

BIOGRAPHY

Richard Ladkani, an award-winning Austrian director and cinematographer, has completed over fifty documentaries for renowned international networks such as the BBC, National Geographic, France2 and various German public broadcasters.

He studied film in the United States and gained most of his early experience in New York, where he worked and lived for more than six years. After September 11, 2001, he decided to return to Europe and moved to Munich, which became the ideal launching point for many of his international projects. In 2015 he founded **Malaika Pictures** together with his wife Anita Ladkani to produce films that raise awareness of worldwide issues, which have widely gone unnoticed by the general public.



From the early years, his dual approach as director and cinematographer has given his films a special handwriting, which has gained him international recognition.

In 2001, his film **“Escape over the Himalayas”** (ZDF) got him a nomination for the German TV Award. In 2002, he received the Golden Austrian Romy Award for outstanding cinematography on the series **“Monasteries of the Danube River”** (BR/ORF). In 2005, his feature-length documentary film **“The Devil’s Miner”** (PBS/arte/BR), won 22 international awards (Tribeca FF, Toronto FF, Los Angeles FF, European Film Awards, to name a few) and got a theatrical release in the US and Europe. In 2008, he photographed the award-winning documentary **“A Powerful Noise”**, and in 2009 the feature-length documentary **“Jane’s Journey”** on the world-renowned primate researcher Dr. Jane Goodall. Both films were released in cinemas across Europe and the US. “Jane’s Journey” later won the “Cinema for Peace” award during the Berlin Film Festival 2011 and was shortlisted for the Academy Awards 2012. **“Vatican – The Hidden World”** (BBC/NatGeo/BR/France2), a three-year project which focuses on the secret world in the heart of the Catholic Church, was awarded the Bavarian Television Award 2011 for best directing and cinematography. **“Gas Monopoly”** (ORF/Arte), an investigative thriller on the international Gas business and **“Bavaria!”** (BR/Arte), a high-end four-part series on the people and nature of Southern Germany are amongst his latest projects, which he directed and photographed.

He is currently in production of the feature documentary **“Elephant Nation”** (working title), an international co-production for theatrical release.

Richard Ladkani is happily married and father of two children.