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4 out of 4 int'l film awards go to Gujarat

12 May 2008, 0121 hrs IST, Parth Shastri, TNN

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AHMEDABAD: A boy and girl look at each other from across the classroom, smile and the communal boundaries separating them melt away. This two-minute film without dialogues, shot on a mobile phone, touched thousands of hearts across the world recently.

But its achievements were much larger. All the four films selected to represent [India](#) on Pangea Day, one of the biggest mobile phone competitions in the world held on Saturday, came from Gujarat!

Out of four movies, three were made in small town Halol near Vadodara and Sanosara near Bhavnagar, including Sajid Memon's film on communal

harmony. The other three are Anmol Dharmadhikari from [Mumbai](#) who is working in Halol, Noor Rathod from Halol, Panchmahals and Jessica Mayberry from the USA, working in Ahmedabad. Memon is from Sanosara, Bhavnagar.

As many as 51 entries were chosen from more than 2,500 entries from 30 countries on 'Love, brotherhood and the contemporary world'. The event, sponsored by Nokia this year, was simultaneously broadcast from the pyramids at [Cairo](#), Kigali in Rwanda, London, Sony Pictures Studios at Los Angeles, National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro and Bangalore.

"My film speaks of trauma of a riot victim but it is more about hope," says Rathod.

Kanu Bharti from Drishti Media, Arts and Human Rights, an NGO, who co-ordinated with the movie-makers says, "We sent 11 films, of which four were selected. Our volunteers had shot 41 films. The project was a challenge as they had to edit the movie in the phone itself."

Dharmadhikari adds it was easy to connect with the global audience by working on basic emotions. "I am happy one of the three entries I sent made it," says Dharmadhikari, who has worked on Bollywood films 'Bhool Bhulaiya' and 'Dhol' as assistant director.

Jessica Mayberry, director of Video Volunteer - one of the global partners for festival has left for Los Angeles to attend the awards function and bring back the trophy.

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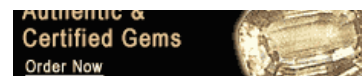
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