



THE HALFMOON FILES

by Philip Scheffner



SYNOPSIS

"There once was a man.

This man came into the European war.

Germany captured this man.

He wishes to return to India.

If God has mercy, he will make peace soon.

This man will go away from here."

Mall Singh's crackling words are heard as he spoke into the phonographic funnel on 11th December 1916 in the city of Wünsdorf, near Berlin.

90 years later, Mall Singh is a number on an old Shellac record in an archive - one amongst hundreds of voices of colonial soldiers of the First World War.

The recordings were produced as the result of an unique alliance between the military, the scientific community and the entertainment industry. In his experimental search "The Halfmoon Files", Philip Scheffner follows the traces of these voices to the origin of their recording. Like a memory game - which remains incomplete right until the end - he uncovers pictures and sounds that revive the ghosts of the past. His protagonists' words intersect along the concentric spirals the story follows. Those who...

2007

87 min

FORMAL CATEGORIES

History, War/Peace, Human Rights

CONTENT CATEGORIES

Experimental

PREMIERE

Berlin, Germany (2007)

PRODUCTION COMPANY

[pong film GmbH](#)

Skalitzer Str. 62

10997 Berlin

Germany

info@pong-berlin.de

<http://www.pong-berlin.de>

LINKS / REFERENCE

<http://halfmoonfiles.de/en>

FESTIVALS

Tri Continental Film Festival India 2008

"Retours vers le futur" - Chateauroux Filmfestival 2008

Deutsches Filmfestival Israel 2008

Bangkok Experimental Film Festival (BEFF 5) 2008

Crossing Europe Filmfestival Linz 2008

Courtisane - short film, video and new media Festival Ghent 2008

Dokumentarfilmwoche Hamburg 2008

Vancouver International Film Festival 2008

57. Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin 2007 | Forum

18. Festival International du Documentaire Marseille 2007