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# MULHAPAR

**A film by Paolo Poloni**

with Marvi Razzaq and Somera Massidh; Rani, Madhia and George Massidh, Samina and Mohammed Razzaq; Naziran Choudhry, Jakoub Choudhry, Sadiq Massidh

Switzerland 2014 / 93 min. / colour / 1:1.77 / 5.1 Dolby Digital / DCP 25fps

**World Premier *Festival del Film Locarno – Semaine de la Critique***

**8/10/2014, 11am – Teatro Kursaal**

**8/11/2014, 6.30pm – L'altra Sala**

**Production:**

RECK Filmproduktion Zurich, Franziska Reck, [info@reckfilm.ch](mailto:info@reckfilm.ch); [www.reckfilm.ch](http://www.reckfilm.ch)

**Distribution Switzerland:**

LOOK NOW! Zurich, [info@looknow.ch](mailto:info@looknow.ch); [www.looknow.ch](http://www.looknow.ch)

**World Sale:**

Rise and Shine World Sales Berlin, [info@riseandshine-berlin.de](mailto:info@riseandshine-berlin.de); [www.riseandshine-berlin.de](http://www.riseandshine-berlin.de)

## Synopsis

Mulhapar is a village on the great Punjab plain in Pakistan. A country now associated by many with the violence and intolerance reported so often in the media.

Instead of focusing on those dark aspects and prejudices, this film goes to the heart of humanity itself, in a mixed community of rich and poor, Muslims and Christians, young and old, male and female. MULHAPAR interweaves their family destinies, individual stories and anecdotes into a living mosaic.

With its richly diverse images and philosophically pensive narrative, MULHAPAR is a poetic film committed to showing up the essence and diversity of human existence in a respectful, natural and undogmatic manner. In fact MULHAPAR is the story of a village that might be almost anywhere in the world.



## Director's Statement

Pakistan is omnipresent in global headlines today, usually in the worst possible light. But headlines never tell the whole truth – the reality is complex, contradictory and full of detail.

This film was inspired by curiosity about a country always in the news but hardly known, and by the need to tell its story sincerely and undogmatically.

At least that was the original intention, but the film soon focuses on just one village – Mulhapar. It goes to the heart of humanity in a mixed community of rich and poor, Muslims and Christians, young and old, men and women. MULHAPAR interweaves their family destinies, individual stories and anecdotes into a living mosaic, a coherent film narration – a typical microcosm that perhaps stands for Pakistan, but much more – inch' Allah! – for humanity itself.

Documentary films in my opinion attempt to fictionalize reality, through moods and atmospheres, through their montage, through an epic tempo. This may result in universality, but only maybe. Adopting a programmatic attitude means subjecting oneself to a dominating theme and losing one's freedom, just as the film characters do. The characters, whether in a feature film or a documentary, do not have to stand for anything. Nor must they carry the burden of the director's intentions by serving any particular cause or idea - they simply have to be themselves.

MULHAPAR is not intended merely to open up a foreign land for western viewers. They should ask themselves: isn't it the same with us as well? And: what will become of Marvi, the madcap, when she is 18? And finally: is this now Pakistan?

If you ask how I got involved in this project, the answer is that it simply happened that way. My previous film THE ITALIAN was set in a pizzeria, and one of the pizzaioli comes from Mulhapar. So he took me to his village.

That is how everything started.

## Cast

Marvi Razzaq and Somera Massidh

Rani, Madhia and George Massidh

Samina and Mohammed Razzaq

Naziran Choudhry

Jakoub Choudhry, Sadiq Massidh

## Crew

Director

Paolo Poloni

Written by

Paolo Poloni

Producer

Franziska Reck

Director of Photography

Paolo Poloni

Editing

Paolo Poloni

Consulting and Supervision Editing

Fee Liechti

Sound Recording

Allah Ditta Choudhry

Music

Cyril Boehler

Assistant Director, Translations

Allah Ditta Choudhry

Sound Designer

Peter von Siebenthal

Sound Mixer

Felix Bussmann, SDS

Colour Correction

Ueli Nueesch, lab54a

Artwork

Brigitte Lampert (graphic), Silke Kueste (illustration)

Title Design

Peter Volkart

Line Producer CH

Andrea Buergi

Clea Wanner

A production of

RECK Filmproduktion Zürich

With the participation of

Migros Kulturprozent

Succès Cinema

Bundesamt für Kultur (EDI) Schweiz

Aargauer Kuratorium

George Foundation

Katholische Kirche im Kanton Zürich

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## Bio- and Filmography Director

### Paolo Poloni

Born in 1954 in Lucerne, Switzerland. Studied Romance languages and literature, and Philosophy in Zurich and Paris. Since 1989 he works as a filmmaker in Zurich.

