Director: DINAZ STAFFORD

Dinaz Stafford was born in London, U.K. and grew up in Bombay, India. She graduated from the University of Bombay and then went on to complete a masters degree in Psychology in Richmond, Virginia, USA. After working as a psychologist with violent, emotionally disturbed children, she completed a research project on the impact of science and technology on the Warlis of Maharashtra.

At this time, Stafford met Mira Nair who thought it a good idea to have a child psychologist at the workshops for street children during the making of Salaam Bombay! and so Stafford’s career in film began. Stafford subsequently worked with Mira Nair on Mississippi Masala, The Perez Family and Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love. She also did local casting for John Sayles film, Sunshine State (2001).

In 1993, Stafford made Kisses on a Train – a short film for Channel Four (UK) that won the Grand Prix at the Clermont Short Film Festival and the audience prize in Geneva.

Stafford spends her time between the profession of social work and film, as she believes that this...
provides a balanced in her otherwise off-kilter life. Stafford founded the Salaam Balak Trust, an organization that continues to work with street children in the Indian cities of Bombay, Delhi and Bhubaneswar. She remains very close to the street children who acted in Salaam Bombay! and has made a short video on their lives.

Stafford divides her time between India, the UK and the United States and when asked where she feels most comfortable has to admit -- it is in an airplane.

Stafford has also worked in India on Discovery Channel television programmes and other independent films. While in the UK, she has also worked in the world of film distribution and the business of Bollywood.

*Still, the children are here* is her first feature documentary film.

**Producer: MIRA NAIR**

An accomplished film director, writer and producer, Mira Nair was born in India and educated at Delhi University and at Harvard. She began her film career as an actor and then turned to directing award-winning documentaries, including *So Far From India* and *India Cabaret*. Her debut feature film, *Salaam Bombay!* was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 1988. It also won the Camera D’Or for Best First Feature and the Prix du Public for Most Popular

**Prodottrice: MIRA NAIR**

Mira Nair – regista, sceneggiatrice e produttrice affermata – è nata in India e ha studiato all’università di Delhi e ad Harvard. Ha iniziato la sua carriera nel cinema come attrice, per poi dedicarsi a girare documentari, tra cui *So Far From India* e *India Cabaret*, che hanno vinto diversi premi.

Il suo primo lungometraggio, *Salaam Bombay!* ha ottenuto una nomination all’Oscar come miglior film straniero nel 1988. Il film ha vinto anche la Camera D’Or come
Entry at the Cannes Film Festival, as well as 25 other international awards. Her next film, *Mississippi Masala*, won three awards at the Venice Film Festival, including Best Screenplay and the Audience Choice Award. Nair’s subsequent films include *The Perez Family* (with Marisa Tomei, Anjelica Huston, Alfred Molina and Chazz Palminteri) and the sensuous *Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love*, which she directed and co-wrote.

Nair directed *My Own Country*, based on Dr. Abraham Verghese’s best-selling memoir about a young immigrant doctor dealing with the AIDS epidemic. Made in 1998, *My Own Country* starred Naveen Andrews, Glenn Headly, Marisa Tomei, Swoosie Kurtz, and Hal Holbrook, and was awarded the NAACP (National Association for Advancement of Colored People) award for best fiction feature.

Nair returned to the documentary form in August 1999 with *The Laughing Club of India*, which was awarded the Special Jury Prize in the Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels 2000.

In the summer of 2000, Nair shot *Monsoon Wedding* in 30 days. A story of a Punjabi wedding, the film stars Naseeruddin Shah and an ensemble of Indian actors. Winner of the Golden Lion at the 2001 Venice Film Festival, *Monsoon Wedding* also won a Golden Globe nomination for Best Foreign Language Film.

Nair’s next feature was an HBO original film, *Hysterical Blindness*. Set in working class New Jersey in 1987, the film stars Uma Thurman, Juliette Lewis, and Gena Rowlands.
Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Nair joined a group of 11 renowned filmmakers, each commissioned to direct a film that was 11 minutes, 9 seconds and one frame long. Nair’s film is a retelling of real events in the life of the Hamdani family in Queens, whose eldest son was missing after September 11 and was then accused by the media of being a terrorist.

In 2003, Nair helms the Focus Features production of the Thackeray classic, *Vanity Fair*, a provocative period tale set in post-colonial England. Reese Witherspoon plays the lead, Becky Sharp, and filming takes place in Bath, England. At the same time, Nair’s production company, Mirabai Films, is also establishing an annual filmmaker’s lab, *Maisha*, in East Africa and India for eight young filmmakers, which is expected to commence in 2004.

