

ASHANTI

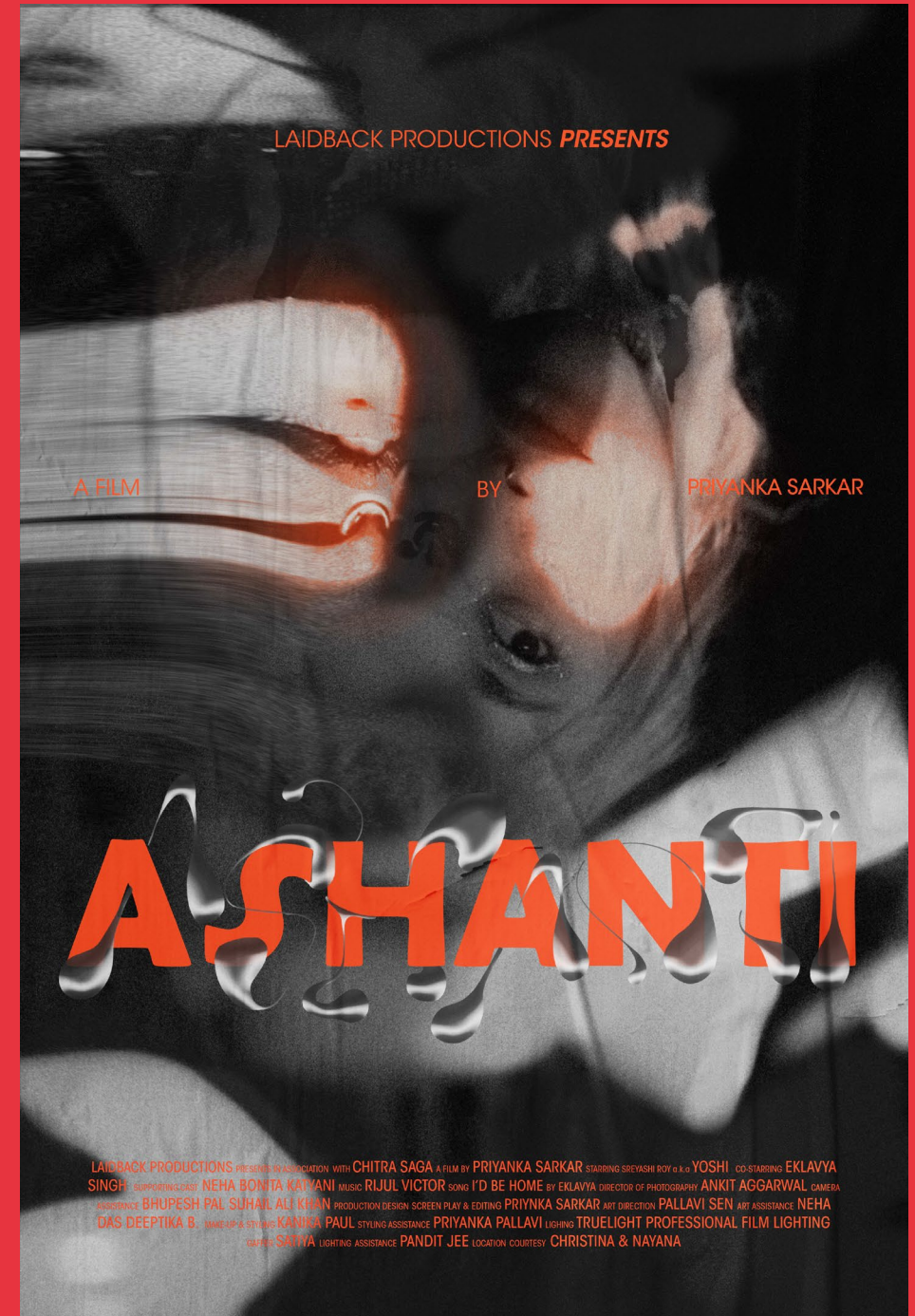
YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 2020/ NEW DELHI, INDIA
RUNTIME: 10 minutes 47 seconds / FORMAT: Digital, 1920x1080 HD

CAST & CREW

starring **SREYASHI ROY**
EKLAVYA SINGH, KATYANI
JAIWAL, NEHA DAS, BONITA
SINGH RAJPUROHIT
styling **KANIKA PAUL, PRIYANKA**
SARKAR & PALLAVI SEN
make-up **KANIKA PAUL**
production design **PRIYANKA**
SARKAR
art direction **PALLAVI SEN**
art assistant **NEHA DAS, DEEPTIKA**
assistant director **PALLAVI SEN**

lighting **PRIYANKA SARKAR,**
PALLAVI SEN
director of photography **ANKIT**
AGGARWAL
camera assistant **BHUPESH PAL &**
SUHAIL ALI KHAN
music **RIJUL VICTOR**
editor **PRIYANKA SARKAR**
producer **PRIYANKA SARKAR**
story & screenplay
PRIYANKA SARKAR
direction
PRIYANKA SARKAR

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ASHANTI

BY PRIYANKA SARKAR



ASHANTI is an experimental short-film based on original screenplay written, directed and produced by Priyanka Sarkar under "Laidback Productions".

SYNOPSIS

Luna becomes obsessed with her ideal man, who is nothing but an illusion. Her intention quickly takes over as she starts to weave her own sleep cycle with the help of hoppie lojens (a metaphorical drug candy designed for the film) and falls prey to the darkness of a deceiving romance. The more the candy shows its magic, the more she gets sucked into the fool's paradise.

STORY

Luna Starr slowly loses her sanity due to her increasing indulgence in her perfect love affair. While trying to fulfil her desires, she reaches an ecstatic state of mind and projects her own reality with more consumption of the hoppie lojens, which help her hop from one dream to another. Her dreamscape and reality intersect. She finds herself thrown into the darkness, amidst chaos, moving in spirals and drowning deep down only to let go.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Ashanti (**restless** in Hindi language) was born from the urge to find the **self beyond good**, more towards people at their worst state. It is quite absurd that we are unfamiliar with our own selves even after spending the majority of time with ourselves, we often tend to be ignorant of our deepest selves. In this case, it seems like any other existential crisis but, behind the intensity of anger, there's greater darkness when doubt or fear comes in, which surprisingly leads to **self-discovery** and flips the **violent nature of anger** into **poise**. The glam aesthetical approach for "Ashanti" is inspired by the rock n roll era's rebellious nature, is appropriate to experience the emotional roller coaster to know the hidden self.

There is no end to know the self and the **feeling of love** will always remain central to my creations. Inspired from my personal experiences, especially questioning my **unconscious mind** and creativity, which will **illuminate through dark** times and make the viewer **think beyond the screen**. This film is exploring my dark side, more than a year's thoughts and introspection with personal experiences and contemplations, it is purely my heart's raw depiction of emotions.

The 70s **rock n roll** scene had it all, poise and **rebel**, and the **compulsion of having everything** now became the central inspiration behind the film. The film moves forward with fashion attempts and aesthetics of the subculture along with the subjects in the film being accustomed to the glam rock fashion and styling. The status of fashion as a designed object is foregrounded. Creative and innovative hair and makeup designs complement the avant-garde representation.