

official biography
v.t. nayani
(9'knee)



V.T. Nayani (pron. 9'knee) is a director, producer, and writer dedicated to stories for the screen. Her first feature documentary **SHADEISM: DIGGING DEEPER** (2015) had its World Premiere at the 2015 Zanzibar International Film Festival, where it received a Special Jury Recognition. Nayani is an alumni of the CBC's Workshop for Diverse Creators, the HotDocs' Doc Accelerator Program, and ReelWorld Film Festival's Emerging 20 Program. She is also a recipient of the **UN Women Yvonne M. Hebert Award** for filmmakers and photographers.

In 2018, Nayani had the honour of shadowing and interning with her mentor, acclaimed cinematographer Bradford Young, on the set of Netflix's award-winning limited series **WHEN THEY SEE US**, created by Ava DuVernay. She was recently a recipient of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television's **MVP Project** grant, presented by The Prism Prize and RBCxMusic, as well as the Inside Out Film & Video Festival's RE:Focus Fund post-production grant. Her work and artistic development have been supported by platforms including the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, ArtReach Toronto, AWID, and UN Women. Her films have been championed by festivals including TIFF, Women of the World Festival, Reel Asian International Film Festival, Regent Park Film Festival, ReelWorld Film Festival, and Lights Camera Africa Film Festival.

Nayani is currently in post-production for her first dramatic feature, **THIS PLACE**, produced in partnership with Telefilm Canada's Talent to Watch Program, and in development for her second feature **OUCH**. She also proudly serves on the board and programming team for **Breakthroughs Film Festival**, the only festival in Canada dedicated to showcasing short films by women and non-binary people.



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