

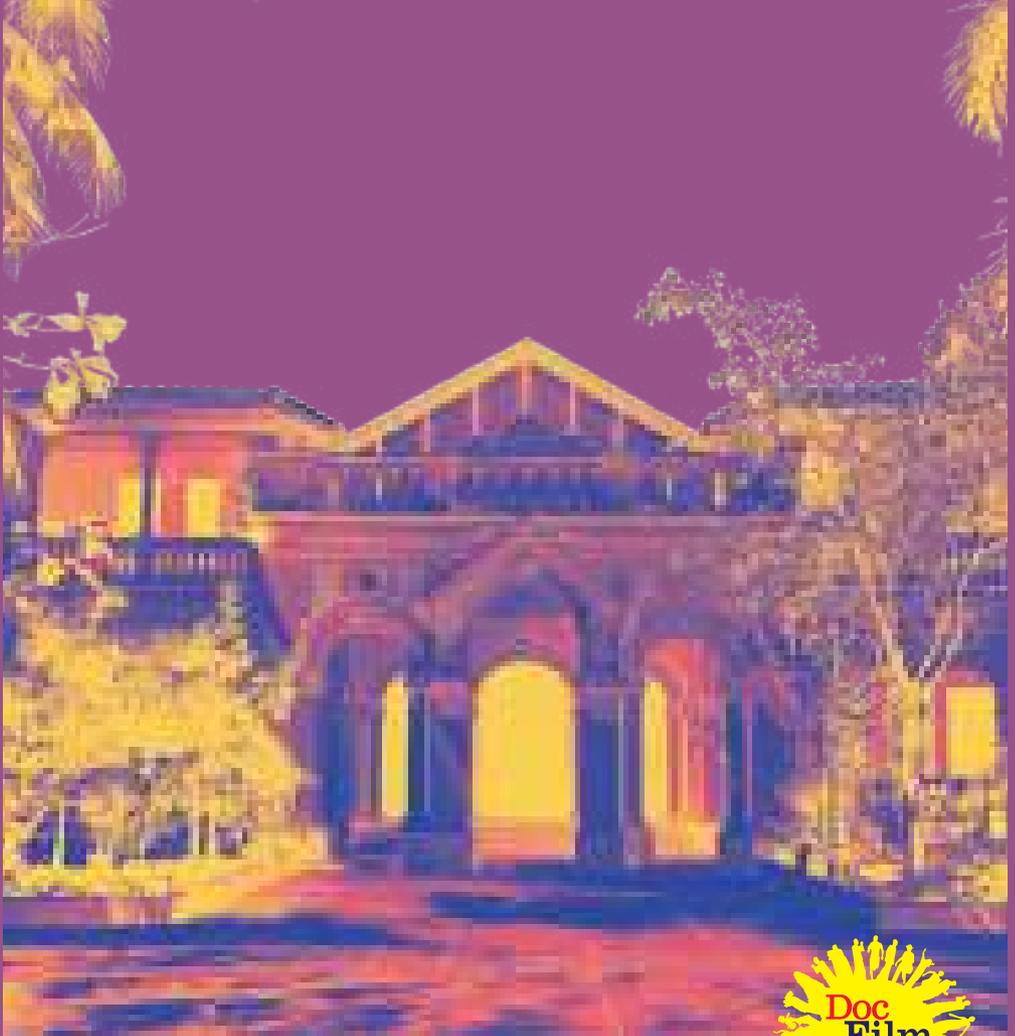
NFDC
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सूचना एवं
प्रसारण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING

सत्यमेव जयते


MIFF2024



1ST EDITION DOC FILM BAZAAR

JUNE 16 - 18, 2024

PROJECT CATALOGUE



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Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

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FILM IN INDIA



फिल्म सुविधाकरण कार्यालय
FILM FACILITATION OFFICE

अद्वितीय भारत
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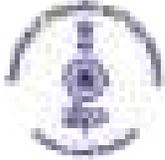
Ministry of Tourism
Government of India



महाराष्ट्र शासन



NMIC
भारतीय फ़िल्मों का राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय
National Museum of Indian Cinema







Message

The Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) is one of the premier platforms celebrating the art of documentary, short fiction, and animation films drawing talent and audiences from around the globe.

Special theme for 18th edition of National Completion in MIFF 2024 is "India in Amrit Kaal". One of the most exciting additions to this year's festival is the first-ever Doc-Film Bazaar. This initiative aims to provide a platform for filmmakers to connect with industry experts, buyers, and sponsors.

Congratulations and best wishes to the filmmakers, and participants for a great edition of MIFF.

Jai Hind !

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ashwini Vaishnaw". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Minister of Information & Broadcasting



डॉ. एल. मुरुगन
Dr. L. MURUGAN



राज्य मंत्री
सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय और
संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार
MINISTER OF STATE FOR
INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MESSAGE

It is with great enthusiasm and honour that I welcome you to the 18th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF). As the oldest and most prestigious festival in South Asia dedicated to documentary, short fiction and animation films, MIFF holds a special place in the hearts of cinephiles and filmmakers alike.

MIFF 2024 is a testament to the enduring legacy and evolving spirit of this festival. The parallel screenings in Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Pune alongside Mumbai mark a significant milestone this year. This expansion is a step towards democratizing access to quality cinema and fostering a nationwide appreciation for the art of documentary and short filmmaking.

The festival's program is a testament to the vibrancy and diversity of the global film community. With 314 films from 59 countries, including 8 world premieres and numerous regional debuts, MIFF 2024 offers a rich tapestry of storytelling. The inclusion of special packages like "Mission Life", "Wildlife Films" and showcases from Asian women filmmakers underscores our commitment to addressing critical global issues and amplifying marginalized voices.

The awards at MIFF 2024, including the prestigious Golden and Silver Conch and the Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award, recognize and honour the outstanding contributions of filmmakers. These accolades not only celebrate excellence but also encourage new talent to explore and push the boundaries of their craft.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers, participants and audiences who make MIFF a remarkable event.


(Dr. L. Murugan)



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

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cinemas of india



MESSAGE



It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I extend a warm welcome to all participants, delegates, and cinephiles to the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF). The festival, established in 1990, stands as the oldest and largest film festival in South Asia dedicated to documentary, short fiction, and animation films.

The significance of MIFF for the Indian film industry cannot be overstated. It is a catalyst for young filmmakers and artists by providing them a nurturing environment for creative exploration, connecting them with resources, producers and funding agencies, and stimulating and empowering the documentary, short film, and animation sectors in India. Over the years, MIFF has evolved into a melting pot of creativity, showcasing the finest Indian and international cinematic works and fostering dialogue and innovation within the filmmaking community.

The 18th edition of MIFF is marked by several noteworthy firsts. The festival's first-ever 'Documentary Film Bazaar' is a groundbreaking addition, offering a vibrant hub for established filmmakers and fresh talent to collaborate and push the boundaries of documentary storytelling. This year, MIFF also extends its reach beyond Mumbai, ensuring accessibility and engagement for diverse audiences. Cultural performances from Sri Lanka and Argentina, and insights into the journey of the Indian animation industry add to the festival's rich tapestry.

2023 was a great year for Indian documentaries with awards and recognition achieved by Indian documentaries at the 95th Academy Awards, as well as at Cannes. This year, we celebrate the global laurels achieved by Indian documentaries, which have further cemented India's reputation as a hub of cinematic excellence.

As we embark on this journey together, I encourage everyone to engage with the films, participate in the discussions, and immerse themselves in the vibrant atmosphere of MIFF 2024.

Let us celebrate the power of cinema to unite, inspire, and bring about meaningful change.

Warm regards,

Shri. Sanjay Jaju
Secretary
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Government of India



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Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

MESSAGE



Organized by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, this edition of MIFF marks a significant milestone. It marks not merely another edition of this esteemed festival but the coming of age of MIFF.

What began as a platform for showcasing documentaries, short films, and animations has now evolved into a dynamic project launch vehicle. Its sole mission is to ensure the successful journey of your projects, providing unwavering support at every stage-whether you are at the conceptualization phase, midway through production, or nearing completion and seeking the next step forward. I have no doubt that this project will open doors for innovative storytelling and unmatched originality in the field of documentaries.

The expectations for this MIFF go beyond the collaborative effort to create and complete films based on individual ideas. The festival aspires to foster a synergy of excellence that will be recognized and celebrated globally. In this spirit, MIFF proudly introduces "The Documentary Film Bazaar." This initiative is designed to maximize opportunities for co-production, encouraging collaboration between filmmakers from different countries and cultures. Such creative and cultural exchanges have the potential to conjure new cinematic classics.

I extend my very best wishes to all participants and to MIFF, as always.

Warm regards,


(Neerja Sekhar)

Smt. Neerja Shekhar
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Government of India



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

NFDC
cinemas of india



MESSAGE



The Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF), in its 18 th edition, continues its legacy of celebrating storytelling and cinematic excellence. This year, MIFF extends its reach outside Mumbai to various cities, namely, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Pune to ensure accessibility and engage with diverse audiences nationwide. Scheduled from 15th June 2024 till 21st June 2024, the festival focuses on documentaries, shorts, and animations that often highlights critical social issues, offers fresh perspectives and inspires change.

We, film aficionados, are thrilled by the recent success of Indian filmmakers in achieving top honours for documentaries in the past two years. In order to facilitate meaningful connections through a Buyer and Seller meet and enable content holders to explore business opportunities and collaborations, MIFF for the first time has designed a pioneer platform - "The Doc Film Bazaar". The Bazaar will facilitate project showcasing, co-production opportunities and networking from 16th June till 18th June 2024.

To impart skill and foster creativity, MIFF has pioneered to organise an "Animation Hands-on Workshop" with paid registration. The festival would also feature international speakers and engage delegates/ invitees through multiple formats including Master Classes, In-Conversation sessions, Panel Discussions, Retrospectives and Workshops. Apart from the various scheduled screenings, MIFF also offers attendees an immersive and interactive experience with cutting-edge technology in filmmaking, through its GoPro Experience Centre.

I warmly welcome you all to the 18th edition of MIFF 2024 and urge all of you to indulge in a memorable and enriching experience!

Warm regards,

Smt. Vrunda Manohar Desai
JS (Films)

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Government of India



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Government of India

FOREWORD



Dear Esteemed Guests, Filmmakers, Animators, and Cinephiles,

Welcome to the 18th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Animation, and Short Films (MIFF) being held from 15th to 21st June, 2024 at the FD-NFDC Complex at Mumbai. It is with immense pleasure and pride that we extend a warm invitation to you for our latest edition, where creativity knows no bounds and stories find their unique voices.

MIFF has always stood as a beacon for groundbreaking storytelling and artistic expression, celebrating the rich tapestry of human experiences through the lens of documentary filmmaking, the imaginative realms of animation, and the compelling narratives of short films. Our festival is not just a showcase of cinematic brilliance but a convergence of passionate storytellers and discerning audiences who appreciate the power of visual storytelling.

This 18th edition of MIFF 2024, we are thrilled to present a diverse array of films from across the globe, reflecting the myriad perspectives and voices that make our world so vibrant. From thought-provoking documentaries that shed light on crucial social issues, to animated features that push the boundaries of imagination, and short films that captivate with their succinct storytelling, MIFF promises to be a celebration of the finest in contemporary cinema. This year we have record number of 1018 submissions from 38 countries across the globe. The festival has curated several exclusive packages for the delegates, such as Oscars winning films, Berlinale shorts, special country packages, film school packages, etc. along with some gala premiers to be held for the 1st time in MIFF.

We are also excited to introduce various interactive sessions, masterclasses, and panel discussions with industry veterans, providing invaluable insights and fostering meaningful dialogues. These engagements are designed to inspire, educate, and create opportunities for networking and collaboration among filmmakers, animators, and enthusiasts.

MIFF 2024, will also feature the first edition of NFDC Doc-Film Bazaar. The Bazaar will be held from 16th to 18th June 2023. With verticals of curated documentary film projects, such as Co-production Market, Work in Progress Lab, Open Buyer-Seller Meet & Viewing Room, the Doc Film Bazaar aims to be the converging point for buyers and sellers from all over the world. Further, Corporate leaders, from various sectors, have been collaborated with the help of industry associations like FICCI, to pitch select Doc Film Bazaar projects on the relevant issues, and explore the potential of funding Documentary films, through CSR of Corporates.

As we gather to honour the artistry and dedication of filmmakers, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, partners, and the entire MIFF team whose unwavering support and hard work make this festival possible. To our participants, your creative efforts and visionary works are the heart and soul of MIFF, and we are truly honoured to showcase your talents.

Thank you for being a part of this cinematic journey. Let us celebrate the magic of storytelling, the diversity of voices, and the boundless creativity that define MIFF.

Warm regards,

Shri. Prithul Kumar
Festival Director
Joint Secretary (Broadcasting – II) & MD NFDC
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Government of India

Doc Film Bazaar Team



Prithul Kumar
Festival Director | MD - NFDC



D. Ramakrishnan
GM - NFDC



Vineeta Mishra
Head of Programming



Mahesh Yadav
DGM (P&A)



Mayur Patel
Assistant Manager



Rohit Chauhan
Assistant Manager

Co-Production Market



Eshan Harsh



Ruchika Gupta

VR & WIP Lab



Bursenla

Technical Support



N V Sai
Bharath
Singamsetty



Girish
Mukkirwar



Pavel
Kalenda



Carlyle Dias

Design & Print



Sanjay Colaco



Kiran More

Doc Film Bazaar Official Project Catalogue

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Co-Production Market

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Aravan Kooth - Performance of Life

India | English | Anthropology

Synopsis

The ethnographic documentary explores the rich narrative and ritual world of the Aravan festival in Koovagam, Tamil Nadu. Lasting 18 days annually, the festival draws thousands of transgender women from across India. The festival is dedicated to the deity Koothandavar, believed to embody Aravan, a Mahabharata warrior. According to legend, Aravan had to sacrifice himself for the Pandavas' victory. He agreed but had three demands: to fight and die heroically, to witness the entire war after his death, and to marry before his sacrifice. Since no one wanted to marry a doomed man, Krishna, disguised as Mohini, wed Aravan.

The festival reenacts Aravan's three wishes. The third wish invites transgender women to the festival as they relate themselves with Krishna's transformation into a woman, and consider themselves as Aravan's brides. The myths and rituals of the festival are crucial in enabling the transgender participation, who join the festival from its 13th day, participating in "marriage" and "widowhood" rites and engaging in sexual union with men, if consent is formed. The documentary delves into the festival's performative and cultural dimensions, depicting how it mirrors life's complexities and interprets life itself, highlighting the role of transgender women in this unique tradition.

Budget

USD 24,250

Financing in place

USD 6,250

Production Company

Pinch of Salt

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Sreeraj Rajeev S

Anupama K P

Looking for

Film Festivals/Programmers,

Film Markets, Film Lab/

Workshop, Producers,

Financiers

Director(s) Statement

Aravan Kooth - Performance of Life delves deep into the intricate and, to some extent, bizarre inner layers of the annual Koovagam festival, popularized as the Koovagam transgender festival. The documentary explores how the festival intertwines ideas of fertility, sexuality, life, and death, along with the historical and mythical life of the village, highlighting how transgender women fit into this framework. Using ethnographic methods, the crew spends significant time in the village and in Villupuram, a district in Tamil Nadu, where associated festivities take place. This approach allows us to capture its essence while engaging with various stakeholders.



Sreeraj Rajeev S
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Sreeraj Rajeev S is a writer/filmmaker from Kerala and an alumnus of the Department of Feature Film Screenplay Writing at FTII, Pune. Sreeraj serves as both the writer and director of *Randaam Sammanam* (Second Prize), a Malayalam short film that has been screened at various film festivals.

He is the co-writer of the National Award-winning (2016) short film *Kamuki* (Sweetheart), directed by Christo Tomy and produced by SRFTI, Kolkata.

His debut Malayalam novel, *Chillukannu* (Glass Eye), was published in 2023 by H&C Publications, a prominent Malayalam publishing house. He is currently working on a feature film and a web series.

Producer(s) Statement

This documentary is rooted in three years of ethnographic fieldwork I conducted in Koovagam during the festival seasons for my PhD. My deep familiarity with the festival's cultural aspects, rituals, narratives, and beliefs ensures an authentic portrayal. The documentary aims to foster understanding of this indigenous tradition, highlighting the aesthetics of life embodied in the festival. Rich in diverse hues and creativity, the festival showcases performances, dances, music, and paintings. The documentary captures this vibrancy and the nuanced experiences of the festival's 18 days, emphasizing its significance for transgender women and its ritualistic intensity.



Dr. Anupama K P
Producer

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com

Producer(s) Biography

Anupama K P works as an Assistant Professor in the department of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Calicut, Kerala. She received her PhD from the department of Communication, Hyderabad Central University. Her ethnographic research for her PhD, conducted in Koovagam during the festival seasons, serves as the inspiration for this documentary.



Bhaichung - The Story of India's Football Legend

India | Aboriginal, English, Hindi, Nepali | Anthropology, Others

Synopsis

Bhaichung Bhutia is an Indian football legend who played as a striker for the national team and several clubs in India and abroad. He captained the Indian National Football Team and was also the highest scorer for India in international competitions making him the torchbearer of Indian football in the international arena.

Ironically, he comes from the least populous state of Sikkim, a small Himalayan state in northeast India that has faced discrimination, racism, and marginalization from the mainstream Indian society. Growing up in a remote village in Sikkim, Bhaichung grew up in a distinct culture that was far removed from mainland India. This influenced Bhaichung's identity and career.

The documentary explores the discrimination that sportspersons from the North East India face in the rest of the country and how Bhaichung overcame these challenges to reach the pinnacle of Indian football.

Through the career of Bhaichung, the documentary will look to examine and highlight the challenges that the sport faces in terms of governance, infrastructure, and investment. It will look to understand and find answers to the chaotic state of Indian football today and why India, despite being the most populous country in the world, lags behind in the sport.

Budget

USD 626,000

Financing in place

USD 65,000

Production Company

HumanTrail Pictures,
Bombay Berlin Film
Productions

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Karma Takapa
Arfi Laamba
Anadi Athaley

Looking for

Film Markets, Film Lab/
Workshop, Film Grants/
Funds, Producers,
Financiers, Studios

Director(s) Statement

As a filmmaker from Sikkim, I deeply understand the region's cultural and social landscape. Fascinated by sports' transformative power, I have observed the struggles and discrimination faced by players from North East India. This inspired me to document the story of Bhaichung Bhutia as he is a true embodiment of an underdog who fought through incredible prejudices of his times and through sheer resilience and determination, reached the pinnacle of Indian Football. His story also aligns with my commitment to create narratives from the perspective of the underrepresented communities that I, too, am a part of. In this context I do believe that Bhaichung's story has the power to resonate to a large audience to bring about a positive change in the world of Indian Football and beyond.



Karma Takapa
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Karma Takapa, a graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, specialized in Direction and Screenplay writing. He co-directed the Chhattisgarhi feature *Mor Mann Ke Bharam* (2015), winning the Special Jury Prize at the 17th Mumbai Film Festival. His debut film, *Ralang Road* (2017), premiered at the 52nd Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Takapa's works include short fiction and documentaries, often exploring his native Sikkim. His next film, *Upar Neeche*, is in post-production. Recently, he starred in the Amazon Prime series *The Last Hour* (2022) and Netflix's *Jaane Jaan* (2023).

Producer(s) Statement

India, with over 200 countries playing football, ranks 120th globally, despite being the most populous country. While cricket dominates, the North East has been a football hub but faces challenges like lack of opportunities, infrastructure, and discrimination. In 1993, 17-year-old Bhaichung Bhutia from Sikkim joined East Bengal, drawing national attention and debuting for the national team at 19. He became the captain, the poster boy of Indian football and arguably the only recognisable face in Indian football. Bhaichung was touted to open up the possibilities for Indian footballers to play at the world level. But it didn't happen. Why?



