

FOR A PLACE UNDER THE HEAVENS

A film by Sabiha Sumar



Documentary, 2003
53 min, Video, Color
Pakistan/France, Subtitled

Credits:

Director/Script: Sabiha Sumar

Producers: Sachithanandam Sathanathan and Philippe Avril

Cinematography: Claire Pijman

Editors: Shikha Sen, Calle Overweg



Synopsis

Acclaimed director Sabiha Sumar, recent winner of the Golden Leopard at the Locarno International Film Festival for her feature *Silent Waters*, offers an insightful documentary perspective on Pakistan in this finely crafted personal film. Beginning with the creation of Pakistan in 1947, Sumar traces the relationship of Islam to the state in an effort to understand how women are coping and surviving the increasing religiosity of civil and political life in their country. Raised in a more secular time, she struggles to comprehend how religious schools have expanded at once unthinkable rates and presents chilling footage of a mother encouraging her toddler to be a martyr when he grows up. Mixing political analysis with interviews with activist colleagues, noted Islamic scholars and Pakistani women who have chosen to embrace fundamentalism, Sumar's provocative questions dramatically capture the tension between liberal and fundamentalist forces that are shaping life in contemporary Pakistan.

Festivals

- International Documentary Film Festival, Amsterdam
- Cape Town World Cinema Festival
- Munich International Documentary Film Festival (Dokfest)

**“A faultless documentary about and for women by Sabiha Sumar,
touching and intensely moving.”**

-Metro

“Fascinating and compelling, a must-see.”

-Karen A. Ritzenhoff