



# acts of imagination



## Julian Samuel

### **Did you enjoy acting Aashir?**

Yes, I loved acting. We had to do many takes because I am not a trained actor; the other actors, especially Billy and Stephanie, helped me tons.

### **Was your first language Urdu?**

Yes, why do you ask? What does this have to do with the project at hand?

**Stephanie, Billy, and Maki, are all speaking English as their second language, and I wondered if you were, too. You are a well known director of documentaries, as well as a novelist. Might those interests converge in you directing a feature-length dramatic film at some point?**  
Only God knows for sure.

### **Why do you say that? Wasn't your last documentary called Atheism? Aren't you a committed atheist?**

Allow me to repeat what Luis Bunuel said: "Thank God I'm an atheist."

### **What is the best way to introduce oneself to the range of your work?**

On the web, I think you'll be able to find information on my documentaries, articles and other published work.

### **I googled you... You seem interested in libraries.**

In 2002 I made a documentary on libraries; then in 2004 I completed yet another work on libraries and democracy, Save and Burn. In part, this documentary takes a look at the destruction of libraries in Palestine and Iraq.

### **Do you have other projects you are working on?**

I am currently working on a novel, Radius Islamicus – should be out in the next decade.

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Julian Samuel is a Montreal-based film-maker and writer. Earlier work examined the contemporary relationship between the West, the Middle East and Asia. His most recent documentaries include *The Library in Crises* (2002), *Save and Burn* (2004) and *Atheism* (2006). His published writings are: *Lone Ranger in Pakistan*, *The Raft of the Medusa*; *Into the European Mirror* (transcripts and commentaries); and his first novel, *Passage to Lahore*.