

NAINITA DESAI

COMPOSER

RTS award winning composer Nainita Desai is an Ivor Novello, Cinema Eye Honors and BIFA nominee; a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit, and the IFMCA Breakthrough Composer of 2020.

Amongst various BAFTA, Oscar and Emmy acclaimed productions, Nainita's recent projects include **Oscar 2020 nominated** and **BAFTA & Cannes** winning feature doc *For Sama*, Sundance 2020 winning feature *The Reason I Jump*, *Bad Boy Billionaires* (No1 Netflix series in India), *American Murder* Netflix's most watched documentary to date, BBC drama series *Unprecedented* (James Norton, Olivia Williams, Gemma Arterton), and Interactive game / video game *Telling Lies*, the acclaimed release by Annapurna Interactive.

Film4 recently labelled her as one of the top 5 'composers of 2020 who should be on your radar' and her projects have been in the Top 5 Film Scores and Video Games scores of 2019 by Scala Radio. The PRS placed Desai at **No 2 in their Top 10 female writers** whose work was most used in Film & TV through 2018.

Nainita's recent scores include **Untamed Romania** nominated for GOPO & IFMCA music awards; WW2 period drama *Enemy Within*; psychological horror *Darkness Visible [BFI]* and innovative series *Fierce Queens* for Quibi | BBC Studios.

Other recent projects include BBC series *Extraordinary Rituals*, nominated for RTS and Music+Sound Best Music Awards; and the title theme for the prestigious BBC broadcast of the *Royal Wedding of Meghan and Harry*.

Her upcoming film scores for 2021 include Netflix series *The Sophy Story* (Dir: John Dowers | EP: Simon Chinn); HBO Max film *Persona* (Dir: Tim Travers Hawkins), and video games for *Electronic Arts* and *Project A*, the follow up to *Telling Lies* by Drowning Mermaid.

Outside of Film and TV, Nainita's upcoming new commissions include works for BBC Radio 3 'Postcards from Composers', acclaimed vocal ensemble *Voces8*, and a *Music, Nature & Well-being* experiment for BBC Radio.

Nainita's musical foundations are rooted in world music and she moves seamlessly between working with orchestras, fusing her collection of custom made instruments, electronics, found sound as well as song-writing, which has led to collaborations with artists including *Eivor (The Last Kingdom)* and writing documentary musicals including the BBC acclaimed *City of Dreams – A Musical*.

Coupled with a background in sound design and technical innovation that fuels her powerful emotive scores, her immersive approach involves deeply-researched collaborations to find those voices that are not usually heard, creating sounds that are truly unique.

Nainita was born and brought up in London to Indian parents and her eclectic musical upbringing led her to studying the sitar, piano, guitar, tabla, singing and violin. Following a degree in Maths and attending the NFTS to study sound for film, As a sound designer, Nainita worked on feature films for **Bertolucci (Little Buddha)**; and **Werner Herzog (Lessons of Darkness)** including *Backbeat* (Dir: Ian Softley), *August* (Dir: Anthony Hopkins), and cult cyber-feature *Hackers* (Angelina Jolie).

Her passion for music technology then led to her working in music engineering with **Peter Gabriel** during the legendary *Real World Recording Week* sessions, and working with artists including *Billy Cobham, Daniel Lanois, Jane Sibbery, Nigel Kennedy, Sinead O'Connor, and Ravi Shankar*.

Nainita sits on the Film Committee at BAFTA, and committees at the PRS and Ivors Academy. She is also an ambassador for Screen Skills UK, and a full voting member of Academy of Motion Pictures, BAFTA, Emmys, the Alliance of Women Film Composers and frequently sits on juries for the Emmys, BAFTAs, RTS and other major industry awards.

She is in demand internationally, often giving master-classes and interviews about her work ranging from the Royal College of Music, NFTS, World Soundtrack Awards Ghent, Royal Academy of Music, Cannes Film Festival, LA Comic Con USA, Rio de Janeiro Brazil ASA Women in Music Conference, NOPO in Oslo, Kiev, Ukraine and India for the British Council, Glasgow FF, Sheffield Doc Fest, Soundtrack Cologne, Moshita Music Conference South Africa, Sundance 2020, WOMEX in Copenhagen.

