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SO FAR FROM INDIA

INDIA/USA, 1982, 52 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: Mira Nair

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Mitch Epstein

EDITOR: Ann Schaetzel

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In the early 1980's, the UN High Commission predicted that by the year 2000, the problem of "refugeeism" would reach staggering proportions. I've programmed the following two films, *So Far from India* and *Falasha* with this in mind. I also find them artful and excellent reflections on a problem which grows geometrically each year, and involves millions of the homeless and the displaced.

Miss Nair is an Indian filmmaker living in New York. Her award winning first film, *Jama Masjid Street Journal*, was broadcast on public television in America and India. *So Far from India* employs a documentary style to tell a story about America. A young Indian moves to New York, ostensibly to raise enough money to send for his wife and young son. But in America he catches a glimpse of a different way of life, of hugely different possibilities, and gradually he's seduced by it. When he goes



So Far From India

back to India, he has a decision to make.

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