

Jamil Dehlavi

Writer, producer and director



Jamil Dehlavi is a fiercely independent filmmaker, fully qualified lawyer, musician and artist, something of an enigma. Ironically, a private man in a very public profession, he has managed to retain the mystery of his persona through the years. He has displayed a tenacious commitment to his beliefs, and his career history shows him digging his heels in and maintaining his position, however controversial.

Jamil Dehlavi's father was a diplomat, so the family travelled extensively between Asia and Europe before he obtained a place at Oxford where he received a Master's degree in Jurisprudence. He was then called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in London, but never practiced law. It was not a subject that interested him particularly. Film had always fascinated him as it was a combination of all the arts, so he went to New York to study at Columbia University where he obtained a Master of Fine Arts in Cinematography and then began making films.

While based there, Jamil Dehlavi made his first film 'Towers of Silence' which was shown at numerous international festivals and won the Grand Prize at the Festival of the Americas. Dehlavi wrote, produced and directed it, a practice he has continued with most of his work. All his films have won numerous awards at prestigious international film festivals.

Although his films are deeply rooted in his homeland, Pakistan, they are unfamiliar to larger audiences here. From the release of his first film to date, Jamil Dehlavi has never hesitated to take on sensitive issues: *The Blood of Husain*, *Immaculate Conception*, *Jinnah* and the latest *Infinite Justice* have been steeped in controversy.

Jamil Dehlavi lives in a converted chapel in London, has an art gallery in Paris, and is now planning to make a home in Karachi - the place he feels most connected to.

Website: www.dehlavifilms.com