



PROJECT TITLE: **BAPSI - The Silences of My Life**

PROJECT STATUS: **Production**

EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION: **December 2021**

PROJECT LENGTH: **75 min**

# Bapsi

THE FILM

EXPLORE  
THEIR STORIES

### Dear Backer:

I am thrilled to invite you to participate in the production of the first-ever authorized biographical film about Bapsi Sidhwa, the internationally best-selling, award-winning novelist and writing resource of the films “Earth” and “Water.” Your support at this crucial juncture will directly impact the critical need to educate en masse towards a just society and your name on the film credits will receive millions of impressions worldwide.

Bapsi, as she is universally known, has written five novels, *Cracking India*, *The Pakistani Bride*, *The Crow Eaters*, *An American Brat*, and *Water*, as well as *City of Sin and Splendour: Writings on Lahore*, an anthology of essays, poems, and short stories. All her books have been translated and published in several languages, and among the many honors Bapsi has received are the Bunting Fellowship at Radcliffe/Harvard, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writer's Award, the Sitara-i-Imtiaz, Pakistans' highest honor in the arts, the LiBeraturepreis in Germany and the 2007 Primo Mondello Award in Italy.

Bapsi's work is informed by her family's background, her childhood during a turbulent period in South Asia, and her travels around the globe. Born in 1938, she grew up in the ancient city of Lahore in the small, cohesive community of Zoroastrians – one of the oldest religions on Earth, with roots in pre-Islamic Persia. When she was just two years old, Bapsi contracted polio, an illness from which it took nine years to recover, but she emerged with a uniquely observant mind, a deep reverence for life, and tremendous gratitude for her family's love and care.

In 1948, while she was still recuperating, Bapsi witnessed first-hand the Partition of India, an event that sparked sectarian riots in Lahore and dozens of other cities. As an adult, she married, divorced, remarried and had three children all before beginning her career as an author. Today, Bapsi lives in Houston, Texas, where she continues to write, teach and engage in other artistic projects.

An enlightened soul with an infectious passion for creativity, Bapsi's joys as well as her tribulations have found their way into her stories, as her characters navigate themes of marriage, migration, careers and cultural assimilation.

### The Film

We are committed to bringing the inspirational life of this artistic genius to the screen. We have worked with Bapsi since the summer of 2016. I can assure you when BAPSI the film, makes its debut; it will create waves at many levels as it would articulate her exceptional contribution to literature in ways only another artist can interpret. The overriding factor, for me, will continually be to present the artists' contributions in the most lucid and uncomplicated manner. Surely, all of us owe her a debt of gratitude for her remarkable repertoire and what better way than to create a portrait that will inform and inspire our next generations.

Viewers will be enchanted by this cross-continental narrative which will take them from Pakistan's breathtaking mountain ranges to the teeming warrens of Lahore, and from the literary centers of Europe to Bapsi's current home in Texas. The film will blend interviews of key figures from Bapsi's life with historical context and dramatization of narrative, revealing how Bapsi's imagination was defined by her family values, the rich cultural milieu of Lahore and the experiences of her childhood. As a documentary, moreover, the film will ensure Bapsi and other historically significant voices and perspectives are preserved for posterity.

In addition to celebrating Bapsi's work, the film will shine a spotlight on the Zoroastrians, also known as Parsis, whose contributions to the culture, economy, and politics of South Asia over millennia far outweigh their numbers. Bapsi is the Parsis' international literary standard-bearer, and she is proud to represent her people to a global audience. This film will be a beautiful representation of the smooth assimilation of minorities in the Pakistani community.

## About Explore Their Stories

Explore Their Stories Inc., a 501(C)3 not-for-profit organization, incorporated in 2016 to discover, document, preserve and share the extraordinary in our everyday lives. I believe that by sharing our global culture and heritage, we forge connections to one another, foster empathy, educate, inspire, and ensure understanding and awareness now and for future generations. Explore Their Stories is committed to capturing inspiring stories of accomplishment, and endeavors to promote excellent performance and practice that remain above the norm. We at Explore Their Stories want to give a voice to the "other." We're dedicated to recording on film inspirational stories of achievement and perseverance and to develop robust educational curricula especially for our youth, as well as diversity training in healthcare and corporate environments worldwide. Youth all over the world will receive screenings and educational packages for no charge.

My work at Explore Their Stories is the culmination of my background as an economist, artist and social entrepreneur living and working around the world. Before launching Explore Their Stories, I was the Chief Program Officer at Snow City Arts, where I helped lead exceptional arts educational programs at four leading pediatric hospitals in Chicago. Currently, I also serve as the Chair of Arts and Culture for the Lahore Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International and have been on the Acquisitions Committee at the Asian Arts Council. Previously, I worked as a Research Economist at Bankers Equity Ltd., a development financial institution. I have curated traveling exhibits, taught and lectured around the world, and my artwork has been exhibited in Chicago, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Phoenix, Karachi, Edmonton, and Quebec. For more information, and to meet our team, please visit our web site: [www.exploretheirstories.org](http://www.exploretheirstories.org).



