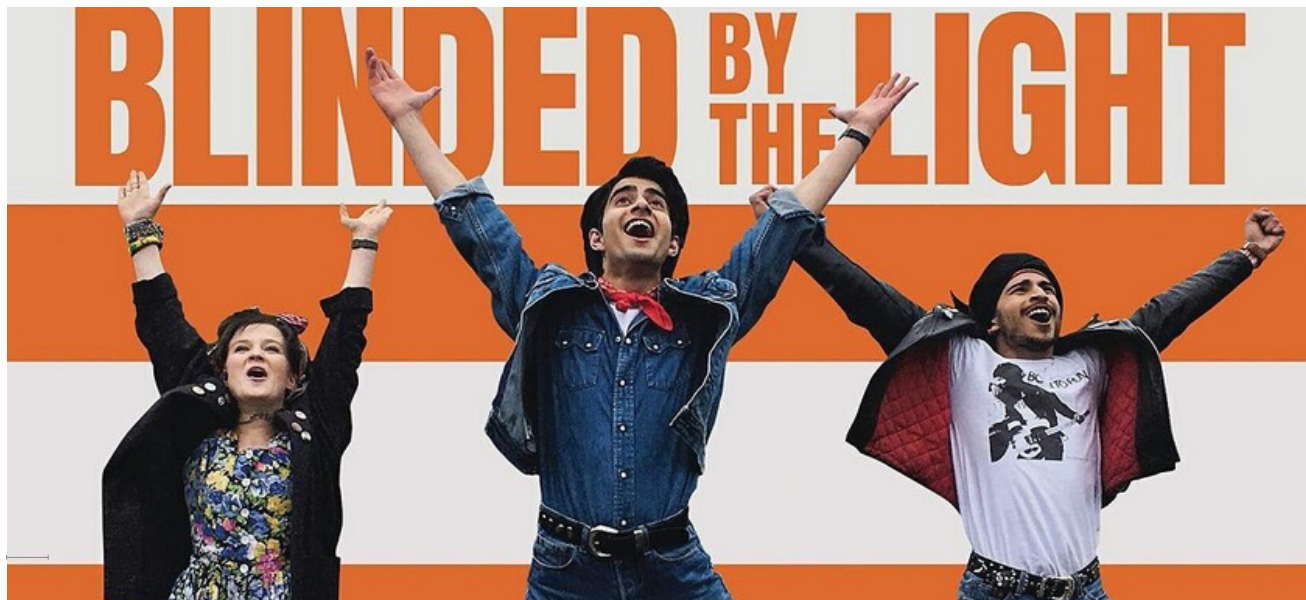


# BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

## MOVIEKIT FOR AMERICAN SPACES

This Moviekit is designed for programming at American Spaces. American Spaces should work with their Public Affairs Section to ensure that this movie is appropriate for American Space audiences.



### FILM INFORMATION

**Year Release:** 2019

**Rating:** PG-13

**Duration:** 118 min

**English Level:** Intermediate

**Director:** Gurinder Chadha

**Starring:** Billy Barratt, Ronak Singh  
Chadha Berges, Viveik Kalra

**Themes:** Immigration, Study in the  
United States, Discrimination

**Access to Film:** This film can be  
streamed on a number of sites or your  
Public Affairs Section can help you  
procure a DVD. American Spaces can  
screen the film under our agreement  
with MPLC. <http://bit.ly/MPLCTips>

### MOVIE CONTEXT

Based on the life of Sarfraz Manzoor, *Blinded by the Light* tells the story of a British-Pakistani student in the 1980s. Dealing with an economic recession, racism, and an overbearing father, Javed, a son of Muslim immigrants and living in a British town, looks to writing to express himself.

When a fellow student introduces him to the music of American singer-songwriter Bruce Springsteen, Javed is inspired by the authentic lyrics that describe challenges faced by all. With the help of a professor, Javed's writing gains recognition, including a trip to Monmouth College in New Jersey, where he visits the birthplace of Bruce Springsteen and learns more about himself.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of STATE  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

## KEY VOCABULARY

**Bruce Springsteen** - An American singer-songwriter known for his lyrics about the struggles of working class Americans

**NF** – Neo-Fascists identify with ultra-nationalistic, racist, and anti-immigration ideology

**Promised Land** - An allusion to the promised Jewish homeland that is used to mean a place where one finds happiness

## MORE RESOURCES

Activity Guide on Higher Education in the U.S. - <http://bit.ly/HghrEdTG>

5 Steps to Studying in the U.S. - <http://bit.ly/EdUSA5Stp>



## Discussion Questions

- *Why do you think Javed became so obsessed with the music of Bruce Springsteen?*
- *Why do Javed and his father argue?*
- *Why do you think Javed dreams of being a writer?*
- *Bruce Springsteen sings of a promised land? What was Javed's promised land? What's yours?*
- *How does Javed define the American dream? What does the American dream mean in your country and to you?*