Arfi Laamba
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Arfi Laamba co-founded Bombay Berlin Film Productions (BBFP) in 2011 and has produced/co-produced three feature films, short films, and advertisements. His first feature, *LOEV*, was on Netflix for five years. He co-produced *The Road to Mandalay*, released in 30+ countries, and *Trijya*, currently on MUBI. He is developing two series and working on two international co-productions.

Anadi Athaley, a 2014 Film and Television Institute of India graduate in Film Editing, began producing films with HumanTrail Pictures. His first film, *Mor Mann Ke Bharam*, won the Jury Special Prize at the 17th Mumbai Film Festival. His second, *Ralang Road*, premiered at Karlovy Vary. Currently, he's working as a producer and editor.



Anadi Athaley
Producer

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Bhalu Aa Gaye!

The Bears Are Here!

India | Chhattisgarhi, English, Hindi | Anthropology, Environment & Sustainability, Others, Wildlife

Synopsis

Around 100 km from Raipur, Chhattisgarh is the Chandi Mata Temple, carved into a rock formation within its lush forests. Every evening, this innocuous holy site transforms into a venue for a fascinating man-animal interaction, drawing eager crowds to witness this marvel. A family of sloth bears wander into the temple complex, engaging with the temple priest and the gathered crowds, adapting to the unique dynamics formed by a proximity to human life.

For the temple priest, these bears symbolise cursed devotees of the temple goddess. He welcomes their presence like it is his duty. While the priest's beliefs can be seen as farcical, it is hard to ignore the beauty of the bond. Ranger Mahesh, on the other hand, is more pragmatic. He has observed these animals for years, and his role requires him to ensure the interaction is responsible. Yet he cannot be too interventionist due to the sensitivity of religious sentiments.

Our story, however, is told from the point of view of 'O', a charming, young wildlife photographer, with a passion for man-animal coexistence and forests. But being a Muslim man by name, O must protect his religious identity to gain access to capture the bears interacting with the visitors and the environment. His innocent quest to learn more about this situation creates another layer of cultural and societal complexity, set against a growing intolerance.

Budget

USD 146,824

Financing in place

USD 30,000

Production Company

Slow Show Projects LLP

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Naman Saraiya
Agastya Bhatia

Looking for

Film Lab/Workshop, Film
Grants/Funds, Producers,
Financiers

Director(s) Statement

The interplay of roles - as with religion and tradition in the priest, authority in the wildlife officer, and artistic expression and storytelling via a photographer who happens to be Muslim - are compelling. These exchanges present an opportunity for debate, in a manner that is brought together by forces of nature, moulded by growing development and guided by tradition.

Using humour, and observation, the director hopes to make a film that is not just impactful, but also entertaining while presenting everyday realities of identity in an ever evolving India.

Perhaps *Bhalu Aa Gaye!* is a warning sign, more than an exclamation!



Naman Saraiya
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Exploring the intersections of culture and identity, Saraiya's work moves across music, gender, mental health, politics, caste and class, technology and food. He is the director of *Kya Bolta Bantai*, which charts the rise of gully rap in India and a feature length exploration of India's gun culture, part of a pan-Asia series for VICE World News, titled *Point Blank*.

Most recently, Naman directed *My Daughter Joined a Cult* for Discovery+/Max, an award-winning 3 part docu-series investigating the crimes of Swami Nithyananda.

Producer(s) Statement

From a production perspective, the opportunity to create a meaningful, fun and unique story with an indie setup but with widespread reach, is massive.

As Indian films, especially the more experimental and conscious kind, find larger audiences and acceptance globally across festivals and theatrical runs, there is a slow but sure appetite within India to embrace the craft, harking back to the cinema of the 80s that shed a light on society.

Having said that, *Bhalu Aa Gaye!* is an opportunity to create something unique.



Agastya Bhatia
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Agastya has been working as a Producer in Mumbai, India for the last eight years. He has conceptualised & produced various projects with a diverse set of production houses, brands and networks.

Agastya has been passionate about creating non-fiction stories that directly impact conversations and policies in the region. This has resulted in a decade-long partnership with a peace-building organisation in the region of Jammu and Kashmir called "Yakjah" to help transform the youth from active participation in violent radicalisation to developing practices through the medium of storytelling, healing, and dialogue between communities.



Himalaya Ki Peeth Par

Our Home Is In The Hills

India | Garhwali, Hindi, Kumaoni | Anthropology, Environment & Sustainability, Gender and Sexuality, Urbanization, Wildlife

Synopsis

The Askot-Arakot Yatra, a journey started with the aim of understanding the land and its people in the northern Indian Himalayas. In 1974, four young student activists set out to map the hill regions of the then state of Uttar Pradesh with the aim of understanding the socio-economic and environmental conditions and mapping the ethno-cultural diversity of the region. Since then, the trek has been organized once every decade and, in the process, has mapped the changes in the region over the past five decades.

Leading the yatra is Shekhar Pathak, a 74-year-old historian and the only remaining member of the original group of four that started it. Pathak now leads a younger group of academics and activists on this 45-day journey, covering approximately 1150 km on foot.

We intend to document the Askot-Arakot yatra this year and use the journey as a springboard to document the fast-changing environmental, cultural, and socio-economic landscape of this vital Himalayan region that is the origin of not just some of the largest rivers sustaining the vast North Indian plains and its populations but also glaciers that keep these rivers well-fed throughout the year. With environmental preservation clashing with the pressure of relentless and often ill-advised and haphazard development, the region is a hotbed of the many challenges humanity will be faced within the coming decades.

Budget

USD 150,000

Financing in place

USD 60,000

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Tanya Negi
Vikas Kumar

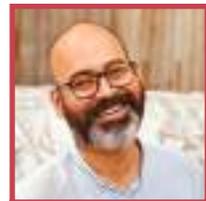
Looking for

Film Lab/Workshop, Film Grants/Funds, Producers, Financiers, Studios

Director(s) Statement

The Himalayan region of Uttarakhand has long been a land of significant importance. It is a site of deep spiritual and ecological value to, not just India, but the rest of the world.

The documentary will inter-cut from the excitement and daily challenges of a tiring 45 day trek across some of the most scenic as well as terrifying Himalayan landscapes to the deep personal stories of villagers, moving emotionally as well as in time, and will be held together by Shekhar Pathak's insightful and compassionate narration on the history, ecology, and society of these hills as seen by him and his colleagues over the last six decades.



Arun Fulara
Director & Producer

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Director(s) Biography

Arun is a writer and director based in Mumbai whose works deal with the introspective explorations of identity, sexuality, and the human connection to nature. His style blends contemporary realism and folklore, offering rich, rooted stories from the oft-overlooked corners of Indian life and experience. Beneath Fulara's tender, observant lens lies a deep reverence for the natural world and a dissection of humanity's place within it.

Arun's breakout debut *Sunday* (2020), about two gay men in Mumbai, won him awards like the Riyad Wadia Award for Best Emerging Filmmaker at Kashish MQFF. His short *My Mother's Girlfriend* (2021) is streaming on MUBI, and his latest short *Shera* (2022) is a poetic rural drama examining mankind's fragile relationship with wildlife.

Producer(s) Statement

The Askot-Arakot Yatra is an inspiring journey and civic movement that can set an example for communities worldwide. This journey refocuses our attention on the land we take from without giving back. Through this documentary, we aim to reveal the reality from the perspective of the local people and highlight the challenges they face in this ecologically unstable region, home to vital rivers and natural resources but also prone to disasters. We aim to raise awareness about the Himalayan region's challenges, find solutions, and impart knowledge, emphasizing community-led efforts and encouraging a shift in perspectives to understand changes in these remote communities over the decades.



Tanya Negi
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Tanya Negi, a dynamic film producer, co-produced the acclaimed Indo-French film *Girls Will Be Girls*, directed by Shuchi Talati. Premiering at Sundance 2024, the film garnered prestigious awards, including The Audience Award and the Special Jury Award for Best Actress. Tanya also executive produced the short film *Nighiyaan Parchavan* (Warm Shadows), directed by Aakash Chhabra. Furthermore, Tanya is the creator and programmer director of 'Undercurrent,' an incubation program aimed at training women as technicians in filmmaking, supported by the Berlinale Mastercard Enablement Programme, ARRI and Institut Franais.



Kalari

Kalari – The Martial Art of Female Power

India, Switzerland | Malayalam | Martial Arts, Gender and Sexuality, Women's Movement

Synopsis

Kalari is enthraling young women in Kerala, India. As the world's oldest martial art, Kalari is becoming increasingly significant in a society where violence against women is both historical and a daily reality.

Headstrong primary school pupil Arushi (9) used Kalari against her own mother and now is not allowed to practise anymore. Arushi has to overcome her anger to return to the beloved training center. Her teachers, two brave Muslim sisters and Kalari Champions Anshifa (22) and Arifa (26), fight to continue training after being married. The Kalari expert and farmer's daughter, Christian Milena (21) moves to a city to become a nurse, wanting to make her family happy. She manages to find creative ways to practice Kalari by training the nurses in her college.

Joined by the gender history expert, brilliant Dr. Malavika Binny (34) providing essential context, the film follows young Indian women on their journey towards a safe and self-determined life.

Budget

USD 500,000

Financing in place

USD 400,000

Production Company

First Hand Films
Spirited Heroine Productions

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Dr. Malavika Binny
Fareeda A.M.

Looking for

Film Festivals/Programmers,
Film Markets, Film Lab/
Workshop, Film Grants/
Funds, Producers,
Financiers, Studios

Director(s) Statement

Violence against women in India has been in the headlines for years. Our film shows women as warriors, not victims. It tells an emotional story, through an anthology of female protagonists covering different aspects of the film's theme. The shocking facts about violence against women are part of the film and are shown in an associative way as it is important to feel that these women and girls train Kalari not just for fun but for survival.

We capture the everyday life of our protagonists in direct cinema style. The audience should be completely immersed in the action and to experience both the courage and the vulnerability of the protagonists first hand.

Our collaboration is characterized by Satindar's visual acuity and radicalism in film form and Maria's mission to create inspiring female characters. When we work together, it feels like an extended version of our individual artistic selves.

Director(s) Biography

Award-winning Swiss director Maria Kaur Bedi and Indian director Satindar Singh Bedi joined forces as the Bedi Duo. Their first work together, the poetic cinema documentary *The Curse* (2023), was nominated for the Prix de Soleure and the prestigious German Camera Award. It was awarded the Zurich Film Prize for the overall creative concept in November 2023. Bedi Duo specializes in making films with feisty female protagonists under their Spirited Heroine banner.

Producer(s) Statement

Our aim is to achieve a premiere at one of the renowned international festivals such as Locarno, Venice, Rotterdam, Goa, Sundance or Berlin. We are also aiming for film festivals such as Nyon, CPH:DOX or IDFA.

Next, we plan to submit the film to specialised festivals, for example for women's and human rights films. We are confident that our film *Kalari* will also achieve considerable success in the market. Thanks to the long-standing cooperation with the festivals as a global distributor, we (First Hand Films) are of course particularly happy to use our relationship for the films that we produce ourselves.

Producer(s) Biography

First Hand Films is an award-winning international production company and world sales, including a theatrical distributor in Switzerland's, based in Zurich.

Run by Esther van Messel since 1998, FHF finds partners, finance and deals with the entire production process. FHF sold thousands of licenses worldwide, turned over more than twenty million Euro and won many awards including Emmies, Golden Roses and Oscar Nominations. FHF works with ambitious and accessible projects worldwide, combining intelligence, practical knowledge and experience. Today, First Hand Films have been seen by hundreds of millions of people all over the world, in cinemas, on TV and online.



Satindar Singh
Bedi
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Maria Kaur Bedi
Director

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Esther Van Messel
Producer

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Lam Houdong

A Street Cat

India | Manipuri | Animation

Synopsis

In the bustling city of Imphal, Tombi, a clever gray cat, lives a double life between his loving human family and the harsh streets. One evening, on a very auspicious day for the Meitei people, Tombi ventures out from his house to find fish for his family's dinner. His human family faces financial trouble and can't afford fish for Imoinu Day. Tombi gets caught in the midst of rival street cat factions, forgets the way home, and becomes a street cat. To prove his worth and survive, Tombi proposes a daring heist on Ema Market, targeting its fish stalls.

Despite initial struggles, Tombi unites the factions through rigorous training, preparing for the heist on the eve of the Ningol Chakouba festival. The plan goes awry as a riot against sudden inflation breaks out, but the cats, led by Tombi, seize the chaos to snatch fish and escape. Tombi's journey from an alienated cat to a leader among the street cats unfolds.

Returning home with a prized fish, Tombi is welcomed back by his grateful human family. However, restless and burdened by memories of the street cats' struggles, Tombi convinces all cats to redistribute the stolen fish to Imphal's needy households. Through this selfless act, Tombi transforms from a rogue street cat into a symbol of unity and generosity, bridging the gap between humans and street cats in a heartwarming tale of community and redemption.

Budget

USD 240,000

Financing in place

USD 25,000

Production Company

Blow Brisas Media,
Entertainment Private Limited

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Yaso Sharma
Trishul Yumnam

Looking for

Film Festivals/Programmers,
Film Markets, Film Grants/
Funds, Financiers

Director(s) Statement

Lam Houdong follows Tombi, a brave cat navigating Imphal's bustling market and harsh streets. This heartwarming tale celebrates community and resilience. Through stunning animation and music, it will immerse you in Imphal's vibrant culture.

Tombi's journey, from pampered pet to street cat leader, emphasizes the power of unity and overcoming challenges. This first film in a trilogy sets the stage. Part 2: Tombi and his cats face a deadly disease spread by rats. Uncovering a plot, they must unite with their former foes to save the city. Part 3: A new threat emerges - snakes. Tombi leads his allies towards a fragile peace, proving unity conquers even primal instincts.



Trishul Yumnam
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Trishul Yumnam, from Imphal, Manipur, a filmmaker in animation. Graduated from The English and Foreign Languages University, Shillong, and furthered his skills at the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute. His interests in storytelling stems from the stories from his childhood and Video Games. Currently, he is directing a short animation film under production by NFDC, and still working on more stories.

As a filmmaker and a storyteller, he aspires to tell new and original stories inspired from life itself and does not shy away from utilising any modern medium and format available.

Producer(s) Statement

Lam Houdong is poised for global animation success. The market thrives on heartwarming stories with cultural depth, and Tombi's journey, infused with Imphal's vibrant tapestry, offers a unique blend that transcends borders. We expect strong box office returns, plus revenue from merchandise, licensing, and even theme parks! To maximize reach, we're crafting the dialogue for seamless dubbing, ensuring Tombi's charm and the film's emotional core resonate worldwide in every language.



Yaso Sharma
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Yaso Sharma is a filmmaker from Manipur, India. He excels in everything from sound design to directing! After studying communication and journalism, he honed his skills at the renowned Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute in Kolkata.

Producer and director of the documentary film *People On Pilgrimage*. His short film *Ninachillakalil* won an award at a film festival! His filmography includes *Bazigaar*, a documentary film.

Currently, he's nearing completion on a fantastic animation film co-produced by NFDC and his production house Blow Brisas Media and Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. His films inspire change and unity, making him a true asset to the industry!



Legend of Abbakka

India | English, Kannada | Anthropology, Arts, Music and Culture, Women's Movement

Synopsis

Rani Abbakka of Ullal is an inspiring warrior-queen who fought and more significantly 'won against all odds' defying the might of the Portuguese Empire during the 16th century. Unfortunately her story remains untold in history books.

Abbakka, a Jain, ruled over a diverse population of Muslims, Hindus and Christians, united by the common interest of keeping the foreign invaders at bay. This was a time of gunpowder versus the sword; cannons boomed through defiant fire-arrows. Abbakka was even betrayed by her husband but she challenged tradition and 'divorced' him. Unlike many early freedom fighters, who were sadly martyred, Abbakka was consistently victorious in battle and eventually successful in routing the Portuguese out of the Malabar coast. Had Abbakka and her allies failed, the history of the world post 16th century would have been quite different. Instead of English, Indians would probably be speaking Portuguese.

The memory of Abbakka's valour is preserved as legend in the Yakshagana and Bhuta Kola traditions of folk-theatre in coastal Karnataka where the dancer/devotee enraptured in a trance, recounts the deeds of Abbakka Mahadevi, elevating her to the status of a goddess. The documentary integrates this traditional folk-theatre as the cornerstone around which Abbakka's story unfolds.

Budget

USD 60,000

Financing in place

USD 15,000

Production Company

Vibrant Works

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Satavsha Bose
Cyrus Khambata
Mohaana Nadaar

Looking for

Film Festivals/Programmers,
Film Markets, Film Lab/
Workshop, Film Grants/
Funds, Producers,
Financiers, Studios

Director(s) Statement

I was drawn to Abbakka's story when I was ten years old and chanced upon Rani Abbakka's Amar Chitra Katha, a children's comic book. It felt like discovering a treasure that nobody seemed to know about, a sentiment that endures to this day. Apart from being a valiant, inspiring leader, Abbakka was a feminist and a secularist even before these concepts existed. There is great sadness when deserving heroes remain uncelebrated, but along with that comes a strong desire to tell the world about them. This is the reason I am committed to making this film.



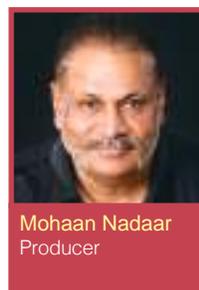
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Director(s) Biography

Cyrus majored in Direction & Screenplay Writing from SRFTI, Kolkata. His short *Chung Pao Chinese Chilli Sauce* was selected at Berlinale Talent Campus and screened at MIFF. He has collaborated on documentaries like PSBT's *Mysore Mallige* & Coca Cola funded *Water Project*. He has worked on features, *Bheja Fry*, *Kaccha Limboo* and *Mithya* with directors Sagar Ballary and Rajat Kapoor. He has edited, co-written, co-directed and co-produced the independent feature *Yahaan Sabki Lagi Hai*, under their banner Vibrant Works where he has also directed, edited and produced numerous commercials, for clients such as Viacom, Pidilite, Cadbury's, O&M and Harper Collins.

Producer(s) Statement

I got excited about the project after learning that despite various prior attempts by other producers to turn Abbakka's story into a big budget semi-fictional series, the director's heart had always been set on making a 'proper well-researched historical documentary' before anything else. After an initial idea-exchange with Santosh Sivan, RV Ramani and also a competent researcher, Preeti Acharya, all of whom have helped in navigating the vision thus far, Satavsha Bose, the co-producer and I hope to continue this collaboration and do justice to the awe-inspiring legendary story of this incredible woman.



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Producer(s) Biography

Mohaana Nadaar has produced over fifty films in about six years with TPHQ. His latest co-production *Shameless* won at the Cannes Film Festival in the Best Actress category (*Un Certain Regard*). Mohaana Nadaar is a prolific distributor, curating his own array of independent and regional-language films. His latest project *Lioness* is the first official Indo-UK co-production, made under the bilateral treaty.

As a director and partner at Vibrant Works, Satavsha Bose has produced numerous commercials, corporate CSR films, music videos through extensive production experience gained working at Red Ice Films, Rising Sun Films and Film Philosophy.



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Lhasa Ma Soon Chha

There Is Gold In Lhasa

India, Nepal | English, Nepali, Tibetan | Anthropology, Gender and Sexuality, Love and Border

Synopsis

An ancient trading route in the Himalayas still carries the footprints of those who dared to make the arduous journey. There was gold to be found in Lhasa, literally and figuratively. Women too traveled along these risky paths but their footprints have been erased.

The search for these women begins in Kathmandu, home to the Lhasa Newar community, the traditional trading caste. Here we find whiffs of these nameless women through hearsay.

