

I For India

2005, 70 minutes

SYNOPSIS

In 1965 Yash Pal Suri left India for the U.K. The first thing he does on his arrival in England is to buy 2 Super 8 cameras, 2 projectors and 2 reel to reel recorders. One set of equipment he sends to his family in India, the other he keeps for himself. For forty years he uses it to share his new life abroad with those back home - images of snow, miniskirted ladies dancing bare-legged, the first trip to an English supermarket - his taped thoughts and observations providing a unique chronicle of the eccentricities of his new English hosts.

Back in India, his relatives in turn, respond with their own 'cine-letters' telling tales of weddings, festivals and village life. As time passes and the planned return to India becomes an increasingly remote possibility, the joy and curiosity of the early exchanges give way to the darker reality of alienation, racism and a family falling apart. A bitter-sweet time capsule of alienation, discovery, racism and belonging, "I for India" is a chronicle of immigration in sixties Britain and beyond, seen through the eyes of one Asian family and their movie camera.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

1. The film's use of news media footage offers us a deeper understanding of the sociopolitical situation during that time. In your opinion, have views on immigration changed since then? If so, how?
2. How does the film explore the fragile yet powerful relationship between finding a new place to call home and the desire to return to one's homeland?
3. What role does first person storytelling play?
4. How does the film's evolving cinematography visually communicate the transitions in the lives of its protagonists?

Trailer:https://youtu.be/_fTRCfxwvml



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