**Executive Producer: ROGER KING**

Roger King was born and grew up in north London and is at present based in Massachusetts. He is a novelist who has also worked as a socio-economics consultant for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) since its early days. In his career, King has tried to integrate work as a creative artist with teaching and an active involvement with issues of rural poverty in Asia and Africa.

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In seguito ai tragici eventi dell’11 settembre 2001, la Nair ha partecipato all’iniziativa che ha visto 11 celebri registi impegnati a girare ognuno un film della durata di 11 minuti, 9 secondi e un fotogramma. Il film della Nair racconta eventi realmente accaduti nella vita della famiglia Hamdani di Queens, il cui figlio maggiore, scomparso dall’11 settembre, venne poi accusato dai media di essere un terrorista.


**Produttore esecutivo: ROGER KING**

Roger King è nato e cresciuto nella zona nord di Londra e attualmente vive in Massachusetts. È un romanziero che ha anche lavorato come consulente socio-economico per il Fondo Internazionale per lo Sviluppo Agricolo (IFAD) fin dai suoi
King was educated in England and the United States, earning a masters degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Massachusetts and a PhD in the same subject from the University of Reading, England. His work for international agencies has taken him to more than 20 countries. His first work with IFAD was on a rice project for Liberia in 1979. The most recent was consulting on post-war rural reconstruction in Afghanistan. He has written many articles on rural development and was the founding editor of a periodical on the subject.

In his novels, King has explored lives caught between countries and cultures, with the world of international economics and politics as their background. His books, *Horizontal Hotel*, *Written on a Stranger's Map*, *Sea Level*, and *A Girl From Zanzibar*, have been widely praised and twice nominated for the Booker Prize. The most recent, *A Girl From Zanzibar*, was described by the New York Times as “brilliantly prescient,” and won the BABRA (Bay Area Book Reviewers Association) book critics award for the best novel of 2002.

As a teacher, King has held university posts and visiting professorships in Nigeria, England and the United States, covering a range of subjects from Agricultural Economics and International Development to Literature and Creative Writing. His university work includes founding the human rights programme, Writers in Danger.

King’s screenplay, *The Price of Rice*, adapted from his own novel and set in Sierra Leone, won a Writers Guild/BBC prize. He has taught film and screen

King has studied in England and the United States, receiving a masters degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Massachusetts and a PhD in the same subject from the University of Reading, England. His work for international agencies has taken him to more than 20 countries. His first work with IFAD was on a rice project for Liberia in 1979. The most recent was consulting on post-war rural reconstruction in Afghanistan. He has written many articles on rural development and was the founding editor of a periodical on the subject.

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prima oni anniversary of activity. Nella sua carriera, King ha cercato di integrare l’attività artistica con l’insegnamento e con un coinvolgimento attivo nelle problematiche legate alla povertà rurale in Asia e in Africa.

King ha studiato in Inghilterra e negli Stati Uniti, conseguendo un master in economia agraria presso l’università del Massachusetts e un dottorato nella stessa disciplina all’università di Reading, Inghilterra. Il suo lavoro per le agenzie internazionali lo ha portato in più di venticinque paesi. La sua prima collaborazione con l’IFAD riguardava un progetto relativo alla produzione di riso in Liberia, nel 1979. La più recente è stata una consulenza sulla ricostruzione post-bellica nelle aree rurali dell’Afghanistan. Roger King ha pubblicato molti articoli sullo sviluppo rurale e ha fondato una rivista che si occupa di questioni relative a questo stesso argomento.

Nel suoi romanzi, King esplora vite di persone che si snodano tra paesi e culture diversi, a cui fa da sfondo il mondo della politica e dell’economia internazionali. I suoi libri, *Horizontal Hotel*, *Written on a Stranger’s Map*, *Sea Level* e *A Girl From Zanzibar*, sono molto apprezzati e gli sono valsi per ben due volte la nomination per il Booker Prize. L’ultimo, *A Girl From Zanzibar*, è stato apprezzato dal New York Times per la sua “incredibile visione della nostra condizione futura” e ha vinto il BABRA (Bay Area Book Reviewers Association) Award come miglior romanzo nel 2002.

Come insegnante, King ha tenuto corsi in inglese di titolare a come professore ospite in università della Nigeria, dell’Inghilterra e degli Stati Uniti, spaziando tra argomenti disparati, dall’economia agraria e lo sviluppo internazionale alla letteratura e alla scrittura creativa.
writing and has been a partner in a company developing new film projects. **Still, the children are here** is his first film as Executive Producer.

