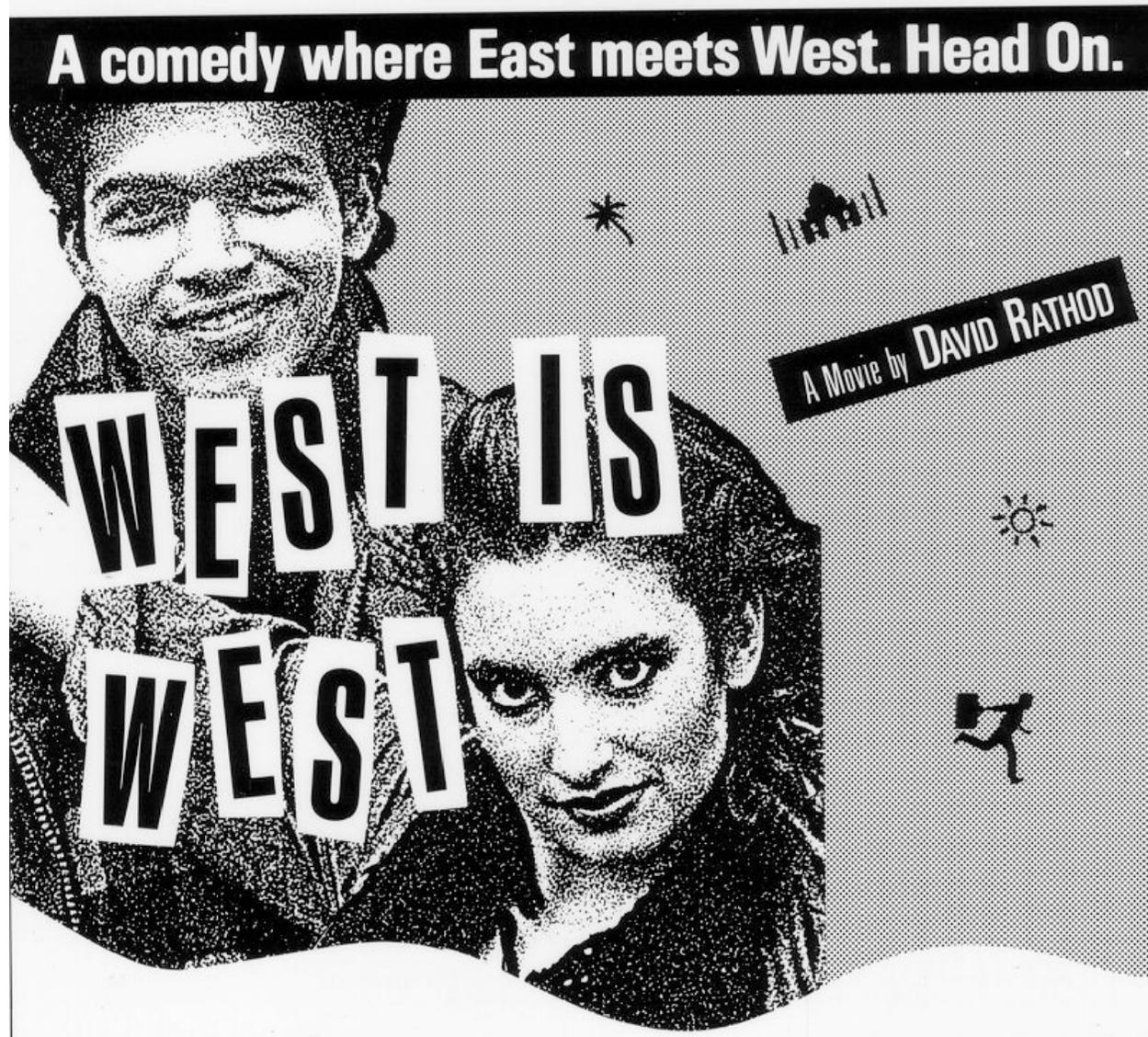


Milestone Film & Video
presents



A Milestone Film Release
PO Box 128 • Harrington Park, NJ 07640 • Phone: (201) 767-3117 • Fax: (201) 767-3035
Email: MileFilms@aol.com • Website: www.milestonefilms.com

