



A HOUSE OF KIRAN FILM

'thy beauty's doom'

IN MEMORY OF MAPLE BATALIA

BY KRYSTAL KIRAN

FILM INFORMATION

Film Title

Thy Beauty's Doom

Contact Info

www.maplebatalia.org

Krystal Kiran | Director
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Technical Information

Original Cut
TRT: 5 mins 30 seconds
Original Shooting Format: HD
Aspect Ratio - 16:9
Sound Format - 5.1 stereo
Colour, English

Synopsis

Created and performed by Krystal Kiran and funded with a grant awarded by BravoFACT, Thy Beauty's Doom is inspired and dedicated to the paintings of Maple Batalia, the 19-year-old Simon Fraser University student, model, actress and aspiring doctor who was gunned down in her campus parking lot. Thy Beauty's Doom showcases Maple's original paintings and artwork from her high school art exhibit. The film is part of a larger fundraising campaign for the Maple Batalia Bursary for the Arts (#teamMaple) which aims to award a young South Asian Canadian woman funding to pursue studies in the performing, visual or fine arts. The original song "Forever Gone (Maple's Song)" from Thy Beauty's Doom features a poem performed by Maple's mother, Sarbjit, which she wrote for her daughter soon after the tragedy occurred. All proceeds from the iTunes sales of the song are being donated to the Maple Batalia Bursary for the Arts, acting as an additional fundraising component for the campaign. This film, song and bursary are designed to share Maple's work as an artist with the world and to keep her memory alive through empowering and assisting young South Asian Canadian women to pursue their dreams by virtue of their creative talents and artistic expression.

CREDITS

Film Credits

Cast - Krystal Kiran

Writer & Director - Krystal Kiran

Producer - Josh Epstein

Production Manager - Nadine Villasin

Cinematographer - Bob Gundu

Editor - Bob Gundu

Choreography - Krystal Kiran, Linda Garneau, Shila Mehta,
Jeff Dimitriou

Music - Christine Wu

Musicians - Naveen Kumar, Satnam Singh Ramgotra

Editing - Christian Franck

Mixing - Toni Economides

Set Decoration & Costume Design - Rashmi Sudan Aimiuwu

Key Make-Up & Hair - Jenia O'Connor

2nd Unit AD - Josh Epstein

2nd Camera - Glen Powell

Key Grip - Fatih Stanley

Craft - Gin Srann

Special Thanks - Richie Mehta

About BravoFact

Since 1995, BravoFACT (Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent) has distributed millions of dollars in awards to Canadians for the production of short form scripted projects. Many of the resulting works have been honoured with awards around the world. Today, BravoFACT continues to provide awards to Canadian producers and directors who seek to create entertaining and engaging short-form content, both scripted and documentary, for Bell Media.

BravoFACT's objectives are to:

- Support and foster Canadian talent and production companies.
- Provide funding for the production of short-form projects, both scripted and documentary, suitable for Bell Media.
- Provide a broad platform for showcasing the resulting work, via the international reach of bravofact.com and BravoFACT's YouTube channel.

Keeping the Memory Alive

“Thy Beauty’s Doom” releases in honour of Maple Batalia

Toronto, ON – On September 28, 2011 the Vancouver community was rocked by senseless actions that ultimately took Maple Batalia, a beloved daughter, sister and friend, from them. The ripple affect of this story was being felt across the world, including with British Columbian native Krystal Kiran.

Living in Penticton at the time, Krystal continued to watch the news unfold and learned about Maple’s personal interests in the arts including acting, painting and modelling. The tragedy resonated with her on a deep level and it was then that she realized that Maple’s story was the one she had been waiting to tell.

Only a few years earlier Krystal had been reading William Shakespeare’s Sonnets as alternative therapy to help her overcome her stutter. She found inspiration in Sonnets 14 and 66 and dreamed of creating a short film that interpreted their vivid imagery through song and dance. This dream only became plausible when Krystal received a letter letting her know she was the honoured recipient of BravoFACT funding. Yet something didn’t feel right, the story she wanted to tell was incomplete. She felt that there was a bigger reason for her receiving the green-light for this project; she had a bigger story to tell.

That perfect story was to encapsulate and celebrate the amazing artistic expression of a beautiful young woman, Maple Batalia. Completed in 2013, Krystal’s short film called Thy Beauty’s Doom showcases a cinematic dance narrative highlighting Maple’s art while telling a tragic tale. It will be debuting in Toronto at the Punjabi International Film Festival on May 17, 2014.

