

ANKA

YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 2024/ HAMBURG, GERMANY
FORMAT: Analog, Super16mm film and digital

starring **PRIYANKA SARKAR**,
AGNES EEG-OLOFSSON
with **EMA PERNEK**, **XEN ROSCHER**,
LULÉA JOACHIM-TRAN, **LUCAS**
DA FRANÇA SILVARES & PAULA
WEBER
director of photography **MIHIR**
KULKARNI
movement direction **MARCO**
SCARIOT
camera assistant **BAHAR ENSAFI**
gaffer **YUSUF ELBAŞI & YIHAN**
ZHANG
styling/hair&make-up **NATALIE**
PELLKOFER MERCADO
set design **ADRIANE SORG**
spatial artwork **"SONNIGE GRÜBE"**
by **NICK GUSE**
assisted by **MARIA JULIA REGO &**
MIA STÜPER
poster and graphics **PALLAVI SEN**

post production & sound design
PRIYANKA SARKAR
sound mixing **FELIX RAEITHEL**
boom operators **CAMILLE**
COUAVOUX, **YUSUF ELBAŞI**
& **BAHAR ENSAFI**
original music **FLUIDS: DIRE**
ORANGE & SEA ORGANZA: EKLV
supervising professor **OMER FAST**
post-production consultant **PAOLA**
LADA FRANULović
production assistant **BAHAR ENSAFI**
producer, director & writer
PRIYANKA SARKAR
funded by **MOIN FILM**
Filmförderung
special thanks **Hochschule für**
bildende Künste Hamburg,
ANDEC Filmtechnik Berlin,
Maxime Lequenx, **Ankit**
Aggarwal, **Louis Fried**, **Bettina**
Herzner

LEAD ACTRESS — PRIYANKA SARKAR SUPPORTING ACTRESS — AGNES EEG-OLOFSSON CAST — EMA PERNEK, XEN ROSCHER, LULÉA JOACHIM-TRAN, LUCAS DA FRANÇA SILVARES & PAULA WEBER SCREENPLAY —
PRIYANKA SARKAR & MIHIR KULKARNI CAMERA ASSISTANT — BAHAR ENSAFI GAFFER — YUSUF ELBAŞI & YIHAN ZHANG STYLING/HAIRMAKE-UP — NATALIE PELLKOFER MERCADO SET DESIGN — ADRIANE SORG
SPATIAL ARTWORK — SONNIGE GRÜBE BY NICK GUSE ASSISTED BY — MARIA JULIA REGO & MIA STÜPER POST-PRODUCTION & SOUND DESIGN — PRIYANKA SARKAR MASTERED BY — FELIX RAEITHEL BOOM
OPERATORS — CAMILLE COUAVOUX, YUSUF ELBAŞI & BAHAR ENSAFI ORIGINAL MUSIC 'FLUIDS' — DIRE ORANGE, SEA ORGANZA — EKLV PRODUCER — PRIYANKA SARKAR PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE —
BAHAR ENSAFI SUPERVISING PROFESSOR — OMER FAST POST-PRODUCTION CONSULTANT — PAOLA LADA FRANULović

LAIDBACK PRODUCTIONS' PRESENTS

MOIN FILMFÖRDERUNG HFBK Hochschule für bildende Künste Hamburg

Anka

Director of
Photography
MIHIR KULKARNI

Written &
Directed by
PRIYANKA SARKAR

Director of
Movement
MARCO SCARIOT



BY PRIYANKA SARKAR



ANKA is an introspective journey that delves into the theme of 'sensing spatiality: inside and outside.' It follows the protagonist, Anka, as she navigates a journey through diverse cultures, distances herself from home, grapples with relationship challenges, experiences separations, travels to new cities, and forms meaningful connections. In everyday life doing regular things, she often starts to act as if she's on the stage. The performative nature of this self-portrait shows Anka's transformation and growth as a woman in a phase of initiation.

SYNOPSIS

Anka begins with a long shot of the artist leaving school. This could be some kind of departure, perhaps even a journey. And indeed, the artist is next seen dragging all her belongings over a deich where everything promptly topples over and is scattered without her having gotten very far. What has happened? There is no clear answer. Instead, the film seems to transport us back to school, or at least to a highly theatrical studio environment in which the artist is literally set in motion with her peers. The stylized, choreographic self-portrait reads like a palindrome, a circular movement of departure and return, of coming and going, of rising and falling, which is literally life's rhythm. This is also very beautifully juxtaposed with sea sounds throughout the film consisting of field recordings and sound design.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In this self-portrait film, I aim to highlight India's cultural vibrancy through the **liminal space** I experience amidst Europe's romantic pastels. By poetically exploring these transitional and in-between areas, the film unfolds in various episodes that materialize emotions such as heartbreak, excitement, moments of breathing to slow down, living in the moment, cherishing bonds, and nostalgia-filled memories. It is a passage of **initiation** for Anka, where she transforms and grows as a woman.

As I mentioned in my artist's statement, I am interested in maintaining a **psychedelic** aesthetic, portraying the protagonist's quest for connection through movement and vibrant moods. This reflects the experimental spirit and **gender-fluid** love of the '60s. I have been exploring these transitional and "in-between" spaces both as a dancer and as a filmmaker. In these spaces, movement is more **sensual** and **intuitive** rather than choreographed. This fluid and effortless movement is crucial both as a dancer and in storytelling, ensuring a **seamless flow** from one frame to the next.

My trip to Croatia in the summer of 2023 with my dear friend Dalia (a fictional name) was a significant inspiration, initiating my quest for sea sounds. Despite being unable to swim, I was drawn to the waves by their grounding yet fearless movement. This experience had a healing impact on my body, mind and soul, and I wanted to embrace that with ANKA. The name ANKA, a Slavic variant of the Hebrew name Anna, means grace, perfectly fitting the desire to move with grace and effortlessness in this liminal space. My artistic interest lies in the **moving body** and the **moving image**.

I recorded the mesmerizing sea waves and the enchanting sea organ sounds in Zadar, incorporating them into my sound design. Sound plays a vital role in this film. Although I am not a musician, I have a strong sense of **rhythm** that comes from within. This film marks my attempt to visualize the sounds that inspired me, a challenging yet rewarding reversal of the usual process.

Interestingly, while we can close our eyes, we cannot close our ears, making hearing an essential human sense. My focus in this film is to create a **sensual soundscape** that enhances the feeling of **presence** and **being alive**—whether it's the sound of waves, the sight of the sky, or the touch of grass.

The film celebrates **femininity** and contributes to the ongoing dialogue about **gender equality** and **empowerment**. It highlights the beauty of female relationships and friendships, challenging the traditional idealism of romantic love. Through this exploration, the film emphasizes the richness of human **connection** and the transformative power of embracing one's true self.