

# NAINITA DESAI

## COMPOSER

Working at the forefront of a new wave of emerging artists, RTS and BIFA nominated composer **Nainita is a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit**. She has worked in British television for over two decades scoring countless BAFTA, Oscar, Emmy acclaimed productions.

The PRS placed Desai at **No 2 in their Top 10 female writers** whose work was most used in Film & TV through 2018. She won Best Feature Film Score at the **Music+Sound Awards 2016**, and is a **GOPO Romania Film Awards Nominee 2019**, **NaturVision Film Awards Winner 2019** for Best Film Score.

Nainita's current feature releases include **For Sama** which has been nominated for **Best Music at the BIFAs 2019** and has won **Best Documentary Feature at SXSW and Cannes Film Festival**, **Untamed Romania**, the most successful Romanian non-fiction film of 2018, WW2 period drama **Enemy Within**, psychological horror **Darkness Visible**, and Interactive game / video game **Telling Lies** one of the top critically acclaimed releases of 2019 for **Annapurna Interactive (Phantom Thread, Destroyer)** directed by multi-Bafta winning Sam Barlow.

Her upcoming 2020 projects include feature film **The Reason I Jump (BFI | Met Films)**, Netflix original series **Bad Boy Billionaires** and innovative Quibi | BBC NHU series **Fierce Queens**.

Recent projects include the musically acclaimed series **Extraordinary Rituals**, the BBC NHU follow up to the multi Bafta winning series Human Planet and the title theme for the prestigious **BBC Royal Wedding Meghan and Harry**.

Working in a wide range of musical genres, Nainita moves seamlessly between working with orchestras including the **London Contemporary Orchestra** (Phantom Thread, There Will Be Blood) and the **BBC National Orchestra of Wales**, to ethnic influenced music utilising her collection of custom made instruments from around the world, incorporating electronics, found sound and experimental sound design as well as song-writing, which has led to collaborations with artists including **Eivor (The Last Kingdom)** and writing documentary musicals for the BBC including the acclaimed **Mumbai High – The Musical**.

Nainita was born and brought up in London to Indian parents and her eclectic musical upbringing as a child led her to studying the sitar, piano, guitar, tabla, singing and violin. She obtained a degree in Mathematics before attending the NFTS specializing in sound design. As a sound designer, Nainita's career began on feature films for **Bertolucci (Little Buddha)** and **Werner Herzog (Lessons of Darkness)** including **Backbeat** (Dir: Ian Softley), **Lessons of Darkness** (Dir: Werner Herzog), **August** (Dir: Anthony Hopkins), and **Hackers** (Angelina Jolie).

Her passion for music technology then led to her working in music engineering working with many top artistes and bands ranging from **The Damned** to **Tori Amos**. which led to work with **Peter Gabriel** during the legendary **Real World Recording Week** sessions, and working with the top world music artists including **Billy Cobham, Daniel Lanois, Jane Sibbery, Nigel Kennedy, Sinead O'Connor, Ravi Shankar**.

Nainita's musical foundations are rooted in world music and documentary where she has forged an enviable reputation, proving time and again that she is extremely versatile, embracing every score with a unique creative approach where required.

Nainita sits on the CAG Committee at the PRS and is on the media committee at Ivors Academy. She is also a full voting member of BAFTA, WFTV, GANG, the Alliance of Women Film Composers and frequently sits on juries for the Emmys, BAFTAs, RTS and other major industry awards.

Nainita enjoys travelling internationally giving masterclasses and interviews about her work ranging from Cannes Film Festival 2019, LA Comic Con USA, Rio de Janeiro Brazil ASA Women in Music Conference, NOPA in Oslo, Kiev, Ukraine and India for the British Council, Moshita Music Conference South Africa, WOMEX in Copenhagen amongst numerous festivals and events around the UK.