**Composer: NITIN SAWHNEY**

Nitin Sawhney has always been a musical innovator. A gifted multi-instrumentalist, arranger and producer, he has merged Indian classical music with jazz, dance beats and electronica, and won a host of awards. In 2000, Sawhney was nominated for the Mercury Music Prize and received the prestigious South Bank Show Award for *Beyond Skin*, while he has garnered a MOBO Award and a Boundary Crossing BBC Radio 3 Music Award for 2001’s *Prophecy*.

Born and bred in south-east London, Sawhney has become a latter-day Renaissance man. After studying Law at Liverpool University, he teamed up with actor schoolfriend Sanjeev Bhaskar to create the comedy double act Secret Asians for BBC Radio, and co-devised the ensuing BBC TV comedy series *Goodness Gracious Me*.

He also played acid-jazz with the James Taylor Quartet, formed his own band, The Jazztones, and collaborated with tabla player Talvin Singh in the Tihai Trio, before forging a solo career. He has toured worldwide, written for Sinead O’Connor, remixed for Sir Paul McCartney and Sting, and produced for Algeria Rai maestro Cheb Mami.

**Compositore: NITIN SAWHNEY**

In campo musicale, Nitin Sawhney è sempre stato un innovatore. Strumentista versatile, arrangiatore dotato e produttore di talento, ha fuso la musica tradizionale indiana con il jazz, la musica dance e la musica elettronica, ricevendo un gran numero di riconoscimenti. Nel 2000, Sawhney ha ottenuto una nomination per il Mercury Music Prize e ha ricevuto il prestigioso South Bank Show Award per *Beyond Skin*, mentre con *Prophecy*, del 2001, si è assicurato un premio MOBO e un Boundary Crossing BBC Radio 3 Music Award.

Nato e cresciuto nella zona sud-est di Londra, Sawhney potrebbe essere definito un uomo rinascimentale dei giorni nostri. Dopo aver studiato legge alla Liverpool University, ha ideato, insieme al compagno di studi e attore Sanjeev Bhaskar, la commedia in due atti “Secret Asians” per il canale radiofonico della BBC, ed è stato co-autore della successiva serie comica per la TV, realizzata dalla BBC, “Goodness Gracious Me”.

Il suo impegno accademico comprende l’istituzione di un corso sui diritti umani, “Writers in Danger”.

La sceneggiatura realizzata da King, *The Price of Rice*, adattamento di un suo romanzo ambientato in Sierra Leone, ha vinto un premio Writers Guild/BBC. King ha tenuto corsi di cinema e sceneggiatura ed è socio di un’impresa che si occupa di promuovere nuovi progetti cinematografici. Di **Still, the children are here** King è, per la prima volta nella sua carriera, produttore esecutivo.
He's also composed scores for films such as *Dance of Shiva* and *Anita and Me*, and his TV credits include soundtracks for the BBC documentary *The Sikhs*, C4's *Bodily Harm*, and a forthcoming C4 adaptation of *Twelfth Night*.

Steeped in Indian and Western classical music as well as rock, he has written for The Proms (2000's *Urban Prophecies*), the Britten Sinfonia (2001’s *Neural Circuits*), and is due to compose an orchestral suite for the English Chamber Orchestra. Last year, Sawhney also recorded *Varekai* the latest offering from the magnificent Cirque du Soleil.

Sawhney's latest album is entitled, *Human*.

Sawhney ha anche suonato acid jazz con il James Taylor Quartet, fondato un proprio gruppo – The Jazztones – e collaborato col suonatore di tabla Talvin Singh nel Tihai Trio, prima di intraprendere una carriera da solista. È stato in tournée su tutto il mondo, ha scritto per Sinead O'Connor, ha curato i remix di Paul McCartney e Sting e ha composto per il maestro algerino del Rai Cheb Mami.

Ha anche composto brani musicali per film come *Dance of Shiva* e *Anita and Me* e i suoi lavori televisivi comprendono le colonne sonore del documentario della BBC *The Sikhs*, di *Bodily Harm* per Channel Four e di un adattamento della *Dodicesima notte* in preparazione sempre per Channel Four.

Esperto di musica tradizionale indiana e musica classica occidentale, come anche di musica rock, Sawhney ha composto per The Proms (*Urban Prophecies*, 2000) e per la Britten Sinfonia (*Neural Circuits*, 2001) e si è impegnato a comporre una suite orchestrale per la English Chamber Orchestra. L'anno scorso Sawhney ha anche registrato *Varekai*, l'ultima spettacolo proposto dallo splendido Cirque du Soleil.

L'ultimo album di Sawhney si intitola *Human*. 