

ACE  
BHATTI

LAILA  
ROUASS

LAUREN  
PATEL

NAVIN  
CHOWDHRY

SHAHEEN  
KHAN

BHASKER  
PATEL

ADAM  
BREGMAN

MARK  
WILLIAMS  
WITH



THE  
EFFECTS  
OF  
LYING

THIS TIME A TRIP TO  
THE FAMILY THERAPIST  
ISN'T GOING TO CUT IT

BONAPARTE FILMS PRESENTS *THE EFFECTS OF LYING* STARRING ACE BHATTI - LAILA ROUASS - LAUREN PATEL - NAVIN CHOWDHRY - SHAHEEN KHAN - BHASKER PATEL  
DEEPA PARMAR - ADAM BREGMAN - WITH MARK WILLIAMS CASTING BY CLAUDIA BLUNT CSA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ADAM SINGODIA EDITED BY JOSHUA WHITELAW MUSIC BY LUIS ALMAU  
WRITTEN BY JAMES HEY CO-PRODUCER GREG SCHROEDER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ELLIOT GROVE ASH VERMA KISHAN KAINTH BOB SINGH KULLAR PRODUCED BY JON TARCY DIRECTED BY ISHER SAHOTA

itvX





### **Logline**

*Dutiful husband and loving father Naveen's life falls apart when decades of festering secrets are exposed, and he's forced to face up to who he really is.*

### **Brief Overview**

Naveen (Ace Bhatti) one of those people that suppresses - he's suppressed the little voices inside of him that have been telling him that something's not right in his life, and he's been doing it for decades. All these tiny lies have accumulated into a life built on them - and today's the day it all comes crashing down.

Naveen must now get to grips with the key relationships in his life that he bases his identity on. What is he, if not a husband, a father, a brother? He's allowed himself to be passive too long, pushed around by the currents of other people's whims and desires. He must learn to take responsibility for his own life and his own happiness.

A Bonaparte Films production, '*The Effects of Lying*' is a comedy with real heart, that seeks to bring a new, urgent representation of contemporary South Asian families to international screens.







# MAIN CAST

Casting Director **Claudia Blunt** says: *“The Effects of Lying’ provided a fascinating opportunity as a casting director, to forge an ensemble of top tier British Asian talent. I am deeply grateful to our superb cast for signing up to this project that, I hope, will be a landmark moment in representation.”*

## NAVEEN

### ACE BHATTI

*Bohemian Rhapsody, Line of Duty*



## SANGEETA

### LAILA ROUASS

*Holby City, Spooks*



## SIMRAN

### LAUREN PATEL

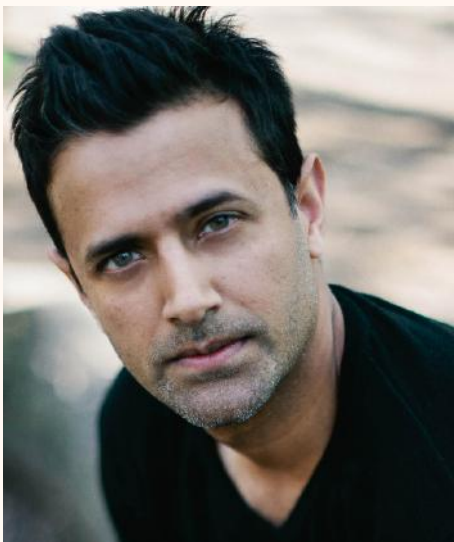
*Everybody's Talking about Jamie*



## HARVINDER

### NAVIN CHOWDRY

*End of the F\*\*\*\*\* World, Our Girl*



## PRYIA

### SHAHEEN KHAN

*Bend it Like Beckham*



## BRIAN

### MARK WILLIAMS

*Harry Potter Franchise*



# QUOTES FROM THE CAST

Watch three minute BTS interview with Ace Bhatti, Laila Rouass and Navin Chowdhry [HERE](#)

**Ace Bhatti:** "Naveen is a man who tries to do right by his family. He's trying to keep a fractious family together but unfortunately within 24 hours he learns three very deep secrets that... break his life apart. Within a day his whole life becomes shattered but that propels him to make certain decisions...It's a universal story."

"It's the quiet people in the world that do the most work... [the people] we don't notice. It's the quiet people that keep us together. It's good to appreciate those people now and again"

**Laila Rouass:** "Sangeeta finds herself trapped. I think she's disappointed in herself and her life has taken a route that she promised herself it never would. It's a real cross-roads we're finding her at... A lot of women can relate to somebody like Sangeeta. It's not a cultural thing, it's more of a reflection on the opportunities you didn't take... it's really quite tragic, I think, where she is."