#### FILMS

2014	Mulhapar	feature documentary
2011	Der Italiener	feature documentary
2008	Salonica	feature documentary
2005	Una strada chiamata Giuseppe	TV documentary TSI
2004	Die Ratte, die Stadt, das Gift	TV documentary ARTE
2003	Viaggio a Misterbianco	feature documentary
1998	Fondovalle	Fiction SRG/TSI
1996	Les rites de passage	TV documentary TSR
1993	Asmara	feature documentary
1991	Witschi geht	feature documentary

## Bio- and Filmography Producer

### RECK FILMPRODUCTIONS GmbH

RECK Filmproductions was founded in 2000 by **Franziska Reck** and focuses mainly on the development and production of documentary and experimental film – especially film essays – for cinema and television.

Franziska Reck has been actively involved in the world of film for twenty years, promoting independent filmmaking in Switzerland. Beginning as a film distributor at the Filmcoopi in Zurich (1983–1990), she continued building up the distribution and promotion of Swiss films as director of the IGV/CID (1993-2000) and as freelance film producer herself (since 1990).

RECK Filmproductions stands for – and features – interest in the lifestyles and the diverse forms in which people express themselves, as well as the fascination in images – whether documentary, staged or experimental in nature. In the centre of the search are human encounters, images depicting what happens when different cultures come together.

## FILMS

**2014 MULHAPAR** by Paolo Poloni, Feature Documentary

**2014 SHANA – THE WOLF’S MUSIC** by Nino Jacusso, Feature Film  
„Best Youth Cinema“ Festival Edmonton (2014); „Best Film“ Vittorio Veneto (2014)

**2013 MILLIONS CAN WALK** by Christoph Schaub und Kamal Musale, Feature Documentary

**2013 CESAR’S GRILL** by Dario Aguirre, Feature Documentary  
Special Mention: Max Ophüls Filmfest Competition 2013

**2012 CHRISTMAS IN MULHAPAR** by Paolo Poloni, TV Documentary

**2012 ROOM 606** by Peter Volkart, Short Fiction  
Best Swiss Shortfilm NIFF 2012; Méliès d’Argent 2012; Méliès d’Or

**2012 AHIMSA – THE STRENGTH OF NON-VIOLENCE** by Karl Saurer, Feature Documentary

**2012 ACTUALLY, WE WERE PLANNING TO GO BACK HOME** by Yusuf Yeşilöz, Documentary

**2011 SIRA – WHEN THE HALF MOON SPEAKS** by Sandra Gysi & Ahmed Abdel Mohsen, Feature Documentary,  
Premiere Competition Visions du Réel Nyon 2011, Price for Best Documentary IFFI, Innsbruck 2011

**2010 AGAINST ALL ODDS** by Anka Schmid, Feature Documentary, Premiere Competition Generation Berlinale  
2011, Zurich Film Price 2011 «Best Documentary»

**2010 BÖDÄLÄ – DANCE THE RHYTHM** by Gitta Gsell, Feature Documentary  
Public Price Solothurn Film Festival 2010

**2009 ISA HESSE-RABINOVITCH – The Movie Game** by Anka Schmid, Documentary

**2008 FEDERICA DE CESCO** by Nino Jacusso, Feature Documentary

**2008 MONSIEUR SELAVY** by Peter Volkart, Short Film  
Nomination Swiss Film Price 2009  
Special Mention Leuven Int. Short Film Festival 2009

**2008 THE LOVE OF MUSIC** by Yusuf Yeşilöz, Documentary

**2007 RAJA'S JOURNEY** by Karl Saurer, Feature Documentary  
Würdigungspreis der Stadt Freistad (A)

**2006 SWEEPING ADDIS** by Corinne Kuenzli, Documentary

**2006 BETWEEN THE WORLDS** by Yusuf Yeşilöz, Documentary  
Christian Berger Documentary Film Price, IFFI, Innsbruck (A)

**2005 IRENE SCHWEIZER** by Gitta Gsell, Feature Documentary

**2005 TERRA INCOGNITA** by Peter Volkart, Short Film  
Best Swiss Short Film 2005; Zurich Film Price 2005; Nomination Lutin 2007;  
16 International Festival Awards

**2004 NAMIBIA CROSSINGS** by Peter Liechti, Film Essay  
Nomination Swiss Film Price 2005 «Best Documentary»

**2003 DIETER ROTH** by Edith Jud, Feature Documentary  
Award FIFAP Paris 2004; 2004 Zurich Film Price for cameraman Pio Corradi

**2002 ONOMA** by Nino Jacusso and Gitta Gsell, 9 Short Films for Expo 02

**2001 VIRUS-L** by Gitta Gsell, Experimental Short Film

**2000 TRANSITO** by Nino Jacusso, Documentary  
Nomination Prix IRIS Europa

### In Production:

**WILD WOMEN – GENTLE BEASTS** by Anka Schmid, Feature Documentary