

JIGSAW Company presents:



ASIAN VIBES London – 26’/52’ documentary
Directed by Ashim Ahluwalia



Asian Vibes London is an essential, and much overdue, guide to the contemporary British Asian music scene. The program begins by delving into the gritty background of this cultural explosion, beginning with the First Generation of Indian immigrants in the 1950s. The homesickness of this first generation was, at first, appeased by old Hindi film songs and religious music brought from back home. As subsequent generations began to grow up in British factory towns and distant suburbs, new forms were needed to describe the aspirations and fears that were relevant to this new landscape.



Asian Vibes London traces the histories of these hybrid cultural forms, beginning with UK Bhangra in the 1970s to the post-Asian Underground movements of today. *Asian Vibes* includes interviews with a whole range of personalities, ranging from Cornershop, Asian Dub Foundation, FunDaMental and Dj Pathaan, to an upcoming breed of artists and producers such as Swaraj Records, Charged, Invasian, Swami and DJ Juttla. In this sense, *Asian Vibes* not only looks to the past but also offers a preview of the British Asian music of tomorrow.



Asian Vibes London also looks past the fashion and the glamour of popular music to reveal hidden observations on class, race and identity. It uncovers the crucial role that contemporary South Asian music - from breakbeat, qawwali and bhangra through art rock, ambient electronica and garage/ house have played in the formation of a new urban cultural politics. Ultimately, *Asian Vibes* is a beginner's blueprint of the British Asian music scene, not only offering fresh perspectives and historical contexts, but also documenting some of the newest, most exciting music in Britain today.