ACCOLADES

RTS CRAFT+DESIGN AWARDS 2020

WINNER: Best Music - Original Score: FOR SAMA

BIFA (British Independent Film Awards) 2020

NOMINEE: Best Music - Original Score: THE REASON I JUMP

CINEMA EYE HONORS 2020

NOMINEE: Outstanding Achievement – THE REASON I JUMP

IVOR NOVELLO AWARDS 2020

NOMINEE: Best Original Film Score: FOR SAMA

BAFTA BREAKTHROUGH BRIT 2016

IFMCA Awards 2019

WINNER: Breakthrough Composer of the Year

NOMINEE: Best Documentary Score: UNTAMED ROMANIA

RTS CRAFT+DESIGN AWARDS 2019

NOMINEE: Best Music – Original Titles EXTRAORDINARY RITUALS

BIFA (British Independent Film Awards) 2019

NOMINEE: Best Film Score: FOR SAMA

HOLLYWOOD MUSIC IN MEDIA AWARDS 2019

NOMINEE: Best Original Music for a Video Game Trailer: TELLING LIES

JERRY GOLDSMITHS AWARDS 2019

NOMINEE: Best Documentary Score: EXTRAORDINARY RITUALS

MUSIC+SOUND AWARDS 2019

WINNER: Best Original Music for a Video Game Trailer: TELLING LIES

NOMINEE: Best Original Music for a TV Programme Titles: EXTRAORDINARY RITUALS

NOMINEE: Best Sound Design for a Short Film : SLEEPER

NatureVision Film Festival, 2019

WINNER: BEST FILM SCORE: Untamed Romania

GOPO Romanian Film Awards Nominee 2019

NOMINEE: BEST FILM SCORE: Untamed Romania

RTS WEST AWARDS 2019

NOMINEE: BEST TV SCORE: Extraordinary Rituals

ASIAN WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2019

NOMINEE: ARTS+CULTURE AWARD

ASIAN ACHIEVERS AWARDS 2017

NOMINEE: CONTRIBUTION TO ARTS+CULTURE

MUSIC + SOUND AWARD UK 2016:

WINNER: BEST ORIGINAL FEATURE FILM SCORE: The Confessions of Thomas Quick

WOMEN IN SYNC AWARDS, NYC, USA 2016:

WINNER: BEST MUSIC IN A FEATURE FILM: The Confessions of Thomas Quick

TMT NEWS MEDIA AWARDS 2016:

WINNER: BEST MEDIA MUSIC COMPOSER – EUROPE

VIDEOGAMES

TELLING LIES (Narrative Video Game / Film) Annapurna Interactive | Dir: Sam Barlow
PROJECT A Studio - Half Mermaid | Dir: Sam Barlow
UNTITLED GAME Studio: Silver Rain Games | Publisher: Electronic Arts

FEATURES+DRAMA

NIMS Theatrical feature doc | Noah Media | Prods: Jimmie Chinn and Elisabeth Chai (Free Solo)

THE REASON I JUMP Met Films | BFI | Vulcan Dir: Jerry Rothwell Prod: Al Morrow
Sundance Film Festival 2020: World Cinema Doc Audience Award Prize

PARADISE Feature Doc | Dir: Karl Malakunas Prod: Michael Collins | Thoughtful Robot Prods

FREEDOM OF SPEECH Feature Doc | Dir: Julia Bacha | Just Vision

LOOK AWAY Feature Doc | Dir: Ben Steele, Sophie Cunningham | Top Hat TV | SKY DOCS

KABINI – WILD SECRET OF INDIA Feature Doc | Netflix | Wildspace Productions | Senior Prod: Verity White

AMERICAN MURDER Feature Doc | Netflix | Dir: Jenny Popplewell | EP: James Marsh

PERSONA Feature Doc | HBO Max - CNN Films | Dorothy Pictures
Dir: Tim Travers Hawkins (XY Chelsea) Prod: Julia Harrington

