

# **SIKH***lens*

PROPOSED

SIKHLENS

FILMS

FOR

2021-22



# DOCUMENTARY FILMS

*These films are in the Production stages, therefore the titles are “Working Titles”*

A Working Title is a production title or a tentative title, the temporary title of a project used during its development.



## The Untold Story of Malerkotla

Interfaith story of peace and harmony in Malerkotla. A harmonious journey of the coexistence of multiple religions, the film tells the story of Guru Gobind Singh's promise to the people of Malerkotla that no bloodshed would ever occur in any war there. It also depicts the story of Muslims and Sikhs praying together at the Gurdwara. Their stories are told through travelogue, subject matter experts and ordinary people.

Status: Pre-Production (Research and Concept)



## The Iron Sikhs

The Sikligar Sikhs are a nomadic community that had the hereditary duty of making and maintaining weapons, often in encampments at the edge of towns and cities. The community converted to Sikhism after they settled in Punjab, and are now found throughout the country, especially in the districts of Bathinda, and Ludhiana. The Sikligar are now divided into a number of clans. The film depicts their history and present-day situation, told through subject matter experts, authors and ordinary people.

Status: Pre-Production (Research and Concept)



## Satnami Sikhs

The Satnamis form a little-known sect of Sikhism, numbering approximately 15 million people in various areas of India. The film will detail their history, and their beliefs, lives and struggles today.

Status: Pre-Production (Research and Concept)



## Punjabi Lehar

This documentary shows the intrinsic presence of the Punjabi language in Muslim-majority Pakistan. It features subject-matter experts across a diverse range of fields - from academia to literature to music, poetry, and theater. The film delves into the bodies of work and services dedicated to the Punjabi language. It also talks about the impact of political conflict on Punjabi, as well as the historical and cultural aspects of its existence.

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## Through the Ages

### *Fourth Generation Sikh Artists who have worked at the Golden Temple Creating Fresco Art*

The late artist G. S. Sohan Singh devoted his entire life to the pursuit of art and left his cultural heritage for generations to come. His talent was passed to him from his father, the Late Bhai Gian Singh ‘Naqqash’, Master Artist of the Sikh School of Painting, as well as the devotional artist of the Golden Temple.

Since subsequent generations have not been able to create work in the temple, the lineage of Surinder Singh (graphic artist and micro-surgical photographer), Satpal “*Danish*” (artist – photojournalist) and Hardeep Singh (calligrapher – graphic artist) have been creating fine art reproductions, oil paintings and high quality handwritten Gurbani calligraphy in a nearby storefront location.

Status: Pre-Production (Research and Concept)



## Balwant Singh: Our Next Marathon Runner

The journey of a 70-year-old Marathon Runner from Gurdaspur, the next Fauja Singh. Living in Northern Punjab, the film depicts Balwant Singh’s will to begin his international marathon stint at the age of 70. Support this film to encourage our community to be healthy, active, and fit.

Status: Pre-Production (Research and Concept)



## River Conservationist: Balbir Singh Seechwal

Balbir Singh Seechwal, is known as the ECO Baba and the amazing man who helped clean up the 160-kilometer-long Kali Bein river with his volunteers. His efforts are in line with the sentiments of our Gurus, who espoused respect for and conservation of the environment world-wide.

Status: Pre-Production (Research and Concept)



# DOCUMENTARY FILMS



## Nina Olivar-Accidental Farmer

Nina Olivar had worked in the IT industry most of her life. During a trip to Spain with her husband, they discovered its delicious olive oil, and the amazing rolling hills of olive farms. This initial fascination turned into research on olives and olive farming.

In 2016, with a help of Glenn French, an Englishman and Spanish resident, she purchased a 10-year-old Organic farm in the Almeria province of Spain in the village of Sorbas. Nina's goal was to produce oil in its native form – no mixing of any other oil, or olives from other farms.

Nina shares the fruits of her labor with her die-hard customers, and participates in competitions like the New York International Olive Oil Competition. There her oil won the Gold Award in 2020 and a Silver award in 2019. The film depicts the joys, and difficulties, of Nina's adventures in olive farming in Spain.

