



# ASK THE CHEAT

***Screening at CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2018***

**For Immediate Release**

***“Even the Disadvantaged Can Be Heroes”***

**Funding rejection of Dyslexia and Cheating Men  
documentaries forces filmmaker to tackle both  
issues through a comedy drama- screening in  
Cannes 2018.**

Tuesday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2018, Time: 6pm, Venue: Palais C, Cannes

Writer/ Director/ Raza Mallal discusses why he decided to make the comedy drama “Ask The Cheat” after his documentary ideas around the central issues were constantly rejected.

“I initially had an idea for a documentary about kids with dyscalculia and dyslexia since I found that a lot were going through their lives not confessing or revealing what their real problems and learning issues were. They had this disadvantage; it’s not their fault and they were worried if others found out they would get picked on or bullied in school. These kids go through life and don’t tell anyone at all not even their parents or teachers. So I wanted to do this documentary to bring this common issue to light. Another documentary I wanted to do and felt strongly about was regarding women who get a raw deal when they separate or get divorced from their husbands. The court system is supposed to give equal rights to both parties. But the husbands usually are clever enough to hide the money or squirrel it away into offshore banks accounts, and then the woman ends up getting 50% of nothing! These were both issues close to my heart that I had a certain amount of frustration with in terms of their lack of exposure to the world. But it was unbelievably difficult to get financing for these documentaries even though these are serious problems that exist in our society and



are mostly hidden away. I had to find a way to bring these issues to the fore and get them exposure.

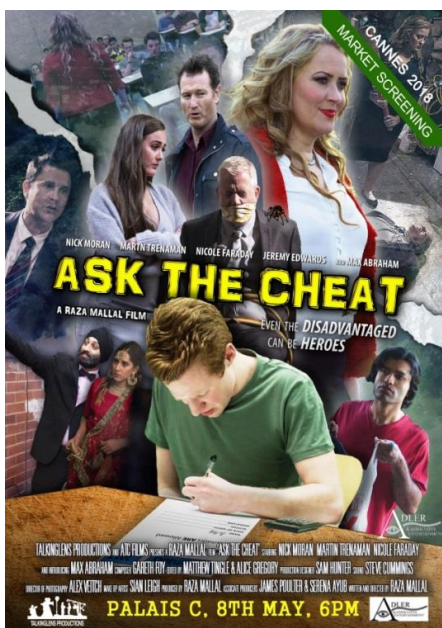
Frustration in a lack of support from commissioning editors and funds led me to think that maybe the thing to do was combine both ideas into a narrative feature film. And that's how "Ask the Cheat" came about, I thought; *what if a kid with dyscalculia cheated in his maths exam, and the teacher who was going through a divorce, discovered this but made a deal with the kid to help her kidnap her cheating husband, who's leaving her for a younger woman. So she could ask him face to face why he's running off after eighteen years of marriage and where had he hidden the money she was entitled to, but now because of his deviousness wasn't going to get.* The film is primarily about empowerment; how people with disadvantages and who perhaps don't get a good deal from society, empower each other and help one another to try and re-address that balance."

'Ask the Cheat' is written and directed by **Raza Mallal**, who is committed to telling bold and edgy stories with a refreshing approach to intense and dynamic situations laced with unexpected twists and humour. The film prompts the viewer to imagine their own response to the events unfolding: *What would you do if you were caught cheating? How far would you go to defend your rights? And how far would you fight to get what you rightfully deserve?*

**Talkinglens Productions** is a well-established independent film production company based in Leeds, England. Talkinglens work with international talent to develop and produce high quality feature films appealing to international audiences.

"Ask the Cheat" was filmed at Prime Studios and Studio 81 and on location in Leeds, England

A portion of all profits will be donated to the charity Dyscalculia.org



Talkinglens Productions,  
3 St Peter's Buildings, St Peter's Square,  
Leeds, LS9 8AH, West Yorkshire, England, UK.  
Tel: +44 (0)113 2445537 Alternative Tel: +44 (0)7802 733572  
E-mail: [info@talkinglens.co.uk](mailto:info@talkinglens.co.uk) Web: [www.talkinglens.co.uk](http://www.talkinglens.co.uk)