## Your Support

We are currently seeking financial support and backing for this sterling production, BAPSI. I look forward to your support; please join us on this exciting and much-needed journey to promote narratives of brilliance globally. All grants, gifts, and donations to Explore Their Stories are tax deductible, as per regulations from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. We will recognize all contributors, moreover, with credits in the film and on all production materials as listed below on the sponsorship packages. Thank you very much for your consideration.

With fond regards and thank you,  
Sadia Uqaili

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### **Bapsi Film Sponsorship Opportunity**

Your support of the first ever authorized biopic on the iconic writer Bapsi Sidhwa is invaluable. As the film screens for diverse audiences your contribution to inspire and educate will be listed on the film and viewed by millions.

#### **\$5,000 Star Sponsorships**

- Sponsor's name on film end credits
- 2 tickets to a film screening
- Logo on collateral
- Free digital download of the film
- 1 signed book by Bapsi Sidhwa

#### **\$10,000 Silver Sponsors**

- Sponsor's name on film end credits and the website
- Leisurely meal with production crew and special guests
- 4 tickets to a film screening
- 2 signed books by Bapsi Sidhwa
- Free digital download of the film
- Logo on collateral

#### **\$25,000 Gold Sponsors**

- Sponsor's name on film end credits and the website
- Leisurely meal with production crew and special guests
- 6 tickets to a film screening
- Logo on collateral
- Backdrop
- Standees
- 3 signed books by Bapsi Sidhwa
- Free digital download of the film
- 2 tickets to a film festival (transport/lodging not included)

#### **\$50,000 Executive Producers Title Sponsorships**

- Sponsor's name prominent on film end credits
- Name on all social media, collateral and the website
- Leisurely meal with production crew and special guests
- 8 tickets to a film screening
- Short interview of sponsor posted on digital media
- 4 signed books by Bapsi Sidhwa
- Media Wall
- Standees
- Backdrop
- Logo on collateral
- Free digital download of the film
- 4 tickets to a film festival (transport/lodging not included)

#### **\$250,000 Co-Producer Title Sponsorship**

- Sponsor's name most prominent on film end credits
- Name/Logo on all social media, collateral and the website
- Short interview of the sponsor posted on digital media
- Lunch with Bapsi Sidhwa (subject to her availability)
- 10 tickets to a film screening
- 6 signed books by Bapsi Sidhwa
- Director's commentary + interview
- Free digital download of the film
- 6 Special Tickets to film festival
- Logo on collateral
- Invites (Digital and Printed)
- Standees
- Backdrop

Explore Their Stories is a 501(C)3 not-for-profit organization and your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. A receipt letter for your donation will be issued and mailed to you.

Should you have any questions related to payments to Explore Their Stories, please contact our Founder and Executive Director Sadia Uqaili at p. 630 400 2430 e. [sadia@exploretheirstories.org](mailto:sadia@exploretheirstories.org) or our Board Chair Joe Ahmed p. 713 823 0242 e. [joeahmad@azalaw.com](mailto:joeahmad@azalaw.com)

For more info about Explore Their Stories, visit: [www.exploretheirstories.org](http://www.exploretheirstories.org) or Insta and Facebook @ExploreTheirStories



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SEVERAL VARIATIONS FOR RECEIPT OF YOUR DONATIONS ARE LISTED BELOW FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

***Your generous support is invaluable!***

### BAPSI FILM DONATIONS

Donation Amount (US\$) ☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$25,000 ☐ \$50,000 ☐ \$250,000 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My donation is enclosed.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKES PAYABLE TO:  
"Explore Their Stories" and should be mailed to:  
Attention: Sadia Uqaili (ETS)  
467 South Collins Street  
South Elgin, Illinois 60177

#### DONATIONS VIA CREDIT CARD

☐ Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail the credit card information to:  
Explore Their Stories  
Attention: Sadia Uqaili | 467 South Collins Street | South Elgin | Illinois 60177

#### DONATIONS VIA CHASE QUICK PAY

Direct transfers are welcome to our account at Chase Bank: 816635796

#### DONATIONS ON LINE VIA PAYPAL ON OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.exploretheirstories.org/donate/>

#### OVERSEAS DONATIONS VIA SECURE BANK WIRE TRANSFER

J.P. Morgan Chase Bank  
270 S. Randall Road  
Elgin, IL 60123  
Account number: 816635796  
Swift code: chasus33

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For more info about Explore Their Stories, visit: [www.exploretheirstories.org](http://www.exploretheirstories.org) or on our Facebook page Explore Their Stories