**Status: Pre-Production (Research and Concept)**

## SikhLens Six (6) Stages of Film Production

- 1. Development:** The start of a project varies, but generally will begin with development of a script, be that an existing script, a book, a brief story outline. Development may also start with a Director and/or Writer pitching an idea to a Producer.
- 2. Pre-Production:** This is the phase where you would narrow down the options of the production. It is where all the planning takes place before the camera rolls and sets the overall vision of the project. Pre-production also includes working out the shoot location and casting. The Producer will now hire a Line Manager or Production Manager to create the schedule and budget for the film.
- 3. Production:** During this phase it is key to keep planning ahead of the daily shoot. The primary aim is to stick to the budget and schedule, this requires constant vigilance. Communication is key between location, set, office, production company, distributors – in short, all parties involved
- 4. Principal Photography:** This is when the camera rolls. It is nearly always the most expensive phase of film production, due to actor, director, and set crew salaries, as well as the costs of certain shots, props, and on-set special effects. Everything that has happened up to this point is to make principal photography go as smoothly and efficiently as possible. Communication between all parties is crucial during the shoot and the production must maintain a full set of records and strive to remain on time and on budget.
- 5. Wrap:** The period immediately after shooting ends. It is when we strike (dismantle) the set and clear the location. Everything must be returned in good order to suppliers and there must be a full set of records of the shoot.
- 6. Post-Production:** This stage starts when principal photography ends, but they may overlap. The bulk of post-production consists of reviewing the footage and assembling the movie – editing. There will be contributions as required from Visual Effects (VFX), Music and Sound Design. The picture will now be locked and delivery elements will be created.

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## The 51 Percent

A documentary on women’s liberation and Women’s Studies features several Sikh/Southeast Asia women whose careers are illustrative of the success that women have had. Interviews include several professors and others involved in early Women’s Studies departments, as well as female politicians well-known for their stance on social justice issues. Support for this film helps everyone better understand the history of the women’s rights movement, and why there is still a need to promote equality for women.

Status: Principal Photography (Filming)



## Deserted Gems

In “*Deserted Gems*”, the creator of the film, Hansjeet Duggal, presents the intersection of gemstones and culture from the deserted parts of America. Using shovels, jackhammers, and their hands, Hansjeet and Niranjana Singh, a veteran gemstone miner, dig into dirt and raw stones providing the audience a look into gemstone miners, their life, and culture.

Status: Principal Photography (Filming)



## Hoshiarpur Langar Sewa

Sarbat da Bhala has a new definition with Manjinder Singh who while calling the US home, has been providing meals to the needy in as many as 17 places in Punjab. Feeding 50K people, 365 days, 24x7, the facility sends mini trucks filled with cooked meals to civil hospitals around Hoshiarpur. Langar and Seva are a revered tradition of Sikhism that we need to highlight and support.

Status: Principal Photography (Filming)



## The Light and The Load

This film, about the farmers’ protests in India, exposes how the new farming laws passed last year have resulted in unfair policies against small farmers. It details how the laws affect them financially, as well as environmentally, and how the farmers have responded by protesting. The lack of coverage by the media also demonstrates the bias of big media toward the government.

Status: Post-Production

# DOCUMENTARY FILMS

*These films are Completed and ready for screening.*



## Art Finds Its Way

Aman (aka Almond Singh) is a 19-year-old micro engraver who is the Guinness World Record holder for making portraits on almonds. As we follow Aman on his artistic journey, we realize that artistic passions can lead to a fulfilling career, even though it may not be a traditional one. Supporting Sikh art can be a unique gift.

Status: Completed



## Kites: Beyond Boundaries

A forensic expert by profession, now retired, Dr. Sehgal is an International Kite Maker. He is the world record holder for the SMALLEST KITE, one that can pass through a pin hole! He produces kites about every occasion of world importance, and various social messages. As a scientist who expresses his artistry and social activism through his kites, he reminds us that science and art are not mutually exclusive.