Putali Maharani, a Newar palace maid-turned-queen, sent her two sisters to set up a trading house in Lhasa. Who were these women? Another faint shadow appears in a book - that of a woman nicknamed 'Walking Goddess'. She is believed to have traveled from Kathmandu to Lhasa, disguised as a man, in search of her husband. A crowd had gathered on her arrival in Lhasa to witness a rare Newar woman who made it to Tibet. No one remembers her real name or what happened to her.

The film follows the Old Silk route that was most prevalent in the late stages of this golden period of trade. Along the way, we search for traces of women's lives, their ambitions and adventures.

Budget

USD 288,030

Financing in place

USD 72,036

Production Company

Painted Tree Pictures
www.paintedtreepictures.com

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Surbhi Dewan
Jasmine Lovely George

Looking for

Film Festivals/Programmers,
Film Markets, Film Lab/
Workshop, Film Grants/
Funds, Producers,
Financiers, Studios

Director(s) Statement

My friend, Manushi, was the protagonist of my documentary, *Daughter of Nepal* (2018). Her grandfather's book about his travels to Lhasa in the 1930s became my entry point into the trade route. After extensive research, it was apparent that the representation of women in historical and literary accounts is grossly limited and skewed. The complexities of their lives have been completely ignored. This brought me to two central questions: Can we recover a past that was never recorded? Is there a future without a past? This film is a life-affirming revival of women's lives lost across borders and generations.



Surbhi Dewan
Director & Producer

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Director(s) Biography

Surbhi is an independent film director, writer & producer. Her films explore intersections between socio-political conflict, displacement, memory and identity. Her notable films include *A Thin Wall* (65 mins, Doc, 2015), *Daughter of Nepal* (34 mins, Doc, 2018) and *Trans Kashmir* (62 mins, Doc, 2022).

Surbhi has also produced award-winning social and commercial audio-visual content with her New Delhi-based production company, Painted Tree Pictures. She graduated with an MFA in Film from Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, and received her BA degree in Political Science from Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University.

Producer(s) Statement

Jasmine Lovely George: I see a huge potential in this story of women from South Asia. The film portrays women of this region as entrepreneurs and this is a narrative I am deeply invested in.

Economic empowerment of women is an issue that the Global South is slowly focusing on, and we need many more positive stories of women from the past, which will inspire young women to dream big. This story needs to be told. It requires a big canvas and I am here to support it.



Jasmine Lovely George
Producer

Producer(s) Biography

Jasmine Lovely George is a feminist strategist with over a decade-long experience of working in South and South East Asia. Jasmine founded Hidden Pockets Collective - an NGO focussed on reproductive and technological justice. She works as a strategic advisor to various philanthropists and assists them in grant-making for work in South Asia.

Jasmine wants to raise funds and create financial infrastructures for social movements in Global South. She is also interested in bringing local narratives from South Asia to a global audience.



Music From the Roof of the World

India, United Kingdom, USA | English, Hindi, Nepali, Tibetan | Arts, Music and Culture, Education, Love and Border, Others

Synopsis

This documentary is about Tibetan rap music in India. It will begin by introducing Gen-Z Tibetan musicians in India and examine what motivated them to start making music in Tibetan. Moreover, what encouraged them to start making rap music. Some of the most important characters will be musicians like Tenzin Namsel and Tenzin Youst, who have seen a lot of success on YouTube. They will become the framework through which we see the art and the socio-cultural climate they are creating music in. We will also see how the safety they have experienced in India so far has encouraged them to stop seeing themselves as refugees. We will see them navigate success as a result of their choice to make music in the Tibetan language and find their tribe as they begin to collaborate with Tibetan rap musicians in the UK and the USA.

Budget

USD 73.000

Production Company

<https://prachihota.com/>

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Prachi Hota

Looking for

Film Festivals/Programmers,
Film Grants/Funds,
Producers, Financiers,
Studios

Director(s) Statement

I have a very close relationship with my home. It provides the moorings that form the emotional bedrock of my existence. Growing up in Delhi, perhaps the most prominent population without a homeland they inherited from their ancestors, were Tibetans. This documentary, which is intended as a witness statement to their love for their culture, will be an experimental and poetic documentary reflecting the rhythms of the music created by these young Tibetan musicians through film grammar that blurs the line between scripted drama and observational documentary, pushing the boundaries.



Prachi Hota
Director & Producer

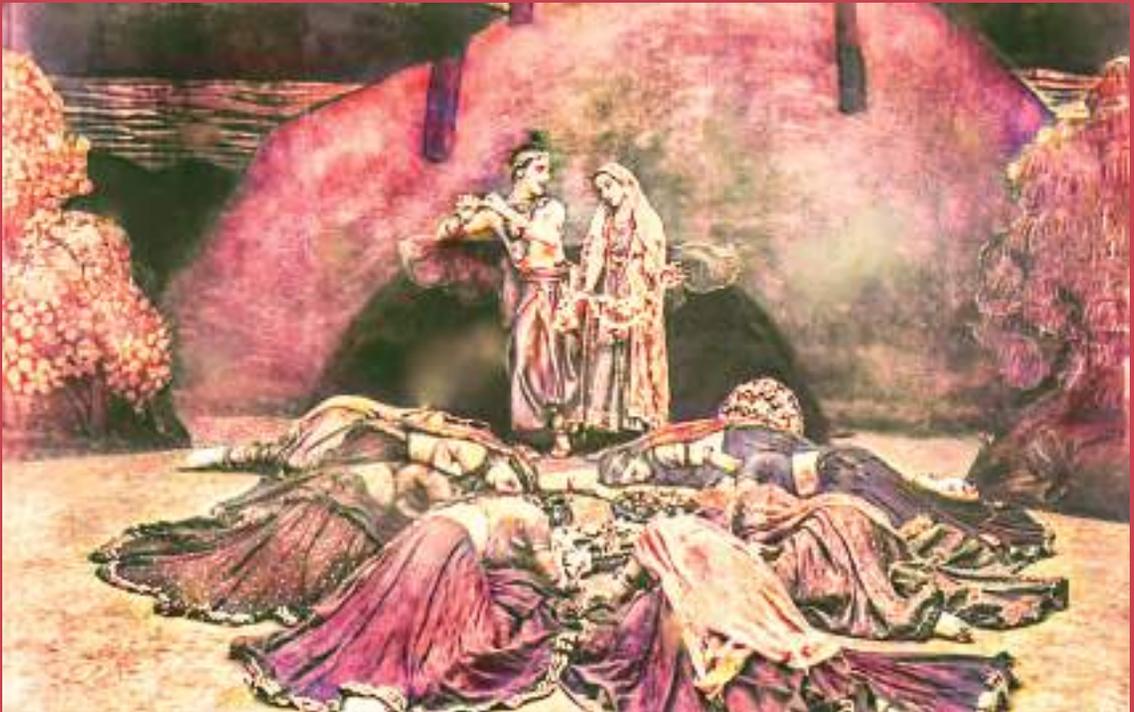
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com

Director(s) Biography

Prachi Hota is a recent graduate of the London Film School (LFS), where she specialised in production, documentary direction, sound recording and editing under the mentorship of Oscar and BAFTA winners. She has produced commercials for several British startups, managed games and film festivals in collaboration with the British Film Institute (BFI) and produced films in Italy, Czech Republic, France, UK and India. Her graduation film *Past Imperfect*, a short documentary about Richard Twose, an award-winning British painter who used his art to process his traumatic childhood was recently screened at the BFI for members of the British film industry.

Producer(s) Statement

At a time when the world is experiencing upheaval and India is beginning to express herself as a civilisational state, young Tibetans are grappling with the memory of a homeland their ancestors lost. This project will serve as a chronicle to the resilience of the Tibetan community and their memories of those mountains. Inspired by the artistry of *At Eternity's Gate*, we'll use film grammar that pushes the envelope, to reveal their internal monologue. With a lean, agile team and judicious budgeting, we will make sure the money is invested in ways that translate directly to the screen.



Romancing the Dance

India, Russia | English, Russian | Arts, Music and Culture

Synopsis

The true story of Anna Pavlova, Russian prima ballerina, the most-celebrated dancer of her time and Udai Shankar, Indian cult figure in the world of dance and the rebirth of the traditional Indian dances.

Very few people know that Anna Pavlova, one of the most famous world ballet stars was, so to say, the godmother of the rebirth of the traditional Indian dances as an art form. In 1923 she met a young Indian student Udai Shankar who introduced her to the culture of his amazing motherland. None of them knew back in 1923 that their meeting in London would change their fates and become once in a lifetime opportunity.

In India the Shankar brothers are household names known to every educated person. Udai and Ravi are among the largest contributors to the development and promotion of the traditional Indian culture in the 20th century. Udai is called the father of the Indian dance and Ravi introduced the world (and the Beatles) to the virtuoso sitar ballads.

The documentary will tell about the relationship between Anna Pavlova and Udai Shankar, the revival of classical Indian dance and the creative career of world famous brothers - Udai and Ravi Shankar.

Budget

USD 500,000

Financing in place

USD 200,000

Production Company

Two Captains Film Company
<http://2captains.tilda.ws>

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Anastasiia Voskresenskaia,
Natalie Debezhev

Looking for

Film Festivals/Programmers,
Film Markets, Film Grants/
Funds, Producers,
Financiers, Studios

Director(s) Statement

The story I want to reveal in this documentary is not well known to the audience. Nevertheless, it played a huge role in the rebirth of classical Indian dance and the formation of a creative careers of such Indian legends as Shankar brothers. The inspiring collaboration of Anna Pavlova and Udai Shankar is a wonderful example of the merger and enrichment of two great cultures of India and Russia. This heritage is worth being celebrated. It's going to be more than a historical documentary, it's going to be a real romance story. That's why I called it – *Romancing the Dance*.



Sergei Debizhev
Director

Director(s) Biography

Award-winning filmmaker, screenwriter and social influencer. He is a trailblazer of a film style that creates poetic images of extraordinary emotional impact together with profound meaning for audiences worldwide. Debizhev is prominent in the Russian and international film world as one of the most authoritative documentary makers of Russia.

He has directed more than 30 feature films and nonfiction stories about important issues of our time. He explores such subjects as art and its influence of people, burning issues of the world history, religion and faith. He centers on meanings that are pivotal for every person.

Producer(s) Statement

Both in India and Russia, the film will resonate with a huge audience: there are millions of Russian ballet and classical Indian dance avid fans. The film is more than a documentary. It is planned to become a real work of art: its director's style combines breathtaking cinematography with fascinating stories. Celebrity narrators from India and Russia, ballet stars, famous Indian dancers will be involved in the filming. This will certainly attract the attention of the audiences, create a buzz and allow to organise a bright and targeted marketing campaign. It's the key to successful distribution in India and Russia.



Anastasiia Voskresenskaia
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

More than 15 years of experience in the field of producing and PR promotion, including the last 5 years in the film industry. She fruitfully cooperates with the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, top Russian TV channels, the Committees for Culture of Moscow and St. Petersburg and other key industry institutes. As a result of the this work is a successful theatrical releases of documentary films, more than 3, 500 news, TV reports and interviews were published, as well as reviews by leading film critics and film experts. The projects have received wide coverage on social media.



Sons of The River

India, USA | Hindi, Punjabi, Haryanvi | Environment & Sustainability, Health and Mental Health, Urbanization, Others

Synopsis

Punjab is a majestic land of rivers, but the rivers that flow through the royal city of Patiala are said to have cursed its people. Today, it's not uncommon for a passerby to spot a corpse floating down the Bhakra Canal. Hundreds of families frantically search for the missing kin in this hostile environment. In a world concerned with saving the living, they rely on a small group of people who rescue the dead.

Sons of The River is a feature-length hybrid documentary that enters the shadowy world of body recovery through the eyes of self-taught diver Ashu Malik on his mission to reunite bodies to their families. However, when Ashu's health declines he begins to consider retirement. He worries that with no one to pass his learnings down to, decades of painfully cultivated expertise will go to waste. In a tragic twist, a shy farmer boy named Sukhwinder loses his father to suicide and immediately quits school to enter the dangerous world of diving. He joins Ashu's team to learn the ropes, but what starts out as a simple lesson in diving transforms into a partnership that could shape the future of an ill-fated canal for years to come.

Budget

USD 464,125

Financing in place

USD 255,000

Production Company

Shastra Productions

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Katyayani Kumar

Rohan Shiv

Eshaan Srivastava

Looking for

Film Markets, Film Lab/
Workshop, Film Grants/
Funds, Producers, Financiers

Director(s) Statement

Don't you wish there were some things in the world you were present to film? The most nimble and fleeting moments are transitory ones. They flash as fast as lightning but make a roar as loud as thunder. I'll be filming the first time a diver will divert from conventional duties to work on the intimidating puzzle of suicide prevention. In a state leading in suicides but lacking even the most basic mental healthcare, this is a daunting task. I don't know how many groundbreaking moments I'll come across in my life. But I'm just in time for this one.



Katayani Kumar
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Katayani Kumar is a film director and Sarah Lawrence College alum. Her foray into film began under the guidance of Oscar-nominated producer Heather Winters. In 2022, her film *Coffined At 15* screened at the Oscar-qualifying Dances With Films festival. She directed her second short live-action film on the subject of school shootings in Kenya and received acclaim from E! Entertainment founder Larry Namer. She is also a passionate writer and bagged quarterfinalist in the Academy Nicholl Screenwriting Fellowship for her first feature screenplay. She believes in cinema with purpose and happy endings that don't just inform, but help us heal.

Producer(s) Statement

As a producer, my approach to *Sons of the River* is deeply committed to authenticity, empathy, and meticulous storytelling. Our goal is to shed light on the suicide epidemic and the ethical dilemmas faced by divers, engaging the audience in a visually rich and thought-provoking experience. Targeting socially conscious audiences, *Sons of the River* is set for strong circulation in prominent festivals. I have a proven track record delivering on projects for networks like MAX, Amazon, AMC, and more. With a budget that aligns with the film's ambitious scope, we ensure a high-quality production that delivers on Katayani's powerful vision.



Eric Cook
Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Eric Cook is an independent producer based in Los Angeles. In 2021, Eric executive produced the feature film *Monica* which premiered in competition at the 2022 Venice International Film Festival. On the documentary side, Eric developed and co-produced a feature documentary for Showtime titled *Ready For War* (Premiered at TIFF 2019). In 2023, he premiered a four-part investigative docuseries for Amazon Studios called *Shiny Happy People: Duggar Family Secrets*, the largest documentary premiere for Amazon ever. Eric is a USC School of Cinematic Arts graduate, a 2020 IFP/Gotham Episodic Lab Fellow, and a Producers Guild of America (PGA) member.



The Valley of Health

India | English, Rajasthani, Tamil | Anthropology, Environment & Sustainability, Health and Mental Health, Women's Movement

Synopsis

An incredible and empowering tale of a people led revolution in community health, that unfolded over 20 years in a remote tribal village nestled within the depths of a forest in South India.

In 1992, the valley of Sittilingi faced alarming healthcare challenges, resulting in tragically high infant and maternal mortality rates. With the nearest hospital requiring a journey of 48 km through poorly severed public transportation routes, emergencies invariably led to devastating outcomes.

Little did the people of valley know that a decision made by two young doctors elsewhere, were to alter their lives forever. Dr Regi and Dr Lalitha's decision to move to Sittilingi and be of service to the villagers marked the beginning of a transformative journey. With the unwavering support from the villagers, the doctors established Tribal Health Initiative (THI), igniting a revolution in community health.

Over 20 years, the healthcare revolution transformed the valley into a healthcare hub for villages in a 50km radius. It brought down infant mortality from 147 to 20 per 1000 babies and eradicated maternal mortality.

We aim to document the transformative journey of the village, the doctors and its people, narrating a story of communal determination.

Budget

USD 9,700

Financing in place

USD 3,700

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Sankara Narayanan

Looking for

Film Festivals/Programmers,
Film Markets, Film Lab/
Workshop, Film

Director(s) Statement

In these somber times, the need to share this story seemed imperative; a story that can instill hope, or perhaps inspire. I was drawn to subject when I met the doctors and the people of the valley. The challenges they faced, the story of the revolution and the results they achieved bewildered me and profoundly compelled me to tell their story.

Narratively it will be blending exposition, observation and reflection. It shall offer diverse perspectives and steer clear of a saviour narrative, while capturing the valley's rich biodiversity. The documentary would serve as a homage to the triumph of a marginalized community's shared resolve.



**Sankara
Narayanan**
Director & Producer

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Director(s) Biography

Sankara Narayanan is a former corporate professional who after years of working in a corporate landscape and probably a quarter life crisis embraced his true calling of filmmaking. Sankara's journey includes experiences as an assistant director to acclaimed filmmakers in notable Indian feature films; collaborating with eminent directors such as Madhumita, Deven Munjal, and Ajay Govind. Furthermore, he also has experience in crafting screenplays and directing short films. He is currently working on his feature film debut.

As a novice producer, our goal is to support compelling stories with a positive worldview, novel concepts, and a clear social commitment. We aim to back movies that push the boundaries of storytelling. *The Valley of Health* is the first project we have supported.

Producer(s) Statement

Every revolution has its long standing historical ramifications, they are lessons for the future. This revolution in health led by a marginalised community, alike the revolutions of the past, merits documentation. It also packs an inspiring story of the doctors and their challenging journey of enabling systemic change. We believe that it will offer a beacon of hope, particularly since it emanates from the lives of ordinary individuals. We also believe the inherent rooted appeal of our story transcends borders and languages.

Technically, the film will adhere the requirements of streaming platforms and film festivals. With a lean yet proficient crew, production and post-production will be executed efficiently.



Through A Broken Glass

India | English | Others

Synopsis

Most often, what was relevant and utmost important in the recent past, does not matter anymore today, sometimes in the next hour itself.

We constantly fret and get upset when our regular hair comb or favorite dress is missing. But what would be the scenario when our closest family members go missing suddenly? That too, all of them together at once, forever?

This exactly is what happened in Dr Chandra's life, who saw off his wife and children at a Canadian airport for their flight to India in the night. With plans to join them soon, he came home to have a well-deserved sleep after a tiring day, only to be woken up in the morning with the devastating news that all his family members, 'vanished into thin air', so to say, when the Air India flight 'Kanishka' they were travelling in, was blown up mid-air by terrorists and that there were no survivors.

This documentary explores this human quality of how a person faced with a life altering situation not only regroupes himself but also influences the lives of scores of people while going through this constant grief. A story of human will, worthy of greater study.

Budget

USD 45,000

Financing in place

USD 10,000

Production Company

Dhriti Media Pvt. Ltd.
www.dhritimedia.com

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Madhu Mahankali

Looking for

Film Markets, Film Grants/
Funds, Producers

Director(s) Statement

I wanted to probe into these qualities which separate a person from becoming a total wreck to Dr Chandra who, in spite of facing the worst possible tragedy when he lost all his dearest family members in a terrorist act, could bounce back into life.

In a way, this connects to the Japanese concept of 'Wabi Sabi', which looks at the beauty in the so-called imperfection of things.

My focus is to link all these concepts to the life of Dr Chandra and explore how one can find meaning, resilience, and compassion in the aftermath of such devastation.



Madhu Mahankali
Director & Producer

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Director(s) Biography

Madhu Mahankali, Alumni of FTII, PUNE worked as the Director of photography for 15 feature films in many Indian languages.

Directed a short film *The Journey* that participated at many international film festivals, winning the Best Director award at Hyderabad International Film Festival & Special Jury award at Festival Du Cinema De Paris.

Produced and directed a feature film *Parampara* (Telugu), screened at many international film festivals, winning the platinum award at international movie awards, Indonesia in 2014.

