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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:

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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 film festivals including the Montreal World Film Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival, **Museum of Modern Art (New York)** and showcased by Kodak at the **Cannes Film Festival**. Working easily between fiction, documentary and experimental, her films **"Sky People"** (2008) **"Kairos"** (2002), **"Seven Hours to Burn"** (1999), **"Two Forms"** (1998) **"Circles"** (1997) and **"Domino"** (1994) have won 23 awards and have broadcast in 22 countries, including the Sundance Channel. **"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 received her M.F.A. from Temple University. She lives in New York City. 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, VH1, 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 BIO : PRODUCER • DIRECTOR • WRITER • EDITOR

Shanti Thakur is a filmmaker living and working in New York City. Thakur's films cross easily between documentary, experimental and fiction, winning 23 awards and broadcast in 22 countries. Her work has screened in over 200 film festivals, including the Montreal World Film Festival, Museum of Modern Art in New York City, Edinburgh International Film Festival, Hamptons International Film Festival and showcased by Kodak at the Cannes Film Festival.

Thakur just completed SKY PEOPLE (2008, 13 min.) currently on the festival circuit. 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. SKY PEOPLE won Best Experimental Film at LA Shortsfest, which qualifies it for Oscar consideration. SKY PEOPLE also won Best Narrative Film at Columbus International Film Festival, Best Narrative Film at the University Film and Video Association's Faculty Jury Award and Best of the Fest at the Chicago International REEL Short Film Festival.

She started working as a documentary film director at the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) in Montreal. These documentaries focus on social issues such as aboriginal justice in the Yukon (CIRCLES, 58 min., 1997); interracial families through the children's eyes (DOMINO, 45 min., 1994); and cross-cultural tensions in a mixed neighborhood after a black-on-white murder (CROSSING BORDERS, 25 min., 1992).

She left the NFB for graduate school to expand her filmmaking into experimental and narrative forms, creating TWO FORMS (4 min., 1998) and SEVEN HOURS TO BURN (9 min., 1999), a personal memoir of the two different wars of racial/religious purity experienced by her Danish and Indian parents. Her experimental-documentary, SEVEN HOURS TO BURN screened in over 50 film festivals, won 10 awards and was broadcast on the Sundance Channel.

KAIROS (18 min., 2002) a fiction film, was made possible by grants from the Pew Fellowship in the Arts and Pennsylvania Council of the Arts Fellowship. "Kairos" is Greek for the transformative moment. The film takes place between 4:07 and 4:08 p.m., which is expanded into 17 minutes in a woman's mind: she must choose between two different lovers, two kinds of happiness. Awards: Best Short-Audience Award, New Haven Film Festival; Best Editing, Rhode Island International Film Festival; Director's Citation award at the Black Maria Film Festival.

Additional awards include: Best Documentary Short Film, Cleveland International Film Festival; Gold Award - Documentary, NY Expo of Short Film; Silver Apple, NEMN; Best Documentary, Philadelphia City Paper Independent Film Contest; Director's Choice Award, Black Maria Film Festival; Bronze Plaque, Columbus International Film Festival.

Thakur has served as a jurist for the New York Foundation of the Arts (NYFA) and the International Emmy Awards. She has also worked as a consultant for Ogilvy and Mather.

She is currently Assistant Professor in Film Production at Hunter College – City University of New York. Thakur received her MFA in Film and Media Studies from Temple University, a BA in Communications from Concordia University and a BA in Psychology from Ottawa University. She has given artist presentations at Harvard University, MIT, Barnard College, Bennington College and Bryn Mawr, amongst others. Please see www.shantithakur.com for further details.

SHANTITHAKUR filmography/screenings/awards

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
- **Remi Award Winner** (rank TBA April 17, 2010), Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival
- 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 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
...and the AMAZING labor of love from cast and crew!

SKYPEOPLE

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