Status: Completed



## Silver Lining: The Journey Of Rashpal Singh

An inspiring journey of Seva that led an American Sikh towards establishing a mission for vision as a selfless act of serving his community.

With 60 camps a year across the state of Punjab, Rashpal Singh Dhindhra is the visionary behind the extensive free-of-cost eye camps for the people of rural Punjab in India. The Visionary encapsulates the journey of United Sikh Mission that started in 2005 with its first eye camp and still continues to give back to the community of Punjab, regardless of age, caste, creed, religion, or gender.

Status: Completed



# NARRATIVE SHORT FILM



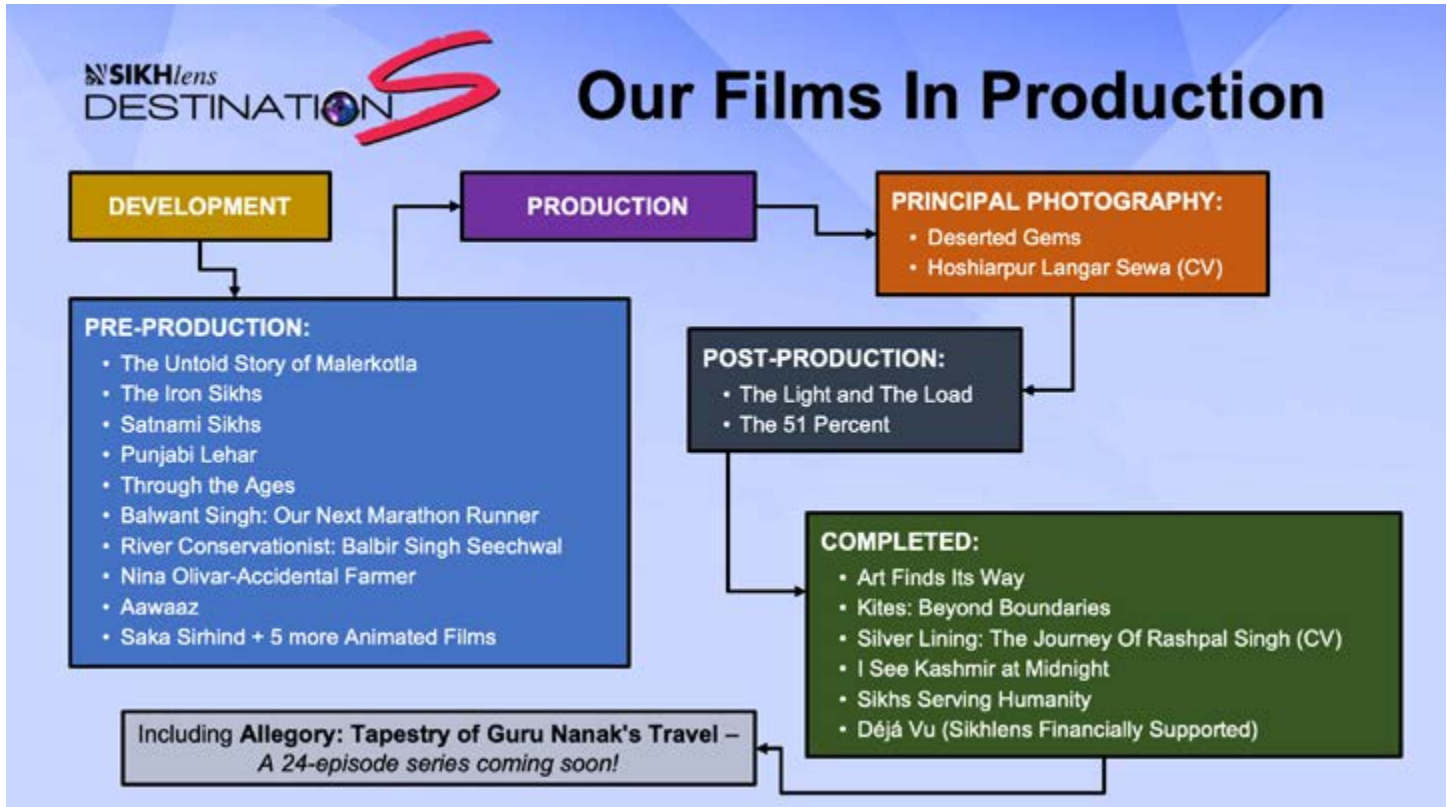
## AAWAAZ

*Life of a SIKH RJ: Radio Jockey and His Life Changing Experience with the LGBTQ Community*

