

PHOOLAN



a film by Hossein Fazeli

<http://www.phoolandevilmovie.com>



ABOUT THE FILM

Phoolan is a feature-length (90 min) documentary, telling the *true* story of one of the most controversial and influential women of our time, Phoolan Devi. She was a low-caste village girl turned gang-rape survivor turned bandit leader turned politician! Her life is truly the stuff of legend. Here is the mid-production trailer of the film: <https://vimeo.com/123712399>

The film is being made by Phoolan Film Inc. a Vancouver-based production company and will be completed in June/July 2018. The production team is led by Hossein Martin Fazeli (director) and Jack Silberman (producer), whose films have collectively won more than 100 international awards. The film is 85% complete.

Phoolan was born in 1963 to a poor, low-caste Indian family, as a child she experienced the theft of her family's small plot of land, and physical and sexual violence when she tried to do something about it.

In an unheard of act for an Indian woman, let alone a teenager, she took justice into her own hands and became leader of a gang of male bandits, taking revenge on those who had harmed her and her family. The 'Bandit Queen' roamed the countryside like a female Robin Hood, ransacking rich landowners and giving money to the poor, and dispensing rough justice to those who raped low-caste girls. Her actions were a dangerous challenge to the ancient caste system and social order based on the oppression of women.

After serving 11 years in prison she entered politics and became the first low-caste woman elected to India's parliament, even though she couldn't read or write. In Parliament she fought for the lower castes and championed the rights of women, until her assassination in 2001.

Phoolan Devi's sense of justice was so strong and her need for respect so uncompromising that she prevailed against forces far more powerful than she was. And because her story asks universal questions about women's rights, violence, and social justice, it raises issues that have significance for all of us today.



QUOTES

"I had become a criminal, like the others. But what they called crime, I called justice"

- Phoolan Devi

"If a mother wanted to protect her daughter, she knew all she had to do was say to the rapist that Phoolan Devi would punish them. And I did. I dealt out justice. 'Who stole from you? Who beat you? Who raped your daughter?' It was my vengeance, and the vengeance of all women."

- Phoolan Devi



LOG LINE: What do you get when you combine Gandhi, Che Guevara, Al Capone and a 5'3 illiterate woman? Phoolan Devi. This is her story.



WRITER AND DIRECTOR

Making this film is a personal journey through which I will be visiting the dark corners of my past to shed light on, and hopefully defend, what I believe to be the unalienable right every human being is born with: the right to be treated with respect and dignity. I was born in Iran and came to Canada as a refugee in the end of the 80s. In post-revolution Iran, I experienced injustice first hand. I lost members of my family to firing squads for political 'crimes' as petty as distributing opposition newspapers and for joining human rights groups.

I know what it means to be denied dignity because of having a different opinion, ideology or belief. Phoolan Devi was denied dignity because she belonged to a 'different' caste, a 'different' class and a 'different' sex. The underlying mechanisms of oppression in my past experience and in Phoolan's life are the same.

What excites me most about 'Phoolan' is the opportunity to explore the resilience of the human spirit in the face of incredible odds. This is an issue that is close to my heart. What makes people rise above their circumstances? What message can such an act give to tens of millions of people around the world who are denied human dignity on a daily basis? How empowering can such an act be?

— Hossein Fazeli





UPDATE FOR 2018

Activities & Endorsements

The project has been endorsed by International Alliance of Women (IAW), the oldest and one of the largest women's rights organizations in the world. We have also received some celebrity endorsements including the endorsement of the Canadian film star, Kristin Kreuk, who is now an Executive Producer of the project. The film has also been endorsed by Parminder Nagra (the star of the movie, *Bend it Like Beckham*) and Anthony Bourdain (the celebrity chef and the star of CNN's 'Parts Unknown').

In November 2017, *Roads and Kingdoms* (one of the most prestigious cultural internet magazines out there) ran an article on the film. Moreover, *Now This* (one of the largest cell phone content providers in the world) has recently interviewed the director of the film and broadcast a clip on the film. The clip went viral and within 48 hours after its broadcast went viral was viewed by 3 million people worldwide!

