

**DIVIDED WE FALL: AMERICANS IN THE AFTERMATH**  
A true story from New Moon Productions

Production Office:  
401 S. Barrington Ave. Suite 107  
Los Angeles, CA 90049  
www.dwf-film.com

## Press Release

Contact: Tracy Wells  
Title: Communications Director, DWF  
Phone: 803-528-1003  
Email: dwfilm@gmail.com

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### **FILM TEAM LAUNCHES FINAL PRODUCTION CROSS-COUNTRY TO CHRONICLE POST-9/11 HATE AND VIOLENCE**

LOS ANGELES, July 13 -- Final production begins today on *Divided We Fall: Americans in the Aftermath* (anticipated release: early 2006), an independent film that follows a student's journey documenting prejudice and hate crimes in the Sikh, Muslim, and Arab American communities during the aftermath of 9/11.

The story centers on third-generation Sikh American Valarie Kaur, a junior at Stanford University, as she drives across America with her turbaned 18-year-old cousin as cameraman, interviewing victims of hate crimes, violence, and religious persecution in the months after September 11, 2001. Now, four years later, New Moon Productions sends a film crew to re-trace Kaur's steps across America, revisiting and interviewing the people she first met on the road.

As Kaur travels through California, Arizona, New York, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C., she will chronicle her journey on an online blog: <http://ValarieKaur.blogspot.com/>. The finished film will explore broader themes of religion, fear, and prejudice.

The crew is led by director Sharat Raju, whose 2003 short film *American Made* ([www.americanmadethemovie.com](http://www.americanmadethemovie.com)), about a Sikh family stranded in the desert, won seventeen international awards, including the Student Visionary Award at the Tribeca Film Festival. Raju reunites his production team from *American Made* to produce *Divided We Fall*. The team has received both a New Filmmaker Grant from Panavision and a generous contribution from Eastman Kodak, but the film's support has been mostly grassroots, through individual contributions.

"Many Americans know that hate crimes took place after 9/11. But we, as a nation, have not yet understood the impact of such violence, or how it continues to divide us," Kaur said on the eve of

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her second journey. “With the tragic bombings in London, we are soberly reminded of the pressing need to understand the consequences of terrorism on innocent people, especially minority communities who must live with the fear of backlash.”

Sikhism is a religion that originated in northern India in the 15<sup>th</sup> century C.E. (A.D.) and stresses equality among all people, and service to others. There are approximately half a million Sikhs in America, and 23 million worldwide. For more information on the history and beliefs of Sikhism, visit SikhNet (<https://www.sikhnet.com/s/SikhIntro>).

For more on the film, to receive updates, or to become involved, visit the official site: [www.dwf-film.com](http://www.dwf-film.com)

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To request an interview with Valarie Kaur or Sharat Raju, contact:

Tracy Wells

Communications Director

Phone: 803-528-1003

Email: [dwfilm@gmail.com](mailto:dwfilm@gmail.com)