THE YEAR THAT CHANGED BRITAIN 1x90min | Dir: Kevin MacDonald | EP: Nick Fraser | Altitude

UNPRECEDENTED: THEATRE FROM A STATE OF ISOLATION
BBC | Century Films | Headlong
Unique series of plays filmed using Zoom and starring 50 of the UK's
leading actors including Gemma Arterton, Alison Steadman, James Norton

FOR SAMA C4 | PBS | Dir: Ed Watts | Waad Al-Kateab
OSCAR Nominated, Cannes, SXSW winner
4 BAFTA nominations and 4 BIFA nominations

DARKNESS VISIBLE BFI | Protagonist | Psychological Horror Dir: Neil Biswas

ENEMY WITHIN 27Ten Productions | WW2 Period Drama | Dir: Gabriel Robertson Prod: Ken Petrie

UNTAMED ROMANIA Dir: Tom Barton-Humphries Off The Fence | European Nature Trust

THE LIFE AFTER BBC | Irish Film Board | Century Films | Dir: Brian Hill

DOCUMENTARY SERIES 2019 | 2020 | 2021

FIERCE QUEENS BBC NHU series | QUIBI | 15x10 min

BAD BOY BILLIONAIRES Netflix | Minnow Films | 4x60min EP: Morgan Matthews | Jigsaw Prods

THE SOPHY STORY Netflix | Lightbox | 3x60min | Exec: Suzanne Lavery, Simon Chinn

ENSLAVED CBC | 6x60min Exec Prod: Samuel L Jackson

THE FARM 3x60min | Sky | Mindhouse Prods | EP: Louis Theroux | Dir: Lottie Gammon

DOCUMENTARY 2019 | 2020 | 2021

THE DAY KATE & WILL GOT MARRIED Finestripe | 1x60min | ITV | Dir: Janice Sutherland

THE NEW STONEHENGE Raw Cut TV | 1x60min | Dir: Peter Chinn | BBC2

ANTON FERDINAND: FOOTBALL, RACISM & ME 1x60min | BBC1 | Dir: James Ross | Wonder TV

THE DAY WILL AND KATE GOT MARRIED 1x60min | Finestripe | Dir: Janice Sutherland

STONEHENGE 1x60min | Raw Cut TV | BBC2

MISCARRIAGE: THE LAST TABOO C5 | 90min film Dir: Janice Sutherland

HIGH 6x30min | BBC | Blink Films | Drama-Doc

TEA: ONE CUP A THOUSAND STORIES 5x60min | BBC Studios | Migu China | landmark Series

FIERCE QUEENS	BBC NHU series QUIBI 15x10 min
ROSS KEMP: NHS ON THE FRONTLINE	ITV 2x30min Silverstar TV
CALL THE POLICE	BBC Dragonfly TV 3x60min
MY GRANDPARENTS WAR S1+S2	C4 Wild Pictures Series Dir: Leo Burley 4x60min
RACIAL BIAS (w/t)	C4 Proper Content Series Prod: Jackie Waldock 2x60min
RESCUED	Discovery Arrow Media 6x60min
WALKING WITH GIANTS	C4 October Films SP: Alexis Girardet 3x60min
MY FAMILY, THE HOLOCAUST AND ME	2x60min Wall To Wall BBC2 SP: David Vincent
LITTLE BRITONS	3x60min Series Titles 9Lives Media SP: Colin Stone
THE 1900 ISLAND	BBC2 4x60min Wildflame TV SP: Alexis Girardet
THREE DAYS	C4 1x60min Sugar Film Chris Durlacher
BACK TO THE WILD	6x60min Double Act TV Nat Geo Wild
BODYCAM SQUAD	10x60min Raw Cut TV Series 2 New Titles
H-TOWN	6x30min BBC1 7 Wonder Series Prod: Catey Sexton
EQUATOR FROM THE AIR	BBC2 4x60min Dragonfly TV Exec: Richard Bond Ruth Shurman
DAVID JASON: Planes, Trains and Automobiles	UKTV 5x60min SP: Chris Malone
TRAVELLING BLIND	1x60min BBC2 Spun Gold Dir: Will Lorimer
THE DAY WE WALKED ON THE MOON	ITV Smithsonian 1x60min Finestripe Prods Dir: John Moulson
LEGENDS OF THE DEEP	4x60min Discovery Cineflix Media
EXPOSURE: PROJECT X	1x60min ITV Raw Cut TV