Recently we successfully launched a crowdfunding campaign:

DECEMBER 2017 RAISED \$69,000

KICKSTARTER

TO VIEW THE COMPLETED KICKSTARTER:

<http://kck.st/2xwUa2l>



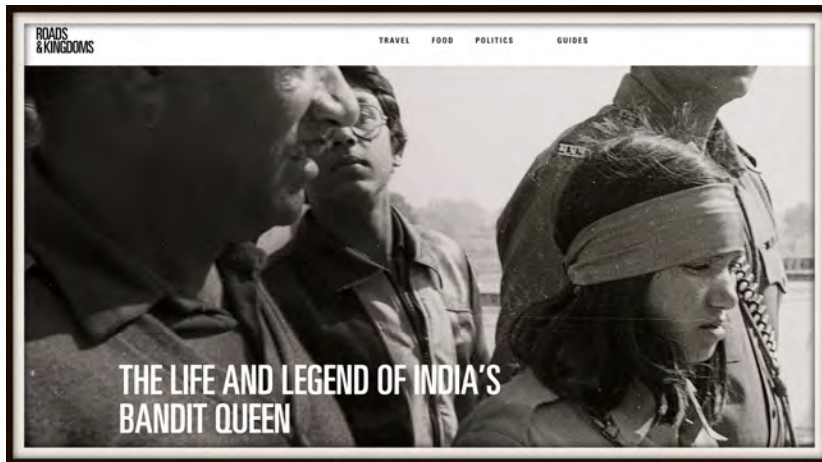
IMPORTANT LINKS



Kristin Kreuk's endorsement: <https://vimeo.com/240767696>



Parminder Nagra's endorsement: <https://vimeo.com/238871478>



Roads & Kingdoms' article: <http://roadsandkingdoms.com/2017/indias-bandit-queen/>



“Now This” clip: <https://vimeo.com/243485986>

THE TEAM



Director/Writer: Hossein Martin Fazeli has been writing and directing dramatic and non-fiction films for the past 15 years. His films have been broadcast around the world, including on CNN, BBC, ARTE, SBS, and Canal+. His film, *The Tale of The Two Nazanins*, about an Iranian teenage girl imprisoned on death row, was broadcast on CNN and BBC and is credited with igniting an international campaign that saved her life. His most recently completed documentary, *Women on The Frontline*, explores the women's freedom movement in Iran. He was short-listed by the Sundance Institute to take part in their International Filmmakers Award. His films have won 37 international awards.



Senior Executive Producer: Jamil Kharrazi Lady Kharrazi, the founder and director of Toos Foundation, is an accomplished artist and a successful business woman. As a ballerina and classical singer, she has performed in Europe, Middle East and USA; and as a designer and property developer she has managed many successful ventures. She has established a number of companies and trusts continuing as a consultant to many of them. Lady Kharrazi is a staunch supporter of the arts and a champion of human rights. She continues to work

extensively with children affected by armed conflict throughout the Middle East and Asia and has sponsored many post graduate students from Asia at Western universities through her charities. She has acted as Harvard University's Ambassador to the Middle East and is a member of Dean's International Council of the Harris School at the University of Chicago.



Co-Director: Gillian Greenfeld studied documentary media and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Ryerson University. She also has five years of undergraduate training in anthropology and film from the University of British Columbia, two years of study in diploma programs in film from FAMU in the Czech Republic, and a Fine Arts diploma in film production from Langara College. She has directed and produced six films, exploring issues of feminism and identity.



Producer: Jack Silberman studied documentary film production at MIT and has a master's degree from Harvard. He has produced, directed, and written more than 40 documentaries for Canadian, American (PBS), British (Channel 4), French (ARTE), and Japanese (NHK) television networks, as well as for the National Film Board of Canada, National Geographic, Discovery Channel, and others. His film, 'Island of Whales', was narrated by Gregory Peck, broadcast on PBS (NOVA), and won 17 awards, including the Gemini award for best Canadian documentary. His film, 'Bombies',

was also broadcast on PBS and won First Place awards at a dozen film festivals, including San Francisco, Chicago, and the Japan Prize. He has extensive international experience, having worked on location in many different countries. His films have won more than 60 awards.



