

# Teenagers Grow up in Documentary 'Going on 13'

By a Staff Reporter

Isha, a reserved and bespectacled young Indian American girl in the San Francisco Bay Area, makes tea for guests and attends to the family's Hindu shrine, but like many other girls her age, idolizes the "girl power" cartoon characters The Power Puff Girls, which decorate the walls of her room.

For Isha, there are always two ways of doing things: the American way and the Indian way. Her challenge is balancing the two opposing forces in her life, while simultaneously discovering who she is, and where she fits into it all.

Isha is one of four spunky yet complex and introspective teen-aged girls profiled in the award-winning documentary "Going on 13." The film will air in Los Angeles on KCET Sept. 16-17 and

KVIE Sacramento Sept. 25, 27 and 28 (for more cities and airdates, visit [www.itvs.org](http://www.itvs.org) or check local public television listings).

Using a mix of intimate interviews and cinema verite, filmmakers Kristy Guevara-Flanagan and Dawn Valadez expose the inner workings of the girls' hearts and minds, filmed over a four-year period.

Isha — along with Ariana, Rosie and Esme — let go of childhood and fumble (or sprint) toward an uncertain future. "This is puberty and for each of these girls of color, it's a whirlwind of change and new choices," said the filmmakers in a

statement.

Without simplifying or sensationalizing the lives of these four girls, the film shows us a reality far more complex and intimate than what we are used to seeing in the media about urban, pre-teen girls of color. Guevara-Flanagan and Valadez have also started an outreach campaign to empower young girls.

For more information, visit [www.goingon13.com](http://www.goingon13.com).

*Isha, an Indian immigrant in the San Francisco Bay Area, is one of four girls of color profiled in "Going on 13," an acclaimed new documentary airing on public television.*



## Shiney's Bail Rejected for The Second Time

MUMBAI (PTI) — A sessions court Sept. 11 rejected for the second time the bail plea of Bollywood actor Shiney Ahuja, arrested for allegedly raping his domestic maid at his residence in suburban Oshiwara.

The court rejected Ahuja's bail on the grounds that it is a "serious offense" and there is prima facie evidence against him. Earlier, the court had rejected his bail plea on July 8 on the same grounds.

The 36-year-old actor had filed for bail for the second time Sept. 5 after the city police filed a chargesheet against him. Charges against Ahuja, who is currently lodged in Arthur Road jail, will be framed Sept. 23.

## Screenwriter Finalist for S.F. Fellowship

By a Staff Reporter

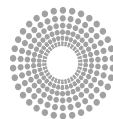
SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Film Society announced Sept. 10 that Sushmita Mukherjee of Glenview, Ill., was among 10 finalists for the Djerassi Residency Award/San Francisco Film Society Screenwriting Fellowship. The Djerassi residency, located 40 miles south of San Francisco in the Santa Cruz Mountains overlooking the Pacific Ocean, offers living and studio accommodations and all meals to an emerging or established screenwriter from Aug. 10 through Sept. 9, 2010, at no cost. Mukherjee's script, "Fermata," tells a suspenseful tale of a young boy who steals a musician's identity to achieve worldwide success, but at the height of his fame is tormented by the musician's ghost.

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