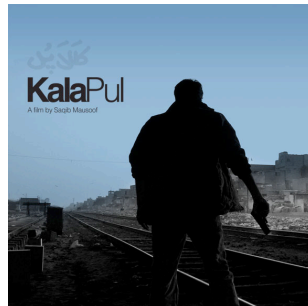


BLACK CROW  
PRODUCTIONS

Presents

**Kala Pul**

**“THE BLACK BRIDGE”**



A Film by SAQIB MAUSOOF

Starring

Salim Iqbal

Angeline Malik

Munawar Saeed

Ayesha Toor

(2008, US/Pakistan, 40 minutes, Rated R)

Contact

Saqib MausooF ([contact@blackcrowproductions.com](mailto:contact@blackcrowproductions.com))

Siraj ul Haque ([fish\\_i\\_film@yahoo.com](mailto:fish_i_film@yahoo.com))

BLACK CROW PRODUCTIONS

For additional publicity materials, go to

[Kalapul.com](http://Kalapul.com)

## **CAST**

Arsalan Mirza

Zoya Elahi

Professor Dawood

Linda Perez

Suleiman Brohi

Usman Mirza

Naufil Elahi

Mona Nizam

Icey

Maulana Zahoor

Michael Lopez

Salim Iqbal

Angeline Malik

Munawar Saeed

Ayesha Toor

Ashok Malani

Mairaj – ul – Haq

Muder Kothari

Kiran Khan

Nauman Sheikh

Saqib Mausooof

Ali Mumtaz

## **CREW**

Director/Writer	Saqib Mausooof
Producers	Muder Kothari
Director of Photography	Markus Huersch
Focus Puller	Emmanuel Suys
Asst Director	Siraj – ul -Haque
Gaffer	Habibullah
Sound Recorder	Chand Mian
Sound engineer	Billy Wirasnik
Production Manager	Danial Mausooof
Associate Producers	Ashok Malani Bryan Admason
Art Direction	Ali Mumtaz
Production Design	Maliha Rao
Music	Dr Das Janaka Seleкта Malika Pukhraj

## SYNOPSIS

All news out of Karachi is bad.

Arsalan, a fugitive, returns to his native Karachi, to investigate the violent death of his younger brother, blamed on religious fundamentalists. In the ensuing days he discovers that in a post 9/11 world the gritty megalopolis sits on the fault line of modernity and militancy.

The title, Kala Pul, derives from a bridge in Karachi, which connects the affluent parts of the city to the lower income areas. Arsalan, the protagonist grew up under the shadows of the Kala Pul, caught between the haves and have-nots – a world of MTV inspired ‘burgers’ (westernized elites) and the disfranchised youth, which is fodder for nihilistic suicide bombings.

On his arrival in Karachi, Arsalan finds himself estranged from his family, which is divided in opinion between his anglicized father and his militant younger brother. Later Arsalan faces his old nemesis and visits his old flame at a beach party where he encounters the hip side of Karachi. As Arsalan arranges a meeting with the head of a banned religious party, he is monitored by US based FBI agents who are trying to target money laundering operations that were set up in conjunction with Pakistan’s intelligence agencies during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The plot then lunges the cast into a geo-political thrill ride, while weaving an account of the protagonist chasing his brother’s killer through the gritty streets of Karachi.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

KALA PUL – THE BLACK BRIDGE, is an exploration of family, regional politics, revenge, and the conflicts inherent in trying to escape one's past. I have always wanted to share my experiences growing up in Karachi, Pakistan, during the "Kalashnikov culture" years, a time when AK-47s dominated our "sin city." I wrote my first feature screenplay Kala Pul—The Black Bridge, a crime noir, for Karachi's authentically gritty locations. I first produced a successful version for the stage, which allowed me to form Black Crow Productions with entrepreneur Muder Kothari. We hired bankable talent—Oscar-nominated DP Markus Huersch and the Pakistani equivalents of Jack Nicholson and Clive Owen—and departed for Karachi to shoot on 16mm.

I have used the basic revenge plot to expose excessively brutal forces that drive the emotional engine of Karachi. The protagonist, Arsalan Mirza is someone who can't escape his past and is drawn back to it, when he visits the city of his birth after twelve years as a fugitive. It is a story of a man who knows that if he returns Karachi, he will die or pay for the sins of his past. Still he finds himself compelled and in that way he is driven to commit a violent act of retribution.