A Feature film in development *Solitude* was selected for the Hongkong Asia film finance forum in 2016 (HAF-2016)



Trapped

India | English, Hindi | Anthropology, Environment & Sustainability, Science and Technology, Urbanization, Wildlife

Synopsis

Trapped is an investigative documentary that narrates the ordeal of 41 workers from Jharkhand, Bihar, and Uttarakhand, who came to construct the Silkyara Tunnel as part of the Chaar Dhaam Yatra project. Their routine workday turns into a nightmare when the tunnel collapses, trapping them inside the tunnel for 17 days.

As the disaster unfolds, the entire nation is captivated, glued to their television screens for minute-by-minute updates on the high-paced rescue mission. The film captures the chaos outside the tunnel, where state-of-the-art machinery and over 200 rescuers are deployed in a desperate bid to save the trapped workers. Despite the use of advanced technology and heavy equipment, initial efforts falter, underscoring the immense challenge posed by the volatile terrain.

Amidst these technological failures, the true heroes emerge: the rat miners. These courageous men navigate narrow passages and treacherous conditions to reach the trapped workers, becoming the unexpected saviours of this dire situation.

Through secured raw footage, archives, interviews, and the tireless reporting of journalists, *Trapped* showcases the hope and ingenuity that define this extraordinary rescue mission. This documentary is a tribute to the undefeatable human spirit and the strength of communities coming together.

Budget

USD 95,941

Financing in place

USD 31,779

Production Company

Odd & Even Pictures
Saffron Magicworks
Indian Express

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Ajitesh Sharma
Arya Menon
Shubham Karna
Shivie Pandit

Looking for

Film Festivals/Programmers,
Film Markets, Film Lab/
Workshop, Film Grants/
Funds, Studios

Director(s) Statement

In *Trapped*, I highlight the harsh realities faced by laborers who, driven by poverty, take on difficult jobs with minimal training to support their families. The young Himalayas of Uttarakhand are highly sensitive to drilling; are we risking nature by building more roads and tunnels? The rescue mission demonstrated human resilience, with trapped workers banding together to survive 17 harrowing days. With the failure of advanced machinery, the courage of the rat miners saved lives, underscoring the risks we take to protect others. This film seeks to expose personal struggles, investigate what went wrong, and hold accountable those responsible for the disaster.



Ajitesh Sharma
Director

Director(s) Biography

Ajitesh Sharma is an award-winning filmmaker based in Mumbai, India. He graduated in film studies and worked as an Assistant Director on various national and international projects, including the critically acclaimed Netflix's *Delhi Crime*. Thereafter, he directed Discovery's *Divine Trails* which won the Asian Academy Award '23.

WOMB (Women of My Billion), his latest documentary feature produced by Awedacious Originals and Priyanka Chopra Jonas has garnered critical acclaim and won prestigious awards across festivals and forums worldwide. It is now streaming on Prime Video.

Producer(s) Statement

Amidst every obstacle and setback, reporters Avneesh and Chitral witnessed a metamorphosis. The community responded dynamically, demonstrating an unwavering willingness to contribute in any way possible. On the night of November 28, hundreds of people who had spent the last two weeks outside the mouth of the tunnel as one big family dispersed, unlikely to ever see each other again. But all of them - mediapersons, government officials, rescue workers, family members and the locals - will forever look back on the incident fondly, as an example of how our differences dissolve and humanity prevails in the face of calamity.



Shubham Karna
Producer

Producer(s) Biography

Odd and Even Pictures – Completed productions are *Kiss* a short film by Varun Grover and *2024* by Rohin Nair. Projects in development and production include feature films with Vir Das, a feature film with journalist turned writer/director Manu Joseph, and an animated series called *Adarsh Family*.

Saffron Magicworks is a rapidly growing media house that has been involved in productions ranging from feature films to digital content, television and advertising. Some of their productions include *Dabangg 4*, *Veere Di Wedding*, *Shrimad Bhagwan* and *Farah Ki Dawat*.

Indian Express – Packed with a fair mix of news, knowledge and information, Indian Express hits the heart of the issue without any fear or favour. Anant Goenka is the Executive Director, and Head of New Media at The Indian Express. He is a USC Annenberg grad in Print Journalism.



Arya Menon
Producer



Umbrellas of the Acrobats

India, USA | Tamil | Anthropology, Arts, Music and Culture, Children, Education

Synopsis

In a world where everyone seeks their own Umbrella—for protection, concealment, or a sense of belonging—what does an Umbrella mean for a young nomad in a traveling circus?

Raised in a century-old circus, Vijay, a spirited dancer despite his congenital glaucoma, thrives as part of a troupe bringing joy to isolated communities in southern Tamil Nadu, India. Despite the taxing life and bare-bones budget, Vijay's joyful spirit and the companionship of Godu, a retiring pony, keep life exciting. However, the new season brings challenges. Vijay's fear of heights, exacerbated by his eye condition, threatens his place in the troupe. Furthermore, Godu is sold due to a leg ailment, casting a shadow over Vijay's sense of belonging. In his dreams, Godu symbolizes a past he's struggling to reconcile with his present.

Amidst this turmoil, Vijay's older sister, Nadhiya, becomes his pillar of comfort. As Vijay grapples with his identity and physical limitations, Nadhiya's support is crucial. Her decision to stay in school opens Vijay's eyes to new possibilities as his role in the troupe changes.

Through Vijay's eyes, the story explores resilience, family, and the quest for identity, highlighting the bittersweet reality of a nomadic life. Ultimately, Vijay's journey is one of self-discovery and finding his own special umbrella in a world of constant change.

Budget

USD 219,779

Financing in place

USD 54,218

Production Company

Potato Eaters Collective
Raging Films
www.ragingfilms.in

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Mukesh Subramaniam
Shaunak Sur

Looking for

Film Markets, Film Lab/
Workshop, Film Grants/
Funds, Producers,
Financiers, Studios

Director(s) Statement

Amid COVID, I moved to my wife's village near to the settlement of the Dommaras, indigenous acrobats. Playing with their kids broke barriers, inspiring me to document their fading traditions, focusing on Vijay, a 9-year-old. Vijay, who is torn between his parents' circus traditions and the discrimination he faces at school, as well as his own physical condition, tells his story through his eyes and voice. Despite all the crises he has faced in his life, Vijay is a wonderful storyteller who weaves magical tales throughout his travels and journeys. As a storyteller myself, I want to reveal what he is truly capable of, beyond his family's expectations.



Mukesh Subramaniam
Director

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Director(s) Biography

Mukesh Subramaniam, co-founder of Potato Eaters Collective, is an independent filmmaker and screenwriter based in Chennai, India. Graduating in 2012 from the Asian Academy of Film and Television with a focus on screenplay writing, Mukesh's journey took a notable turn in 2013 when his short fiction, *Plastic Years*, garnered recognition at major Indian short film festivals. Continuing his quest for knowledge, Mukesh delved into film studies at the Auroville Film Institute in collaboration with FTII's SKIFT program. Currently, Mukesh is in the process of making his first-feature documentary titled *Umbrellas of the Acrobats*, which is in the production stage. Recently, it secured the prestigious DocEdge Lumiere Award as a promising first-time filmmaker and the Dhaka DocLab Award.



Miriam Chandy Menacherry
Executive Producer

Producer(s) Statement

Umbrellas of the Acrobats is a visually rich documentary exploring a nomadic circus family in Tamil Nadu, focusing on 9-year-old Vijay and his sister Nadhiya. The film captures the vibrant circus atmosphere and the performers' resilience through dynamic visuals and immersive soundscapes.

Our aim is to celebrate the indomitable spirit and cultural heritage of this marginalized community. Currently in early production, we plan to complete the film by October 2025 and premiere at major festivals in 2026, bringing their unique stories to a global audience and highlighting their extraordinary lives and struggles.



Pon Vishal
Producer

Producer(s) Biography

Miriam Chandy Menacherry, founder of Filament Pictures, creates acclaimed social documentaries like *From the Shadows*. She is a BAFTA Breakthrough talent and a Fulbright-Nehru Scholar.

Pon Vishal, a producer skilled in trans-media storytelling, creates narratives and documentaries recognized by The New York Times and awarded at New York Indie Fest and AT&T Film Awards amongst others.

Shaunak Sur, an SRFTI alumnus, has produced for National Geographic, Viacom 18, Discovery and Netflix. Roles at NFDC and Hoichoi have given him experience in both indie and mainstream films.

Yoshita Pareek, from Ajmer, runs Semicolon Films, distributing *Shunya* for the London Indian Film Festival 2024 and is co-producing independent documentary and fiction features.



Shaunak Sur
Producer



Yoshita Pareek
Producer



Whispers of the Desert Wind

India | Hindi | Environment & Sustainability

Synopsis

Set in the Thar desert in Rajasthan - the story of a man who sees solutions where we see problems. A farmer with the mind of an engineer, Chatar Singh comes from a robust tradition of people's science that helped aboriginal camel and goat herders thrive for centuries at Ramgarh - the driest region in India. When an expensive canal broke their centuries-old network of community-maintained waterbodies - there was a crisis of drinking water!

Chatar Singh galvanised the community to repair their system. Women were the first to support him. Then he taught the Bhils - from the lowest rung of the society - how to harness rainwater - trapping sand during summer sandstorms in a hedge of thorns.

In 5 years, they bought tractors and became employers.

Burying their pride, now the upper-castes want to emulate the Bhils.

This is an unfolding inspirational story with hundreds of shallow wells, some ponds and 'Khadiins' being repaired or built - trapping water on the sub-surface gypsum belt in an area where the scientists claim there is no sweet water.

The film paints intimate portraits of life in the desert - as four strong characters draw upon ancestral wisdom to reclaim their water sovereignty.

Budget

USD 398,000

Financing in place

USD 99,500

Production Company

Top Quark Films
www.topquarkfilms.com

Present at Doc Film Bazaar

Nandan Saxena
Kavita Bahl

Looking for

Film Markets, Film Lab/
Workshop, Film Grants/
Funds, Producers,
Financiers, Studios

Director(s) Statement

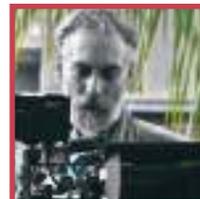
Resources on the blue planet are finite.

In an over-engineered world hurtling towards a water-scarce future, we need to find the key that unlocks ancestral wisdom and sustainable mores. A rusty key lies hidden in the sands of the Thar desert.

Chatar Singh sees solutions when we see problems.

Can we borrow his glasses to see the world in a new light?

If a simple farmer can motivate an entire community to believe in their collective power and repair a centuries-old system without waiting for the government, surely we can do something that changes the status quo wherever we are.



Nandan Saxena
Director & Producer

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Director(s) Biography

Award-winning independent filmmakers and mentors, Nandan Saxena and Kavita Bahl have thrice received the National Film Award from the President of India. Their films – poignant portraits of these times, often blurring the thin line between documentary and cinema – have premiered at Thessaloniki and London.

Sculpting the clay of visual metaphors and subtexts, they conjure a language for each film that chooses them, wielding their camera like an impressionist painter wields his brush – sometimes to hide and sometimes to reveal.

Their films and film-making workshops have traveled globally.

Kavita has been a 'Chicken & Egg Award' nominee in 2022.

Producer(s) Statement

Survival is a primal need.

Whispers of the Desert Wind is a film that opens up many possibilities: from conventional approaches to exploring new forms of media engagement—to take this cinematic story to diverse audiences worldwide.

A human interest story with a strong core - the desert wind whispers to those who are thirsty. We see it traveling the festival circuits, finding broadcasters and OTTs globally and used as a reference beyond film-loving audiences.

We see film festivals hosting special screenings - like say Venice Biennale inviting us to create an immersive desert-themed installation and screening.



Kavita Bahl
Director & Producer

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Producer(s) Biography

Kavita Bahl and Nandan Saxena are multiple award-winning independent directors and producers. They have thrice received the National Film Award from the President of India.

In 1996, they co-founded Top Quark Films. Their films are a rich tapestry of the lives of the people living on the margins whose voices, strength and vulnerability form the warp and weft of the films. Their films have spawned impact stories and led to policy change.

Kavita has been on the jury of the International Film Festival of India, Kashish Pride Film Festival and Trento Film Festival in Italy.



Work-In-Progress Lab

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Air Risers

Air Risers

India | English

Synopsis

In 2021, retired army Colonel Vivek Mundkur, an experienced paramotorist and India's first hang glider pilot, defies age and doubt by embarking on a daring adventure. At 76, he sets out to fly a backpack paramotor, reigniting his passion for flight after a 17-year hiatus. Despite concerns from many about the risks associated with such a daring venture at his age, Vivek finds unwavering support from his friends and fellow paraglider pilots to ensure a safe return to the skies.

Director(s) Statement

I met Vivek Mundkur at a 2019 film festival in Pune. His captivating recounting of his aviation journey and innovative spirit left me inspired. As an aviation enthusiast, I was drawn to creating a film about India's first hang gliding pilot and a forgotten hero who built and flew his contraption in 1976, in an India that had gained independence only a few decades earlier and was still establishing its roots. However, I aimed to avoid the clichés of a typical biopic that simply recounts the past.

In 2021, when Vivek publicly announced his intention to fly again at 76 after a seventeen-year hiatus, I knew I had found the heart of our story. Filming posed ethical dilemmas, especially considering the raw nature of paramotoring and the possible scenario of capturing a fatal accident. I prioritized Vivek's comfort and safety, giving him full control over equipment placement and flight decisions.

This film captures not just Vivek's journey but also the tight-knit paragliding community in India. The camaraderie among other characters underscores the warmth and unity within this adrenaline-fueled world.

Editor's Filmography

Bridging the Medical Divide (2022), *The Bee Rescuer* (2019), *Everyday Cyclists: Challenging Prejudice* (2019), *Being an Air Traffic Controller* (2018), *The Ride for Better India* (2017), *On the Church Trail* (2017), *The Bicycle Maker* (2016), *Bamboo Lawada* (2016)



Bidit Roy
Director & Editor

Director(s)

Bidit Roy

Producer(s)

Bidit Roy

Editor

Bidit Roy

Director of Photography

Bidit Roy

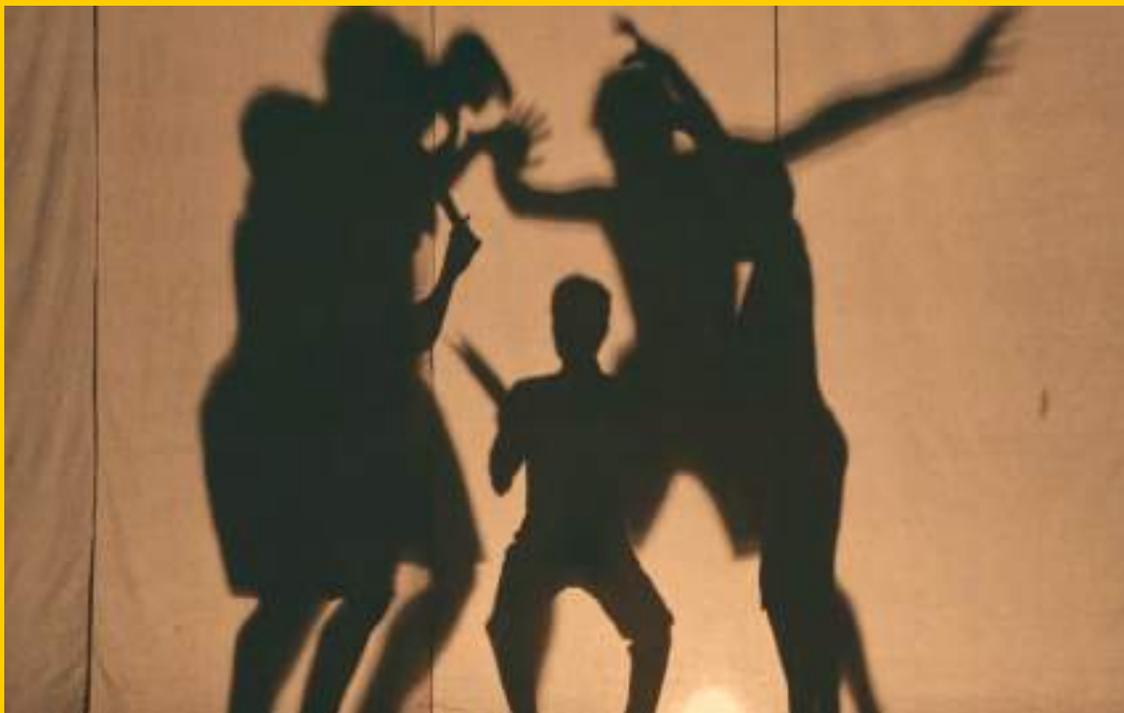
Contact

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Director, Producer, Cinematographer, Editor

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Hearsay

Hearsay

India | Bengali, English

Synopsis

In the summer of 2022, four young actors converge at the historic Tapan Theatre nestled in Sadananda Road, Kolkata, to film a play featuring a man and an empty chair. This decaying playhouse, once on the brink of demolition by real estate forces during the tumultuous COVID years, held within its walls the power to birth a new narrative. The intervention of a passionate theatre group, Aneek Kolkata, coupled with the resilience of the playhouse staff, helped Tapan escape the inevitable doom through a long and arduous battle. 2022 marks the transformation of Tapan Theatre from a forgotten relic into one of Kolkata's thriving cultural hubs, a truly resurrected stage. *Hearsay* tries to weave the boundless expanse of imagination within this rejuvenated space, serving as an immersive installation of imaginations. The actors explore memories, rumors, untold stories and the resilient spirit that enabled Tapan Theatre to endure and rise again.

Director(s) Statement

We are actors with considerable professional experience in films and theatre, transitioning into a parallel career as a director-producer duo, *Hearsay* being our debut project. The concept of *Hearsay* is a proclamation that curated life experiences and performative interfaces are valid tools of conservation. Tapan Theatre, despite its present rejuvenation and regularity, is as transient as anything in a world driven by capital. Despite its recent triumph over ill fate, one cannot remain unaware of its eventual demise. Hence, as makers, we propose to preserve this space by chancing upon, incubating, curating, and conjuring moments in our real time spent there. The recording and later fabrications of those moments will be our trial to conserve a palpable life and performative experience that this playhouse allowed, accommodated, and perpetuated. It is a trial to initiate a dialogue with our posterity, a testament of our time.

Director(s)

Sraman Chatterjee, Meghla Dasgupta

Producer(s)

Sraman Chatterjee, Meghla Dasgupta,
Soumya Mukhopadhyay

Editor

Meghla Dasgupta, Sraman Chatterjee

Director of Photography

Meghla Dasgupta

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Sraman Chatterjee
Director & Editor



Meghla Dasgupta
Director & Editor



I'm Not Home

I'm Not Home

India | Bhojpuri, English, Hindi

Synopsis

In the 1990s, Shau was part of the Mumbai Mafia, living life as a freewheeler. From handling guns to extortions he had done it all. But as time passed, the influence of the mafia waned.

Many perished, many changed their path but Shau lived on with the shelter of the stories of his past. Perhaps Shau, the man with an unbeatable heart, was too much of a winner to let himself be confined to the mainstream.

Now 38, he lives like a nomad on a railway platform. Although his physical stature has shrunk, his attitude still flaunts the carefreeness. But as age sets in, he regrets not keeping in touch with his family and his love. With this desperation he boards a train. Will he find them? Will they remember him? The film unfolds the journey of a man's struggle from life of freedom to that of a mainstream.

Director(s) Statement

My aim with the film is to delve into the complex inner world of a character torn between societal expectations and personal freedom. The protagonist faces relentless pressure to conform to mainstream living, driven by the desire for acceptance and stability. However, beneath this facade lies a deep-seated longing for autonomy and solitude. As he tries to conform to the norms, we reflect on our own negotiation process in life. We all find ourselves compromising our innate desires for freedom in exchange for societal benefits.

