

SEARCH FOR FREEDOM

A film by Munizae Jahangir



Documentary, 2003
54 min, Video, Color and B/W
Pakistan, Subtitled

Credits

Director/Producer: Munizae Jahangir
Editing: Stacey Kim, Rafael Parra, Christopher Hammersley, Munizae Jahangir



Synopsis

Search for Freedom traces the dramatic social and political history of Afghanistan from the 1920s to the present through the stories of four remarkable women: Princess Shafiqa Saroj, sister of the beloved progressive King Amanullah (1919-1929); Mairman Parveen, the first woman to sing on Afghan radio; Moshina, a war widow and survivor of a Taliban massacre; and Sohaila, an exiled medical student who ran underground schools for RAWA (Revolutionary Association of Afghan Women) during the Taliban regime.

Through their personal stories, a surprising portrait of Afghanistan's history emerges. Stunning archival footage from the early 20th century captures a time of remarkable freedom for women that belies most Western perceptions. Other historical footage reveals women's realities and resilience under near constant occupation, starts with the Soviet invasion, then under the mujahadeen and more recently under the repressive Taliban. Defying the image of Afghan women as mere victims, *Search for Freedom* offers a nuanced portrait of women who find choices where none are offered and who continue to find hope in the face of exile and isolation.

Festivals

- Amnesty International Film Festival
- Pakistani Film Festival
- Karachi International Film Festival
- Mountain Top Film Festival

Filmmaker's Biography

Prior to producing and directing *Search for Freedom*, Jahangir worked as an anchor reporter for the "Current Affairs Channel," at Pakistan National Television, where she directed and reported on environmental issues, child labor and Human Rights abuses. She was also a research assistant and cameraperson for the documentary *Acid Burnt Women* and co-producer of *Street Children of Lahore*, which was screened in Community Centers around Pakistan. Jahangir has been a freelance journalist for the past ten years and has also worked with Pakistani film director Samina Peerzada on the Urdu commercial film *Shararat*. She presently works for Pakistan's independent news network, GEO. Jahangir has studied Indian classical dance, 'Kathak,' for the last 21 years and is directing a 'work in progress' experimental film on 16mm, which explores the life of a young dancer in New York City. She is a life member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and remains committed to the cause of human rights.