## ACCOLADES

**BAFTA BREAKTHROUGH BRIT 2016**

**RTS CRAFT+DESIGN AWARDS 2019**

*NOMINEE: Best Music – Original Titles EXTRAORDINARY RITUALS*

**BIFA (British Independent Film Awards) 2019**

*NOMINEE: Best Film Score: FOR SAMA*

**HOLLYWOOD MUSIC IN MEDIA AWARDS 2019**

*NOMINEE: Best Original Music for a Video Game Trailer: TELLING LIES*

**JERRY GOLDSMITHS AWARDS 2019**

*NOMINEE: Best Documentary Score: EXTRAORDINARY RITUALS*

**MUSIC+SOUND AWARDS 2019**

*WINNER: Best Original Music for a Video Game Trailer: TELLING LIES*

**MUSIC+SOUND AWARDS 2019: NOMINATIONS**

*Best Original Music for a TV Programme Titles: EXTRAORDINARY RITUALS*

*Best Sound Design for a Short Film : SLEEPER*

**NatureVision Film Festival, 2019**

*WINNER: BEST FILM SCORE: Untamed Romania*

**GOPO Romanian Film Awards Nominee 2019**

*NOMINEE: BEST FILM SCORE: Untamed Romania*

**RTS WEST AWARDS 2019**

*NOMINEE: BEST TV SCORE: Extraordinary Rituals*

**ASIAN WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2019**

*NOMINEE: ARTS+CULTURE AWARD*

**ASIAN ACHIEVERS AWARDS 2017**

*NOMINEE: CONTRIBUTION TO ARTS+CULTURE*

**MUSIC + SOUND AWARD UK 2016:**

*WINNER: BEST ORIGINAL FEATURE FILM SCORE: The Confessions of Thomas Quick*

**WOMEN IN SYNC AWARDS, NYC, USA 2016:**

*WINNER: BEST MUSIC IN A FEATURE FILM: The Confessions of Thomas Quick*

**TMT NEWS MEDIA AWARDS 2016:**

*WINNER: BEST MEDIA MUSIC COMPOSER – EUROPE*

## VIDEOGAME

**TELLING LIES (Narrative Video Game / Film)**    Annapurna Interactive | Dir: Sam Barlow

## FILM 2018-2019

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>THE REASON I JUMP</b> | Met Films   BFI   Vulcan Dir: Jerry Rothwell Prod: Al Morrow                   |
| <b>THE MODERATORS</b>    | Drama pilot   Dir: Nour Wazzi  |
| <b>FOR SAMA</b>          | C4   PBS   Dir: Ed Watts   Waad Al-Kateab                                      |
| <b>DARKNESS VISIBLE</b>  | BFI   Protagonist   Psychological Horror Dir: Neil Biswas                      |
| <b>ENEMY WITHIN</b>      | 27Ten Productions   WW2 Period Drama   Dir: Gabriel Robertson Prod: Ken Petrie |
| <b>UNTAMED ROMANIA</b>   | Dir: Tom Barton-Humphries Off The Fence   European Nature Trust                |
| <b>THE LIFE AFTER</b>    | BBC   Irish Film Board   Century Films   Dir: Brian Hill                       |

## DOCUMENTARY 2019

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>ENSLAVED</b>                                    | CBC   6x60min Exec Prod: Samuel L Jackson                       |
| <b>MISCARRIAGES (w/t)</b>                          | C5   90min film   |
| <b>FIERCE QUEENS</b>                               | BBC NHU series   QUIBI   15x10 min                              |
| <b>CALL THE POLICE</b>                             | BBC   Dragonfly TV   3x60min                                    |
| <b>BAD BOY BILLIONAIRES</b>                        | Netflix   Minnow Films   4x60min Exec Producer: Morgan Matthews |
| <b>MY GRANDPARENTS WAR</b>                         | C4   Wild Pictures   Series Dir: Leo Burley 4x60min             |
| <b>RACIAL BIAS (w/t)</b>                           | C4   Proper Content   Series Prod: Jackie Waldo 2x60min         |
| <b>RESCUED</b>                                     | Discovery   Arrow Media   6x60min                               |
| <b>WALKING WITH GIANTS</b>                         | C4   October Films SP: Alexis Girardet   3x60min                |
| <b>MY FAMILY, THE HOLOCAUST AND ME</b>             | 2x60min Wall To Wall   BBC2 SP: David Vincent                   |
| <b>LITTLE BRITONS</b>                              | 3x60min Series Titles 9Lives Media SP: Colin Stone              |
| <b>THE 1900 ISLAND</b>                             | BBC2 4x60min Wildflame TV SP: Alexis Girardet                   |
| <b>THREE DAYS</b>                                  | C4 1x60min Sugar Film   Chris Durlacher                         |
| <b>BACK TO THE WILD</b>                            | 6x60min Double Act TV   Nat Geo Wild                            |
| <b>BODYCAM SQUAD</b>                               | 10x60min Raw Cut TV Series 2 New Titles                         |
| <b>H-TOWN</b>                                      | 6x30min BBC1   7 Wonder Series Prod: Catey Sexton               |
| <b>EQUATOR FROM THE AIR</b>                        | BBC2   4x60min Dragonfly TV   Exec: Richard Bond   Ruth Shurman |
| <b>DAVID JASON: Planes, Trains and Automobiles</b> | UKTV   5x60min SP: Chris Malone                                 |
| <b>TRAVELLING BLIND</b>                            | 1x60min BBC2   Spun Gold Dir: Will Lorimer                      |
| <b>THE DAY WE WALKED ON THE MOON</b>               | ITV   Smithsonian 1x60min Finestripe Prods Dir: John Moulson    |
| <b>LEGENDS OF THE DEEP</b>                         | 4x60min Discovery   Cineflix Media                              |
| <b>EXPOSURE: PROJECT X</b>                         | 1x60min ITV   Raw Cut TV  |