Editor's Filmography

Joram (2023), *Runners* (2023), *Taangh* (2022), *The Cloud and the Man* (2021), *Gay India Matrimony* (2020), *That Cloud Never Left* (2019)



Naveen Pun
Director

Director(s)

Naveen Pun

Producer(s)

Priyanka Pradeep More
Monalisa Mukherji

Editor

Abhro Banerjee

Director of Photography

Dipankar Sikdar
Pranav Dubey

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Abhro Banerjee
Editor



Shondhyar Khali Uthan

Evening's Empty Courtyards

India | Sylheti

Synopsis

Two siblings—a sister and a brother—are working in different cities far from their region, Barak Valley, Assam. After their parents' deaths, as the prospect of returning to their region seems highly unlikely, they contemplate selling their uninhabited, dilapidated, old-structured childhood home. Most of these old-structured Assam-type houses in Barak Valley are now beyond repair and unsafe for habitation. They are either abandoned by people or occupied by seniors alone. They lie deserted amid the recent alarming infrastructural changes in the valley. Encroaching upon rural and forest areas, coupled with hill cutting, is causing intensified environmental calamities that trigger landslides across the region, disrupting its rail and road services, which connect it with its neighbouring lands. As the landscape of Barak Valley is going through these definite transitions, the siblings' phone conversations are heard, delving into their connection with their ancestral land and their vanishing sense of belonging.

Director(s) Statement

I grew up in the Barak Valley, located in southern Assam. The history of separation from its socio-cultural-economic contact with Bengal, immense communication bottlenecks, industrial backwardness, and numerous environmental calamities throughout the year contribute to a constant stagnancy here.

Like many from my generation, in my youth I migrated to a big city in hope of acquiring a life better than what my earlier generations had lived here. Such relocation has increased immensely in recent times, causing our society to slowly disintegrate.

On returning to my region, I felt an eerie detachment from the very environment that has given shape to our understanding and senses. This feeling is becoming more bizarre as I witness rapid infrastructural changes, intensifying environmental calamities. This film evolved from my interactions with my siblings, friends, and acquaintances who once migrated from Barak Valley and are now finding it difficult to identify with it.

My documentary is a very personal project about my region and my people, and I would want to show it to professionals from the documentary film industry to get their feedback and understand if it is able to connect with people outside of my reality. For someone like me who is from a remote region of Assam, it is extremely difficult to access platforms that can offer such interactions.



Director(s)

Anunay Barbhuiya

Producer(s)

Seral Murmu

Editor

Anunay Barbhuiya

Director of Photography

Anunay Barbhuiya

Contact

Anunay Barbhuiya

Director

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Where Is My Home?

Where Is My Home?

India | Marathi

Synopsis

The film follows the journey of a granddaughter as she navigates the challenges faced by her elderly grandmother, who is neglected due to her age and behavior. Despite initial resistance from her mother, the granddaughter takes it upon herself to arrange a cataract operation for her grandmother. As the grandmother's condition improves, the family dynamics undergo a transformation, with even the mother softening her stance. However, the grandmother's unsettled status persists as she moves between her daughter's and son's homes, never finding a permanent place to call her own. Through this narrative, the film sheds light on the struggles of elderly individuals, particularly women, who find themselves in vulnerable situations, lacking agency and stability in their twilight years. Themes of family, responsibility, and the complexities of caregiving are explored, offering a poignant reflection on the human experience.

Director(s) Statement

Where Is My Home? is a deeply personal journey that resonates with the complexities of my own family dynamics. Drawing from my own experiences, I aim to shed light on the silent battles faced by aging individuals, while also celebrating the resilience and strength inherent within them. As the narrative unfolds, I hope audiences are inspired to reflect on their own relationships and the importance of cherishing and valuing the elderly members of their families. This sentiment is mirrored in our exploration of the shifting perception of home, as depicted through the grandmother's yearning for stability and the family's struggle to balance economic hardships with emotional bonds. Through our vérité filming style, we capture the raw emotions and nuances of everyday life, inviting viewers to immerse themselves in the intimate moments that define the human experience.

Editor's Filmography

Tandri, What's In a Name?, Ek Nirnay

Director(s)

Ashwini Dharmale, Digvijay Thorat

Producer(s)

Digvijay Thorat

Editor

Abhijeet Sable

Director of Photography

Digvijay Thorat

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Ashwini Dharmale
Director



Digvijay Thorat
Director



Abhijeet Sable
Editor

Work-In-Progress Lab Mentors



Arjun Gourisaria

Arjun is an FTII alumni and an editor/filmmaker currently based in Kolkata. He has won several recognitions for his work, including two national awards for editing (*Gulabi Gang*, dir. Nishtha Jain; *Shut Up Sona*, dir. Deepti Gupta) and the best film award at the New York Indian Film Festival for his feature (co-directed), *Sthaniya Sambaad*.



Axel Timo Purr

Axel Timo Purr is the editor of the online film magazine *artechock* (<https://artechock.de>) and publisher and editor of the international, multilingual literary journal *Literatur Review* (<https://literatur.review>).

Axel studied German language and literature, social psychology, linguistics and speech sciences. Since 2001, he has worked as a journalist and editor on African, literary and film topics for *artechock* film magazine, *Literatur Review*, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and *Telepolis*, among others. He has also been a member of numerous juries, including the Cinema Programme Award, FIPRESCI, the NRW Scholarship for Children's and Youth Documentaries and the VDFK.



Iikka Vehkalahti

Iikka Vehkalahti, the owner of IV Films, serves as an expert or lecturer in various international film workshops, including ExOriente, CoPro, DocEdge, DhakaDocLab, Medimed, and others.

Iikka Vehkalahti, along with Don Edkins, co-established Steps (steps.co.za), known for producing the Steps For The Future series and, most recently, the Generation Africa series. IV Films is a Finland-based company specializing in high-quality documentaries for distribution at festivals and cinemas. They have produced notable films such as *Machines* by Rahul Jain (in collaboration with Pallas Film), *Raghu Rai: An Unframed Portrait* by Avani Rai, and *The New Greatness Case* by Anna Shishova. The sister company, Toinen Katse Oy, produced *Invisible Demons* by Rahul Jain, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2022.

RoughCutService (roughcutservice.com), operated by IV Films, provides online support for challenging documentary films. RCS comprises highly skilled editors from around the world, offering assistance in the rough cut stage for films from over 50 countries, including award-winning films at IDFA, Cannes, Berlinale, Sundance, and more.

Work-In-Progress Lab Mentors



Tereza Šimíková

Tereza Šimíková is a producer at Caliber Pictures, filmmaker, and consultant. She has served as the International Program Consultant of Chicken and Egg Pictures (2016-now), Head of Forum and later Head of Industry & Training at CPH:DOX (2018-23), Head of East Doc Platform (2016-18), and Program Manager of the international rough-cut workshop dok.incubator (2012-16). Tereza has been a member of a number of programming committees (e.g.IDFA, Karlovy Vary IFF, Doc Society, Malta Film Commission), and a mentor of international documentary workshops (eave on demand, Documentary Campus, Ex Oriente Film, Doc Lab Poland, Doc Lab Tel Aviv).



Sanchari Das Mollick

Sanchari Das Mollick is a dynamic film editor from Bombay. She is a proud graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India. From the onset of her career, she made waves in Bollywood, showcasing her prowess on unconventional projects. Sanchari's versatility shines as she effortlessly transitions between various storytelling forms, spanning feature films, T.V. shows, documentaries.

Notably, she earned her place in the spotlight for editing the Oscar-winning documentary, *The Elephant Whisperers*.

Sanchari's distinctive editing style revolves around the emotional journey of her characters. Her commitment is evident in her work, where she intricately weaves stories that leave a lasting impact on the human heart. With a keen eye for storytelling and a penchant for unique projects, Sanchari Das Mollick continues to carve her name in the annals of cinema.

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Air Risers

Air Risers

English | India | Documentary Feature | 69 mins

Completion Date **May 2024**

In 2021, retired army Colonel Vivek Mundkur, an experienced paramotorist and India's first hang glider pilot, defies age and doubt by embarking on a daring adventure. At 76, he sets out to fly a backpack paramotor, reigniting his passion for flight after a 17-year hiatus. Despite concerns from many about the risks associated with such a daring venture at his age, Vivek finds unwavering support from his friends and fellow paraglider pilots to ensure a safe return to the skies.

Director(s) Bidit Roy

Producer(s) Bidit Roy

Editor(s) Bidit Roy

Sound Bidit Roy

Music Shaunak Kulkarni

DOP(s) Bidit Roy

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Company(s) Bluebird Moving
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Looking for
Film Festivals
Gap Financing
Sales & Distribution



Breaking the Barriers - India's Race to Glory

Breaking the Barriers - India's Race to Glory

English | India | Documentary Feature | 83 mins

Awating International Premiere

Completion Date **November 2023**

Breaking the Barriers - India's Race to Glory is an inspirational true story of Indian motorsports and the convergence from 1947 to the current day where the athletes have reached the pinnacle of the sport in global arena as well as emerging as the world's best athletes. The first bit of motorsports in the world started in 1894 and exactly 10 years from then in 1904, the first motor racing started in India "Racing in the land of Maharajas" to the current day of India's first Formula-1 Grand Prix to the 2023 MotoGP all narrated by the athletes in 4 seasons.

This series captures the sequence of true events on how these fine young men and women achieved the unimagined feats that led to the development of the sports. This is an inspirational story of these passionate men and women with a never-die-attitude who broke all the barriers and emerged victorious.

Director(s) Sujith Aradhya

Producer(s) Sujith Aradhya

Editor(s) Venkatesh Naidu

Writer(s) Sujith Aradhya

DOP(s) Ghanshyam Tiwari

Production Company(s) ABC
Films International

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Hearsay

Hearsay

Bengali, English | India | Documentary Feature | 108 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2025

In the summer of 2022, four young actors converge at the historic Tapan Theatre nestled in Sadananda Road, Kolkata, to film a play featuring a man and an empty chair. This decaying playhouse, once on the brink of demolition by real estate forces during the tumultuous COVID years, held within its walls the power to birth a new narrative. The intervention of a passionate theatre group, Aneek Kolkata, coupled with the resilience of the playhouse staff, helped Tapan escape the inevitable doom through a long and arduous battle. 2022 marks the transformation of Tapan Theatre from a forgotten relic into one of Kolkata's thriving cultural hubs, a truly resurrected stage. Hearsay tries to weave the boundless expanse of imagination within this rejuvenated space, serving as an immersive installation of imaginations. The actors explore memories, rumors, untold stories and the resilient spirit that enabled Tapan Theatre to endure and rise again.

Director(s) Sraman Chatterjee
Meghla Dasgupta

Producer(s) Sraman Chatterjee
Meghla Dasgupta, Soumya
Mukhopadhyay

Editor(s) Meghla Dasgupta,
Sraman Chatterjee

Writer(s) Sraman Chatterjee,
Meghla Dasgupta

Sound Aural Workstation
(Adeep Singh Manki, Tanmoy
Saha, Sugoto Basu) Shor
Studios (Saptak Sarkar)

Music Shor Studios (Saptak
Sarkar)

DOP(s) Meghla Dasgupta

Production Company(s) Self
produced film

Looking for
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Gap Financing
Sales & Distribution

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I'm Not Home

I'm Not Home

Bhojpuri, English, Hindi | India | Documentary Feature | 148 mins

Awaiting World Premiere

Tentative Completion Date **December 2024**

In the 1990s, Shau was part of the Mumbai Mafia, living life as a freewheeler. From handling guns to extortions he had done it all. But as time passed, the influence of the mafia waned.

Many perished, many changed their path but Shau lived on with the shelter of the stories of his past. Perhaps Shau, the man with an unbeatable heart, was too much of a winner to let himself be confined to the mainstream.

Now 38, he lives like a nomad on a railway platform. Although his physical stature has shrunk, his attitude still flaunts the carefreeness. But as age sets in he regrets not keeping in touch with his family and his love. With this desperation he boards a train. Will he find them? Will they remember him? The film unfolds the journey of a man's struggle from life of freedom to that of a mainstream.

Director(s) Naveen Pun

Producer(s) Priyanka Pradeep
More, Monalisa Mukherji

Editor(s) Abhro Banerjee

Writer(s) Naveen Kumar Pun

Sound Tapan Bhattacharya

DOP(s) Dipankar Sikdar,
Pranav Dubey

Production Company(s) Mosaic
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Looking for
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Gap Financing
Sales & Distribution



Loo

Loo

English, Kannada | India | Short Fiction | 14 mins

Completion Date March 2023

Struggling to find a place to pee, a domestic helper working in an apartment building decides to secretly use the toilet in the house where she works. This leads to the breaking of unsaid norms between her and the employer, as class bias comes to the surface.

Director(s) Chanakya Vyas

Producer(s) Chanakya Vyas, Shruti Bachalli

Editor(s) Bhuvanesh Manivannan

Writer(s) Arvind Dev

Sound Anandrag Veyattumal

DOP(s) Arvind Dev

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Majuli

The Shrinking Island

Assamese | India | Documentary Mid-length | 52 mins

Completion Date 7 June, 2024

Majuli, is the documentary that shows the tragedy and trauma of the people residing there. Majuli, an Island of Assam, regarded as the largest inhabited river island of the world, is situated in the river Brahmaputra. The island has a very rich culture. The total population of this island is more than one and half lakh and most of them are dependent on Agriculture. This place is a hotspot for flora and fauna, it's almost pollution free. But this beautiful island is shrinking due to land erosion caused by floods every year. The island is under threat due to the extensive soil erosion on its banks, and it is getting eroded continuously due to the erosive nature of the rivers Brahmaputra on its South and Subansiri on its North. The size of the island reducing, farmers are losing their cultivable land. Scientists predicted that this island will disappear in the next two decades.

In the documentary we show how the flood is threatening the Vaishnav Culture, Mask art, Agriculture and Pottery making art in the island. What is the future of that island and the people residing there? The island is a hub of art and culture. The erosion that takes place in the island is a big threat to the art and culture.

Director(s) Ratul Baruah

Producer(s) Prithul Kumar

Editor(s) B. Sakthidoss

Writer(s) Nayanee Borgohain

Music Debesh Roy, Ankur Deka

DOP(s) Randhir Singh, Biswajit Mallik

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



Moon on the Man

Moon on the Man

English, Hindi, Marathi | India | Documentary Feature | 78 mins

Completion Date **November 2021**

Praklawn, an 80-year-old man, has a checkered past. A messenger boy amid India's independence struggle, he worked with the country's most acclaimed actor-filmmaker Guru Dutt. He mowed the lawns of Sir Ian Fleming who gave him the name – Praklawn; an epithet he kept for the sake of pride and nostalgia. Two of his friends, Aasif and Wadood, begin to deconstruct Praklawn through the varied prisms of individual perspectives, subjective realities, relevance, reality and validity of human perceptions. To comprehend the scale of human perspective and to test Praklawn's reality, Aasif juxtaposes the reality of another man, Sailesh who has worked with several leading, iconic and highly respected filmmakers. While almost everything Praklawn says is fundamentally unverifiable, everything Sailesh says is entirely verifiable and true. Yet, Praklawn lives a respectable life and Sailesh dwells in misery. *Moon on the man* questions the most basic questions of reality, perception and choices.

Director(s) Prince Shah

Producer(s) Prince Shah

Editor(s) Ashish Ranglani, Prince Shah

Writer(s) Prince Shah

Sound Tanur Bhandari

DOP(s) Vaibhav Sorte

Production Company(s) 4degreesC

Looking for
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Rukhu Matir Dukhu Majhi

Dukhu Majhi - son of the barren land

Bengali | India | Documentary Short | 28 mins

Awating International Premiere

Completion Date **December 2021**

This documentary is regarding the relentless struggle of a solitary man in his unique way to save the mother earth. The old man armed daily with two canisters of water, sacks, shovels, burnt wood and saplings, all mounted on a cycle, a poor, completely-illiterate old villager spends his years planting trees at roadsides, school premises and wherever else he can; and taking proper care of them.

Dukhu Majhi lives in an area where the temperature rises up to 50 degrees Celsius in the summer. He feels that people need shadows from the scorching sun. Over the years, Dukhu Majhi has perfected his own unique method of preparation, plantation and nurturing. To ensure that no passer-by dares touch them, he covers his newly-planted saplings with cloth taken from the nearby crematorium. This poor and completely illiterate man has a strong philosophy, that too is very interesting.

Director(s) Somnath Mondal

Sound Abdul Rajjak

Producer(s) Somnath Mondal

DOP(s) Robindranath Das

Editor(s) Debashis Guha

Production Company(s)

Writer(s) Somnath Mondal

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Shondhyar Khali Uthan

Evening's Empty Courtyards

Sylheti | India | Documentary Feature | 48 mins

Tentative Completion Date **February 2025**

Two siblings, a sister and a brother, are working in different cities far from their region, Barak Valley, Assam. After their parents' deaths, as the prospect of returning to their region seems highly unlikely, they contemplate selling their uninhabited, dilapidated, old-structured childhood home. Most of these old-structured Assam-type houses in Barak Valley are now beyond repair and unsafe for habitation. They are either abandoned by people or occupied by seniors alone. They lie deserted amid the recent alarming infrastructural changes in the valley. Encroaching upon rural and forest areas, coupled with hill cutting, is causing intensified environmental calamities that trigger landslides across the region, disrupting its rail and road services, which connect it with its neighbouring lands. As the landscape of Barak Valley is going through these definite transitions, the siblings' phone conversations are heard, delving into their connection with their ancestral land and their vanishing sense of belonging.

Director(s) Anunay Barbhuiya

Producer(s) Seral Murmu

Editor(s) Anunay Barbhuiya

Writer(s) Anunay Barbhuiya

Sound Shashank Kothari

DOP(s) Anunay Barbhuiya

Production Company(s) Adim
Dreamtime Films

Looking for
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The First Film

The First Film

Hindi | India | Short Fiction | 24 mins

Completion Date **December 2023**

In a small town of 1960's India, where cinema is forbidden for women, a 14-year-old embarks on a quest to watch her first film.

Director(s) Piyush Thakur

Producer(s) Piyush Thakur

Editor(s) Piyush Thakur

Writer(s) Piyush Thakur, Deepak Lohana

Sound Pradyumna Chaware

Music Pranil Desai

DOP(s) Sonu

Production Company(s) Thakur Talkies

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



Where Is My Home?

Where is my home?

Marathi | India | Documentary Feature | 60 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2024

The film follows the journey of a granddaughter as she navigates the challenges faced by her elderly grandmother, who is neglected due to her age and behavior. Despite initial resistance from her mother, the granddaughter takes it upon herself to arrange a cataract operation for her grandmother. As the grandmother's condition improves, the family dynamics undergo a transformation, with even the mother softening her stance. However, the grandmother's unsettled status persists as she moves between her daughter's and son's home, never finding a permanent place to call her own. Through this narrative, the film sheds light on the struggles of elderly individuals, particularly women, who find themselves in vulnerable situations, lacking agency and stability in their twilight years. Themes of family, responsibility, and the complexities of caregiving are explored, offering a poignant reflection on the human experience.

Director(s) Ashwini Dharmale,
Digvijay Thorat

Producer(s) Digvijay Thorat

Editor(s) Abhijeet Sable

Writer(s) Ashwini Dharmale,
Digvijay Thorat

Sound Ashwini Dharmale

DOP(s) Digvijay Thorat

Production Company(s) Arigatu
Pictures

Looking for
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Gap Financing
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A Good Wife

A Good Wife

English, Marwari | India | Documentary Feature | 90 mins

Completion Date **May 2024**

My family unequivocally disapproves of my unconventionality for a Hindu-Marwari community girl. So, after bearing the drift in my marriage, when I am contemplating divorce, they hold me responsible for the fallout in my marriage as for them I failed to be an ideal wife. The blame is on me for choosing to be a filmmaker, not bearing a child and live a life which seeks freedom. Sacrifice is considered a virtuous responsibility of a wife and especially so in my community which practiced the custom of Sati historically. Through this film I am trying to decide for myself if I should continue being into a holy marriage or free myself for my life.