"When you do something like this no-one does it for the money. People do it because they'd really love to do it. You can feel that on set and that's where it feels special. It's a real little gem."





**Navin Chowdhry:** "Harvinder is Naveen's younger brother and he couldn't be more different. He's loud, he's brash, he's arrogant, he's hedonistic... he brings a certain energy to the family.. It kind of kicks off when he arrives"

"I come from a very volatile Punjabi background and there were elements in the script I thought 'yes - I believe this. I think it's worth being part of this story.'"

"There's a synchronicity and ensemble that you need to get through any shoot, particularly of this nature. We were given the space by the director [Isher] to sometimes just go off page and improvise slightly and try and bring more elements to what was already there and to have that license particularly on a shoot of this nature... to be given the time to improve with actors you have a lot of respect for was a real joy. To work on a piece you believe in and then be given the opportunity to just add your own take on it. It's a good place to be."

**Shaheen Khan:** "She's slightly mystical and I find Priya has a lot of gravitas. She's a modern, older Asian woman. She was quite radical... in her past about certain decisions she took with her daughter... Older Asian women mostly are invisible so it's really nice to see."

"I'd really been looking for something that dealt with things that were affecting Asian families but weren't really covered in the stories that were coming out about us... That was the exciting thing about taking on this film, doing a project with themes that aren't often seen on screen about our community. "

**Lauren Patel:** "She is this eighteen year old girl that is just trying to navigate what looks like a very normal family from the outside but there's a lot of secrets lying underneath the surface."

"I really loved Simran. I thought she was so full of life and energy. There was so much there to play around with."









# CREATIVE TEAM

## Director - Isher Sahota

In 2016 Isher was selected for a coveted place on the BBC's New Directors Scheme and has directed numerous TV shows including FATHER BROWN for BBC Studios and GRACE for ITV. His last short film, GOODNIGHT HENRY was supported by the BFI and won Best Comedy at Flickers Rhode Island. He is currently developing a slate of theatrical features and television shows.



## Producer - Jon Tarcy

Jon is an actor and producer. He has produced TV pilot LIFE IN BLACK starring Liam Neeson, a series of pilot films funded by the Hungarian Films institute and several short films. He was previously an associate producer at Raindance Film Festival. He has a slate of projects in development that were selected for Film London's New Talent Strand and Film Bazaar's co-production market. At the same time, his most recent work as an actor was OUTLANDER for Amazon Prime/Starz, ATLANTA for Disney, and FBI:INTERNATIONAL for CBS.

## Writer - James Hey

James was selected for development by the BBC Writersroom and has gone on to write episodes of the BBC drama DOCTORS. He completed the prestigious Channel 4 Screenwriting Course and wrote a tv drama pilot episode, KARMA, with Philip Shelley as his script editor. His play A GRADUAL LOSS OF CONTROL was long-listed for the distinguished Bruntwood Prize. He is currently developing a tv comedy drama series; TRUTH IS OUT, which has been optioned by Free@Last TV.



## Script Editor- Parmjit Gill

Parmjit has written STRIKING OUT, a feature based on an immigrant woman's struggle for dignity and respect in the workplace. Parmjit co-wrote TRUTH IS OUT, a TV comedy drama pilot and also script edited A GRADUAL LOSS OF CONTROL. As a producer/director in factual TV, she worked on the Grierson and RTS Best Documentary Series, ANATOMY OF CRIME, for the BBC.



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This is a universal story that has nothing to do with the ethnicity of these characters. That's why we've been able to cast at a level much higher than our micro-budget nature would normally allow. These actors were thrilled to play parts motivated by fear, desire, love and lust, and nothing to do with the colour of their skin. This is why we think this is a watershed moment in South Asian representation on screen, and is something we are very proud of.

Hopefully this film will make people laugh. There's fruit fights, great gags and even a gimp mask. But underneath the comedy is an existential questioning: how should we live our lives? Naveen thinks he's a father, a son, a husband and a brother - that's what he's based his sense of identity on. But all these things - at least in the literal sense that he had understood them - are revealed to be false. So Naveen is knocked back into a state of confusion, to the point where he doesn't know who he is anymore. And from that point, he has to rebuild.

We're confident this film will entertain, but if it really works, it will move audiences. The heart of the film is Naveen's relationship with his daughter Simran. When he is adrift in a sea of existential confusion, that relationship anchors him and gives us hope. The emotional climax of the film between them is really what this film is about, and we're really excited about viewing this with audiences worldwide.

