

MILKTOOTH INC PRESENTS

STITCHED

DIRECTED BY LORENA LOURENCO

WRITTEN BY PRATIMA MANI



PRODUCER NAOMI SEDGWICK ASSOCIATE PRODUCER FIONA TAGLIANTE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY EURICA YU STARRING PRATIMA MANI VICK KRISHNA FAREEDA AHMED MCKENNA COX SUNI M ARINDAM GHOSH SHRAVAN AMIN THOMAS POWERS ANDY KHAN MAY DAVID CARL DYLAN LESCH JOEL RONSON ILIANA INOCENCIO DAVID WALKER EDITOR MARIA FREIRE PRODUCTION DESIGNER ELLA MURRAY

LOGLINE

A South Asian diaspora woman, tired of dating people who can't keep up with her mutable cultural identity, decides to "frankenstein" together the ideal partner.

THE STORY



Leela, a South Asian diaspora woman without a hometown or fixed identity, struggles to find love. A string of lackluster dates produces disappointing results: no one seems able to sufficiently code-switch to the various cultural terrains of her life.

Upon learning that her former classmate, Kelly Kelley, is engaged to their childhood sweetheart, Leela decides to take action.

Convinced that happiness lies in meeting the ‘right’ person—someone perfectly calibrated to her ever-

changing sense of self—she decides to literally “frankenstein” together the ideal partner, Sai.

At first, the plan works. Over the course of a tricky dinner, Sai wins over Leela’s wildly different family and friends. But things quickly nosedive when he demands that Leela start changing some aspects of herself to suit him better. They argue. Sai leaves.

Leela is distraught. Her sister offers some sage advice: that relationships aren’t built on compatibility, they’re

built on patience, effort and compromise.

Leela doesn’t listen. Instead, she starts building a second, “improved” version of Sai. Before she can awaken the body, however, she bumps into Kelly Kelley, now divorced mere months into her perfect marriage. Leela sees the woman she always envied struggling, and finally starts to understand that relationships cannot be gamed into success.

She returns to her apartment, and cuts the power to her experiment.



ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



Pratima Mani, Writer/Lead Actor

A Peabody-receiving, three-time Emmy-nominated Indian comedian, currently writing for “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert.”



Lourena Lourenço, Director

A USC Film alumna and Latinx director whose latest short “Muy Gay Too Mexicano” is currently available on Max, and who’s latest pilot is being produced by Mucho Más Media.



Naomi Sedgwick, Producer

A half-Japanese American writer and producer who most recently produced the short “Jane,” and associate-produced the feature film, “Snow Valley” (written and directed by Brandon Murphy).



HOW THIS STORY CAME ABOUT

From a young age, I (Pratima, the writer, hello!) remember being frustrated by Hollywood's take on the South Asian diaspora. It felt one note: we are all conflicted; tortured and struggling to choose between the edicts of our parents and the allure of a Western lifestyle.

This was never my experience. I grew up in the internationally, as a non-immigrant in transient expat communities. I never had a hometown, and currently have no permanent status in the place I live. I grew up happily adapting my accent,

mannerisms and identity depending on who I was with.

When I came to NYC and starting dating as an adult, this presented a problem I never anticipated. I couldn't find partners who could code-switch to the level I wanted. I was looking for compatibility, but what does that mean when I am multiple people all the time?

And so, I wrote *Stitched* and shared it with Lorena. As a Brazilian non-immigrant, she immediately recognized the experience I was

talking about: the unique challenge we chameleons face, and how it colors our experience of love.

A year later we filmed *Stitched*, and now here we are.









