

Jharu Katha

Broom Stories

Synopsis

Steeped in the realities of caste, the broom is both a source of livelihood for millions of people and the repository of traditional knowledge. Even so, it stigmatizes entire communities through its associations with pollution and untouchability. Highlighting the humiliation and robust survival of India's most downtrodden caste groups, whose hopes are at once catalyzed and complicated by the politics of reservations, *Jharu-katha* works towards a larger envisioning of waste in urban India. Drawing on extensive fieldwork in remote corners of rural Rajasthan and the by-lanes of Jodhpur city, this film on the broom engages in conversation with a wide spectrum of broom-makers. Through the counterpoint of their voices, the film covers wide ground in opening the contradictory values and belief-systems of the broom.

Navroze Contractor

Navroze Contractor is the cinematographer for many award winning feature films. Some of them are: *'Duvidha'* directed by Mani Kaul, *'22nd June 1897'*, *'Limited Mansuki'* and *'Devi Ahilya Bai'* by Nachiket Patwardhan, *'Percy'* by Pervez Merwanji, *'Love In The Time Of Malaria'* directed by Sanjiv Shah and *'Frames'*, by Chetan Shah.

He is one of the biggest contributors to the documentary scene worldwide, and his name is attached to such legendary films such as *'Balad Of Pabu'* by George Luneau, *'Dreams Of The Dragon's Children'*, shot entirely in China, by Pierre Hoffmann, *'Are You Listening'* by Martha Stewart, and the *'Last House In Bombay'* by Luke Jennings, *'All In The Family'* by Ketan Mehta, *'The Advocate'* by Deepa Dhanraj, and *'Famine 87'* by Sanjiv Shah.

He has had five one man shows of his still photographs: three in India, two in San Francisco, USA. His photographs of jazz musicians are in the collection of the Smithsonian Museum, Washington DC, USA. He has taken photography and film workshops at the School of Architecture, Ahmedabad, NID at Ahmedabad, IIM in Bangalore, Pomona State University, California, USA and at the University of the Andes at Merida, Venezuela. He particularly enjoys taking photography, films and art workshops with primary school children around India.