This film is about living authentically - confronting the difficult issue to get to the truth. Taking the short term pain and heading toward a rebirth, and that's what Naveen has at the end of the film. He's shed himself of the relationships that don't serve him, and he's on track for an authentic, hopeful life.







# WHY WE HAD TO MAKE IT

*Q&A WITH DIRECTOR ISHER SAHOTA AND PRODUCER JON TARCY*

**Why did you decide to make *'The Effects of Lying'*?**

**Isher:** It was so thrilling to read James Hey's script - a universal story about family, relationships and identity that just happened to be British Asian. Not a mention of a chapati, not a sniff of a chicken tikka masala, no reference to the many heads of Brahma. That's what makes this so vitally authentic and needed: these are characters with interior lives. It was a something I wish I had growing up, and something I knew I had to make.

**Jon:** Being part of this moment in representation was a really exciting prospect as a producer, and I absolutely loved the script too. Isher's passion was infectious, and he trusted me to drive the project forwards and bring it to life.

**The film was shot on a micro-budget across twelve days, what sacrifices did you have to make on such a tight budget?**

**Jon:** This film is an authentically indie British movie - when setting out to make it we were inspired by the filmmakers who just went out to tell their stories, with no backing or traditional industry support. Because of this, we had to adapt traditional methods to find our own solutions. For example, Adam (DOP) and Isher's handheld approach created a natural feel whilst also allowing us to shoot the film in twelve days.



**Isher:** Taking on an eighteen page day with a single camera was pretty daunting, but the cast were amazing - it was almost like a piece of theatre, and we as a crew were really prepped on how we were going to cover it. It was exhilarating! We knew we could pull off the shoot after that day.

### **How did you assemble the cast?**

**Isher:** This was our chance to assemble an incredible cast of British Asian talent and celebrate talent of South Asian descent in the industry. We knew that we had an opportunity to offer actors the three dimensional, complex roles that they are not normally offered - I've never seen a character like Sangeeta on screen, for example, and Laila Rouass gave her life with such nuance and humanity.

**Jon:** We worked with the brilliant casting director Claudia Blunt to put together this amazing cast: it all built from Ace Bhatti coming on to play Naveen, who is the central figure of the story. From there, we built the Sanghera family, adding Laila Rouass, Navin Chowdhry, Lauren Patel and Shaheen Khan to create a really special ensemble that audiences will hopefully be able to connect to.

### **What's your hope for the project and how it will be received?**

**Isher:** Mike Leigh's seminal "Secrets and Lies" was close to my thoughts when making this film, as it was a ground breaking moment in representation, rendering working class characters with such humanity, complexity and depth. Hopefully this film can do a bit of that for the South Asian diaspora represented on UK screens. The characters in this film are fully-realised with histories, fears, hopes and desires, and are unlike anything I've seen on UK screens before.

**Jon:** Yes, we're hopeful that by telling a new kind of story we will serve audiences in a way that hasn't been done before. Diversity, universality, hope and heart are the values which this film hopes to promote. I also hope on a filmmaking level, that it will inspire more independent filmmakers to get out there and make the projects they feel passionate about.

**Isher:** It's ultimately an audience-facing project that was designed to be enjoyed. I hope it entertains people... and maybe unexpectedly moves them too.

### **Why are you excited about going on ITVX?**

**Jon:** We're thrilled to partner with ITVX on this exciting deal. "The Effects of Lying" is a universal, audience facing film, so to be on a free platform, available to anyone with internet access in the UK is amazing.

**Isher:** Our mission was to bring about a new moment in representation on UK screens, so to be supported by a major platform in this very competitive climate is a dream come true for our collaborators both in front and behind the camera.







## Crew

Director - Isher Sahota

Producer - Jon Tarcy

Writer - James Hey

Executive Producers - Elliot Grove, Ash Verma, Kishan Kainth, Bob Singh Kullar

Co-Producer - Greg Schroeder

Casting Director - Claudia Blunt CSA

Cinematographer - Adam Singodia

Editor - Joshua Whitelaw

Composer - Luis Almau

Production Designer - Ida Fly Hedkvist

Costume Designer - Jonathan Lipman

Supervising Sound Editor - Roland Heap

Intimacy Coordinator - David Thackery

## Technical Specifications

Country of origin: United Kingdom

Year: 2023

Run time: 85 minutes

Mastered format: 2.39:1 / 1920x1080 / 24fsp

Available in: DCP, 2K and HD

Sound: 5.1

Language: English

## Links

All Socials: @teolmovie

[www.bonapartefilms.co.uk](http://www.bonapartefilms.co.uk)

The project was shot on a micro-budget during twelve days in Ealing, London.



# CONTACT US

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