Documentary Feature**: American Indian Film Festival San Francisco, USA
- **Nominated for Best Educational Documentary**: Dreamspeakers Film Festival, Edmonton
- Vancouver International Film Festival, CANADA
- Festival Presence Autochtone, Montreal, CANADA
- Toronto Human Rights Film Festival: Rights on Reels, CANADA
- INTERCOM (Int'l Communication Film and Video Festival), Chicago, USA
- IDA Annual Awards Competition, Los Angeles, USA
- Southside Film Festival, USA
- Right to Have Rights Film Festival, Modena, ITALY
- (Retrospective of work: SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, CIRCLES, DOMINO)
- Dhaka International Short & Independent Film Festival, Bangladesh, March 2010

(programmed with SKY PEOPLE, KAIROS, SEVEN HOURS TO BURN)

- Cinematheque Ontario, Toronto CANADA -screened with Shanti's SEVEN HOURS TO BURN
- Museum of Natural History, New York City, NY - May 2001

CIRCLES BROADCAST RIGHTS SOLD TO:

SWITZERLAND/PARIS: Radiotelevisione della Svizzera: commercial TV

JAPAN: TM International Inc, cable TV, satellite TV, home video

ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, CHILE, COLUMBIA, ECUADOR, MEXICO, PARAGUAY, PERU, URUGUAY,

VENEZUELA: Televised Learning Company, California: all TV rights

DOMINO, 1994, documentary, 16mm film

Distributor: National Film Board of Canada

- International Documentary Awards (IDA), Los Angeles, USA
- **Bronze Apple**, National Educational Film Media Network, Oakland, CA
- Human RightsWatch, NYC
- Asian American Film Festival, NYC
- Asian American Film Festival, Los Angeles
- Asian American Film Festival, Seattle
- Asian American Film Festival, San Francisco
- Desh Pradesh Film Festival, Toronto, CANADA
- AMTEK, Waterloo, CANADA
- Western Psychological Association Film Festival, Los Angeles
- American Psychological Association Convention, NYC
- Bombay International Film Festival, INDIA
- Right to Have Rights Film Festival, Modena, ITALY -- to screen May 2000
(Retrospective of work: SEVEN HOURS TO BURN, CIRCLES, DOMINO)

DOMINO BROADCAST RIGHTS SOLD TO:

AUSTRIA

CANADA: - Vision TV

CANADA :CFCF TV - Quebec TV

CANADA: SaskTV - Saskatchewan

CANADA :Knowledge Network - British Columbia and Yukon

GERMANY, INDIA,KOREA,SPAIN, SWITZERLAND

USA - Free Speech TV, Colorado

USA - WMVS Milwaukee Public TV

HOMEVIDEO:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Venezuela

CROSSING BORDERS, 1992, documentary, video

Distributor: V-Tape, Toronto, Canada

- Banff Centre of the Arts, CANADA
 - Ontario College of Arts, Toronto, CANADA
 - Concordia University, Montreal, CANADA
 - Harbourfront Festival, Vancouver, CANADA
 - CineVision Video Festival, NYC
 - True Colours Film Festival, Toronto, CANADA
- BROADCAST: CANADA: Vision TV National TV; CFCF TV Quebec TV, USA: FreeSpeech TV, Colorado

SKYPEOPLE

SHANTITHAKUR DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wanted SKY PEOPLE to capture life in New York City where the real and surreal meet everyday. For this reason, I didn't create a typical "fantasy" look for the film. Instead, the "surreal" moments were shot in the same way as the "real" moments we experience as audience members: be it Internet dating, child rearing, or dealing with real estate agents. The stylized aspect was created in the color tones for the different worlds: orange tinted for earth-level, blue tinted for sky-level, and golden for the merging of sky and earth.

I was inspired to use an ironic voice over narration by the surrealists. I loved Luis Bunuel's mock documentary *Land Without Bread* and Jean Painlevé's metaphysical questions in *Love Life of the Octopus*. In both cases, the films start off with a conventional voice-over of "objective" authority, but quickly unravel to reveal the musings of the narrator.

SKY PEOPLE is a film about how we divide ourselves from each other and the extraordinary circumstances that bring people together. These circumstances may be the death of a loved one, an illness, a divorce, a terrorist attack, an environmental disaster... the film doesn't give the specifics for the end of the world because the core meaning is poetic: when we are vulnerable from loss, we are more compassionate towards others. As Brecht said, serious subjects can best be heard with a light touch: lyricism and satire were thus, my choices for this film.

SKYPEOPLE CREDITS

producer, writer, director, editor	SHANTITHAKUR
director of photography	BENJAMINWOLF
music composed + performed by	DAVIDGILMORE
vocals	SASHADOBSON
sound design	EVANBENJAMIN
co-producers	BENJAMINWOLF & PAULBREEN

CAST

(In order of appearance)

Narrator	MIKE CALLAHAN
Male Scientist	CARSON GRANT
Bob Earthman	GUY OLIVIERI
Businessman	YOUNGBLOOD ROCHE
Businesswoman	GAYLE KELLY LANDERS
Alan Skyman	KRISTOPHER KLING
Liz Skygirlfriend	OLIVIA VILLANTI
Gasmask girl	JOHNNA DAVIS
Joe DiSilva	PAUL BREEN
Yoga teacher	SHANTI THAKUR
Chef	CHANDLER SANTÉ
Dominatrix	SHERRY RUSSELL
Internet Skygirl	SADIE JONES
Mom	DANIELLE SANTÉ
Boy	TYLER ANDERSON
Couple	SRI GORDON
Couple	JONATHON PAZY MIÑO
Aging Skyman	THOMAS KLINKOSTEIN
Aging Skygirl	SAMANTHA SCHUTZ
Aging Skyboy	DEREK NGUYEN
Female Scientist	CATHERINE SIRACUSA

Café crowd	NICO HUVÉ SARAH DE BLIC ANTOINE PETIT
Estranged son	PARKER CROFT
Father	RICHARD BRUNDAGE
Married woman	JANINE MCGRATH
Her Lover	AARON NAUTA
Streakers	DOVE BENARI ADAM DAVIS PATRICK GALLAGHER
Judge	PETER TRILLING
Subway driver	BASHIR SOLEBO
Park sitters	NANCY HÉRARD EMILY PARKER MICKI SOBECK SONNY PARMAR HENRY CHUNG GUILLERMO CALIENDO KRISTI MCKIM SATOMI BLAIR

CREW

1 st Asst. Camera	JENNIFER A. JOHNSON MICHAEL KENNEY TREVOR VELIN
2 nd Asst. Camera	CONSTANTINE ECONOMIDES
Gaffer	PAUL BREEN
2 nd Electric	ROB VORNKAHL
Grip	JEFF BILLINGS MATT NEEDLEMAN ANTHONY O'LEARY CHRIS HAMILTON
Sound mixer	TIM ELDER MICAH BLOOMBERG
Production Assistants	CHARLIE YAN ANTOINE PETIT NICO HUVÉ
Archival footage	NATIONAL ARCHIVES, WASHINGTON
Dating website	STRUAN OGLANBY
Lab	TECHNICOLOR
Telecine	DUART
On-line editor	DAVID GAUFF

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Eugene Bellon @ Olympic Tower, George Nicholas, Jim @ Gotham Sound
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SKYPEOPLE

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