Director(s) Anuradha Bansal

Producer(s) Anuradha Bansal

Editor(s) Sheshank Kumar Jaiswal

Writer(s) Anuradha Bansal

Sound Jahnab Roy

DOP(s) Anuradha Bansal

Production Company(s) Purple Percept

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Amma Amamma Ammu

Granny Mummy & Ammu

Telugu | India | Documentary Feature | 33 mins

Tentative Completion Date **December 2024**

The film catches a duality. At one end are the everyday adventures of a family living together in the pandemic. As they find joy in the mundane, the daily chores, the familiar jokes and the gossip shared. But on the other hand, their routine acts of love, wisdom and perhaps sacrifice... belies an uneasy sense of freedoms being held back. Caught in a web of relations. Home is a dilemma. And family is a site for patriarchy. And everyone must step into their expected roles. A mother whose son is not getting married. A sister who must juggle a career and family. A child who must please her elders. And a son who longs for freedom. The film is about families and contradictions. How we hurt the people we love the most. And the distance patriarchy creates between men and women, brother and sister, mother and child.

Director(s) Vamsi Telugu

Producer(s) Sakshi Gulati

Editor(s) Lavanya Ramaiah

Writer(s) Vamsi Telugu

DOP(s) Vamsi Telugu

Production Company(s) Minoda Pictures

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Aribam Syam Sharma- Laporoscopic Cinemascesapes

Aribam Syam Sharma- Laporoscopic Cinemascesapes

English | India | Documentary Feature | 63 mins

Completion Date June 2023

On the Occasion of Manipur Cinema Completing 50 Years from 'Matamgi Manipur' an epic - dimension oral history project with the Manipur master Aribam Syam Sharma.

Director(s) Joshy Joseph
Producer(s) Films Division
Editor(s) Atish Nandy
Writer(s) Joshy Joseph
Sound B.Suresh Kumar

Music Heisnam Tomba
DOP(s) K.S. Shridhar, Irom Maipak
Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



Back To The Future

Back To The Future

English, Hindi | India | Documentary Feature | 87 mins

Completion Date **October 2022**

Is it good...or bad...Or both: A critical assay to fathom the momentous journey of Cinema, from analogue to digital. Peppereed with questions and answers, sighs and pauses! *Back To The Future* is a captivating documentary that explores the monumental transition from analogue to digital technology in cinema. Over two years of painstaking research, the director delves deep into the presenting the contrasting views of distinguished filmmakers and technicians. Through heartfelt interviews, this documentary takes audiences on a mesmerizing journey that illuminates the past, present and uncertain future of cinema, leaving them with a profound appreciation for the artistry and resilience of those caught between the shadows of celluloid and the promise of the digital age. *Back To The Future* is a deeply personal exploration of cinema's evolution from analogue to digital technology. Is it good...or bad...Or both: A critical assay to fathom the momentous journey of Cinema, from analogue to digital. Peppereed with questions and answers, sighs and pauses!

Director(s) Manohar Singh Bisht

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) N. A. Bhosle

Writer(s) Manohar Singh Bisht

Sound K. Sathiyamurthy

DOP(s) P. Rajendran

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Bissau Ki Mook Ramleela

A Musical Epic of Bharat

Hindi | India, Taiwan, USA | Documentary Feature | 73 mins

Awating International Premiere

Completion Date **October 2023**

This is a very different type of project, exclusively filmed by a crew of 30 members for continuously 15 days, during staging of this unique Ramleela, being enacted every year on an open street of Bissau, a small town in Jhunjhunu District of Rajasthan, India, since 1857, as its roots are embedded in the first freedom struggle of India. As no artist speaks any dialogue, hence it's called *Bissau Ki Mook Ramleela* or the *Silent Ramleela*. Singing of Choupaees and Dohas and in between narrative commentary from background describes the story of relevant events. This Ramleela is staged by local ordinary citizens of Bissau, hence it can easily be called as the "Ramleela of the people, by the people and for the people."

Director(s) Rajni Acharya

Producer(s) Rajni Acharya

Editor(s) Prakash Jadhav

Writer(s) Manjeet Singh Kohli

Sound Utsav Mistry, Hasmukh Mistry

Music Kuldeep Singh

DOP(s) Prakash Karlekar

Production

Company(s) Takshila Multimedia

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



City Symphonies

City Symphonies

English | India | Documentary Feature | 62 mins

Completion Date June 2022

In the late eighteenth century, Calcutta witnessed an efflorescence of musical experimentations. In the white town, memsahebs took keen interest in the music they heard at the nautch parties and transcribed the songs in western staff notation. They played these ghazals and Tuppahs on their harpsichords. The new music acquired a new name -Hindustani Air. In the black town, Nidhu Babu composed tuppahs in Bengali and the kobis locked themselves in battles of musical with Keertans and Shyama Sangeet drifted from the temples and rent the evening air. There was music for every ear and every soul. Musicians and music scholars in Kolkata and London bring alive the lost era with their soulful renditions and scholarly comments.

Director(s) Subha Das Mollick

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Rohan Bhattacharya

Writer(s) Subha Das Mollic

DOP(s) Aaditya Dalmia, Souvid Datta

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Départ

Departed

English, French | India | Documentary Feature | 77 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2024

Mah, a former French occupied colony for two and a half centuries in India is discovered and told by a French voyageur on his visit to India. The land lies sandwiched between the state of Kerala which also rigorously practices its traditional culture. The film takes you back into a colonial time where this charming fishing port was once a major trading counter established by the Compagnie des Indes at Malabar coast. The ancient port also buries the glimpses of the Kingdom of France, Marianne, the supreme symbol of the French Revolution where the French nationals pay homage to the Indian troops from Mah, who sacrificed their life in the second world war serving alongside the French. *Départ* recounts the absolute ruined forts and scattered bits of the French culture preserved by some old hands here. It now stands as a lost glory of a prosperous past. Will Mah be erased from its past? The answer lies in history.

Director(s) Mrinalini Tewari

Producer(s) Mrinalini Tewari

Editor(s) Mrinalini Tewari

Writer(s) Remi Carrat, Mrinalini Tewari

Sound Rajat Dholakia

DOP(s) Mrinalini Tewari

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Company(s) Echoical Creations

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Gap Financing
Sales & Distribution



Discovering Devika

Discovering Devika

English, Hindi | India | Documentary Feature | 68 mins

Completion Date **December 2022**

Devika Rani, known as the First Lady of Indian Cinema, was the very first recipient of Dadasaheb Phalke Award. Along with her husband Himanshu Rai, she was the co-founder of the Bombay Talkies Studio through which she acted in many films dealing with social issues like the iconic film *Achhut Kanya*. She also gave break to remarkable talents like Dilip Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Madhubala and many others. Many successful directors, writers and technicians in the film industry were mentored by her. This film traces the eventful life of Devika Rani, to highlight her achievements and to underline the indelible influence she has left behind on the Indian Cinema of past, present and future.

Director(s) Usha Deshpande

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) S. Shanmuganathan

Writer(s) Usha Deshpande

Sound K. Sathiyamurthy

DOP(s) V. Sakumaran,
Ramsahay Yadav, Ravindra
Singh Guram, Shankar
S Chavan, Govind Shau,
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Production Company(s) NFDC

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Ek Din Toori O Jana

I Will Leave Soon

Dogri, Hindi | India | Documentary Feature | 103 mins

Completion Date [June 2024](#)

I Will Leave Soon is a poignant and intimate documentary that chronicles the deeply personal journey of an actor, filmmaker and a son as he grapples with his mother's life-threatening illness. Faced with the harsh realities of Santosh's battle, her son Mohit chooses to use his artistic talents to capture every moment of their shared experience.

The film unfolds with Mohit's mother's journey from diagnosis through treatment, blending raw honesty with moments of heartwarming tenderness. As Santosh undergoes painful treatments and confronts the uncertainties of her condition, Mohit's camera becomes his bridge to understanding her pain, strength, and the profound bond they shared. As the story unfolds, Mohit and Mrs. Santosh Mattoo's relationship deepens through their shared commitment to this creative project.

Director(s) Mohit Mattoo

Producer(s) Mohit Mattoo

Editor(s) Sourabh dutta

Writer(s) Mohit Mattoo

Sound Mandar kamalapurkar

DOP(s) Mohit Mattoo

Production

Company(s) filmrecipe india

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Going Solo

Going Solo

English, Hindi | India, United Kingdom | Documentary Feature | 92 mins

Tentative Completion Date **October 2024**

We all long for freedom in our lives. A freedom that eludes us most of the time. Life, with its infinite variables, keeps us trapped in multiple loops. Only a few can break these shackles and experience a taste of freedom. And to those few, it is the only thing worth living and fighting for. Our film is centred around two Indian women, Gareema (44) & Renu (58), who took charge of their own lives and ventured out in pursuit of freedom. Defying conventional societal norms, they took up long-distance cycling much after they got married. Refusing to conform to traditional gender roles, they dared to break a few cycles, as they hopped on to a bicycle. *Going Solo* explores the inner & outer journeys of these two women, following them before, During and after one of the world's most prestigious endurance cycling events - London-Edinburgh-London (LEL).

Director(s) Ameya Gore

Producer(s) Vikas Kumar

Editor(s) Makarand Dambhare

Writer(s) Ameya Gore

Sound Ninad Datar

Music Swaopnath Bhatra

DOP(s) Vandita Jain

Production Company(s) Khan & Kumar Media Pvt. Ltd.

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Hamari Ramleela

Our Ramleela

Hindi | India | Documentary Feature | 118 mins

Completion Date **May 2024**

Hamari Ramleela offers a unique twist to the beloved tradition of Ramleela, set against the vibrant backdrop of Navratri in Nangli Vihar Extension, New Delhi. This rendition delves into the lives of its diverse participants, including auto-rickshaw drivers, tuition teachers, shopkeepers, and security guards, who passionately breathe life into the age-old narrative. Despite their varied backgrounds and daily struggles, they unite in their shared devotion to Ramleela. Through *Hamari Ramleela*, audiences are transported beyond the grandeur of epics, into the intimate and human world of its creators and performers. Amidst financial constraints and logistical challenges, a collective happiness is found in the simple act of coming together year after year, to stage the play for their community. More than just a theatrical performance, *Hamari Ramleela* is a celebration that binds the entire colony, fostering bonds of laughter, storytelling, and communal feasting, inviting all to immerse themselves in its enchanting world.

Director(s) Rinku Sharma

Producer(s) Anushree Sahu

Editor(s) Mario Vino

Writer(s) Rinku Sharma,
Pradyumna Bawari

Sound R. Jayant

Music R. Jayant

DOP(s) Hemant Ram

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Hostel Times

Hostel Times

Assamese, English, Hindi | India | Documentary Feature | 13 mins

Tentative Completion Date **March 2025**

Boy's Hostels have long held a revered status as a second home. In a place where hundreds of boys stay together, masculinity is preached in every possible form to turn boys into men. Back in the 1980s, when the protagonist's father embarked on his hostel experience, an era notorious for rampant ragging in Indian college hostels, the filmmaker delves into the captivating tales of his father's formative years. Fast forward to 2014, when our filmmaker himself enters a hostel. Although ragging has been criminalized by the Indian Supreme Court, a new phenomenon has emerged known as "Informal hostel rules." Through encounters with generations of hostellers and a poignant reflection on his personal hostel journey, he embarks on an exploration of the ever-shifting hostel culture and unravels the contrasting perspectives surrounding this modern form of ragging.

Director(s) Anurag Barman

Producer(s) Anurag Barman

Editor(s) Anurag Barman

Writer(s) Anurag Barman

DOP(s) Anurag Barman,
Lengdon Handique, Sarpil
Nandan Deka

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Hridoy Bosot

A Home for my Heart

Bengali | India | Documentary Feature | 64 mins

Awating International Premiere

Completion Date **February 2022**

An intimate portrayal of Suvana Sudeb, a transgender, who undergoes Gender Affirmative Surgery in order to gain appreciation as a 'real woman'. However, this decision creates turmoil in her family, who fear societal backlash. As love remains elusive as always, she realizes that the surgery hasn't changed her destiny as a transgender, forcing her to reconcile with the reality anew.

Director(s) Sankhajit Biswas

Producer(s) Soumya
Mukhopadhyay

Editor(s) Sankhajit Biswas

Writer(s) Sankhajit Biswas

Sound Sukanta Majumdar

DOP(s) Sankhajit Biswas,
Saurabh Kanti Dutta

**Production
Company(s)** Cherrypix Movies

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Looking for
Sales & Distribution



Mayalou

My Beloved

Nepali | India | Documentary Feature | 82 mins

Completion Date **November 2023**

Madhu and Maya, sisters separated by educational pursuit and marriage now find themselves living under the same roof once again. As they navigate the challenges of old age, they have to share a space that's not always easy. The movie delves into the cost of need for companionship during the later stages of life, the acceptance that emerges for one another as fragilities of old age begin to show, slowly embracing each other as sole companion as they cope with the fact of being far away from their children. *Mayalou* portrays the power of companionship in old age, offering the courage to face each day and continue living while awaiting the inevitable end. It's a story on the life lived in a long wait. It's a story of lives lived in prolonged anticipation.

Director(s) Pratishtha Chhetri

Producer(s) Pratishtha Chhetri

Editor(s) Pratishtha Chhetri, Bishal Lyma

Writer(s) Pratishtha Chhetri

Sound Arka Ghosh

Music Arka Ghosh

DOP(s) Pratishtha Chhetri

Production Company(s) poop in peace

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Moving Focus

Moving Focus

Bengali, English, Hindi | India | Documentary Feature | 70 mins

Completion Date **June 2023**

Goutam Ghose's documentaries and feature films over the past five decades have explored the socio-economic, cultural and political landscape of our Nation. His early films captured the intensity of rural life of the subaltern people in various forms rich in anthropological diversity. Post-globalization, he started to focus on the decadence of the middle and upper classes and their servile submission to monstrous consumerism. During the making of documentaries on Bismillah Khan and Dalai Lama, Ghose's atheistic mindset evolved into comparative religion, which was reflected in the biopic *Moner Manush* on Lalan Fakir. *Moving Focus* is centered on Ghose's oeuvre and presents the cerebral filmmaker in an insightful and thought-provoking way.

Director(s) Caesar Das

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Niladri Roy

Writer(s) Caesar Das

Sound Aryan Bhattacharya

DOP(s) Isshan Ghose

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Murshida

Murshida

Bangla | India | Documentary Feature | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date **October 2024**

Murshida Khatun is the Principal of Debkunda SARM Girls' High Madrasah situated in a 100% Muslim populated, backward area in West Bengal. Struggles of her students are relatable to Murshida as she also shares similar background. In order to empower her students, she wants to prevent widespread early marriage in the area, trains them self-defence, introduces other cultural and sports activities and thus, along with education, provides them an environment for holistic growth.

Murshida's two children and husband Rofiq are very supportive; yet, relentless balancing of socio-professional and emotional conflict makes her exhausted. Her Tuberculosis relapsed within a year, doctor advised rest and husband suggests a transfer. But when she finally decides to leave, her students revolt. Anisha, Suraiya, Farzana—a few of her students are followed to depict this journey of Murshida - a journey she takes with and for her valiant students.

Director(s) Moupia Mukherjee

Producer(s) Moupia Mukherjee

Editor(s) Lubdhak Chatterjee

Writer(s) Moupia Mukherjee

Sound Sukanta Majumdar, Sourav Gupta

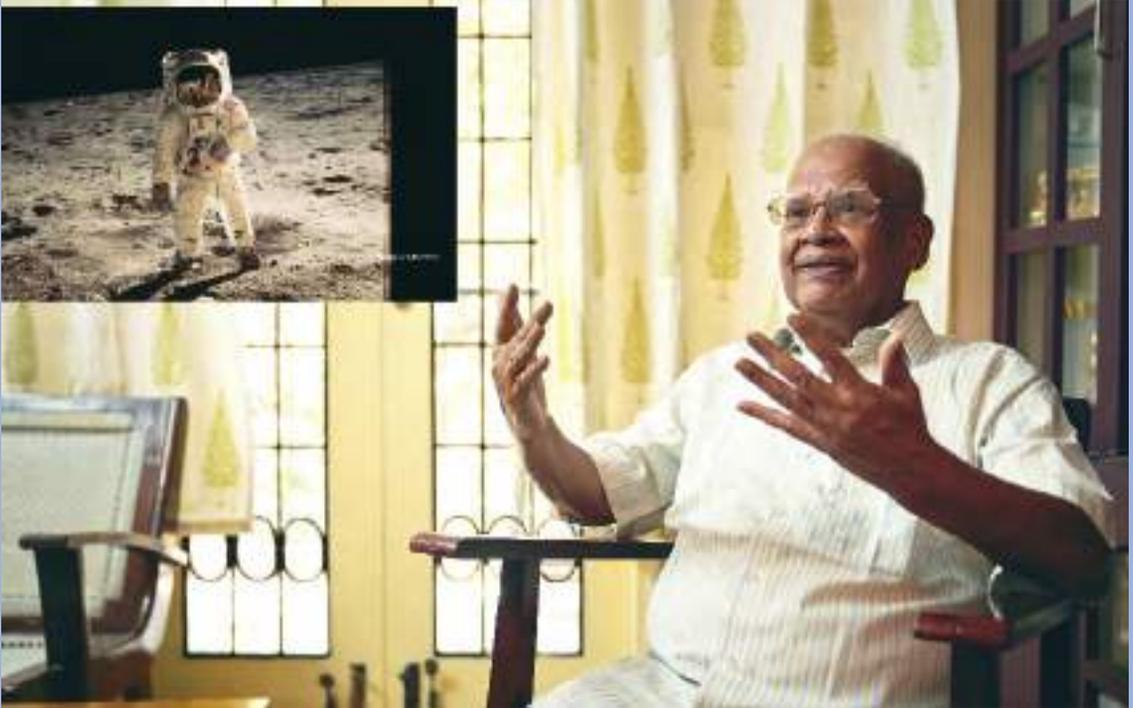
DOP(s) Subhajit Prasad, Sankha

Production Company(s) Moromiya Pictures

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My Radio My Life

My Radio My Life

English, Hindi, Marathi | India | Documentary Feature | 67 mins

Completion Date **June 2023**

The Film revisits the Golden Era of Radio, when it was the dominant, popular and only source of entertainment, knowledge and news across the national borders. We spent two years in developing the concept and researching for the film. We talked to several people to understand what the Golden Era of radio meant to them. We selected stories that show three elements in common – passion, emotion and nostalgia. Radio restorer who started own museum, historic Apollo 11 moon landing commentator, Award winning HAM radio operator, an octogenarian's unwavering determination to get his treasured valve radio repaired. This is probably the first-of-its-kind film where the radio is also a protagonist! Tomorrow, you may see the radio in a museum, but not people to tell stories of Radio. That's why this documentary is important to have made; it can exist as part of archives all over the world.

Director(s) Makarand Waikar, Bidit Roy

Producer(s) Makarand Waikar

Editor(s) Poorva Bhat

Sound Akshay Vaidya

Music Shaunak Kulkarni

DOP(s) Omkar Divekar

Production

Company(s) TimeCap Documentaries

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Nanda Master'nka Chatasali

Nanda School of Tradition

Odia | India | Documentary Feature | 102 mins

Awating International Premiere

Completion Date **December 2023**

This documentary biography delves into the life of a centenarian teacher, Nanda Prusty, who comes to limelight when awarded with Padmashree, India's prominent civilian award. He is renowned for operating one of India's last traditional open-air school, Chatasali reflecting ancient Indian Guru-Shishya Tradition. Spanning over a century, his remarkable journey unfolds in the remote region of Odisha, depicting the extraordinary deeds of an ordinary villager. Transforming from an actor to a teacher, Prusty's narrative extends across three generations, marked by his unwavering commitment to selflessly serve his village and its people on a profound spiritual path.

