

FEATHER, LIGHT FILMS AND KNM
PRESENT

 Locarno Festival
Piazza Grande



The Song of Scorpions

A FILM BY ANUP SINGH

A person in a black thobe is walking on a sand dune in a desert. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The sand dunes are rolling and have a fine, rippled texture.

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INTRO

There is an ancient legend, which says that the sting of the local scorpion in the deep desert of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan is bound to kill in 24 hours. The scorpion's poison builds a feverish melody within the victim. The only cure is to find a sage singer who can read the melody in the victim's pulse and then sing a counter-melody.



SYNOPSIS

The Song of Scorpions is a story of twisted love, revenge and the redemptive power of a song. Nooran, carefree and defiantly independent, is a tribal woman learning the ancient art of healing from her grandmother, a revered scorpion-singer. When Adam, a camel trader in the Rajasthan desert, hears her sing, he falls desperately in love. But even before they can get to know each other better, Nooran is poisoned by a brutal treachery that sets her on a perilous journey to avenge herself and find her song.





CAST

Golshifteh Farahani

Academy Awards member, USA, 2017.
Knight, Order of Arts and Letters, Ministry of Culture, France 2016. Nominated for Most Promising Actress, Césars, France 2014.

Selected filmography

Untouchable, by Neil Burger,

with Nicole Kidman, 2018

Pirates of the Caribbean:

Dead Men Tell No Tales,

with Johnny Depp, 2017

Paterson, by Jim Jarmusch,

with Adam Driver 2016

Exodus: Gods and Kings, by Ridley Scott,

with Joel Edgerton, 2014

The Patience Stone, by Atiq Rahimi, 2012

Body of Lies, by Ridley Scott,

with Leo DiCaprio, 2008

Irrfan Khan

Academy Awards member, USA, 2017.

Best Actor, National film Awards, India, 2012.

Padma Shri, India's 4th highest civilian honour for contribution to the arts, 2011.

International Honours: 6 Best Actor and/or Achievement Awards, since 2013.

Indian Awards: more than 15, since 2004.

Nominations, India and international: more than 5, since 2007.

Selected filmography

Inferno, with Tom Hanks, 2016

Jurassic World, 2015

Piku, with Amitabh Bachchan and Deepika Padukone, 2015

The Lunchbox, 2013

Qissa – The Tale of a Lonely Ghost, by Anup Singh, 2013

Life of Pi, by Ang Lee, 2012 (won 4 Oscars)

Slumdog Millionaire, by Danny Boyle, 2008 (won 8 Oscars)



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Anup Singh was born in Tanzania and graduated from Bombay University and the Film & TV Institute of Pune, India. He has a British passport and resides in Switzerland since more than 16 years.

Anup's first feature-length fiction film *"Ekti Nadi Naam - The Name of a River"* (2001) was invited to more than 30 festivals and was awarded Best Debut Film in India.

Anup's second feature-length film, *"QISSA - The Tale of a Lonely Ghost"* had its World Première at Toronto 2013, and was the Hubert Bals opening film at Rotterdam 2014. The film is critically acclaimed, receiving fifteen awards to date including Best Asian Film by Netpac, the

Silver Gateway Award (Mumbai), Best Actress Award at Abu Dhabi, Best Film and Curaçao "Best of the Fest" Audience Award.

"Delivers such distinctive storytelling... fearless performance (that) combines gender assumptions so seamlessly that the border between male and female seems to fade into irrelevance" Variety.

"The film is a powerful dream, a brilliant masterpiece. Anup Singh is a genius" Mira Nair. *"Mastery that is usually the preserve of seasoned veterans of the medium... delivering a cinematic experience of rare depth."*

"The Song of Scorpions" is Anup's third feature-length fiction.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Song of Scorpions is peopled with those who betray and are ruthless in their desperate desire for love. But this tale is also about those who steadily make themselves worthy of the gift of song and hope even as their world collapses around them.

