

Press Notes

LAST REMARKS A SHORT FILM BY
UMAR RIAZ



Festival del film Locarno
Official selection



CONTACT

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PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Official Title: Last Remarks

Writer / Director: Umar Riaz

Original Languages: Urdu, English

Subtitles: English

TRT: 00:17:00 mins

Shooting Format: Colour, High Definition

Screening Formats: Blu Ray, HDCam, .mov, DCP, DVCam, DVD

Countries of Production: Pakistan, USA

Forms: Narrative Fiction, Short

Genres: Alternative, Drama, Human Rights, Thriller, Mystery, Independent, Period/Historical, Avant Garde, Social Issue, History

Niches: Asian, Islamic, Third World

Year of Completion: 2012

SYNOPSIS

Tagline: Our time together will be brief...so listen carefully.

Synopsis (Short)

On the eve of the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the British rulers of the Indian subcontinent prepare to depart the region amidst waves of ethnic violence. Arastu Jan, a troubled and isolated native servant to a British master, takes a dose of poison and finds himself with ten minutes to record the confession of his brief lifetime.

SYNOPSIS (CONT.)

Synopsis (Medium)

Inspired by Edgar Allen Poe's short story 'The Tell-Tale Heart', 'Last Remarks' recounts the final moments of Arastu Jan, a troubled young Indian servant to Sir Edmund, an elderly British aristocrat in Colonial India.

By 1947, the British Empire is crumbling and the British rulers of India decide to divide the region into two separate independent states: India and Pakistan. On the eve of freedom and the creation of his new homeland Pakistan, Arastu takes a cup of poison and sits in front of an old recorder in Sir Edmund's mansion. He has ten minutes to confess a crime he has just committed before the poison takes effect.

He begins his story with his isolated life in servitude and his inability to connect with Sir Edmund. When the British division of India in 1947 does not go according to plan, widespread violence sweeps the region, greatly disturbing Arastu and prompting him to teach the departing British a lesson, starting with those closest to him.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I was born and raised in Pakistan, a complex country that is as beautiful as it is troubled and often, as maligned as it is misunderstood. It was not always this way. From adolescence to adulthood I have been exposed to its rich culture - one centuries in the making and one constantly evolving and expressing itself through poetry, music, theatre, dance, performance and art.

Cinema, however, always seemed to trail behind, unable to evolve from the binds of highly pitched theatricality. Now, Pakistan's film industry has collapsed, leaving its audiences in dire need of seeing and sharing their stories with the world through the universal language of film – uncompromisingly, articulately, compellingly. With every film project, be it set in Pakistan or otherwise, I keep this need in mind and hope to make films which revere and nourish this extraordinary medium as much as the audiences which it cannot survive without.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY



Umar Riaz was born and raised in Lahore, Pakistan. From a young age he was immersed in both Eastern and Western artistic traditions, leading him to cultivate creative writing, music, photography and Urdu calligraphy as interests. After graduating from New York University's College of Arts and Science in 2009 with a degree in English Literature and Cinema Studies, Umar was allowed an opportunity to focus his diverse creative pursuits into a passion for filmmaking at the prestigious Graduate Film Program at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

In 2011 he was the recipient of the Ang Lee Award for 'exceptionally talented graduate film students.' His most recent short film, 'Last Remarks' has won awards for its direction, cinematography and acting and in 2012, was announced as a Finalist in the Alternative Category of the 39th Annual Student Academy Awards.

CREDITS

**Written, Directed and Edited
by
Umar Riaz**

CAST

Umar Riaz as Arastu Jan
Burton Crane as Sir Edmund
Daniel Hicks as Captain Reming
CG Reeves as Hawaldar
and
Zia Mohyeddin as The Radio Announcer

PRODUCTION

Producers	Alexis Gambis Shruti Ganguly Heather Jack
Cinematography	Pedro Gomez Millan
Production Design	Charles Rogers
Costumes	Mehrunnisa Khan
1st Assistant Director	Shiva Bajpai
2nd Assistant Director	Sarah Natasha Ahmad
Sound Editors	Umar Riaz Hassan Ameen Mohyeddin

Location Sound	Jon Matthews
Original Score	Umar Riaz
Script Supervisor	Shripriya Mahesh
1st Assistant Camera	Jess Dela Merced
2nd Camera Assistants	Katrina Whelan Saba Riazi
Gaffer	Jonah Serfass
Key Grip	Greg Lemaire
Best Boy Electric	Daniel April
2nd Unit Assistant Camera	Anser
2nd Unit Grips	Rafique Akram Ramzaan
Set Dressers	Puk Grasten Kiandra Parks
Special Thanks	The Riaz Family The NYU Grad Film Faculty Aflatoon Studios Mr. Fakir Aijazuddin Mrs. Shehnaz Aijazuddin Mrs. Aziz Zia Mr. Muneer Shahnawaz Mayor's Office – City of Yonkers The Aitchison College Staff Mr. Qasim Jafri Graphic Design at The Avari Hena Riaz EMI Pakistan Ltd. Mohammad Saeed