Director(s) Pranab Kumar Aich

Producer(s) Abhaya Pati

Editor(s) Pranab Aich

Writer(s) Pranab Aich

Sound Anand Prakash

Music Bibhuti Bhusan Gadanayak

DOP(s) Pranab Aich

Production

Company(s) Abhishmita Films

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Oh Believers

Oh Believers

Bengali, English, Hindi, Malayalam, Marathi | India | Documentary Feature | 70 mins

Tentative Completion Date **September 2024**

Oh Believers! explores women as religious leaders and community influencers in India. As one of the oldest civilizations continue to live here in this continent, religion plays an important role. In this film we, the makers are finding out deep rooted gender discrimination and patriarchal practices within different religions through the path of faith. It's a multi-lingual, multi-cultural feature length documentary film.

This film highlights the stories of women who are breaking age-old barriers and beliefs by claiming their place in organized religion. These exceptional women are priests, spiritual leaders, educators, writers, scholars and their voices for reform. Blending observation and discourse in its storytelling, *Oh Believers!* works to weave a compelling tale of rationality and miracle in a country that worships hundreds of gods.

Director(s) Nazia Khan

Producer(s) Nazia Khan

Editor(s) Suchitra Sathe

Writer(s) Nikita Deshpande

DOP(s) Nazia Khan

Production Company(s) Noetic Films

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Pala - A Source of Odisha's Cultural Identity

Pala - A Source of Odisha's Cultural Identity

Odia | India | Documentary Feature | 70 mins

Completion Date August 2022

The film focusses on the key role *Pala* as a unique art form played in establishing the identity of Odia as a language. It also shows how it served as a valuable source of moral education for ordinary people.

Director(s) Amulya Kumar Mallick

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Amulya Kumar Mallick

Writer(s) Amulya Kumar Mallick

Production Company(s) NFDC

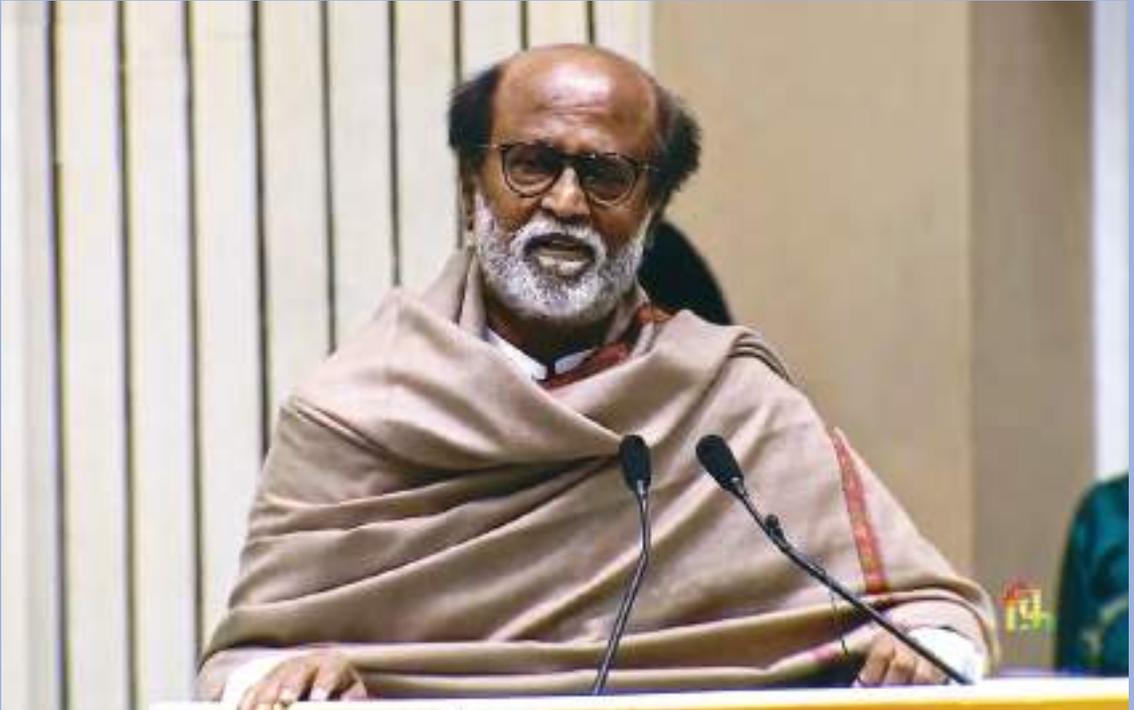
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Rajinikanth A Phenomenon

Rajinikanth A Phenomenon

English | India | Documentary Feature | 66 mins

Completion Date December 2022

This film is about *Shri Rajinikanth*, original name is Shivaji Rao Gaikwad, an Indian actor whose unique mannerisms and stylized line delivery made him one of the leading stars of Tamil cinema. He has completed more than 150 films; he also enjoyed considerable success in Hindi, Telugu, and Kannada movies.

Director(s) Ravi R

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) S.Shanmuganathan

Writer(s) Ravi R

Sound Radha Kirshna,
Kamalanathan K. Sathiyamurthy

Music George Joseph

DOP(s) R Rajendra, V.
Sukumaran

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



Ramacharitham

Ramacharitham

Malayalam | India | Documentary Feature | 54 mins

Tentative Completion Date **November 2024**

This film is trying to bring out the undying effort of a renowned Koodiyattam Guru, Kalamandalam Rama Chakiar who unlike his peers is constantly trying to weave in the new to the old tradition of Sanskrit Theatre. Revered all over the world, as a renowned performer he is a farmer at heart. The film tries to look into the inner world of the performer who despite an unhappy childhood decides to pursue a stringent art form. The desire to dig deeper, casting away material recognitions and to pass on the tradition of knowledge to a younger generation. Hopeful & energetic of the future, he is currently rediscovering academically, and in performance spaces that his post-graduate female students stand a better chance in keeping the tradition alive than may be regular male students.

Director(s) Narayanan Ammanoor **Sound** Arun Rama Varma
Producer(s) Narayanan Ammanoor **DOP(s)** S G Raman
Editor(s) Narayanan A V **Production**
Writer(s) Narayanan A V **Company(s)** Narayanan A V

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Gap Financing**

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Safarnamea

The Invisible Wayfarers

Bengali, Hindi | India | Documentary Feature | 86 mins

Tentative Completion Date **December 2024**

An annual pilgrimage in which thousands of marginal Sufi followers walk for thirteen days through the rough terrains of North India to reach the abode of their patron saint. Through the eyes of a disabled biker, a wistful cook, a jumpy mechanic, a mendicant tramp, and other fellow travellers a syncretic journey of love, faith and amity gets unfurled. The marching followers traverse over four hundred kilometres from Delhi to Ajmer carrying standards chanting and walking in tableaux throughout the day and camping on the roadside during the night to cook, sing and rest. They share mythic stories of food and water, of abundance and scarcity, of mundane and magic to heal their heart and cool their sore heels. After all, those who smile and bear the pain of their bruised feet in this journey are the real lovers of their patron saint, Gharib Nawaz (the benefactor of the poor).

Director(s) Partha Das, Soumya Mukhopadhyay

Producer(s) Soumya Mukhopadhyay

Editor(s) Amit Ray

Writer(s) Partha Das, Soumya Mukhopadhyay, Amit Ray

Sound Dibakar Saha

DOP(s) Animesh Mondal, Ripon Hossain, Partha Das

Production Company(s) Cherrypix Movies

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Looking for
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Sunil Maharaj A Monk In A Larger Family

Sunil Maharaj A Monk In A Larger Family

Bengali | India | Documentary Feature | 139 mins

Awating World Premiere

Completion Date **December 2023**

Daily '2 kg of rice' used to be provided for each of them against their statement – 'I did not commit any theft yesternight', The Jungles of 'LodhaShuli' became a peaceful land from the infamous place of heinous crimes. Sunil Maharaj created that magic. This hundred years old monk is still now devoted to uplifting the oppressed into the light - curing their Leprosy, making a dam on the river, teaching agriculture, Establishing 25 schools and the largest retail market of the Jhargram district (W.B.), and so on. Local people including primitive tribes count him as the father of their community.

The documentary *Sunil Maharaj, a Monk in a Larger Family* portrays the life of this saint. Whose name and works are spread not only in India but in other countries like Germany, Sweden, Russia, and others. He is a living example to them who wants to serve people practically.

Director(s) Saikat Bhakat
Producer(s) Sampa Ghosh
Editor(s) Saikat Bhakat
Writer(s) Saikat Bhakat
Sound Samir Sarkar
Music Avijit Acharya

DOP(s) Saurav Chakraborty
Production Company(s) Dhi
Foundation Films

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The Art of Revolution

The Art of Revolution

Hindi, Marathi | India | Documentary Feature | 60 mins

Awaiting World Premiere

Tentative Completion Date **October 2024**

In 2022, Eknath Shinde's government renounced the construction of Metro 3 Car Shed in Aarey Colony, one of the last green lungs in Mumbai which sparked protests. Every revolution, whether successful or not gave birth to artists and their voices.

Rajratna Bhojane, a young protestor and his prestigious theatre troupe of 'Ruia Natyavalay' decide to create a revolutionary play in support of the Save Aarey movement for the famous theatre competition, 'Indian National Theatre(INT)'. They are supported by the Bhoirs, an indigenous family who have been the face of the protest since 2014, creating a sense of revolution. They have 25 days to figure it all out and win but as destiny comes close and pressure starts to rise, the troupe forgets the starting intentions of the play amongst the mammoth race of competition. Will they be able to make history? Will any of this help to Save Aarey?

Director(s) Divya Kharnare

Music Shreenath Mhatre

Producer(s) Yugandhar Salvi

DOP(s) Shreenath Mhatre

Editor(s) Pranav Patil

Production Company(s) Unnis

Writer(s) Divya Kharnare, Pranav Patil

Bees Films

Sound Shubham Ghatge

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Unclad

Unclad

English | India | Documentary Feature | 11 mins

Tentative Completion Date **December 2024**

Dealing with mental health challenges and body image issues, E, a young woman from India turns to creating raw and vulnerable art, capturing herself in the nude on film. As she bravely shares her artistic expression online, she faces relentless stigma and censorship on ground and online, confronting deeply ingrained taboos surrounding nudity. In the face of this backlash, E finds support in unexpected quarters- her mother. Nourished by this validation, E uses her art as a powerful tool for personal and collective healing, holding space for a community of marginalised artists, struggling to be 'seen'. Through intimate interviews and captivating visuals, the documentary encourages one to view the unclad body through a lens other than the narrow one of relentless, uni-dimensional sexualisation.

Director(s) Svati Chakravarty
Bhatkal

Producer(s) Svati Chakravarty
Bhatkal

Editor(s) Hemanti Sarkar, Apoorva
Bardapurkar

Writer(s) Nayantara Bhatkal

DOP(s) Tanha Farmin Rezi

Production

Company(s) Chiraiyya
Creatives LLP

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Ustaad Anwar Khan Manganiyar

Ustaad Anwar Khan Manganiyar

Hindi | India | Documentary Feature | 61 mins

Completion Date December 2022

Ustaad Anwar Khan is a Manganiyar musician and a Padma Shri Awardee of 2020. He hails from Baiya village of Jaisalmer District and presently lives in Barmer district town. Being one of the finest vocalists in the fraternity of Manganiyar's, his interpretations and rendition of songs are a treat to the listeners. He is one of the most renowned and respected artist's in his community.

Director(s) Rajesh Meena

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Biswaranjan Pradhan

Writer(s) Rajesh Meena

Sound K. Sathiyamurthy

DOP(s) P. Rajendarn

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Vijaya - Beyond The Perception

Vijaya - Beyond The Perception

English, Hindi | India | Documentary Feature | 82 mins

Tentative Completion Date **October 2024**

“There is no stigma attached to recognising a bad decision in time to install a better one” - Laurence.J.Peter 1972 In the 1930s, a movement in the U.S.A vilified the cannabis plant, linked to Mexican immigration and a perceived threat to the ‘American dream’. In 1961, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs globally influenced countries like India to criminalise cannabis, despite its rich history and documented usage.

However, Israeli researchers in 1964 isolated cannabinoids from the plant revealing its medicinal potential. This sparked global interest, with some governments decriminalising or regulating its usage.

India's evolving stance spurred entrepreneurs and researchers but in the current scenario, doctors recommend it discreetly, patients use it and remain tacit, and some would rather endure pain than use cannabis due to its narcotic designation, associated with immorality and criminality. This documentary explores India's relationship with the cannabis plant, urging re-evaluation and a renewed dialogue.

Director(s) Rohina Singh

Producer(s) Rohina Singh

Editor(s) Tinni Mitra

Writer(s) Rohina Singh

DOP(s) Rusha Bose

Production Company(s) True
Films Production

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Wall Tax Road - Chennai - Tamilnadu

Wall Tax Road - Chennai - Tamilnadu

Tamil | India | Documentary Feature | 357 mins

Completion Date April 2024

This documentary sheds light on the Tamizh workers who are employed in the steel vessel manufacturing workshops located near Chennai Central Railway Station and adjacent to the Buckingham Canal. These workers hail from the nearby villages of Chennai and migrate to the city in search of livelihood opportunities. Due to a lack of proper education, these workers have been working in these vessel manufacturing workshops for over 40 years. Addicted to liquor and drugs, these daily wagers are easily been cheated by their owners. More than 60 workers from 17 workshops are been documented in this film.

Director(s) Rathesh Kowsalya

Producer(s) Rathesh Kowsalya

Editor(s) Rathesh Kowsalya

Writer(s) Rathesh Kowsalya

DOP(s) Rathesh Kowsalya

Production

Company(s) Independent

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Sales & Distribution

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A Son of Himalaya

A Son of Himalaya

Hindi | India | Documentary Mid-length | 40 mins

Completion Date **December 2023**

The documentary unwraps us through the journey of Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi who has been an Indian Green Activist, Social Worker, Botanist and the founder of Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO). Dr. Anil Joshi has been recognised for his work across the country. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2006 while "The Week" magazine declared him as the 'Man of the Year' in 2002. His momentous work in the mountain regions has earned him a title-Mountain Man and rightfully so, for his vision and efforts have made the mountains smile. Dr. Joshi's work has impacted close to five lakh villagers, in more than 10,000 villages, spread across nine mountain states of the Himalayas. Though he started his career as a teacher in a college, his keen desire to contribute to society made him quit his cosy job. He set up a voluntary organisation HESCO or Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization in 1981 to take his vision forward. HESCO concentrates on need-based science and technology developments and their application for the mountainous regions. The main slogan of HESCO is 'Local need meet locally'.

Director(s) Susheela Thapa

Producer(s) Films Division

Writer(s) Susheela Thapa

Sound Manthan Rajput

Music Tutul Bhattacharya

DOP(s) Kangkan Bora

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Aapki Poojita

Yours Poojita

English, Hindi | India | Animation Mid-length | 60 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2024

Aapki Poojita follows the adventures of good daughter Poojita who grew up in television - Literally as India's sweetheart from the birth of Indian TV in the 80s, to its death in the 2000s. But today Poojita's squeaky clean show has been cancelled and she and her TV Parivar Bhabhi, Bauji, Baa, and little brother Chintoo. They have to live in the dirt & grime of the world & deal with things they have not thought of before - The harsh reality of the job, rent, sex & survival. Poojita's adventures root from the constant friction between her idealised view of how the world is supposed to be, versus how it actually is. What happens when the idea of India meets the real India?

Director(s) Vivekananda Ghatak

Producer(s) Sumit Kumar

Editor(s) Vivekananda Roy
Ghatak, Ankit Kapoor

Writer(s) Adhiraj Singh, Sumit
Kumar

Sound Aditi Ramesh

Music Aditi Ramesh

DOP(s) Vivekananda Roy
Ghatak

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Sales & Distribution



Camellia

Camellia

English | India | Documentary Mid-length | 33 mins

Completion Date June 2023

For Assam the tea industry is not just economics its a way of life. For that 180 year old industry we call Assam- The Tea Bowl of India. The film *Camellia* bring into account this great collaboration between humans and nature, the lives and histories behind our cups, a look at the drink's political past and present, climate change and how the cup weigh's for everyone associated with the industry and the outsiders today. The documentary takes us on a virtual journey through the rich historical and cultural heritage of the tea industry in Assam and the manner in which it has evolved through its very inception till the post-colonial era since independence.

Director(s) Samujjal Kashyap

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Samujjal Kashyap,
Gautam Mazumdar, Ambarish
Borkotoky

Writer(s) Samujjal Kashyap

Sound Harjeet Diaz, Samujjal
Kashyap, Gautam Mazumdar

DOP(s) Samujjal Kashyap,
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Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
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Cinderellas of India - Rare Underdog Story of Indian Women's Ice Hockey Team

Cinderellas of India - Rare Underdog Story of Indian Women's Ice Hockey Team

English, Hindi, Ladakhi | India | Documentary Mid-length | 31 mins | Awating OTT Release, TV Premier

Completion Date **January 2021**

Cinderellas of India is one of the rare underdog stories in sports history. We all love fairytales. And we love real-life fairytales even more. And what do you get when you mix 20 hard-working Indian women, crowdfunding, public generosity, and ice hockey? A fairytale unlike any other. This is the true story of the Indian Women Ice Hockey team. From self-funded beginnings and practicing on a natural frozen pond to scripting their first international win, these girls have made each and every Indian proud with their hard work, dedication, and successes. Film offers a compelling look at how women fit into national sports culture, particularly where athletes are pressured to model ideological and political beliefs through their bodies. How are men and women differently socialized, from very early ages, in terms of healthful exercise and competitive games? How do media in society construct images of untold meaningful stories and femininity.

Director(s) Noreen Sodhi

Producer(s) Harsh Vardhan Singh,
Noreen Sodhi

Editor(s) Harsh Vardhan Singh

Writer(s) Noreen Sodhi

DOP(s) Santanu Das,
Chiranjeev Toon, Deepak
Rawat, Sanjeev Yadav

Production Company(s) Paper
Weight Entertainment

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



Dhushor

The Blur

English, Hindi | India | Documentary Mid-length | 56 mins

Completion Date August 2023

Dhushor - is an experimental film, explores various impressions of a wanderer. It tries to integrate visuals, natural sound and music in order to help the audience to construct a narrative for themselves. The film seeks to engage its viewers at a deeper level, spurring contemplation on existential inquiries and encourages them to create their own personalised interpretation of the film. The movie pays homage to the cinematic craft's illustrious history, honouring the art form's some of the greatest icons and practitioners.

Director(s) Purandar Chaudhuri

Producer(s) Purandar Chaudhuri

Editor(s) Prakash Braggs

Writer(s) Purandar Chaudhuri

Sound Prabhat Shetty

DOP(s) Sachin Shetty

Looking for
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From Weave To Wow' Kanchipuram Silk Saree

From Weave To Wow' Kanchipuram Silk Saree

English, Tamil | India | Documentary Mid-length | 34 mins

Completion Date **December 2022**

The film is about the Kanchipuram Silk Saree, the sensational influence in the array of silk sarees. The film portraits upon the sartorial designs, flaunt beautiful weaving with original silk threads and zari work that showcases motifs, colors and tone patterns woven by traditional weavers of Kanchipuram. The film also showcases how the Kanchipuram silk saree stands apart from other sarees as it comes with contrasting and self zari borders, that makes these traditional sarees a perfect wear for any opulent occasion!

