

MEDIA RELEASE

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Award-winning student film shares challenges of migrants in Melbourne

SAE Creative Media Institute student film, Ek Din, which tells the story of the contrasting fortunes of two Indian migrants living in Melbourne, has been honoured with six official selections and awards at film festivals globally. The film was written and produced by Marque La Brooy as part of his final student project, and was inspired by Marque's parents' experiences on arriving in Australia. Ek Din will be featured at Melbourne's Federation Square and SBS On Demand, on 1 December.

Ek Din, which means 'One Day' in Hindi, is about Malik and Ashmitha, two Indian migrants who have faced contrasting fortunes in their lives. One night in Melbourne, they cross paths and challenge each other's perceptions of the reality of life in Australia. Malik believes it is a place where your voice isn't heard, whereas Ashmitha says "life isn't always easy", and you have to make the most of the opportunities available. The tone of the film shifts when Malik starts his night shift at an EzyMart, prompting a change in Ashmitha's perception. To date, Ek Din has been selected at the following film festivals:

- *Melbourne Overlooked Film Festival - Audience choice award winner*
- *Indian Film Festival of Melbourne - Official selection*
- *Multicultural Film Festival - Honourable mention and official selection*
- *Melbourne Lift Off Film Festival - Official selection*
- *Sydney Lift Off Film Festival - Official selection*
- *First Time Film Makers Film Festival, Pinewood Studios UK - Official selection*

The Scanlon Foundation reported that 18 per cent of Australians have said that they have experienced discrimination because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion. The Australia Bureau of Statistics stated that 35 per cent of recent migrants said they faced hurdles in finding their first job.

Marque, whose parents originate from Sri Lanka, said coming to Australia was a "hard experience" for them: "It was challenging. Unless you're from overseas, it's difficult to understand the obstacles they've had to overcome."

"Adapting to a new lifestyle was hard for my parents. They were always hopeful and optimistic, but at the same time there are experiences, which you see in Ek Din, which make it difficult for anyone coming from overseas to truly connect with a new culture."

Ek Din was directed by fellow SAE film student, Dion Wheeler. Marque added that he was keen to work with Dion to create a "powerful" film that illustrated the realities of some migrants who live in Australia.



“Dion and the crew all come from multicultural backgrounds, so it ended up becoming a shared story that reflected the lives of friends and family who have had to overcome the same obstacles as Malik.”

SAE General Manager, Dr Luke McMillan congratulated Marque on the success of Ek Din, and the importance of diversity and inclusivity at SAE.

“I would like to praise the production team and cast on the fantastic success of Ek Din,” Dr McMillan said. “Students at SAE are encouraged to reflect on their own experiences, and create work that contributes to our ongoing view of the world.”

“SAE’s communities across Australia are an inclusive tapestry of multicultural backgrounds, which inspires a creative and collaborative culture - providing our students with a truly global outlook, once they graduate.”

SAE Creative Media Institute provides students with the experience, skills, equipment and connections to succeed in the industry. Find out more at sae.edu.au.

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About SAE

SAE Creative Media Institute is the place for creatives and innovators. Since 1976 we’ve been the leaders in creative media education across animation, audio, creative industries, creative technologies, design, film, games, and music. Every year, we support students globally to develop the skills and experience needed to carve successful careers. Students enjoy access to the latest technology and are taught by industry-experienced faculty, while putting their skills to the test in small class environments. Our graduates become part of a highly-respected global community of creatives that’s been around for over 40 years. We pride ourselves on being technically explorative, transformative and brave through our range of creative media programs, from short courses and professional training through to bachelor and postgraduate degrees. In Australia, our programs are delivered at campuses in Sydney, Brisbane, Byron Bay, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide. SAE is a part of Navitas Pty Ltd. More information about SAE is available at sae.edu.au.

For more information:

Barry de Silva, National Communications Manager

Phone: 0498 004 023

Email: b.desilva@sae.edu



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