

PERSISTENCE RESISTANCE

A festival of contemporary political films

Magic Lantern Foundation [www.magiclanternfoundation.org]

Held in New Delhi, India on the 28, 29 and 30 April 2008 **Persistence Resistance** [www.magiclanternfoundation.org/PersistenceFest/PR_Mainpage.html] aimed to create a cinema space to celebrate the diverse nature of films in India and to some extent, the world. The idea was to showcase the range of subjects and forms the films work with, and to interrogate the emerging aesthetics of political filmmaking. It is apparent that in the last decade or so Indian image-makers have crossed new boundaries, carried out different formal experiments and also recast the notion of political filmmaking. Women have played a significant role in this and have given a new formal twist to political documentaries that explore and engage with form and the political terrain in a nuanced manner with spaces for ambiguities and multiple readings. It seems that political films are no longer bound by the binaries of the past, perhaps developed during war filmmaking, and yet there is no one picture emerging, for the formal explorations are as vast as the diverse subjects.

Persistence Resistance screened nearly 100 films over three days in a multitude of spaces and manners.

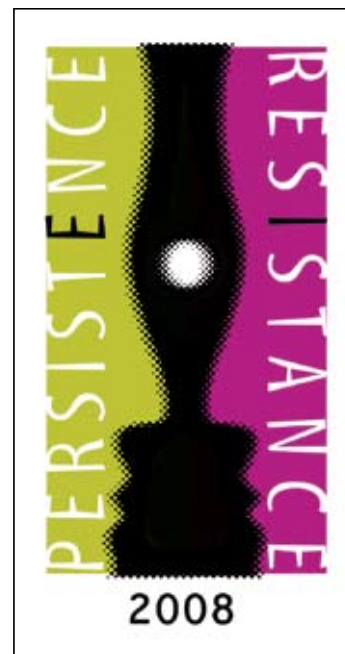
The Flea Pit [www.thefleapit.com] presents a mini version of Persistence Resistance for the documentary lovers and watchers in London. We are attempting to showcase works by some of the pioneering filmmakers of India, many of who are women, as well as locate some of key challenges and issues facing the nation.

JULY 22, 2008

On this day we explore the concept of the nation-state and locate fractures & margins; spaces & possibilities. In *Fractured Nation* we present three films from two border-states of India: Manipur and Kashmir, that are caught between insurgents and the Indian army. Using remarkably distinct narrative styles and story-telling methods all the three films explore the situation of women in such circumstances. In *Metro-Nation* we engage with the metropolis. Both the films in this section are by women directors and are filmed on Bombay. One locates gender and access to toilets in a city while the other looks at the conceptual construct of the metropolis itself: what makes it, who people it and how do issues of migration, moving people, diaspora, labour and identity play out in the same space.

JULY 23, 2008

On this day we see the counter part of the nation: the citizen and confront a series of situations that face citizens. In *Access Denied* we screen two films that represent movements by ordinary people to claim their entitlements on natural resources. In *Invisible Citizens* three films present diverse forms of exclusion using different styles, and *Neo-global Citizens* is an ethnographic journey into the dislocated land-space of software companies.



LONDON EDITION

July 22 & 23, 2008

The Flea Pit

49 Columbia Road, London E2 7RG

Screening Schedule

22nd July

Introduction	16:59
The Fractured Nation	
WAITING...	17:15
TALES FROM THE MARGINS	17:55
Break	12 min
AUTUMN'S FINAL COUNTRY	18:30
Metro-Nation	
Q2P	19:40
Break	15 min
7 ISLANDS AND A METRO	20:50

23rd July

Introduction	16:30
Access Denied	
THE BITTER DRINK	16:39
BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP SEA	17:10
Break	17 mins
Invisible Citizens	
MILIND SOMAN MADE ME GAY	18:40
NOTES FROM THE CREMATORIUM	19:10
Break	15 mins
MANJUBEN TRUCKDRIVER	19:50
Break	14 mins
Neoglobal Citizens	
CODING CULTURE	20:55