The tale unfurls like a folktale, where superstition and fact, love and vengeance often mirror each other: the monstrous path that the protagonist, Aadam, chooses to gain possession of Nooran finally leaves her but only one way to free and redeem her body and herself -- her act of vengeance has to match his savagery. She has to dispossess him of everything that now has value and meaning for him as he

did her. And yet, the tale also affirms that however savage and grotesque life might be, the voices of exaltation and good humour, compassion and insatiable creativity are irrepressible.

To complement the ferocity of the tale, the film builds itself with the versatile rhythms and large-heartedness, the tenderness and the respect for life suggested by the mystic affirmation of the cosmos at the heart of all folk music.

The film patterns itself like the music of Rajasthan's desert civilization. Like the music, perennially suggesting a reality much larger than the apparent,

the film comes together with tiny details, microscopic close-ups of sand and face, wood and vigorous body, wavering shadows and resilient light and colors which could suddenly open into the monumental, volatile landscape of menace and unpredictability, a landscape of urgent question: What is possession and what is love? What will we choose when we seek to really understand what makes us human: revenge or compassion?



PRODUCTION

Feather Light Films and KNM present a film written and directed by Anup Singh, starring Golshifteh Farahani, Irrfan Khan, Waheeda Rehman, Shashank Arora. With the support of the Federal Office of Culture (FOC), Switzerland, Cinéforum, Loterie romande, Suissimage, Focal, CNC – Aide aux cinémas du monde and Eurimages. In co-production with Cine-Sud Promotion, Aurora Media and M!Capital.

A Swiss-French-Singapore co-production. National distributor: Agora Films.



Feather Light Films creates innovative and magical movies for international audiences. The films are high-profile independent movies: original, intelligent and meaningful stories with distinctive cinematic style, attracting A-level cast to build efficient production and financing strategies. The company was built on 10-years producing as saskia vischer productions, connected to European industry networks: ACE, EAVE, Rotterdam Film Lab & Cannes Producers' Network. Film Director and Producer Shahaf Peled joined in 2015, when Feather Light Films was founded.



KNM focuses on international feature films with independent production companies and co-productions for cinema in the aim of reaching a global audience and achieving festival as well as commercial success. KNM is completely devoted to international cinema with very strong artistic choices in collaborating with world renowned directors or discovering emerging first-time directors.



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MAIN CAST

NOORAN
AADAM
ZUBAIDA
MUNNA
AMINA
AYESHA
SHAKILA
LADY OF THE NIGHT

Golshifteh Farahani
Irrfan Khan
Waheeda Rehman
Shashank Arora
Kritika Pande
Sara Arjun
Shefali Bhushan
Tillotama Shome

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KEY CREW

Cinematography
Editor
Original music by
Original songs by
Screenplay by
Production design
Costumes
Sound recordist
Sound design
Sound mix
Line producer
1st AD

Producers
Co-producers
Executive producers
Associate producers
Associate producers

Pietro Zuercher, Carlotta Holy-Steinemann
Marie-Pierre Frappier
Béatrice Thiriet
Madan Gopal Singh
Anup Singh
Rakesh Yadav
Divya & Nidhi Gambhir, Kay Devanthey
Christophe Giovannoni
Renaud Musy, Gabriel Hafner
François Musy
Rakesh Mehra
Sonia Rossier

Saskia Vischer, Shahaf Peled, Michel Merkt
Thierry Lenouvel, Rakesh Mehra
Justin Deimen, Gin Kai Chan, Jeremy Sim, Shiladitya Bora
Saurabh Gupta, Gulzar Inder Chahal
Margaret Cunningham, André Vischer

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TECHNICAL DATA

Running time	119 minutes
Screening format	DCP
Shooting format	Alexa RAW
Image Aspect Ratio	2.35
	Colour
Sound	Dolby 5.1
Original language	Hindi
Subtitles available	English
	French
	Bilingual English/ French

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