CREDITS:

Directed and Edited by David Rathod
Produced by..... Cristi Janaki Rathod and David Rathod
Screenplay by David Rathod
Script Consultants..... Ned Miller and Jim Block
Director of Photography Christopher Tufty
Sound Recordist/Mixer Andy Wiskes
Art Director Cristi Janaki Rathod
Production Manager Valerie Russell
Location Manager Larry Reed
Sound Editors..... Devon Miller and Tim Ayers
Music..... Sheila Chandra and Jai Uttal
Co-Art Director..... Kenneth Gwin
Processing and Prints..... Monaco Laboratories
Sound Facility..... SRO
Arriflex Camera supplied by.... Lee Utterbach Inc.

CAST:

Vikram..... Ashutosh Gowariker
Sue Heidi Carpenter
Mrs. Shah Pearl Padamsee
Mr. Klassen..... Rex Delgado
Anjuli..... Sumati Patel
Nick (Moving Man)..... Bernie Segal
George (Transvestite) Eric Jody Ray
Deepak..... Subash Rane
Priest..... Robert Brauns
Gail Janene Mitchell
Lenore..... Etta Vendetta
Customs Inspector..... Cal Schlesinger
Tweety Bird..... Ron Murphy
Neighbor Woman Karen Stern
Checkout Woman Ruth Marks
Jack Steve Dewitt
Man In Marin House..... Jim Simpson

Thanks to the Winos on the street, Old Man at Hotel, Second Agent, Blonde at Party, Punk Girls and Boys plus Shoppers, Street People and Movie Goers.

Color. 1:33.1. 35mm. 80 minutes. Shot on location in San Francisco.
1987.

Originally released by East West Classics.

SYNOPSIS:



Young student Vikram Desai (Ashutosh Gowariker) arrives in San Francisco from Bombay, hoping to study engineering at UC Berkeley. Stranded by his host family's unexpected relocation, he finds himself with little money and uncertain plans for college. Undaunted, Vikram decides he wants to stay in America. In order to conserve his money he gets a room and a job in a seedy transient hotel, which turns out to be run by a clever and formidable Indian immigrant, Mrs. Shah (Pearl Padamsee).

Vikram is mesmerized by the bizarre, colorful, and materialistic world of modern America. The freedom he has seen in American movies draws Vikram to a local theater specializing in horror flicks, where he meets Sue, an attractive teenager with dreams and an offbeat view of life. Through her, he discovers the subterranean side of the city's music scene. And through him, she learns about Hindi films, which she considers alien – and therefore delightful.

When Vikram's application to Berkeley is rejected, the Department of Immigration plans to deport him. Confused and pressured, he hatches a crazy scheme: he proposes marriage to Sue, the only American woman he knows. She finds the idea absurd until, in desperation, Vikram offers to pay her \$5,000. When she asks him for the money, he jokingly suggests that he steal something – on the condition that she go along with him on the caper. She readily agrees. Inexperienced and awkward, they bungle the job, narrowly escaping arrest. Their tension and relief draw the two closer. Vikram faces the fact he'll be deported immediately, but Sue surprises him with an impulsive solution.

Production Notes



David Rathod gained exposure to diverse cultures and the world of filmmaking at an early age. Born in Chicago in 1952 to an American painter and a Bombay filmmaker, Rathod lived in India during his early years. He studied filmmaking at Southern Illinois University in the early 1970s, then took a break to work in the thriving Indian film industry. During that period, Rathod served as an apprentice to the distinguished Bengali directors Mrinal Sen and Satyajit Ray.

Rathod moved to San Francisco in 1976, Rathod edited documentary and industrial films and also wrote, produced, directed and edited two short dramatic films, *Distant Traveler* and *Henry's River*.

On forming Rathod Productions in 1984 with his wife, Cristi Janaki Rathod, he has directed numerous commercials as well as award-winning rock videos for major recording artists including Huey Lewis and the News, Eddie Money and the Bangles. In 1988, he directed *The Patels of San Francisco*, a documentary for public television station KQED on the Patels, the Indian family that owns and runs most of the motels and hotels in Northern California. He continues today making films and music videos in San Francisco.