“We are very grateful that Maple’s artistic talents will be showcased for everyone to see and are very happy with how the film shows the audience an artistic beauty that is true to who Maple was,” says Rose Batalia, Maple’s older sister. “The film puts forth a genuine story that pays wonderful tribute to an amazing soul.”

Krystal herself acts as the lead character in the film. With a dance background including everything from ballet, jazz and tap, to hip hop, modern and Indian classical, this was her way of bringing another piece of herself to the project. As a singer, dancer and actor, Krystal has also been seen in Broadway shows, film, television and has toured with Academy and Grammy Award Winning Composer A.R. Rahman on his Jai Ho World Tour. Her passion and experiences as a performer were another connection she felt to Maple.

Through the creation of the film and learning more about Maple through her friends and family, Krystal also established The Maple Batalia Bursary for the Arts in conjunction with the Batalia family. The goal is to raise \$19,000 annually, commemorating Maple’s young age at her passing, to provide awards to young women of South Asian descent who are pursuing the arts. The #TeamMaple social media campaign is designed to help raise awareness for the bursary and brings together South Asian female artists from around the world speaking of in support of the importance of The Maple Batalia Bursary for the Arts.

Funds are currently being raised for the bursary through the sale of the film soundtrack, entitled Forever Gone (Maple’s Song) which is available on iTunes. For the soundtrack, Krystal reached out to friends from her A.R. Rahman tour including Christine Wu who composed and produced the song, Naveen Kumar to lent his skills on the flute and Satnam Ramgotra who is featured on tabla.

What inspired the concept and treatment of this film?

In the summer of 2008 I began reading sonnets to help me with a stutter I've had since childhood; this evolved into me conceptualizing a short music and dance film based on William Shakespeare's Sonnets 14 and 66. His texts were not only helping me find fluidity in my speech, but the vivid imagery was inspiring me on a creative level as a dancer, singer and writer. To put it mildly, I became obsessed with these sonnets and spent the summer going to the Starbucks in Chapters everyday to translate each of these little poems into modern day English. This is where I began having visions of interpreting them into short films, which is how the short story of Thy Beauty's Doom, a title that was pulled from the closing couplet of Sonnet 14, came to be.

How did you fund this project?

At the suggestion of my filmmaker friend, Richie Mehta, I applied to BravoFACT for funding for this concept. Richie advised (and warned) me that receiving funding when applying for the first time around was highly unlikely and that it is quite competitive to receive these grants, but that it would be a valuable exercise in learning how to apply for funding. Armed with a lack of expectation and zero film-making experience but a strong desire to share my observations on life through the mediums of poetry, dance, music and film, I applied to BravoFACT. Given the three month grace period they have you wait before providing a response as to whether or not you've been successful in your application, I had actually forgotten that I'd even applied in the first place. Then I got the letter in the mail (yes, snail mail); I had won the film-making grant! At which point I freaked out slightly, remembering that I'd never made a film before!

How did you decide on your storyline?

The storyline came from Sonnets 14 & 66 and also my own life experience, however I felt something was missing. A purpose. So although, theoretically, we could have gone and filmed it the next day, I could feel in my body there was a bigger reason for receiving the green-light for this project but I didn't know what it was yet. Meanwhile I ran off and joined the circus with A.R. Rahman, singing and dancing with him around the world, for almost a year. While on tour and with some of my fellow musicians in the road, I continued to work out how the music would sound for Thy Beauty's Doom. Soon after I returned to Canada, Maple's tragedy occurred and I realized that she was the missing element.

The moment I heard Maple's tragedy on the news in Sept 2011, I felt panicked and overcome with grief for a girl who I'd never even met. After a few days of Maple's tragedy being broadcast over Canadian news stations and seeing Maple's love for performing being showcased, I knew I had to do something. I couldn't just sit there and think "Oh, that's so sad, too bad," and leave it at that. I felt connected to her; not only were we of a similar cultural background and she was from close to my hometown, but she also had so many dreams, many of them similar to my own. She was clearly very ambitious and wanted to become a doctor and was already beginning to establish herself as an actor and model, but what really resonated with me was her artistry as a painter. I didn't want that to get lost amidst all of the attention she was also receiving for her external beauty. The one painting of hers that is showcased and highlighted in the film reminded me of something I had known and felt. It was almost as if she had gotten into my head while painting that. Then it struck me. Maple's own story was relevant and parallel to the message and theme of my film.

What made you decide to create the Maple Batalia Bursary for the Arts?