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Live Event:**

**The Royal Wedding: Meghan and Harry 2018** **BBC Broadcast** (performed by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales)

## DRAMA

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>MAXWELL</b>              | BBC   Emmy Winner   Starring David Suchet                               |
| <b>TO KIDNAP A PRINCESS</b> | ITV   Dir: John Alexander   |
| <b>ANEMONE</b>              | Dir: Amrou Al-Kadhi Prod: Savannah James-Bayley BBC Films   Film London |
| <b>CURFEW</b>               | EON Productions   Dir: Oz Arshad Exec Prod: Barbara Broccoli            |
| <b>LAB RAT</b>              | Dir: Nour Wazzi   Panacea Productions Sci-Fi   Thriller                 |
| <b>EXIT EVE</b>             | Dir: Charlie Parham Prod: Helen Simmons Exec Prod: Camille Gatin        |
| <b>SLEEPER</b>              | BBC   BBC Films 6min animation (Music and Sound Design)                 |
| <b>MOLLY</b>                | Dir: Greg Karpinski   |
| <b>CHECKPOST</b>            | Dir: Aneel Ahmed Films  |

## SOUND DESIGN

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>LITTLE BUDDHA</b> | Dir: Bernardo Bertolucci Prod: Jeremy Thomas (Sound Design) |
| <b>BACKBEAT</b>      | Dir: Ian Softley Prod: Scala Productions (Sound Design)     |

**AUGUST**  
**INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE**  
**HACKERS**  
**DEATH MACHINE**  
**FATHERLAND**  
**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**  
**LESSONS OF DARKNESS**  
**THE LITTLE TERRORIST**

Dir & Starring: Anthony Hopkins ITV Films (Sound Design)  
Dir : Neil Jordan Scala Productions (Sound Design)  
Dir: Ian Softley Starring; Angelina Jolie (Sound Design)  
Dir: Steve Norrington Prod: Fugitive Features (Sound Design)  
Dir: Chris Menaul Starring: Rutger Hauer HBO (Sound Design)  
Robert de Niro | Gwyneth Paltrow Additional Specialist music  
Dir: Werner Herzog  
Dir: Ashvin Kumar (Music) **OSCAR NOMINATED**

## TRAILERS and COMMERCIALS

Music for over 30 film trailers by E Entertainment, Nordic Noir and Arrow films including Borgen and Wallander.

Various Commercials for brands including: LAND ROVER / SAMSUNG / FOSTERS / NINTENDO / MIGRALEVE / SONY/ CHICLETS CHEWING GUM / SAFIA MINERAL WATER / CAPO MILK / MIGRALEVE

## DOCUMENTARY

Countless series and one off docs in many genres. Recent projects include the scores for **Extraordinary Rituals** (BBCNHU), **Equator From The Air** (BBC2), **Earth's Natural Wonders** (BBC1), **My Dad The Peace Deal and Me**(BBC1) Bafta Best Single Doc, Grierson, RTS Nominee **Raped: My Story** Bafta, RTS, Grierson 2018 Nominee (C5) **Catching A Killer** Bafta, RTS, Broadcast Awards 2018 Nominee (C4 / Brian Woods), **Hunting the KGB Killers**(C4), **Tribes, Predators & Me with Gordon Buchanon** (BBC NHU) *Hunters of the South Seas* (BBC2), *Sue Perkins in Kolkata* (BBC1), **Britain's Biggest Adventures with Bear Grylls** (ITV), **Dinosaur Britain** (CGI family adventure series ITV), *Britain At Low Tide* (C4), **The Day Hitler Died** (ITV), **The Day They Dropped the Bomb**(ITV), **Living with Nomads with Kate Humble** (BBC2), **Treasures of the Indus** (BBC4), **Police Interceptors** (C5), **Million Dollar Princesses** (Smithsonian), *Africa Rivers Wild* (Animal Planet), **The Mekong with Sue Perkins** (BBC2)

## CONTACT

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