

if God would come down to earth
and try to earn a living in Bombay,
most probably he would very soon
become successful as a voice-over
artiste, lending his voice to
thousands of Hindi movies and
even more documentaries
and public service films
in India.

the Voice of God

a film by Bernd Lützeler

a melo-dramatic
docu-drama with voice-over
in stop-motion
and long-time exposure.



India / Germany 2011

9min 35sec, english

shooting format: Super-16mm, Super-8mm

screening format: 35mm, 1:1.85, colour, Dolby SR

preview format: DVD, 16:9

the Voice of God

voice.....Harish Bhimani
electromechanicals.....Dirk Göken
translation.....Pratik Rumde
director's assistant.....Shrestha Mathur
director's assistant.....Harold Collin Anthony
opticals.....Satish C Ajgaonkar
lab supervisor.....Chandrakant Kabir
35mm blow-up.....Ricki N Gada
color grading.....Anant Gothankar
negative cut.....Gulab Chand Singh
sound recording.....Raju Shastri
audio mastering.....Tobias Engl
representation.....Philip Widmann
idea, script, camera, editing, etc.....Bernd Lützeler



**shot & made in Bombay a.k.a Mumbai
on Kodak & Fuji stocks**

**electromechanicals provided by
dieSachbearbeiter, Berlin**

**processed & printed at
Rauko Cine Labs**

**super-8 blow-up at
Andec Filmtechnik, Berlin**

**telecine at Prasad Film Labs
Avitel Post Studioz
Screenshot, Berlin**

**audio recorded at
Visual Reality Studio**

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When in Bombay in 2006, I was writing a script for a feature film which became too complex for me to handle. The whole process was so disconnected from whatever I thought moving images were about, that I decided to start working on a side project which would only be about the moving image: shooting longtime exposure in the most crowded places in Bombay with a timelapse camera on 16mm film. There was no budget, so everything had to be do-it-yourself: the film equipment and expired stock I found on ebay, a retired precision engineer did the super-16mm gate conversion and my friend Dirk designed a release mechanism to trigger the camera. Further modifications disabled the camera's viewfinder and I ended up having to shoot blind. Placing this cluster of camera, release control, wires and batteries into a Bombay traffic jam for several hours requires a multitude of irrational strategies because every inch of asphalt in this city is exploited commercially. When the rush hour starts, it's seen as an opportunity by thousands of hawkers to set up their shops right into the traffic. This attracts even more people who seem to enjoy their high-density shopping experience. Whatever looks like a good spot to put a camera in the morning, will be overrun by an avalanche of metal and organisms a few hours later. So I kept changing strategies: I began shooting from seedy hotel windows or I was hiding my camera in a sports bag. One day I went on a location reccie to Malad Station, and while having a lassi at the MM Mithaiwala restaurant, I heard a voice. It was the voice of God. Coming from the speakers above my head: "MM Ki Lassi, sheetal hai, madhur hai, swaad se bhari, taazi malaaidar lassi, MM Ki Lassi!" The Voice of God. The God of Voiceover: Harish Bhimani. In the late 1980's the largest Indian epic, the Mahabharata, reincarnated in its avatar, the television series "Mahabharat". Harish Bhimani was the narrator, he spoke the voice of "Time". Everyone in India knows his voice and everyone has memories about it. Bombay is a film city, film is an easily available resource, it's literally lying in the streets. I found my protagonist, found some side characters and at one point I had to bring all these elements together. In the analogue process, film is shot on negative and afterwards spliced and glued together by a negative cutter. The minimum distance between two cuts has to be 16 frames, but I wanted to do single frame cutting. So I had to re-work everything on an optical printer. Shot by shot and frame by frame. There are just 5 or 6 printers left in Bombay, all of them on their last legs. Since the cinevator technology entered the market last year, the digital revolution is almost complete. Satish Ajgaonkar is one of the people who is still trying to survive on analogue, and for five long days we copied every single frame of the film into a new sequence. It became a totally hand made film, no digital technology was involved in the final print.

Bernd Lützeler * 4th oct 1967 in Düsseldorf, Germany

studies:

Fine Arts & Experimental Media Design at University of the Arts, Berlin

video- / filmography:

the Voice of God - 2011, experimental film, 35mm, 9min

Movieland - 2010, photo project (work in progress)

Rapid Eye Love - 2005, experimental film, Super-8, 3 min

True Love is just Filmi - 2003, experimental video, 15 min

Hans-W.-Geissendörfer-Newcomer-Award, Koblenz, Germany, 2003

screened at Antimatter, Victoria, Canada, 2005

Lausanne Underground Film Festival, Switzerland, 2004

Portobello Film Festival, London, UK, 2004

Sehsüchte, Potsdam, Germany, 2004

20. Video / Film-Days, Koblenz, Germany, 2003

The Suspect Usual - 1998, experimental video, 18 min

Eternal Showdown - 1998, film loop, Super-8, 43 m

Schallmann - 1996, radio play, 6 min, in collaboration with Makks Moond

Loop-o-Rama - 1995-2000, installation, Super-8 film loops in infinite panoramic

projection, in collaboration with Eric Wilhelm da Cruz

shown at Up & Coming, Hannover, 1996

Rauschlitanei - 1993, experimental video loop, 1 min

awards: 2nd Prize Wettbewerb Jugend & Video, Potsdam, 1993

events:

NoMasala - Traveling Indian Short Films - 2004-2010, founder, organizer, curator

collaborations:

edit: Sight - 2009, short fiction, 15 min, dir: Amirali Navaee

edit: Nightingale of Kabul - 2009, Trailer, 12 min, dir: Jeannette Gaussi

edit: Hidden Places - 2009, short fiction, 20 min, dir: Zarah Ziadi

edit: Bulbul-E-Kabul - Nightingale of Kabul - 2008, 9 Min, dir: Jeannette Gaussi

edit: The Making of Saawariya - 2007, 64 min, dir. Jerit G John

cam & edit: The Short Circuit - 2006, Trailer, 32 sek, dir: Kunal Jhaveri

edit: The Tribal Women of Hazaribagh - 2003, Trailer, 20 min, dir: Susanne Gupta



a NoMasala production

the Voice of God

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trailer www.vimeo.com/12334674