Executive Producer: Kristen Kreuk Born and raised in Vancouver, B.C., Kreuk began acting for the Canadian series "Edgemont". She then landed the lead role of Lana Lang on the WB series "Smallville". In addition to being the face of Neutrogena for 6 years, Kreuk performed a cameo in the film "Eurotrip" opposite Matt Damon, starred in the Sci Fi miniseries "Earthsea" opposite Isabella Rossellini, and starred in the Canadian feature "Partition" opposite Jimi Mistry, as well as, the Fox feature "Streetfighter: The Legend of Chun Li" and the independent "Vampire". She's starred in the BBC retelling of BEN HUR and appeared in a well-received arc on NBC's

hit "CHUCK". She's worked on features "Ecstasy" (based on Irvine Welsh's follow up to his bestseller TRAINSPOTTING), and "Space Milkshake". In television, she most recently starred in 4 seasons and produced the final season of "Beauty & The Beast" for the CW and is currently executive producing and starring in "Burden of Truth", a 10-episode legal drama for the CBC. Kristin co-founded **Parvati Creative Inc.** with her longtime friend and producer Rose Bhura.



Executive Producer: Rosena Bhura For over a decade, Rose has worked in the Media and Communications field, focusing on Production, Creative, Strategy, Project Management, and Marketing. Rose co-founded **Parvati Creative Inc.**, a production company with longtime friend and actress, Kristin Kreuk. Parvati Creative Inc.'s purpose is to develop, produce, and support scripted and unscripted projects in film, television, and new media, creating projects that push limits and spark conversation. Rose oversees business strategy and creative direction. Rose holds a Masters in Communications from the University of Houston, Texas, and recently earned her Executive MBA from Queen's University.

Executive Producer: Fariba Farjam was a mechanical engineer by profession in Iran. Several years after migrating to Canada, however, she decided to change gears and pursue filmmaking. Aside from executive producing Phoolan, she is currently involved in directing a documentary on Canadian foreign policy as well as making two short dramatic films. Fariba is also the owner and president of a newly established film production company called Soliloquy Productions.

Executive Producer: Shmez Italia (Shenny) has been in the world of film and television for almost 35 years. In 1980 she worked on Richard Attenborough's iconic film ``Gandhi`` and that experience set her on a course for a career in film, which continues, to the present day. Since 1986, she has been working in the documentary field on projects like: "Top Gear" for the BBC; "Drugs Inc.", Nat Geo; Atlas - India Revealed, Discovery; Kumbh Mela, Nat Geo; "Welcome to India", BBC; "Dispatches -Terror in Mumbai", Channel 4; "Around the World in 80 days with Michael Palin", BBC; "The Great Moghuls with Bamba Gascoigne", Channel 4; "Queen of the Elephants with Mark Shand" for Discovery; "Gordon Ramsey's Great Escape", Channel 4; Several episodes of "Human Planet" and "Human Universe" for BBC to name but a few.

Co-Executive Producer: Liz Marshall is an award-winning Canadian filmmaker who has explored animal rights, the right to water, HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, gender inequality, war-affected children, sweatshop labor, and censorship affecting journalists. She is best known for her celebrated feature length films "Water On The Table" and "The Ghosts In Our Machine".

Creative Consultant: Glynis Whiting was Director of Creative Development at Super Channel. She has been the story editor/creative consultant on numerous feature films and documentaries; has produced, written, and/or directed a dozen dramatic films; and produced, written, and/or directed 15 documentaries.

Cinematographer: Vince Arvidsen graduated from the University of Calgary and also from Vancouver Film School. Over the past decade he has shot award-winning documentaries, commercials, and 4 dramatic feature films. His films have been broadcast on Discovery Channel, Super Channel, Spike TV, MTV, TSN, CityTV, and others. His documentary, "Uganda Rising", was broadcast nationally in the US, won the Audience Award at Hot Docs, and the Special Jury Prize at the International Human Rights Film Festival (Paris).

