

DIVANA

YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 2021/HAMBURG, GERMANY

RUNTIME: 4 minutes 05 seconds / FORMAT: Analog, 16mm film

CAST & CREW

starring **PRIYANKA SARKAR**
HELENA ALJONA KUEHN, PAUL
STÜMKE, NICK WACHS

styling **HENDRIK NOWAK,**
PRIYANKA SARKAR

make-up **PRIYANKA SARKAR,**
HENDRIK NOWAK

production design **PRIYANKA**
SARKAR

lighting **RIKE MALOTTKE**

lighting assistant **LONE SCHINDLER**

music **GALINA CHUDINOVA**

graphic design **PALLAVI SEN**

director of photography **PRIYANKA**
SARKAR

camera assistance **LUISA BACELAR,**
PABLO CAMARGO

editor **PAOLA LADA FRANULOVIC**

screenplay **PRIYANKA SARKAR**

producer, writer & director

PRIYANKA SARKAR

production assistant **PABLO**

CAMARGO, RIKE MALOTTKE

special thanks **Hochschule für**
bildende Künste Hamburg, Prof.

Udo Engel, Prof. Annika Larsson

Asta HAW HAMBURG

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LAIDBACK PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS

DIVANA

A FILM BY PRIYANKA SARKAR

Starring HELENA KÜHN, PAUL STÜMKE, NICK WACHS & Guest starring PRIYANKA SARKAR
Director of photography PRIYANKA SARKAR Camera assistance LUISA BACELAR, PABLO CAMARGO
Digital camera operator & Gaffer RIKE MALOTTKE Lighting Assistance LONE SCHINDLER
Styling HENDRIK NOWAK Make-up PRIYANKA SARKAR & HENDRIK NOWAK
Graphic Design PALLAVI SEN Music GALINA CHUDINOVA Editing PAOLA LADA FRANULOVIC
Production Assistance PABLO CAMARGO RIKE MALOTTKE
Production, Screenplay, Story & Direction PRIYANKA SARKAR Special thanks Prof. UDO ENGEL,
Prof. ANNIKA LARSSON, HFBK Hamburg, Asta HAW Hamburg



DIVANA

BY PRIYANKA SARKAR



DIVANA is an experimental short-film (fashion, dance/drama) based on original screenplay written, directed, shot and produced by Priyanka Sarkar under "Laidback Productions" with HFBK Hamburg as a part of curriculum after completion of 16mm analog film workshop.

PLOT

A girl's romanticism about being in a new city and her desire to find her tribe by movement. The film moves forward with disco aesthetics and fashion styling as more characters are revealed.



SYNOPSIS

The protagonist (Priyanka) is new in the city and is looking to find her tribe amongst these difficult times. She is full of energy, loves dancing and believes in magic. The three characters wandering in the city and dancing are portraying her expectations of what it's. They are moving through space and responding to experiences by action reaction. They portray sadness, loneliness and at times little moments of joy by seeing the silver blob (a fluid sculpture). A moment that might ordinarily just flash by now makes a deep impression on them. The sense of time expands or contracts, they become extremely sensitized to things they might not have noticed before. They celebrate and are united by seizing the movement when they find themselves in constant motion, and become increasingly attracted to in-between places, places that were not destinations, places that were somehow in limbo or were outcast and passed by.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Divana (deewana; **crazy** in Hindi language) was born from the urge to find excitement in covid times in a place far from home. Moving continents during the peak of a pandemic to pursue higher studies was surely not easy. It was my dream to be able to come here, I romanticised it a lot and in contrast to my imagination, the reality was nothing like I imagined. Rather, it felt dull and grey and, hard to connect with people.

To break the monotony, and feel less depressed by not letting the environment affect me, I decided to make this film. Also, to "**seize the movement**" through my life experiences, remained the main inspiration behind this film.

Divana is about **expectations, vivid dreams and romanticising** but, getting sad often by the reality. The protagonist gets lost in a fantasy where the three imaginary disco aliens dance around the dead city as a backdrop and make it alive with their glittery extravagant looks and hence, I decided to explore dance and movement for the film's base story with disco aesthetics.

Disco popularised dancing as a social activity internationally, but it was responsible for introducing a new style of freeform dancing. Prior to disco, all forms of social dancing involved a man and a woman dancing with one other. Disco broke that rule and disco dancing was the first time people could go onto the dance floor as an individual which allowed for a new **form of freedom** and **expression** while being part of a **collective energy**.

Being a dancer myself, I feel very alive while dancing and it also acts as a medium of bonding with another person through beats and movements, it is just pure form of ecstasy. **You attract your tribe with your vibe** and I wanted to find mine.