

# broken

## Film Reviews

He is a big fan of action fantasy blockbuster films. He prefers darker shades to narrate a story immersed in controversy and hard hitting violence. *Broken*, an eleven minute short film heralds Jazz Virk's style. He aspires to bring a different side of South Asian cinema to the forefront which is at the same instance vicious, dark and violent. "Violence is all around us," says Jazz whose debut short world premiered at the ReelWorld Film Festival 2004 in Toronto on April 4. *Broken* expresses the director's views with no glorification despite the stark consequences. "The film portrays violence on a physical, emotional, spiritual and mental level," reveals Jazz. "Violence does dwell in our community. I wanted to depict what violence does to our people. The characters in the film are 'broken' at different levels. It is a concentrated story which is visceral, fast paced and an adrenalin rush piece of work. Test screenings of the film impact the audience."

Jazz first conceived *Broken* in 1996. He wanted to make a hardcore action packed South Asian film and did his research on the underworld scene. "I am responsible for the creative output. I feel very excited about being at ReelWorld because it has brought me into a new world. I have taken my time to do it my way," he says (withstanding any controversies!)

- Preeti Thandi, mybindi.com

Jazz Virk's *Broken* is a raw and powerful portrayal. This short film is dramatic and gut wrenching- the result of betrayals and loyalties within brotherhood. Seemingly a series of vignettes, one quickly realizes that whether he admits it or not, Virk has an agenda- one that brings the underground crime world existent in the modern day South Asian Canadian community to the surface. It exposes the extremes that exist in a seemingly mild mannered well-educated class of immigrant people. Virk's story line toys with the concept that not all kids can be made to follow the straight and narrow path no matter what choices they make, that not all South Asian youth grow up to be what the world expects of them- upstanding "good boys".

In many ways this film acts like a blade to wake up that dream world of uptight and upright pillars of the community. The deep seedy world is merely a millisecond away and once entrenched in the world of guns, drugs and violence it is fate that lives get ruined. The main characters constantly walk the thin line but then find themselves sucked into one bad choice after another, inevitably affecting all the innocent people around them. This film leaves the viewer disgusted at a gruesome reality that transcends the South Asian world making one question what really goes on behind the counters, the garage doors and the trees in all of our pretty little lives. *Broken* smashes images across the screen that feel like shards of glass breaking the skin. They come at you sporadically but when the viewer comes to terms with what the story is, it's too late to reconcile it just as it is for the ill fated characters. *Broken* effectively mirrors the chaos and tragedy in the lives of its characters leaving the viewer panging something awful. Warning- not for the faint hearted!

- A testimonial by Meena J. Minhas