As I came to the realization that this was the story I wanted to tell in my film, I also began to think about how many girls of South Asian heritage have the desire to express themselves through creative outlets but don't have the opportunities or family support to follow this path. It made me grateful for all of the experiences I've had and the fact that although my parents weren't initially thrilled with the idea of me becoming a performing artist, they still supported my decision because they knew it was my passion and something I couldn't live without. It also made me sad for Maple, because she will never get to fully explore the gifts and talents she was given. Yet on the other side of the same coin, she accomplished so much on this earth in such little time.

This is where the idea of creating the Maple Batalia Bursary for the Arts came to mind. I felt like amidst this tragedy that there was something positive that could come out of it by giving other young South Asian/Punjabi girls the opportunity to fill their creative and artistic dreams.

How do you think Maple would feel about your film?

I didn't know Maple personally so I cannot speak for her. I have to admit that parts of me were nervous thinking, "What if she wouldn't approve of or like this?" But the confirmations that we were on the right path with this project were there as every time that doubt crept in, something wonderful would happen, a new person would want to jump on board or get involved, etc. In creating *Thy Beauty's Doom - In Memory of Maple Batalia*, it has been my goal to create the type of film that Maple would have been proud of, and perhaps, maybe even wanted to be part of. It's hard to classify exactly what her "style" of painting was because I think she was still exploring, experimenting and figuring that out - which was also a reflection of where she was at in her life, which was ripe with possibility. The reason I picked the final painting was because I feel the silhouette of her body against a mural of her dreams is exactly what she left us with. When watching the film, the dance sequence in the black dress is the same character that becomes immortalized in that painting. Maple is immortalized for us through her work as an artist, performer, sister, daughter, friend, and so much more. The fact that we have Maple's mom singing on the song from the film makes it even more personal. So, Maple, if you are looking down on us and this project today, I hope you feel we have done your paintings justice and that the film honours you for the pure and beautiful artist and soul you were.

In regards to any doubts I had prior to the shoot, the day of the shoot was nothing short of one of the most beautiful experiences I have ever had personally or professionally thanks, of course in large part, to our incredible team. Considering how smoothly and quickly the day went, it was almost as if she was on the set with us, assisting the process. It was a blessed day.

How can people donate to the Maple Batalia Bursary for the Arts?

As part of the fundraising campaign for the bursary, we are selling the soundtrack of the film, *Forever Gone (Maple's Song)* on iTunes with all proceeds going to the memorial fund. For just 99 cents, everyone can be part of Maple's cause. They can also make donations by contacting us at info@houseofkiran.org or by visiting the website at www.maplebatalia.org

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Within days of Maple's passing, I managed to get in touch with the Batalia family through the magic of Facebook as someone in my family knew Maple's sister, Rose and put us in touch. It had been a week since the tragedy had occurred and at this point, having seen Maple's love for performing being showcased on the news, I knew I had a lot in common with this girl in terms of what we were passionate about. As a community, we'd all come to the realization that Maple didn't have the opportunity to fulfill the many dreams she had for herself, to become a doctor, an actor, a model, and some day, a wife, a mother, and so much more. She had only just begun to scratch the surface of her artistry as a performer and painter, yet it was obvious that she had tremendous potential.

It made me grateful for all of the experiences I've had and the fact that although my parents weren't initially thrilled with the idea of me becoming a performing artist, they still supported my decision because they knew it was my passion and something I couldn't live without. It also made me sad for Maple, because she will never get to fully explore the gifts and talents she was given. It also continually comes to light how women who do pursue these paths in the South Asian-Canadian community get labelled. Unfortunate as it is, these labels of shame in relation to being a female artist, performer or creative have existed in our culture for generations and continue to be passed down the younger diaspora generation through osmosis. Why is there so much fear and so little celebration? The tragedy that happened to Maple put an end to her creative expression, yet she has left us with work so beautiful that it allows us to continue on with her legacy if we choose to.

The breadth of Maple's work as a performer and artist gives young South Asian diasporic women the opportunity to look within to find that creativity within themselves. Here was a living example of someone who was making her dreams come true but had it snatched away from her. If we have the opportunity to follow our dreams, it also means we have a responsibility to. The Maple Batalia Bursary for the Arts is both an opportunity for young South Asian Canadian women to pursue their dreams without having to feel ashamed to want to become a performer or artist, but also a responsibility to pursue these goals to their full potential. It's all about applying oneself just as Maple did.