## FILM

Genre: Political Thriller

Location: Karachi, Pakistan

Year: 2008

Format: Super 16mm

Duration: 40 minutes

Rated: R

Produced by: Black Crow Productions

Executive Producer: Muder Kothari

Music score: Dr Das & Janaka Selecta

"Karachi born writer Saqib Mausooof has taken a different route with *Kala Pul* - *Black Bridge* producing results not unlike Satiyajit Ray's *Distant Thunder*".

Dawn Newspaper, Pakistan

## Crew Bios

**Writer/Director Saqib Mausoo**f has written and directed Kala Pul as a stage play. His documentary *Hansot by the Bay* was shown at KaraFilm Festival 2005 and his short *Now for something completely Islamic* was shown at the San Francisco South Asian Festival. He serves on the board of Third I and AccessSF and is a member of Film arts Foundation and Theatre Bay Area Saqib is working on his second script, 'The Brown Conspiracy'.

**Executive Producer/Producer Muder Kothari** is a successful entrepreneur who has incubated several hi tech companies like Cavium and Luminous networks. He is associated with several Silicon Valley based VC networks. His expertise lies in finance, operations and logistics. His film interests include stage and independent films.

**Director of Photography Markus Huersch** (DoP for *The Little Terrorist* nominated for an Oscar for Best Short film in 2005). He completed studies at the London International Film School in 1998. In the following 2 years, he worked as a camera assistant, did further training (e.g. Kodak Masterclass scholarship with Vilmos Szigmond). Most recently Markus has completed work on a feature film shot in foothills of the Himalaya called *The Forest*, and Indian-American production produced by Judith James.

**Production Manager Danial Mausoo**f is production and logistic consultant based in Karachi. He is a graduate of Arizona State Business school with a minor in Film studies. He is committed to deadlines and the ground realities

and has a tight grip on schedules, planning and implementation.

**Focus Puller Emmanuel Suys** is an accomplished assistant photographer to various award winning photographers. He has worked on International projects like Road to Ladakh as well as commercial projects like the 100th Anniversary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). He is a member of Camera Assistant of the German Society of Cinematographers.

**Assistant Director Siraj-ul-Haque** is a Program Producer/Director Eveready Pictures, Karachi. He has directed a number of telefilms and drama serials and worked as the 2nd Assistant Director on Silent Waters (Khamosh Pani), which won the best film award at the Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland.

**Art Director Ali Mumtaz** With a portfolio covering ten years of advertising experience, Ali has art-directed a number of TV commercials and has won many coveted awards for his work, including Clios, Communication Arts and San Francisco Show Gold.

**Sound Recording Chand Mian** is a veteran of PTV and international documentary productions, Chand Mian and Farhan has provided sound for numerous narratives and music videos on location in Karachi

**Associate Producer Ashok Malani** Ashok Malani is an actor/producer based in San Francisco Bay area. His work includes a feature film Khanda, stage plays and voice talent for educational program concerning spread of

AID in the Asia. He is the founder of Coco ACT, which provides production management software for theaters. He is a member of CETA (California Educational Theater Association).

**Sound Engineer Billy Wirasnik** combined the soulful sounds of cantankerous locomotives and cackling crows to give Kala Pul a unique sound. Even though he has never visited Karachi, his auditory sense layered the complex sounds of a third world megalopolis where klaxon horns, prayers calls and camel grunts all mix in to provide authenticity.

**Music Score Dr Das** is a bassist, programmer and producer and was one of the founder members of Asian Dub Foundation (ADF), which he left ADF in 2006 to resume his exploration of experimental and dub related world music. Dr Das new solo album **Emergency Baseline** contributes tracks like *End of Empire*, *Khapa Militantz* as well as the title track *Emergency Bass*.

Kala Pul also features San Francisco's very own musical sensation, Janaka Selehta, who contributes tracks from his debut album "Pushing Air". His song "Boom Qawal" and "The Escapist" fill in the auditory void of Arsalan's head while the deeply melodic "The sun rise" provides for the end credits.

In addition, the movie features a popular rendition of Hafeez Jalandhri's Abhi Tu mein Jawan Huon (I am still young) by Pakistani female singer the late (Queen) Malika Pukhraj (b1912-2004) considered to be a ghazal virtuosos extraordinaire.