Cristi Janaki Rathod has worked as equipment development coordinator on such blockbuster films as *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, *Return of the Jedi*, *Star Trek II*, *E.T.*, *Raiders of the Los Ark* and *Poltergeist*.

Her technical interests in filmmaking developed when she studied electro-mechanical engineering and was subsequently hired by the special effects division of Lucasfilm Ltd. As a partner in Rathod

Productions, she has produced and art-directed all of their various projects, including commercials and rock videos.

Born and raised in San Francisco, she majored in Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, and also spent several years studying Indian classical vocal music, both in California with Ali Akbar Khan and in India.

Director of Photography Christopher Tufty has worked in the film industry since 1975 on feature films, rock videos and commercials. Tufty spent his childhood in Bombay, where his father was a diplomat.

Sound recordist and mixer Andy Wiskes, a Bay Area resident, has also worked with the Rathods on many projects. His production and post production credits include *The Right Stuff*, *Where the River Runs Black* and *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*.

Musician composers Sheila Chandra and Jai Uttal don't work together, but their compositions featured in the film represent the fusion of both Indian and Western styles of music. Chandra has recorded many albums including some for her own label, Indipop as well as Virgin Records. Uttal spent many years in India studying vocal and instrumental music. Combining this with his training and experience in jazz, rock and modern classical forms, he has created a music that brings together many cultures and elements. Jai performs his music on electric guitar, voice and a variety of Indian classical and folk instruments.

CAST:



Ashutosh Gowariker (Vikram) made his first appearance in an American film with *West is West*. Since then he has become a star of the Indian cinema and an important director in the Bollywood industry. His latest film, *Lagaan*, was nominated by the Academy Awards® for Best Foreign Language Film.



Heidi Carpenter (Sue) studied at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. She is currently an actress living in Hollywood.



Pearl Padamsee (Mrs. Shah) is Bombay's noted avant-garde stage director. Her first exposure to Western audiences came through her leading role with Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson in the epilogue to the *Raj Quartet* entitled "Staying On."

©1992 David Rathod.

Milestone Film & Video

Milestone enters its eighteenth year of operation with a reputation for releasing classic cinema masterpieces, new foreign films, groundbreaking documentaries and American independent features. Thanks to the company's work in rediscovering and releasing important films such as Charles Burnett's *Killer of Sheep*, Mikhail Kalatozov's *I Am Cuba*, Marcel Ophuls's *The Sorrow and the Pity* and Alfred Hitchcock's *Bon Voyage* and *Aventure Malgache*, Milestone has long occupied a position as one of the country's most influential independent distributors. In November 2007, Milestone was awarded the Fort Lee Film Commission's first Lewis Selznick Award for contributions to film history. In January 2008, the Los Angeles Film Critics Association chose to give its first Legacy of Cinema Award "to Dennis Doros and Amy Heller of Milestone Film & Video for their tireless efforts on behalf of film restoration and preservation." And in March 2008, Milestone became an Anthology Film Archive's Film Preservation honoree.

In 1995, Milestone received the first Special Archival Award from the National Society of Film Critics for its restoration and release of *I Am Cuba*. *L.A. Weekly* chose Milestone as the 1999 "Indie Distributor of the Year." In 2004, the National Society of Film Critics again awarded Milestone with a Film Heritage award. That same year the International Film Seminars presented the company its prestigious Leo Award *and* the New York Film Critics Circle voted a Special Award "in honor of 15 years of restoring classic films." In 2006, Milestone/Milliarium won for Best Rediscovery in the Il Cinema Ritrovato DVD Awards for its release of *Winter Soldier*.

Important contemporary filmmakers as Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola, Barbara Kopple, Woody Allen, Steven Soderbergh, Thelma Schoonmaker, Jonathan Demme and Dustin Hoffman have co-presented Milestone restorations.

"They care and they love movies."
— Martin Scorsese

"Milestone Film & Video is an art-film distributor that has released some of the most distinguished new movies (along with seldom-seen vintage movie classics) of the past decade"
— Stephen Holden, *New York Times*