On a logistical level, there are so many ways in which this project fell together. I say "fell together" because without the most generous, loving creative team and crew, this film would not have been possible. People from all over the world - Vancouver, Toronto, Los Angeles, Mumbai and London - have contributed and donated their talents to make this project what it is. More than anything it is Maple's family and their blessings, especially those of her sister Rose and mother Sarbjit, that helped this project come to fruition. Thank you for your trust. Thank you for your love. And thank you Bravo!FACT not only funding and facilitation of this project, but for your patience in allowing us to release this film when the time was right. In addition to honouring and celebrating Maple's talents, we also hope that this film will be a good omen not only for our fundraising campaign for the

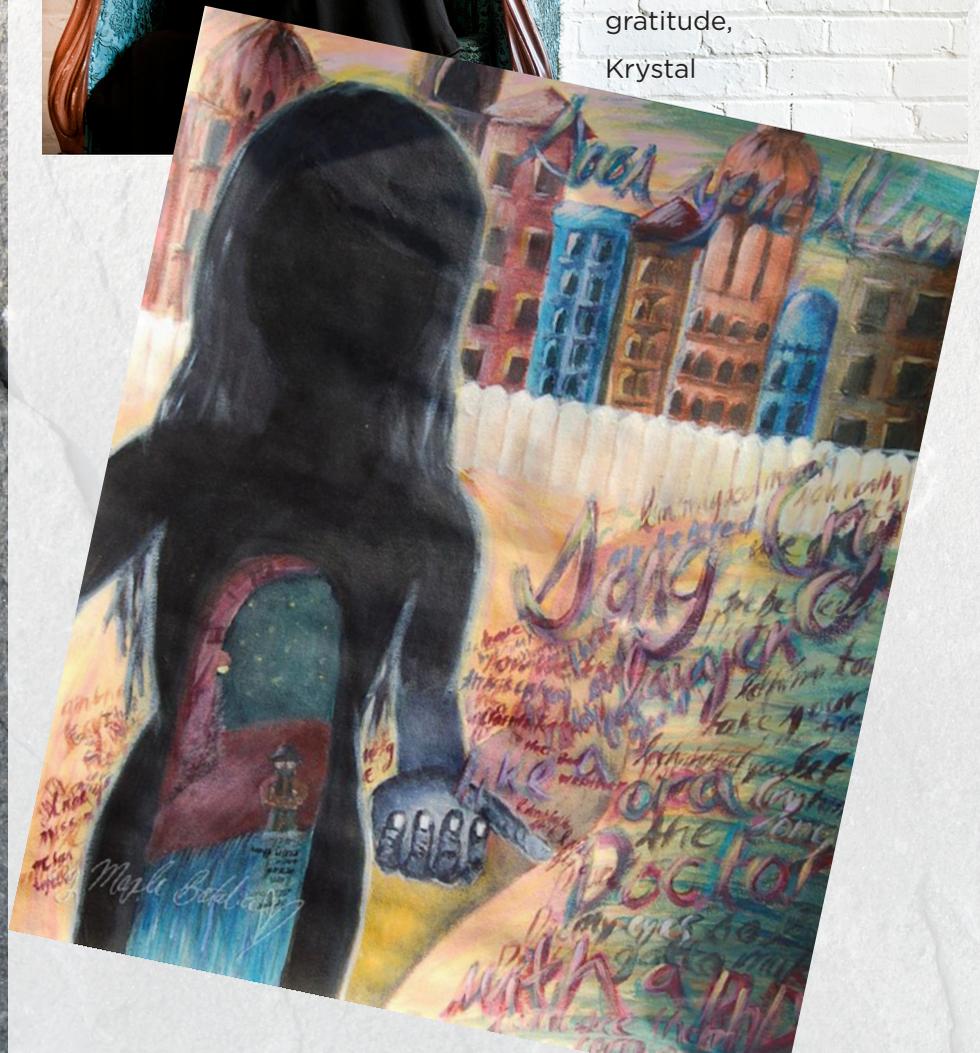
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Maple Batalia Bursary for the Arts, but also for her pending murder trial.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to make a plea to our South Asian youth, along with families who influence their upbringing and views. The time has come to un-segregate the men and women or boys and girls from one another to a point where they feel not only that they are separate from, but also the opposite of one another. A woman should never be stifled creatively, for she is the ultimate creator. At the end of the day, we all come from the same place and are bound to meet there again.

As Maple's sister Rose, has said on many occasions: "We, as a community, need to heal." It's up to us as a community to embrace the lessons this whole tragedy has taught us, or what happened to Maple will have been in vain and is bound to happen again. By coming to together and empowering our young women to meet their potential, this healing can begin.