## Cast Bios

**Salim Iqbal** as Arsalan. As a veteran theater actor with innumerable appearance Karachi television dramas, Salim's career has spanned the better path of two decades. He was discovered by PTV director Shehzad Khalil for his teleplay *Jaal*. Since then Salim has never hesitated from playing the anti-hero.

**Angeline Malik** as Zoya. A fresh new find for Pakistani television, Angeline was educated in London in computer animation but she started her television career as a talk show host for Indus Visions' Black & White show. Since then Angeline has starred in many hit serials, modeled and directed her own films.

**Munawar Saeed** as Professor Mirza. A true stalwart, Munawar Saeed has been acting since the glory days of Pakistan film and theater. He started his career with one of the greatest Pakistani playwright Khwaja Moinuddin doing street theater in Karachi and later went to on to do over a 100 films and teleplays.

**Ayesha Toor** as Linda. A graduate of National College of Arts, Lahore, Ayesha burst into the Pakistani music scene with Rushq's surreal video *Behti Naar*. As a model turned actress Ayesha has been featured in numerous videos and teleplays.

**Ashok Malani** as Suleiman Brohi. Ashok is an actor/producer based in San Francisco. His work includes a feature film *Khanda*, numerous stage plays and voice talent for educational program concerning spread of AIDs in Asia.

**Muder Kothari** as Naufil. Muder is a successful entrepreneur who is producing several independent films in Northern California. His theatrical acting experience earned him early acclaim for his naturalistic style. His debut film *Jackson Arms* was released in Spring 2007.

**Nauman Saleem** as Icey. This is Nauman's first acting stint, however inspired by the Sopranos and real life in Karachi, Nauman has developed good intuition when it comes to portraying a Karachi gangster.

**Mairaj-ul-Haq** as Usman. Mairaj has never acted on film before but his portrayal of a young extremist during auditions won him the part of the protagonist's younger brother.

**Ali Mumtaz** plays Michael. The multi talented Ali is an actor and teaches at the SF Academy of Arts when he is not playing cricket for the Marin Cricket Club in San Francisco Bay Area.

**Kiran Khan** as Mona. Kiran has been acting for over five years and has received acclaim from many directors for her professionalism and natural acting. Kala Pul is her first feature film.

## Characters

### **ARSALAN MIRZA (30-40 Male)**

Cold, methodical, and self serving, he has spent a better time of his life living alone. He is a man who can't escape his past and is drawn back to it, everyday by his subconscious.

### **ZOYA KAMAL (28-32 Female)**

Outgoing with a wild streak. She is sexy, confident and witty. A perfect femme fatale, but also a single mother in a Muslim country. Slightly schizophrenic and on anti-depressants.

### **PROFESSOR DAWOOD MIRZA (65+ Male)**

Ageing father who is disillusioned about Pakistan. He is westernized in his bearing and is grieving the loss of his son and complaining about the both God and General.

### **LINDA PEREZ (20-25 Female)**

A rocker chick with tattoos and tank top, she is globally connected with her generation. Feisty in your face, she likes challenges, and has a tendency to like dangerous things.

### **ICEY aka Ikhlāq Chadury (30-40 Male)**

Nemesis to Arsalan since their teenage years. He is a successful gangster turned business man. Extremely egoistical and vain, with a traditional moustache and aggressive bearing.

**SULEIMAN BROHI (40+ Male)**

A shady businessman who is also a street savvy, tough guy. He is a pragmatist who has a panache for mystical things and humanitarian work.

**MAULANA ZAHOOR (40+ Male)**

Head of fundamentalist religious party. Has a soft spot for courageous men like Arsalan who he would willing recruit them for his global *jihad*.

**NAUFIL ELAHI (30-40 Male)**

Ex ISI Chief and successful businessman. He is slandering, rich, pretentious and Zoya's ex-husband. His conglomerate, provides the mechanics for the money laundering operation.

**MICHAEL LOPEZ (20 - 25 Male)**

Artsy musician into drugs and alternative culture. Friends with Linda and interested in saving the turtles from extinction and making his music.

**USMAN MIRZA (20 Male)**

Arsalan's youngest brother who is showing serious tendency of a religious extremist.. He watches the humiliation of the Muslims all over the world on satellite channels which feeds his anger.

**MONA ELAHI (FEMALE 30-35)**

Zoya's sister and a pleasing socialite. She is practical and amused by Arsalan's wasteful childish antics to hunt for his killer's brother.