Editor: Ted Tozer lives in the edit suite telling stories. With 15 years experience in factual and documentary storytelling, he has worked as an editor, story editor, story producer and creative producer. Sometimes, all at the same time. For over six years Ted was Head of Creative Editorial at Paperny Entertainment and then eOne Television - Unscripted. In 2014, he was selected to participate in the Shaw Media Reality & Factual Entertainment Showrunner Training Program at the Banff World Media Festival. Recently, Ted was nominated for a 2018 Canadian Screen Award for Best Writing, Documentary for Mohamed "Fahmy Half Free."

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SOCIAL MEDIA FOR PHOOLAN

www.facebook.com/phoolandevimovie

www.twitter.com/phoolanthemovie

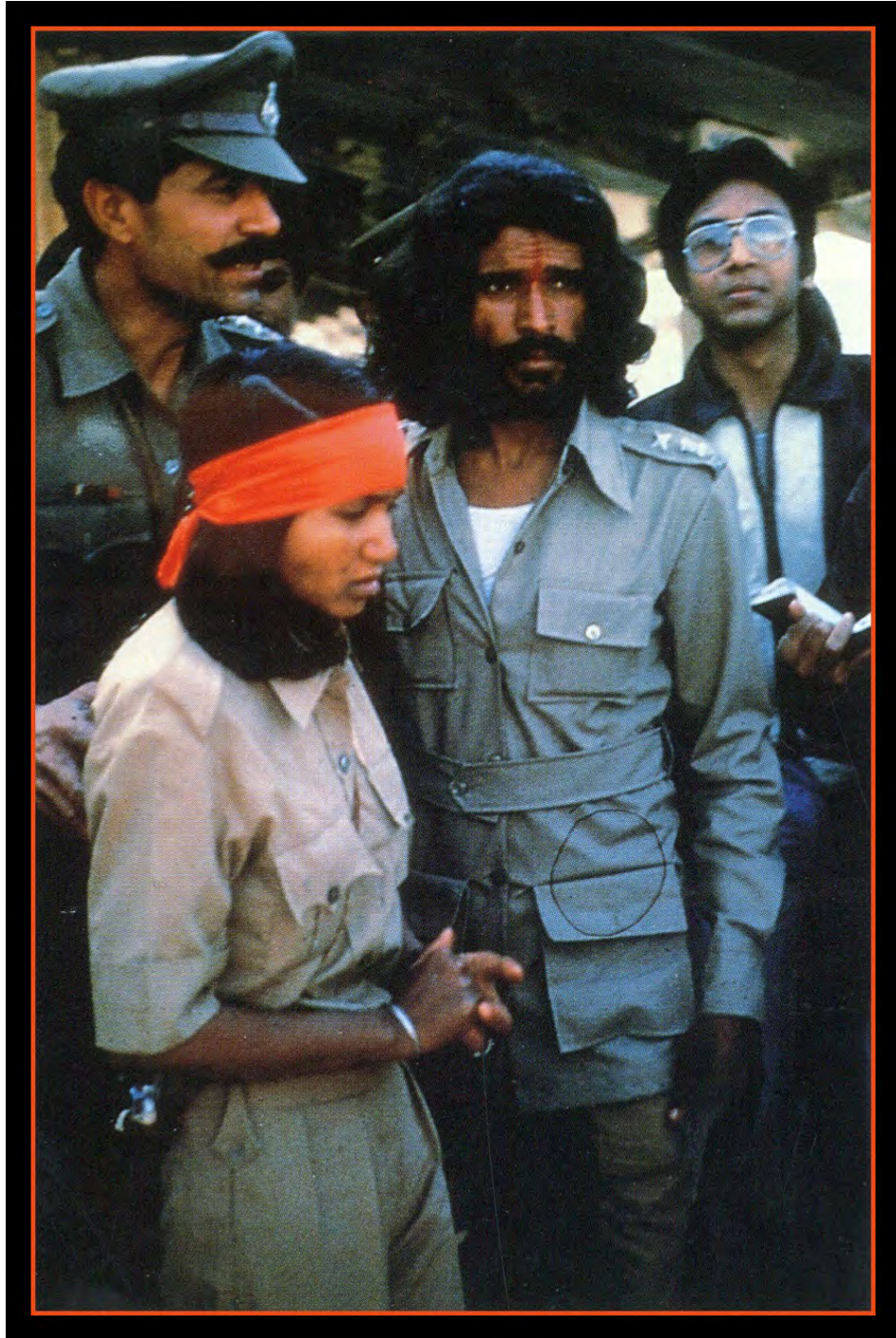
www.instagram.com/phoolanthemovie



ADDITIONAL IMAGES







**I HAD BECOME A CRIMINAL, LIKE THE OTHERS.
BUT WHAT THEY CALLED CRIME, I CALLED JUSTICE.**

PHOOLAN

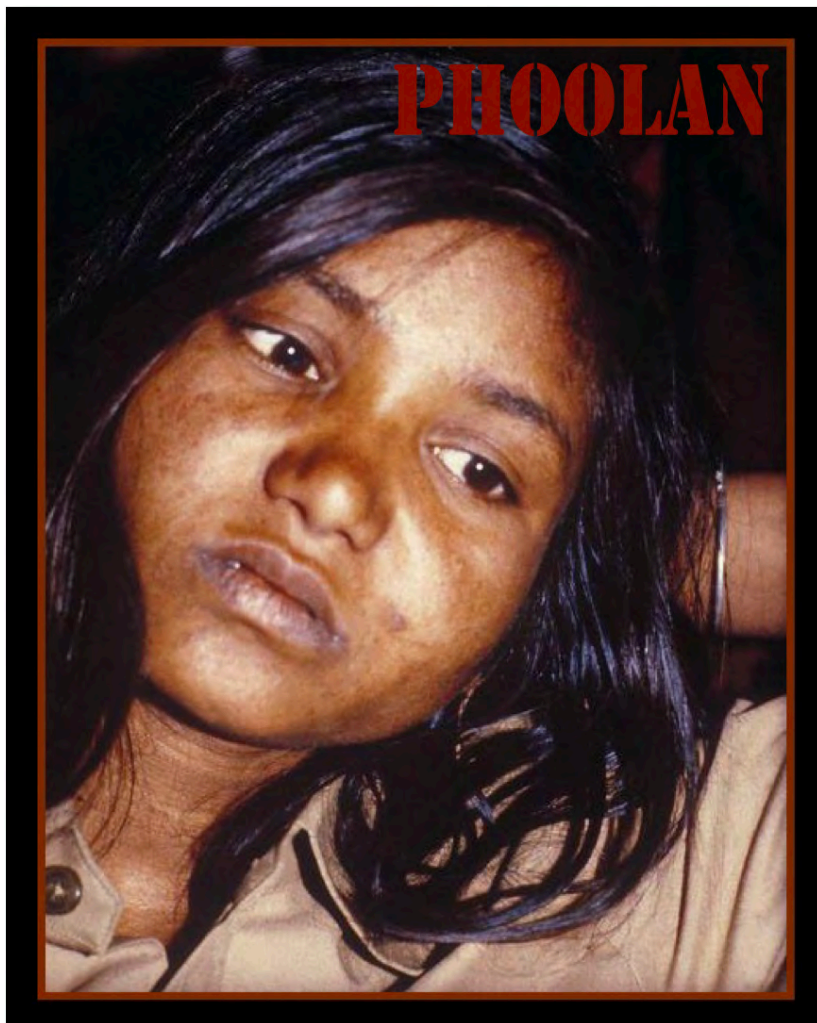


PHOOLAN THE MOVIE



**Sing of my deeds, tell of my combats,
Forgive my failings, and bestow upon me peace**

phoolandevimovie.com









PHOOLAN



<http://www.phoolandevilmovie.com>

