



# 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...

## FESTIVALS

Tri Continental Film Festival India 2008  
"Retours vers le futur" - Chateuroux 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  
19. Festival International du Documentaire Marseille 2007

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](mailto:info@pong-berlin.de)

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

### LINKS / REFERENCE

<http://halfmoonfiles.de/en>