SHANI GREWAL – Writer/Director Biography

A professional Film and TV drama Writer/Director, Shani developed his early career directing a short film Vengeance, one of six finalists for an Oscar nomination and distributed by 20th Century Fox as support to Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Commando*.

Subsequently, he became Head of Production at Dandelion Distribution and String of Pearls plc where he directed *Frightmares* starring John Hurt.

Shani has written and directed four feature films: *After Midnight* for Film 4; *Double X* for New World; the independent cult classic *Guru in 7*; and *Ride the Snake* (www.ridethesnake.co.uk) currently streaming on Amazon, Apple TV, Tubi and YouTube.

He has developed several feature film screenplays with the UK Film Council, Telefilm Canada, Film 4, the Yorkshire Media Production Agency, Lifetime International, the Playboy Channel and Miramax. His most recent screenplay - *77 Minutes* – beat 2000 other entries to win Best Horror Screenplay at the Austin Film Festival.

As a drama director, Shani has worked for nearly every UK broadcaster including the BBC (*Doctors, Grease Monkeys, Casualty, Holby City*, winning a Peabody award as part of the BBC's DoNation Week for directing a *Casualty/Holby* special; Mersey TV (*Brookside, Grange Hill, Hollyoaks*); Lime Pictures (*Hollyoaks Bollywood Special*); Tiger Aspect/Sky (*Le Hip Parade*); Hewland International/Sky (*Dream Team*); Carlton TV (developed a sitcom *Rags to Riches*); Sony TV Asia (*Soul Asia, Welcome to Suriname*).

He has directed commercials in Kuala Lumpur and TV drama series: *Doctori de Mame* for Media Pro and Acasa TV in Bucharest; four seasons of *Makutano Junction* for Mediae in Kenya; and *Mpeke Town*, a 13-part drama series again for Mediae in Uganda.

Shani also lectures at the Met Film School, Ealing Studios.

He has four feature films in development:

77 Minutes
Logline: ""A heavily pregnant woman has just 77 minutes to cross a quarantined, collapsing town and reach the last plane out—forced to trust three strangers who may be her only chance of survival… or her greatest threat."

Heart Love
Logline: "To save her dying son, a desperate mother agrees to have her husband murdered for the insurance money — only to discover she has made a deal with a serial killer."

Crime of the Century
Logline: "In 1979 Southall, five early 20's British-Asian friends, 'nowhere men' caught between two cultures, spend one last summer together before marriage, family and the demands of growing up begin to pull them apart."

The Lords of Nirvana Trilogy – Silas Gore
Logline: "Rock star Nic Donner's creative dry spell ends when he is possessed by the spirit of a long dead 60's rock star whose aim is to complete his masterpiece rock opera – the story of rise and fall of Lucifer."

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