Taxi Drivers speak out @ The Sikh International Film Festival 2009

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It's nice to come to a foreign land and find that the taxi drivers speak your language! It's a good feeling and as a documentary filmmaker I jumped to the chance of doing something with this observation. In 2007 I went out on the streets of Manhattan and interviewed Indian and Pakistani taxi drivers about what they felt about New York, how they came here, 9/11, the War in Iraq and the War on Terror.

I started my prowl with the camera at the famous 'Punjabi Deli' on Houston streets where you'll always see a bunch of taxis parked. This is a huge omen of how good a place is. Similar to when you look into a restaurant or cafe and can judge how good it is by the volume of people dining or waiting outside. 'Punjabi Deli' has affordable food and it's home cooked Indian food. My uncle in Jersey has been known to drive down, pick me up, take me out to a fancy bar for a drink and then head to Punjabi Delhi for food he describes as 'dil khush kar deta hai', literally translated to mean 'makes my heart happy.'

So I'm rambling away from the taxi drivers and point. Eventually I made a short film titled, 'Street Smarts' which focuses on racial profiling post 9/11 and my short got selected to the Sikh International Film Festival.

I'm heading out to the venue now and hope some of you can make it. Take a taxi to Asia Society and tell the driver about the film. Who knows maybe he's in it. Once when I got in a cab and spoke to the driver about my project, he'd seen my taxi film on YouTube! Keeping my fingers crossed for some synchronicity in the city this week:)