



**BUSTING THE BIAS**

# Shy Radicals

+ intro and discussion

A portrait of artist and activist Hamja Ahsan, commander-in-chief of the introvert resistance.

*Shy Radicals* is a portrait of award-winning artist, activist and author Hamja Ahsan, and the story behind his remarkable book and satirical manifesto *Shy Radicals*, which calls for all shy, quiet, and introverted people to unify and overthrow Extrovert-Supremacy.

In his book, Hamja Ahsan has not simply created an artwork, he has created a world that blurs the boundaries between creator and creation, between real life and the life of the imagination, between reality and an imagined fiction in which he is a leading character. The documentary follows Hamja as he deals with the trauma and despair of his brother's extradition case, whilst traveling the world inspiring and educating others through creativity and activism.

Hamja Ahsan's book *Shy Radicals: Antisystemic Politics of the Militant Introvert* is published and distributed by Book Works

**Hamja Ahsan** is an artist, writer, activist and curator based in London and Maastricht. He was awarded the Grand Prize at Ljubljana Biennial 2019 for the art work Aspergistan Referendum based on the Shy Radicals project. He is founder and co-curator of the DIY Cultures festival of creative activism, zines and independent publishing since 2013. He was shortlisted for the Liberty human rights award for Free Talha Ahsan campaign on extradition and detention without trial under the War on Terror. His recent writing was anthologised in *No Colour Bar: Black Art in Action 1960-1990*. He has presented art projects at PS1 MOMA New York Art book week, Tate Modern, Gwangju Biennale, Shaanakht festival Pakistan and and CCA Warsaw Poland. His practice encompasses all media: conceptual writing, building archives, performance, video, sound and making zines. He is on the editorial board of the Radical Mental Health magazine Asylum.

@shyradicals @hamjaahsan

Hamja will be in conversation with **Daniel Oliver**, a dyspraxic performance artist and academic. He has been making up calamitous participatory performance art worlds across the UK and overseas since 2003.

Performances include *Chiperalataartparty*, which explores dyspraxic time-travel and a post-apocalyptic neurodivergent (dys)utopia; and *Dadderrs*, a collaboration with his wife, choreographer Frauke Requardt, that focusses on ADHD, dyspraxia, marriage, and parenting. He has recently edited and published a book on his practice called *Awkwoods: Daniel Oliver's Dyspraxic Adventures in Contemporary Participatory Performance*, published by the Live Art Development Agency.

His academic research is focussed on contemporary performance and live art, audience participation, neurodiversity, and awkwardness.

@canibedaniel

Digital programme notes can be found here:



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#### SHY RADICALS

Director: Tom Dream  
Produced by: Black Dog Films  
Funded by the: BFI Doc Society, National Lottery Fund  
Producer: Holly Wolfers  
Executive Producers: Martin Roker, Lisa-Marie Russo  
Editor: Laura Cairney-Keize  
Director of Photography: Jack Maddison  
Production Designer: Jade Williams  
Sound: Dean Hewitson  
Music: Art School Girlfriend  
Principal Cast:  
Hamja Ahsan

UK 2020  
22 mins

#### BUSTING THE BIAS

**Nothing about Us without Us: Celebrating 5 years of BFI's Disability Screen Advisory Group**

Sun 5 Mar 14:00

**I Didn't See You There + pre-recorded Q&A**

Sun 5 Mar 16:00

**FLARE: We Have Always Been Here!**

Film curator Tara Brown leads an in-depth panel discussion about the intersections of queerness, disability and film.

Sat 18 Mar 16:30

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