MISCELLANEOUS

Live Event:

The Royal Wedding: Meghan and Harry 2018 **BBC Broadcast** (performed by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales)

DRAMA

MAXWELL	BBC Emmy Winner Starring David Suchet
TO KIDNAP A PRINCESS	ITV Dir: John Alexander
ANEMONE	Dir: Amrou Al-Kadhi Prod: Savannah James-Bayley BBC Films Film London
CURFEW	EON Productions Dir: Oz Arshad Exec Prod: Barbara Broccoli
LAB RAT	Dir: Nour Wazzi Panacea Productions Sci-Fi Thriller
EXIT EVE	Dir: Charlie Parham Prod: Helen Simmons Exec Prod: Camille Gatin
SLEEPER	BBC BBC Films 6min animation (Music and Sound Design)
MOLLY	Dir: Greg Karpinski
CHECKPOST	Dir: Aneel Ahmed Films

SOUND DESIGN

LITTLE BUDDHA	Dir: Bernardo Bertolucci Prod: Jeremy Thomas (Sound Design)
BACKBEAT	Dir: Ian Softley Prod: Scala Productions (Sound Design)
AUGUST	Dir & Starring: Anthony Hopkins ITV Films (Sound Design)
INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE	Dir: Neil Jordan Scala Productions (Sound Design)
HACKERS	Dir: Ian Softley Starring: Angelina Jolie (Sound Design)
DEATH MACHINE	Dir: Steve Norrington Prod: Fugitive Features (Sound Design)
FATHERLAND	Dir: Chris Menaul Starring: Rutger Hauer HBO (Sound Design)
GREAT EXPECTATIONS	Robert de Niro Gwyneth Paltrow Additional Specialist music
LESSONS OF DARKNESS	Dir: Werner Herzog
THE LITTLE TERRORIST	Dir: Ashvin Kumar (Music) OSCAR NOMINATED

TRAILERS and COMMERCIALS

Music for over 30 film trailers by E Entertainment, Nordic Noir and Arrow films including Borgen and Wallander.

Various Commercials for brands including: LAND ROVER / SAMSUNG / FOSTERS / NINTENDO / MIGRALEVE / SONY/ CHICLETS CHEWING GUM / SAFIA MINERAL WATER / CAPO MILK / MIGRALEVE

DOCUMENTARY

Countless series and one off docs in many genres. Recent projects include the scores for **Extraordinary Rituals** (BBCNHU), **Equator From The Air** (BBC2), **Earth's Natural Wonders** (BBC1), **My Dad The Peace Deal and Me**(BBC1) Bafta Best Single Doc, Grierson, RTS Nominee **Raped: My Story** Bafta, RTS, Grierson 2018 Nominee (C5) **Catching A Killer** Bafta, RTS, Broadcast Awards 2018 Nominee (C4 / Brian Woods), **Hunting the KGB Killers**(C4), **Tribes, Predators & Me with Gordon Buchanon** (BBC NHU) *Hunters of the South Seas* (BBC2), *Sue Perkins in Kolkata* (BBC1), **Britain's Biggest Adventures with Bear Grylls** (ITV), **Dinosaur Britain** (CGI family adventure series ITV), Britain At Low Tide (C4), **The Day Hitler Died** (ITV), **The Day They Dropped the Bomb**(ITV), **Living with Nomads with Kate Humble** (BBC2), **Treasures of the Indus** (BBC4), **Police Interceptors** (C5), **Million Dollar Princesses** (Smithsonian), *Africa Rivers Wild* (Animal Planet), **The Mekong with Sue Perkins** (BBC2)

CONTACT

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