An unexpected day in the monotonous routine of the most popular RJ in Chandigarh. A visit from a contest winners takes him by surprise, and the film takes an interesting turn.

Struck with a monotony of his life that starts each day midafternoon and concludes with hosting the late-night show, RJ Jassi is set for a change of outlook. Living life in his glass cubicle from 10pm to 12pm each night this young RJ wonders if he is heard by people beyond the few whose calls he receives to solve their problems. This film encourages viewers to accept those that are different, as the foundations of Sikhi remind us to not judge, and love all of creation.

Status: Pre-Production (Research and Concept)



# ANIMATION FILMS

SikhLens has also expanded into animation and comic arts. We have enlisted the talents of some great Sikh animators who will be creating one or two films per year on the following subjects:



*Artwork is represented as the quality of work for proposed films, but is not actual artwork.*

- Bhai Sukha Singh Bhai Mehtab Singh Ji
- Subeg Singh and Shahbaz Singh Ji
- Bhai Bota Singh and Garja Singh Ji
- Baba Deep Singh Ji
- Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji
- Maharaja Ranjeet Singh Sakhies
- 40 Mukte
- Saragarhi

**Status: Pre-Production (Research and Concept)**



## Saka Sirhind (*Feature Film*)

Saka Sirhind, a full feature animated film, is the saga of events related to the martyrdom of the younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh at Sirhind, Punjab. The film depicts the arrest of Mata Gujri, Fateh Singh and Zorawar Singh at Morinda, after the Anandpur seige. The film then presents the arguments at Sirhind Court, after which they were found guilty of keeping ideology rebellious to the Mughal Government, and the sons were bricked alive.

**Status: Pre-Production (Research and Concept)**



## I See Kashmir at Midnight

A short animation about the poem:  
*“I See Kashmir from New Delhi at Midnight.”*

Jammu and Kashmir have remained under lockdown, with severe restrictions on communication and movement of citizens, ever since the government scrapped its special status on August 5, 2019. Under such trying circumstances, Kashmiri poet Agha Shahid Ali’s *“I See Kashmir from New Delhi at Midnight”* becomes even more relevant. Support for this film will increase awareness of the issue of Kashmir, which has been ongoing since the partition of India. Currently Jammu, Kashmir is the home to many Sikhs.

**Status: Completed**



# SIKHLENS ALSO SUPPORTS

In addition to the above films, SikhLens occasionally provides financial support to other filmmakers when the topic merits our consideration. The following film(s) are films that we have recently supported:



## Déjà Vu

The opening up of Indian Agriculture and “free market” policies are supposed to make Indian agriculture more efficient and bring prosperity to farmers. But will it? The protesting farmers don’t believe so.

In the last four decades or so, experiments and policies similar to the new Indian farm laws were tried in America. Our 6500-mile journey through the heartland of America chronicles first-hand experience of these experiments and policies specifically on small farms as well as larger farms. The findings are of relevance to understanding what awaits Indian farmers if the current Indian farm laws run their course.

By stitching together stories of the farmers’ intimate and dire quests for survival, equity, and justice, the documentary Déjà Vu highlights the dangers posed by the recent three laws in India and presents a cautionary tale for Indians. And in the process, it serves as an opportunity for education, as well as a seed for discussion on the issues of food security, human dignity, and agricultural sustainability.

Status: Post-Production



For inquiries please contact, Bicky Singh at (714) 504-5264 or email: [bsingh@fcsinet.com](mailto:bsingh@fcsinet.com)

*Due to the situation with the COVID-19 virus, some of the production timeframes may be delayed.*