All my love, light and
gratitude,
Krystal



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Director's Bio

Born and raised in Penticton, British Columbia to Punjabi parents, Krystal started dancing bhangra in the living room soon after learning to walk, or perhaps it was other way around! She began studying ballet professionally at the Royal Academy of Dance ballet at the age of three. She soon picked up jazz, tap, hip hop/street, modern, musical theatre, partnering and contemporary dance and has extensively studied the classical Indian dance form of Kathak. Krystal is also a registered yoga teacher (RYT 200) from Rishikesh Yog Peeth in India and has previous experience working with children.

A seasoned performer, singer and dancer, Krystal made her Broadway debut at the age of nineteen in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Bombay Dreams in New York City as part of the ensemble and as understudy to the female lead role. She then went on to join the original world premiere cast of LORD OF THE RINGS in Toronto. In 2010, Krystal became featured vocalist and performer on A.R. Rahman's JAI HO WORLD TOUR which played at the O2 and Wembley Arena, amongst other international venues. As a dancer and choreographer, she has been featured in films such as HAIRSPRAY, THE LOVE GURU, REPO! THE GENETIC OPERA and BREAKAWAY/SPEEDY SINGHS and on television shows such as GOOD MORNING AMERICA, MTV LIVE, HELLCATS, LIVE with REGIS & KELLY and more.

Krystal has worked with several artists including A.R. Rahman, Ciara, Ludacris, Jessica Alba, John Travolta, Mike Myers, Jay Sean, Akshaye Kumar, Russell Peters, Jann Arden and more. She has had the privilege of working with some of the entertainment industry's acclaimed directors and choreographers including Debbie Allen, Adam Shankman, Farah Khan, Anthony Van Laast, Steven Pimlott, Matthew Warchus, Peter Darling, Marguerite Derricks and Amy Tinkham to name a few.

As a writer, director and choreographer, Krystal has produced undraising galas for Toronto's Speech & Stuttering Institute. Her first short film 'Thy Beauty's Doom' which was commissioned by the Bravo Network premieres at the Punjabi International Film Festival in May 2014.

ABOUT THE SOUNDTRACK

Forever Gone (Maple's Song)



Music Credits:

Performed by Krystal Kiran
Written by Krystal Kiran & Christine Wu
Composed & Produced by Christine Wu
Flute - Naveen Kumar
Tabla - Satnam Singh Ramgotra
Edited by Christian Franck
Mixed by Toni Economides
Recorded at Hans Zimmer Studios in Santa Monica, California

Download here: <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/album/forever-gone-maples-song-feat./id818524066>

All proceeds from the iTunes sales of this song will go directly to the Maple Batalia Bursary for the Arts.

Bios

Christine Wu is a concert violinist, cellist, composer, string arranger, and studio musician for records, film, television and live performance and is one of the in-demand musicians in Hollywood and abroad. As a musician, she is known for her captivating stage presence, perfect pitch and ability to adapt and improvise to a wide variety of musical genres. She has toured the world with legends such as David Foster, Paul Anke and A.R. Rahman. She is also regularly seen on shows such as The Voice, American Idol and Dancing with the Stars.

Naveen Kumar is a passionate musician and one of the few talented flautists who can play a myriad of flutes. Having been born into a family entrenched in Gospel Music, Naveen started his musical career at the young age of 13. He went on to play local concerts and radio prior to entering the Tamil film industry in 1983. Currently Naveen is the main flautist for Academy Award winner, A.R. Rahman and is coveted by many of the leading composers in South Asia.

Canadian Satnam Ramgotra is a drummer/percussionist who blends traditional Indian, Western, and World Percussion elements into modern music. Satnam has studied at the renowned Percussion Institute of Technology in Hollywood and the Ali Akbar Khan College of Music in San Rafael under tabla maestro Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri. Having worked and toured with artists such as Shakira, Melissa Etheridge, Pharrell Williams, Sting, Seal and A.R. Rahman, Satnam is regularly invited to work with Hollywood's A-List composers. He also continues to teach master classes in Greece, Switzerland and Hollywood.

THE MAPLE BATALIA BURSARY FOR THE ARTS



Created by the House of Kiran and the Batalia Family, the Maple Batalia Bursary for the Arts is focused on providing funding for young South Asian women to actualize Maple's dreams as a multi-talented artist and performer.

The goal is to raise \$19,000 annually in commemoration of the age at which Maple was tragically taken from the world.

Applicants for the award must meet the following criteria:

- Must be of South Asian descent
- Must be a legal resident of Canada
- Be pursuing a career in the performing, visual or fine arts

www.maplebatalia.org

