

Sana Bilgrami
6/6 Viewforth Terrace
Edinburgh EH10 4LH
T: 0131 229 5664
M: 0778 882 5868
sana@bilgrami.freeserve.co.uk
www.blanko.org.uk

Sana Bilgrami

Date of birth: 3 June 1974
Place of birth: Karachi, Pakistan
Nationality: Pakistani, Canadian (UK resident)

- 2005 | present
Lecturer
Photography, Film and Imaging, School of Design and Media Arts, Napier University
Part-time lecturer for undergraduate students.
- 2005 | present
Director
We Shall See (Corruption Films, 60 mins, in development)
A personal story where émigré filmmaker Sana Bilgrami returns home to Pakistan to explore the reality of life in a country which for most people remains an enigma.
- 2004
Director
Tree Fellers This Scotland (Asylum Pictures, Scotland, DVcam, 24 mins, Scottish Screen, Scottish TV and Grampian TV)
The remarkable story of three of the eight hundred black men of British Honduras who risked their lives for the war effort in order to fell trees in Scotland.
Nominated for BAFTA Scotland for Best Television Documentary 2004.
Screened at *Madrid Eperimental Cinema Festival 2005*, Madrid, Spain.
Screened at *International Human Rights Festival 2005*, Glasgow, Scotland.
- 2003 | 2004
Director, Co-Producer
Across the Waters (Scotland, Digi-beta, 28 mins, BBC Scotland & Bridging the Gap: Scottish Screen, Docspace, Angus Digital Media Centre, Scottish Enterprise Tayside)
The unique story of a young girl who journeyed from Pakistan to the remote Outer Hebrides in 1955. Fifty years later, her granddaughter is now leaving the island.
Nominated for the Satyajit Ray Award 2005.
Screened at: *International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film 2004*, Leipzig, Germany; *Sheffield International Documentary Festival 2004*, Sheffield, England; *Britspotting 2005*, Berlin, Leipzig, Germany, and Basel, Switzerland; *Commonwealth Film Festival 2005*, Manchester, England; *Ludwigsburgh International European Short Film Biennale 2005*, Ludwigsburg, Germany; *International Human Rights Festival 2005*, Glasgow, Scotland; *Tampere Film Festival 2006*, Tampere, Finland; *Le Festival Côté Court*, Bobigny, France.
- 2002
Director, Editor
Recreating Paradise (Scotland, DVcam, 20 mins, National Museums of Scotland and the Glasgow Museums)
The creative interaction between Muslims, refugees and Scottish artists, as they sew together "paradise". In the process of creation, we discover stories of loss and hope.
- 2002
Director, Camera
Desert Colours (Pakistan, DV, 30 mins, in post-production, Channel 6, Dundee)
A film about a journey to the dusty chaotic city of Karachi, leading to encounters with a young handloom weaver, a textile dyer and a handblock printer.
- 2000 | 2001
Director, Producer, Camera, Editor
Under My Skin (Scotland, Super-8mm, 15 mins)
Award winning documentary film about two immigrant artists in Scotland and the experience of cross-cultural identity in their art and their lives.
Winner Best Factual film and Winner Special Achievement Award at *Scottish Students on Screen 2002*, Dundee, Scotland.
Winner Best Documentary Film at *Chichester International Film Festival 2002*, Chichester, England.
Winner Audience Award at *Blue Room 2002*, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Nominated for the Grierson Award for Best Scottish Documentary at *Edinburgh International Film Festival 2002*, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Screened at: *Leeds International Film Festival 2002*, Leeds, England; *Britspotting 2002* British Independent Film Festival, Berlin, Münster and Cologne, Germany; *Kasseler Dokumentarfilm & Videofest 2002*, Kassel, Germany; *Karafilm Festival 2002*, Karachi, Pakistan.
- 2001
Producer, Assistant Director
Sweet and Sour (Scotland/Taiwan, 16mm, 17 mins).
A fiction film about a Chinese immigrant couple who run a failing restaurant.
Shortlisted for Best Fiction Film and Best Cinematography at *Scottish Students on Screen 2002*.
- 1999 | 2000
Director, Co-Producer, Editor
Closing Time (United Kingdom, DV, 10 mins, in post-production).
A short drama about an unhappy married young woman in a moral dilemma.

2000
Creative Director
Talent Factory Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
Wrote concepts, scripts and content for drama series, magazine shows and game shows for television in Sri Lanka.

1997 | 1998
Scriptwriter, Assistant Director,
Off-line Editor
Sun, Fire, River. Ajrak: Cloth from the Soil of Sindh (Pakistan, BetaSP, 30 mins).
A documentary film on the beautiful and complex process of the making of *ajrak*, a traditional textile from Sindh, Pakistan.
Screened as part of *Tana Bana / Warp and Weft: The Woven Soul of Pakistan*, an exhibition of traditional Pakistani textiles touring the USA in 1999.
Screened in the competitive category at the *1999 Biennial South Asian Documentary Film Festival*, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Awards and Nominations

2005 | Satyajit Ray Award Nominee *Across the Waters* was nominated for the Satyajit Ray Award 2005.

2004 | BAFTA Scotland Nominee *Tree Fellers* was nominated for Best Television Documentary BAFTA Scotland 2004.

2002 | Best Documentary *Under My Skin* won the Best Documentary at the Short Film Competition at *Chichester International Film Festival 2002*, Chichester, England.

2002 | Best Factual Film *Under My Skin* was Winner of the Factual Category at *Scottish Students on Screen 2002*, Dundee, Scotland.

2002 | Special Achievement Award Sana Bilgrami was awarded the Digital Animations Group Special Achievement Award for *Under My Skin*, which was selected from films in all the five competitive categories at *Scottish Students on Screen 2002*, Dundee, Scotland.

2002 | Audience Award *Under My Skin* won the audience award from amongst eleven films screened at the *Blue Room* short film showcase at the Cameo cinema, Edinburgh, Scotland.

2002 | Grierson Award Nominee *Under My Skin* was nominated for the Saltire Society Grierson Award for Best Short Documentary at *Edinburgh International Film Festival 2002*, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Education

2005 | EDN Workshop EDN Pitching Forum at Thessaloniki 2005

2003 | Pitching Training Workshop DocsBarcelona 2003 Pitching Forum, European Documentary Network

2001 | Training and Development Cineworks Training and Development Scheme, Scottish Screen, Scotland.
Documentary Treatment Writing and Pitching workshop with filmmaker Amy Hardie.
Documentary Masterclass with BBC documentary film producer Hugh Purcell.
Producer Training Session with Gaynor Holmes, BBC Scotland.

2000 | 2001 | Master of Design Master of Design in Visual Communications | Film and Television.
Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, Scotland
Master's dissertation: "Migrations: Art and Identity"
Directed, filmed and produced *Under My Skin* (Super-8mm, 15 mins).
Produced *Sweet and Sour* (16mm, 18 mins).

1992 | 1997 | BA Joint Honours Bachelor of Arts Joint Honours in Philosophy and in Film & Communications.
McGill University, Montreal, Canada
Honours philosophy thesis: "Martin Heidegger and National Socialism".
Honours film thesis: "Popular Hindi cinema between 1945 and 1975".
Wrote, directed, filmed and edited the following films: *Drugland* (2 mins), *Silent Portrait* (4 mins), *Love in the 90's* (15 mins), *Garbled Memoirs* (10 mins).

Skills

Avid, Media 100, Final Cut Pro. Word, Excel, Access, Powerpoint, Outlook, Photoshop. Fluent in English, Urdu and Hindi.