

# LELAND

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## Composer

# Nainita Desai

Acclaimed with three recent Emmy nominations and an Emmy win in 2022 Nainita Desai, is an Ivor Novello Awards and British Independent Film Awards nominee, winner of Discovery of the Year at the World Soundtrack Awards 2021, a BAFTA Breakthrough Brit, the International Film Music Critics Association Breakthrough Composer of 2020, and described by Empire as one of the top five composers to watch for 2022.

Her recent projects include Oscar nominated and BAFTA and Cannes winning feature documentary For Sama, and The Reason I Jump, an immersive cinematic exploration of neurodiversity. This ground-breaking feature, which won an Audience Award at Sundance in 2020, is based on the nonfiction bestseller by Naoki Higashida. Other recent projects include the hit Netflix documentary 14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible, BBC drama series Crossfire, Oscar winning John Battsek's feature documentary The Deepest Breath, and a forthcoming fantasy drama series for Disney+.

Nainita moves seamlessly between working with orchestras and song writing, with her musical foundations rooted in world music; she composes using her collection of custom-made instruments, electronics and found sound. This innate musical ability, coupled with a background in sound design and technical innovation, has fuelled her powerful and emotive scores. Her original approach to composition involves deeply researched collaborations to find those voices that are not usually heard, creating sounds that are truly unique, and ensuring that she is one of the most sought-after composers for both drama and documentary.

## SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

**The Deepest Breath (2023)**  
Directed by Laura McGann  
Ventureland / A24

**Sweepstakes Hero (forthcoming 2023)**  
Directed by Clair Titley  
Misfits Entertainment / MRC

**Phantom Parrot (2023)**  
Directed by Kate Stonehill  
BFI / Doc Society / Tribeca / CAA

**Body Parts (2022)**  
Directed by Kirsty Guevera-Flanagan

**The Wall (2022)**  
Directed by Nick Hardie  
Windfall Films / Amazon Studios

**Delikado (2022)**  
Directed by Karl Malakunas  
Naked Edge Films

**14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible (2021)**  
Directed by Torquil Jones / Noah Media

**Personna (2021)**  
Directed by Tim Travers Hawkins  
HBO Max / CNN Films

**Coronavirus: The Year That Changed Britain (2021)**  
Directed by Kevin Macdonald / Docsville Studio / ITV

**American Murder: The Family Next Door (2020)**  
Directed by Jenny Popplewell  
Knickerbocker Glory / Netflix

**The Reason I Jump (2020)**  
Directed by Jerry Rothwell / BFI / Vulcan Productions

**For Sama (2019)**  
Directed by Waheed Al-Kateab & Ed Watts / Channel 4 / PBS

**Darkness Visible (2019)**  
Directed by Neil Biswas  
BFI / Protagonist

**Untamed Romania (2018)**  
Directed by Tom Barton-Humphries / Off The Fence / European Nature Trust

**The Confessions of Thomas Quick (2015)**  
Directed by Brian Hill / BFI / Century Films

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## GAMES

Zau's Legacy (forthcoming 2023)  
Silver Rain Studios

Immortality (2022)  
Half Mermaid Productions

Telling Lies (2019)  
Drowning A Mermaid Productions / Annapurna Interactive

## LIVE EVENTS & INSTALLATIONS

FOSO [Outdoor Immersive Installation] (forthcoming 2024)  
Sensoria, USA  
Briuce Munro Studios

Unboxed – Green Space Dark Skies [Live Event] (2022)  
Directed by Mark Murphy  
Walk The Plank Productions

## TV

Funny Woman (2023)  
Directed by Ol Parker  
Rebel Park / Potboiler / Sky

Earthsounds (forthcoming 2023)  
Directed by Sam Hodgson  
Offspring Films / Apple Tv+

Predators (forthcoming 2023)  
Directed by Dan Smith  
True To Nature / Sky / Netflix

The Confession (2022)  
Directed by Sam Hobkinson  
ITN / Amazon Studios

Crossfire (2021)  
Directed by Tessa Hoffe  
Dancing Ledge Productions / BBC

Maryland (2022)  
Directed by Brian Hill & Lucy Kirkwood  
Century Films / BBC Films

The Tower (2021-2023)  
Directed by Jim Loach  
Mammoth Screen

Sophie: A Murder In West Cork (2021)  
Lightbox / Netflix

Bad Boy Billionaires: India (2020)  
Directed by Dyan Mohan Gray & Johanna Hamilton  
Minnow Films / Netflix

Enslaved (2020)  
Directed by George Amponsah & Ric Esther Bienstock  
Cornelia Street Productions

Fierce Queens (2020)  
BBC Studios / Quibi

My Family, The Holocaust And Me (2020)  
Directed by David Vincent  
Wall To Wall

Extraordinary Rituals (2018)  
Directed by Simon Bell & Tom Mustill  
Polyband

Catching A Killer (2017-2018)  
Directed by Jezza Neumann & Erica Gornall / Channel 4

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## AWARDS

2022 – Primetime Emmys – Outstanding Composition in a Documentary – Nominee (14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible)

2022 – Emmys [News & Documentary Awards] – Best Original Score for a Documentary – Winner (The Reason I Jump)

2022 – Camille Awards [European Film Composer Awards] – Best Score for a Feature Documentary – Winner (The Reason I Jump)

2022 – World Soundtrack Awards – People’s Choice Award – Nominee (14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible)

2022 – FIMUCITÉ Tenerife International Film Music Festival – Best Documentary Score – Winner (14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible)

2022 – Girls on Film Awards – Winner (Best Composer)

2022 – ASCAP Composer Choice Awards – Best Documentary – Nominee (14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible)

2021 – World Soundtrack Awards – Winner (Discovery of the Year)

2021 – Cinema Eye Honors – Nominee (The Reason I Jump)

2020 – British Independent Film Awards – Nominee (The Reason I Jump)

2020 – RTS Craft + Design Awards – Winner (For Sama)

2020 – Ivor Novello Awards – Nominee (For Sama)

2019 – International Film Music Critics Awards – Winner (Breakthrough composer of the year)

2019 – RTS Craft + Design Awards – Best Music Original Titles Nominee (Extraordinary Rituals)

2019 – GOPO Romanian Academy Awards – Best Film Music (Untamed Romania)

2019 – NatureVision Film Festival – Winner – (Untamed Romania)

2019 – Music + Sound Awards – Winner (Telling Lies)

2019 – British Independent Film Awards – Nominee (For Sama)

2019 – Jerry Goldsmith Awards – Nominee (Extraordinary Rituals)

2016 – Music + Sound Awards – Winner (The Confessions of Thomas Quick)

2016 – BAFTA Breakthrough Brit