

NAMASTE

YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 2018/ NEW DELHI, INDIA
RUNTIME: 5 minutes / FORMAT: Digital, 1920x1080 HD

CAST & CREW

starring **SREYASHI ROY**
guest starring **SEBASTIEN LEZCANO**
music **VINNY BHAGAT**
vfx supervision **PRIYANKA SARKAR**
costume design **NAYANA KESWANI**
styling **PRIYANKA & PALLAVI**
make-up **KANIKA PAUL**
lighting **PALLAVI SEN**
analog visuals **JANES DEMUER**

director of photography **ANKIT AGGARWAL**
voice-over **ANTARA DEY**
editor **PRIYANKA SARKAR**
producer **PRIYANKA SARKAR**
executive producer **KABITA SARKAR**
story & screenplay **PRIYANKA SARKAR**
direction **PRIYANKA SARKAR**

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NAMASTE

BY PRIYANKA SARKAR

NAMASTE is an experimental short-film based on an original screenplay, written, directed, and produced by Priyanka Sarkar under "Laidback Productions." Inspired by the **psychedelic sixties** and **LSD**, this film follows the protagonist as she deals with her good and bad selves before accepting her true self.



SYNOPSIS

Anna, a 24-year-old artist goes through basic problems in life, has anger issues and suffers from a creative block. So, she decides to go into isolation by indulging herself in art while feeling angry, grieved and empty from inside. Due to frustration, she spills blue color all over the canvas and goes through an episode/flashback sequence where she is drowning in pain, followed by which she experiences absurd experiences or a "Bad Trip" as she encounters her alter ego. Her "Bad Trip" neutralizes as soon as she gets rid of her alter ego and finally starts enjoying her own company. It evolves into a "Good Trip" when she is in nature swaying with the trees and flowers in the middle of a flower field before she opens her eyes in her art studio.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The voyage of Namaste began with the influence of **hippie culture** in my life since 2011. The trekking in the villages of Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh, India and interactions with the local groups influenced by the **psy-trance** and hippie culture in Goa nurtured this story for over two years. I feel very joyous and at one in the **symphony of nature**, sitting in a mountain meadow with my **closest friends**.

Vici's song Namaste, it's the voice-over: "I humbly bow down to the true you. The true you that's inside this body. The true **essence of your atman**, your true self. I bow down and I honor that. And as I look at you, I see that true you through your eyes into your soul and I let you see me. It's Namaste! "This particular line explains one's acceptance of himself or herself in every version, be it bad or good.

Namaste is not just an experimental film, but a story through my eyes about an

The name Namaste is inspired from Vini

indecisive girl (Anna, the protagonist), who is usually troubled by her own **subconscious** and thoughts. She becomes content as the film precedes with an experimental narrative perspective, meaning the imagery and visual language is an experiment in itself which I have been inspired from the famous **liquid light shows** in the 60s, that **altered the consciousness** of one's mind and connected one to the new ideas and ways of seeing the world that were **outside mainstream media**.

Additionally, the narrative is fiction but, it is very minimal. The minimal idea of narrative is inspired from Gene Youngblood, who is a theorist of media arts and politics. I have mentioned him and my inspiration from **synaesthetic cinema** in my artist's statement. The film moves forward with fashion attempts and aesthetics of the subculture along with the subjects in the film being accustomed to the **psychedelic fashion** and **styling**. The status of fashion as a designed object is foregrounded. Hair, makeup and styling supports the character which also supports the key fashion objects featured. Creative and innovative hair and makeup designs complement the avant-garde representation.

Paul Clipson, San Francisco based Experimental Filmmaker who passed away at the age of 52 on 3rd February 2018, I channelled my inspirations from his mastery of **analogue film techniques** into an appealingly improvisatory filmmaking style; most of his work was shot on Super8 or 16mm. His films are a **silent dance**, it was clearly about the **gesture** and the **rhythm**, and this translates directly onto the screen, the image. It was as if Paul was tracing the motion of his eye with light, one shot after another like **strokes of a brush**. New footage would be often overlaid with older footage, in a constant process of adding and subtracting.

Namaste, is not just a tribute to Paul Clipson, it is also an inspiration from remarkable **counter culture** celebrities like Timothy Leary, Ken Kesey, Aldous Huxley, Ram Dass, The Beatles, The Grateful Dead, etc. In the end, Namaste is not simply an experimental short which tells us about Anna's finding herself amidst chaos and confusion in her subconscious or a subculture but, it tells us something about our own selves.



