



Sari Soldiers

90 minutes, 2007, USA Director: Julie Bridgham

Synopsis

Filmed over three years during the most historic and pivotal time in Nepal's modern history, *The Sari Soldiers* is an extraordinary story of six women's courageous efforts to shape Nepal's future in the midst of an escalating civil war against Maoist insurgents, and the King's crackdown on civil liberties. When Devi, mother of a 15-year-old girl, witnesses her niece being tortured and murdered by the Royal Nepal Army, she speaks publicly about the atrocity. The army abducts her daughter in retaliation, and Devi embarks on a three-year struggle to uncover her daughter's fate and see justice done.

The *Sari Soldiers* follows Devi and five other brave women, including Maoist Commander Kranti; Royal Nepal Army Officer Rajani; Krishna, a monarchist from a rural community who leads a rebellion against the Maoists; Mandira, a human rights lawyer; and Ram Kumari, a young student activist organising the protests to establish democracy. The *Sari Soldiers* intimately delves into the extraordinary journey of these women on all sides of the conflict, through the democratic revolution that reshapes the country's future.

The film has already won prizes at the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival, the best Socio-Political Film at Montreal plus prizes at Warsaw and the Tri-Continental Festival

Director/Producer Julie Bridgham has been working in documentary television for the last ten years and is based in New York. She has lived in Nepal off and on for over five years where she produced and directed numerous documentaries including several for the United Nations, as well as the independent documentary feature "At the Edge of Sufficient" focusing on two families of traders in Nepal's most mountainous and isolated region. She directed and produced "Indentured Daughters," a documentary on Nepali girls sent into bonded labour, as well as the films "Hope in the Himalayas" and "Children of Hope."

Co-Producer Ramyata Limbu is a veteran Nepali journalist, and for the last fifteen years worked as a journalist for the Nepali Times, Kantipur Publications and as a freelance journalist for the Inter-Press News Agency. She co-produced and shot the documentary "Dreams of Chomolungma" for PBS's Frontline World, and co-produced and shot the award winning feature independent documentary "Daughters Of Everest" which followed the first team of all women, Nepali Sherpa climbers to ascend Everest. For six years she was a producer for Young Asia Television, producing programs focusing on social issues in Nepal. Ramyata is also the Director of the internationally acclaimed Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival, and is currently working with the United Nations Mission in Nepal.

There is currently a fragile peace in Nepal with a coalition government trying to move forward. Both sides of the conflict have put down their arms and there were peaceful elections after years of war. This film is important in keeping