

the goodbye man

a short film by Mridu Chandra
Nov. 2005

set in Lahore, Pakistan 2005
Pakistan, Dec. 2005



IAAC Film Festival, New York, USA,

Kara Film Festival, Karachi,

ReelWorld Film Festival, Toronto, Canada Apr.

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Synopsis

In this simple tale of loneliness and alienation, *The Goodbye Man* tackles the unique perspective of a young Pakistani office worker caught in a soul crushing, dead end job at one of the many international service centers that have emerged in South Asia in the last decade. Created by multinational corporations to exploit the abundance of well-educated and low-cost labor in cities such as Lahore, these centers have also become the breeding ground for disappointment and frustration amongst many of the young workers chosen to spend their day laboring under the buzz of the static fluorescent sun. One such worker is our hero Imran Butt. Having reached the end of his rope, Imran makes the drastic but seemingly logical decision to take control of his life once and for all—by ending it. Unfortunately for Imran, he discovers that he is no more equipped at ending his life than he is at living it.

Employing both slapstick humor and sly political commentary, *The Goodbye Man* is as an offbeat rebel's song in the face of the over-powering symphony of progress and modernity.

This film was made while the filmmaker was at a teaching residency at Pakistan's very first film school, Beaconhouse National University in the city of Lahore. As such, it is collaborated on and crewed entirely by Film and Video Production students at BNU.

About the Filmmaker

Mridu Chandra (Director/Producer) is a writer and filmmaker who has exhibited both narrative and documentary projects internationally at festivals and museums, including the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum, the Kennedy Center, and the World Social Forum 2004 in India. Based in New York, she has recently completed a one-year teaching residency at Beaconhouse National University in Lahore, where she established Pakistan's first university level film and video program. In addition to producing *Let the Church Say, Amen*, she co-produced the award-winning *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin* (about late civil rights and peace activist Bayard Rustin). *The Goodbye Man* is Mridu's directorial debut in the narrative realm.

Principal Credits

Director/ Producer	Mridu Chandra
Screenwriter	Waqas Abbas & Raza Ali Shah
Cinematographer	Aneel Saleem
Editors	Saad Azhar & Aneel Saleem
Co-Producers	Beaconhouse National University & Thomson

Cast

Imran	Usman Latif
Office Guy	Ansab Junaid
Shop Owner	Farhan Maqsood
Carpet Men	Ch. Mohd. Sharif
	Kazim Abdi
Nida	Sarah Tareen
Guard	Abdul Hameed
Radio Host	FEZ

For photos and additional information, please email Mridu Chandra at mriduchandra@gmail.com or call 917-312-2204.