

biography
v.t. nayani
(9'knee)



V.T. Nayani (pron. nine-knee) is a director, producer, and writer dedicated to stories for the screen. Nayani is an alumni of the CBC's Workshop for Diverse Creators, HotDocs' Doc Accelerator Program, Reelworld Film Festival's Emerging 20 Program, and BlackStar Film Festival's William and Louise Greaves Filmmaker Seminar. She is also a recipient of the [UN Women Yvonne M. Hebert Award](#) for filmmakers and photographers. Nayani is a 2021 resident artist in the 2021 Directors' Lab at the Canadian Film Centre.

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. In 2018, Nayani had the honour of shadowing and interning with her mentor, cinematographer Bradford Young, in the camera department of Netflix's **WHEN THEY SEE US**. In 2020, she was featured in TIFF campaigns for [RBC](#) and [L'Oréal Paris](#), celebrating women in film. She was most recently a 2x recipient of Inside Out's [RE:Focus Fund](#) post-production grant and the Indigenous Screen Office's Solidarity Fund Development Grant. Her artistic and professional development have been supported by groups including the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, ArtReach Toronto, and Netflix. Her work has also been championed by festivals including TIFF Next Wave, Women of the World, Women Deliver, Reel Asian, Lights Camera Africa, and Regent Park Film Festival.

Nayani is now completing her first feature drama **THIS PLACE** (Telefilm Canada, CBC Films), in development for her first television series, and in post-production for two scripted shorts. Most recently, she was selected as part of the 2021/22 Canadian Academy Directors Program for Women. She is also a Commissioning Editor for Reel Asian's 25th Anniversary Anthology *(re)Rites of Passage*, and since 2018 has served on the board of directors for [Breakthroughs Film Festival](#) - the only festival in Canada dedicated to showcasing short work by women and non-binary filmmakers.



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