



PHOTOGRAPH: ARNO

PULLING STUNTS

Jumping out of windows and crashing fast cars is all in a day's work for Nitasha Bhambree

A head-on collision with your husband coming from the other end of the road might seem scary, but for New York-based stunt performer Nitasha Bhambree and her husband, Declan Mulvey, it's all part of the job. Bhambree has performed stunts in movies like *The Dark Knight Rises* and *Now You See Me*. We break her escapades down into easy-to-digest numbers:

She trained for **15** years in martial arts – giving **10** years to taekwondo in high school, and later, dedicating **5** years to stunt fighting.

She has **55** television and film stunts to her credit so far. But her big breakthrough came in *Premium Rush* in 2012. “We worked for five weeks to capture all the chase sequences in the film.”

“**1,000** extras, **50** stunt performers and a shoot spread over **6** days on the streets of New York” – that’s how Bhambree sums up her stint on *The Dark Knight Rises*, in which she played a cop and tackled Bane’s army.



Bhambree is a regular on **3** shows: She’s stepped in for Archie Panjabi in *The Good Wife* and now appears for Parminder Nagra on *The Blacklist* and Sarah Shahi in *Person of Interest*.

She’s had only **1** serious injury, in which she fractured her collarbone while filming for a television show.

AKSHITA NAHAR JAIN

SHORT CUT

Take nine actors and pack them into 12 tense minutes, and you have actor-director Manjinder Virk’s award-winning film

FILM

London-based actor-director Manjinder Virk, who has been seen in the BAFTA-winning documentary *The Arbor*, has written, directed and produced *Out of Darkness*, the 12-minute experimental short film that’s caught the festival circuit’s attention. It premiered at the BFI London Film Festival, and later, at the Aesthetica Short Film Festival in York, it fetched top honours – including Overall Festival Winner and Best Drama.

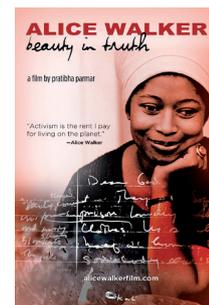
It’s the story of an aid worker told through nine different voices. The actors – including Tom Hiddleston, Riz Ahmed and Virk herself – deliver compelling monologues in an

austere black-and-white setting, their slightest tremble or faraway look captured in intimate close-ups. “It’s almost one person, but you hear it through different voices,” says Virk of the abstract treatment. She began writing it as a play about what happens to people when they are faced with death or have seen it at close quarters. Virk was particularly keen to explore how people respond to war situations, an aspect she deftly weaves into the story through sound – with gunshots and bomb blasts raising the tension. “Aid workers, soldiers and war photographers often keep going back to war situations,” says Virk. “And there is something to be said about feeling alive in death.”

SONAM SAVLANI



STILLS COURTESY PHIL SHARP



WALK THE LINE

British-Asian film-maker Pratibha Parmar’s latest, *Alice Walker: Beauty In Truth*, follows Walker’s rise from a sharecropper’s daughter to a Pulitzer Prize-winning author (*The Color Purple*). It features free-wheeling interviews in which Walker gets candid about her interracial marriage and the social constraints she dealt with. Bonus: Interviews with contemporaries Quincy Jones, Steven Spielberg and Whoopi Goldberg.

[Alicewalkerfilm.com](http://alicewalkerfilm.com)