Director(s) R Rajendran

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) S. Shanmuganathan

Writer(s) K Jagajivanram

Sound K. Sathiyamurthy, Prasanna Gadge

Music Jonah Bakthakumar

DOP(s) P. Rajendran

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Gotipua - Beyond Borders

Gotipua - Beyond Borders

English, Hindi, Odia | India | Documentary Mid-length | 39 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2024

Gotipua - Beyond Borders is a compelling documentary that delves into the rich yet endangered Indian dance form of Gotipua. Preserved by a handful of dedicated practitioners like Guru Basanta Kumar Moharana, this unique dance tradition continues through the ancient Gurukul system passed down through generations. 'Eternal Dance of Devotion' explores the enigmatic journey of Gotipua, performed traditionally by young boys dressed as women. This intricate dance combines classical movements with sophisticated acrobatics, symbolizing the soul's everlasting love for Lord Jagannath. The documentary aims to unveil Gotipua to the world, exploring its obscured history marred by assumptions and its lesser-known past. *Gotipua - Beyond Borders* is not just a dance documentary; it's an urgent call to recognize and preserve a vital part of cultural heritage before it fades into oblivion. This is a story that demands to be told.

Director(s) Chintan K Parekh

Producer(s) Chintan K Parekh

Editor(s) Ketaki Kelkar

Writer(s) Chintan Parekh

Music Subrato Biswas

DOP(s) Tejal Shetye, Kunal Paradkar

Production Company(s) Yatra Films

Looking for
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Sales & Distribution

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Her Share of Sky - Dr. Sruti Mohapatra

Her Share of Sky - Dr. Sruti Mohapatra

Odia | India | Documentary Mid-length | 36 mins

Completion Date **December 2022**

Dr Sruti Mohapatra, a gold medalist, scholar who got IAS in 1987, but a terrible car accident, which is change her life and became paralyzed. Now she has become an inspiration for others.

Director(s) Manoranjan Badatya

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Manoranjan Badatya

Writer(s) Manoranjan Badatya

Sound Dillip Das

DOP(s) Govind Sahu

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Insides and Outsides

Insides and Outsides

English, Hindi, Urdu | India | Documentary Mid-length | 54 mins

Awating International Premiere

Completion Date **December 2023**

In an increasingly hostile environment of escalating violence, discrimination, and disenfranchisement, Arbab explores what it is like being a part of a minority group in India. The film ebbs and flows between him looking outside in his surroundings, where a constant stream of hostility erupts and engulfs all sides, and inside - where Arbab and his parents renegotiate their sense of home alongside a changing political reality.

Director(s) Arbab Ahmad

Producer(s) Arbab Ahmad

Editor(s) Arbab Ahmad

Writer(s) Arbab Ahmad

Sound A Bhaskar Rao

Music Aditya Kapoor

DOP(s) Arbab Ahmad

Looking for
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Lentina AO-A Light on the Eastern Horizon

Lentina AO-A Light on the Eastern Horizon

English, Nagamese | India | Documentary Mid-length | 34 mins

Completion Date **September 2023**

Lentina Ao has devoted her entire life for the betterment and upliftment of the Naga people. Starting from 1955, her life has been a life of struggle, sometimes against her own people, sometimes against the evils of society and fate. She started her life of devotion as a midwife in the remote naga hills. She has been instrumental in bringing the most important life changing socio-economic developments to her place. Her story is a story of hope amidst despair, story of courage, patience and compassion in an war torn society.

Director(s) Sanjib Parasar, Nilakshi Medhi

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Sanjib Parasar, Dhruvajyoti Das, Ramjyoti Krishnacharan, Dipankar Das

Writer(s) Sanjib Parasar

Sound Dhruvajyoti Das

Music Dr. Sourav Mahanta

DOP(s) Sanjib Parasar, Nilakshi Medhi

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution

Film Library – Mid-Length



Lousah

Lousah

Poulah | India | Documentary Mid-length | 52 mins

Completion Date April 2024

In the year 2002, the government of India recognized the Pomi Naga as a tribe. Pomi naga tribe live in about 100 villages in Senapati District of Manipur and Phek District of Nagaland. The women of the tribe weave an organic shawl from fibers of indigenous plants and trees using ingenious resources.

Director(s) Alexander Leo Pou

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Ashok Veilou, Ashik Sharkar

Writer(s) Ashok Veilou, Alexander Leo Pou

Sound Satish Tiriya, Pavel Alexius

DOP(s) Ranjit Meitei, Shingkha Nu, Saikhom Ratan, L.T. Irom Maipak

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Maa Oori Ramayanam

Hello Hello Mike Testing

Telugu | India | Documentary Mid-length | 55 mins

Awaiting World Premiere

Completion Date **December 2023**

Maa Oori Ramayanam (Hello...Hello...Mike Testing!!) delves into the lives of villagers, highlighting their unwavering devotion to Natakam, a traditional theatre practice. This humorous and unfiltered portrayal captures the essence of individuals, both young and old, who are not professional actors but earn their livelihoods as agricultural laborers, farmers, and shepherds during the day. Despite facing hardships, they contribute funds for their chosen roles, dedicating their nights to relentless practice for the final act, particularly during the summer season.

The production brings together villagers from diverse classes and castes, uniting them in a spirited theatrical rendition of the Ramayana. In an age dominated by sophisticated media professionals, marvel at how this village not only survives but joyfully thrives amidst the constraints of illiteracy and poverty. Their performance not only upholds tradition but also illuminates the potent unity forged through art, offering a new dimension to theatrical experiences.

Director(s) Badrappa Gajula

DOP(s) Praveen

Producer(s) Badrappa Gajula

Production

Editor(s) Shravan katikaneni

Company(s) Sanchari Films

Writer(s) Badrappa Gajula

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Main Thansu Dur Nahi- Legacy of Maharaja Hanwant Singh

Main Thansu Dur Nahi- Legacy of Maharaja Hanwant Singh

English, Hindi, Rajasthani | India | Documentary Mid-length | 45 mins

Completion Date **November 2023**

Main Thansu Dur Nahi, meticulously unveils the remarkable life journey of His Late Highness Maharaja Hanwant Singh Ji (1923-1952), the last ruling Maharaja of Jodhpur (Marwar), intricately interwoven with the valor of the celebrated Rathore Clan and vibrant tapestry of Jodhpur, a city he deeply cherished, at a crucial juncture in India's history when the country was on the brink of independence from British rule.

Director(s) Abhimanyu Kanodia

Producer(s) Anuradha Bhatia

Editor(s) Vaibhav Soni

Writer(s) Abhimanyu Kanodia

Sound Asad Raza Khan

DOP(s) Mitesh Parvatneni,
Aayush Bhadrak Shah

**Production
Company(s)** Anuradha Bhatia

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Sales & Distribution

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Making of MIFF - 2022 Weavers Behind The Screen

Making of MIFF - 2022 Weavers Behind The Screen

English, Hindi | India | Documentary Mid-length | 52 mins

Completion Date **December 2022**

Mumbai International Film Festival for documentary, short and animation Films was conceived by the technical and non-technical staff of Films Division in the year 1990. Since then this festival has been organized and celebrated on grand scale every two years. This film strives to showcase the painstaking efforts and hard work by the staff of Films Division through MIFF - 2022, 17th edition.

Director(s) Pratibha Kaur Pasricha

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Amulya Kumar Mallik

Sound Radhakrishnan, Pritirashmi Das

DOP(s) Govind Sahoo, S Chavan, N Srinivas

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Mein Agar Kahoo

What If I Tell You

Hindi, Punjabi | India | Documentary Mid-length | 61 mins

Completion Date May 2024

After a hush-hush recovery from my breast cancer treatment, I set on to understand within my family and with men to find a life partner, if Breast Cancer is a stigma or not. This is a personal documentary film wherein, after my hush-hush treatment of Breast Cancer and after being healthy, I start filming the men whom I meet on dating sites to look out for a prospective life partner. I also start having the uncomfortable conversations with my parents about life after breast cancer and specially with my mother.

They represent another generation and their thought process is different and conservative. The men represent contemporary thinking, and pop culture and carry an impression of the families, Media, and Society that shape them. After so much so much soul stirring exploration I find I am my first life partner and make peace with it for now.

Director(s) Teena Kaur

Producer(s) Teena Kaur

Editor(s) Teena Kaur Pasricha

Writer(s) Teena Kaur Pasricha

Music Joy Sengupta

DOP(s) Harsh Doshi, Kaiser Ali,
Anup Kumar Prajapati, Akmal
Nazer, Ayush Ray, Teena Kaur

Production Company(s) Green
Earth Pictures

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Gap Financing
Sales & Distribution



My Search For The Dalai Lama a.k.a Compassion

My Search For The Dalai Lama a.k.a Compassion

English | India, USA | Documentary Mid-length | 60 mins

Completion Date **May 2024**

This story is an outer and inner journey of a filmmaker. Pema is in Mumbai preparing to begin filming his passion project about the Dalai Lama lineage. A controversy about the Dalai Lama surfaces from a manipulated video and Pema's situation changes instantly. A producer backs out and left he is left with anger and frustration not only about making the film but also himself as a follower of the Dalai Lama. However, the bigger realization dawns on him that in pursuit of a great story he must first introspect and relearn the true purpose of the Dalai Lama institution which is for peace and compassion. Deciding to go ahead in pursuit of his passion Pema films the interview of H.H the Dalai Lama and shoots proof-of-concept video while trying to find some answers to his own struggle of practicing compassion. He finds the sacred mantra. Being wise selfish.

Director(s) Pema Gakyil

Producer(s) Pema Gakyil

Editor(s) Pema Gakyil

Writer(s) Pema Gakyil

Sound Nikhil Tatkare

Music Parijat Chakravorty

DOP(s) Nishant Gala, Navraj Thapa

Production Company(s) Clear mirror picture

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



Padmashri Professor Waman Kendre

Padmashri Professor Waman Kendre

English, Hindi, Marathi | India | Documentary Mid-length | 50 mins

Completion Date **November 2022**

This film highlights the life of Mr. Waman Kendre who is an Indian Theatre Director and Academician. He has previously served as the Director of National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi. He also received the Padma Shri Award, the fourth highest Civilian Award in India.

Director(s) Gautami Berde

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Pankaj Bharat Lata

Writer(s) Gautami Berde

Sound Rajkumar Ramesh
Inamati

DOP(s) Jitendra Acharekar

Production Company(s) NFDC

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River Still Flows

River Still Flows

Assamese, English | India | Documentary Mid-length | 59 mins

Completion Date **December 2023**

Exploring the intricate relationship between human civilisation and the natural world, *River Still Flows* is a stark reminder of the supremacy and power of nature. Set in the backdrop of the 2022 monsoon in Assam, the film unfolds in Nagaon district of Assam where the Kopili Hydro Power Station and the Karbi Langpi Hydro Electric Power Project have transformed the serene rivers into agents of destruction owing to incessant rainfall and release of floodgates. As the Kopili dam releases water, hundreds of villages are inundated, marking the worst flood in living memory. The situation is compounded by the release of water from the Kurichhu project in Bhutan, impacting many districts beyond Nagaon. There is an overwhelming sense of despair, loss and helplessness. However, amidst this chaos, a sense of awe emerges for man's resilience and the ability to regenerate even during adversity.

Director(s) Dip Bhuyan

Producer(s) Dip Bhuyan

Editor(s) Simanta Sandilya
Sarmah, Rupak Kumar Borah

Writer(s) Dip Bhuyan

Sound Debajit Gayan

DOP(s) Dip Bhuyan

**Production
Company(s)** Sanjivani Films

Looking for
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Sales & Distribution

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Sab Kuchh Apna

All That We Own

Hindi, Bhojpuri, Assamese | India | Documentary Mid-length | 38 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2024

Recalling of memory of migration and displacement across three generations in a family that dwells in Dimapur, Nagaland. The story is of late 1940s Maya's grandmother lost her husband early into marriage. She traveled from Uttar Pradesh to Kohima, Nagaland with Gorakh (Maya's father) who was 6 years old at that time. She came to Kohima to live the rest of her life with her elder brother. When Gorakh was of age, she married him to Savitri. Savitri was from Uttar Pradesh, she moved to Kohima after her marriage. Maya was born in Kohima and lived her early years in Kohima, Nagaland. Due to family feuds, Maya's family was forced to leave Kohima and travel to Dimapur, Nagaland in early 1970s where they lived in a potato godown and made it their makeshift home. Maya lived in Dimapur, Nagaland until she married. Maya, now 61 years old, is my mother.

Director(s) Aprajita Gupta

Producer(s) Aprajita Gupta,
Ridhima Mehra, Tulika Srivastava

Editor(s) Aprajita Gupta

Writer(s) Aprajita Gupta

DOP(s) Aprajita Gupta

Production Company(s) Rough
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Looking for
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Sahiya

Sahiya

Hindi, Khortha, Nagpuri | India | Documentary Mid-length | 53 mins

Awating World Premiere

Tentative Completion Date July 2024

Sahiya is a captivating documentary that delves into the endangered world of tribal instruments in Jharkhand, India. Through evocative storytelling, it unveils the rich cultural tapestry woven by these instruments, songs, and dances, which have long been the heartbeat of tribal communities. Against the backdrop of changing times, the film sheds light on the plight of these traditional musical treasures, facing extinction due to modernisation and neglect. Through interviews and immersive visuals, *Sahiya* portrays the intimate relationship between these instruments and tribal life, deeply intertwined with nature. It serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need to preserve Jharkhand's musical heritage, honouring the legacy of artisans and musicians who have kept these traditions alive for generations. *Sahiya* is a compelling call to action, urging viewers to recognise the intrinsic value of these instruments as vital expressions of cultural identity, deserving of protection and revitalisation.

Director(s) NPK Purushotam

Producer(s) NPK Purushotam

Editor(s) NPK Purushotam

Writer(s) NPK Purushotam, Anurag
Lugun

DOP(s) Vikas Aryan, Sarath
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Production Company(s) Shreya
International Film Production

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See Me When You Leave

See Me When You Leave

Bengali, Hindi | India | Documentary Mid-length | 28 mins

Completion Date April 2024

The film delves into the lives of migrant workers in a bustling city, focusing on their emotional journey. Each day, they join the throng of fellow laborers, awaiting the chance to earn a living and pursue their passion for art. However, as time passes, they find themselves grappling with a deep sense of sadness and disillusionment. Through internal struggles and external challenges, they confront fears and insecurities, seeking solace and redemption in unexpected places.

Director(s) Dipin Chenayil
Producer(s) Dipin Chenayil
Editor(s) Dipin Chenayil
Writer(s) Dipin Chenayil

Sound Dipin Chenayil
DOP(s) Dipin Chenayil
Production Company(s) Prodxn
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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



Shakila - The Collage of Struggle

Shakila - The Collage of Struggle

Bengali | India | Documentary Mid-length | 49 mins

Completion Date **December 2022**

Shakila Sheikh is the wife of a vegetable vendor turned into one of the leading collage artists of India. This documentary is woven around the memories of her past, her homage to B. R. Panesar (1927-2014) who introduced Shakila to the realm of art as well as her perception of Kall, the Hindu Goddess as a symbol of eternal motherhood. Shakila's visual voyage has been merged with a song of Lalon Sain (1772-1890), an unorthodox medieval saint, who advocated in favor of religious eclecticism, *Shakila - The Collage of Struggle*, is a journey to the personal space of an Indian artist to depict the role of art to overcome the ongoing struggles of life.

Director(s) Subhasis Chakrabort

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Atish Nandi

Writer(s) Subhasis Chakraborty

Sound B.Suresh Kumar

DOP(s) Kumar Tapas Ranjan

Production Company(s) NFDC

Looking for
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Sound From The Hollow Bamboo

Sound From The Hollow Bamboo

Sumi (Naga) | India | Documentary Mid-length | 35 mins

Completion Date December 2022

Sound From The Hollow Bamboo is a documentary about Hojevi Kappo, a renowned folk gospel Artist from Nagaland. Hojevi is innovative and deep rooted traditionalist who is re-inventing, reviving and redefining the age old folk music of the Sumi Nagas. His musical instruments are not our conventional instruments, you get in store but are all made from natural resources easily available in nature such as bamboo, tree pods and vines. This documentary takes you into the musician's journey in keeping alive the oral traditions passed down by our ancestors.

Director(s) Vito Yepthomi

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Dayanidhi Bej

Writer(s) Mushuka Ramachariy

Sound Atul Pawar, P.R. Gadge

DOP(s) Rabindra Singh Guram,
Tapas Kumar Ranjan, Manas
Boro, Kapil Kumar, Hrishikes
Haloi

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



Tenzing Bodosa - A Story of A Tribal Entrepreneur

Tenzing Bodosa - A Story of A Tribal Entrepreneur

English, Hindi | India | Documentary Mid-length | 56 mins

Completion Date **November 2022**

The film depicts the journey of Tenzing Bodosa, a young tribal organic farmer, environmental activist and entrepreneur from Kashibari, Dimakuchi, a remote village of Assam in Northeast part of India. Tenzing Bodosa has developed eco-tourism, forest and world's first "elephant friendly tea farm." He is engaged with conservation of nature through organic farming and resolving human and elephant conflict thereby ensuring a peaceful co-existence. Tenzing had to run away from home at the age of 12 to save his life from the uprising for separate state of Bodoland. A school drop-out, he had to work as a roadside laborer, constructions worker and machine operator in a Malaysian construction company. He transcended those hard times to become an entrepreneur and organic farmer. The film inspires and gives us hope that in spite of hardship and struggles, success touches the feet of determined minds. Film depicts the journey of Tenzing Bodosa, a young tribal organic farmer, environmental activist and entrepreneur come from a remote village of Kashibari, Dimakuchi, Assam at Northeast part of India.

Director(s) Mushuka Ramchiary

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Dayanidhi Bej

Writer(s) Mushuka Ramchiary

Sound Atul Pawar, P.R. Gadge

DOP(s) Rabindra Singh Guram,
Tapas Kumar Ranjan, Manas
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Haloi

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



The Divine Heart

The Divine Heart

English, Hindi | India | Documentary Mid-length | 52 mins

Completion Date **December 2022**

The film *Divine Heart* is an awareness film. It depicts the whole structure of the surgery of Heart transplant Is undergone. It presents the whole medical team led by Dr. Anvay Mulay, as well as the legal procedure carried in Heart Transplant surgery or Organ Donation and related all information. It also talks about the importance of organ donation. A young girl, Laxmi who talks about her experience of pre surgery and post-surgery of her heart and lung transplant and her lifestyle thereafter this film is made with the intention to spread a positive message defining the hope of a new life for those suffering from the end stage heart failure.

Director(s) Sushma Milind Kuvalekar

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) S. Shanmuganathan

Writer(s) Sushma M. Kuvalekar

Sound Prasanna Gadge

Music George Joseph, Akash Gandhi

DOP(s) Swadesh K. Pathak, Naraj Revankar, Ravindra Singh Guram, Mukesh Sharma, L.M.Keni, S.S. Chavan, V.Shreeniwas

Production Company(s) NFDC

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The Doars World

The Doars World

English | India | Documentary Mid-length | 55 mins

Tentative Completion Date **June 2024**

On the foothills of Eastern Himalaya, the Doars are geographical corridors between India and Bhutan, harboring some very extraordinary forms of wildlife. From the elusive Red Panda, Himalayan salamander, and Golden langur to the majestic hornbills, and even the formidable Burmese python and Asian one-horned rhino, the documentary captured riveting natural behaviors and life of these lesser-known and rarely seen creatures. But there's more. Here, amidst the lush landscape, the boundary between humanity and the wild blurs, revealing a captivating interplay between man and nature. This is a wildlife documentary, but it is not a documentary about wildlife alone, it is a compelling narrative that explores various manifestations of co-existence within this remarkable ecosystem in its purest, most unfiltered form.

Director(s) Shaon Pritam Baral

Producer(s) Shaon Pritam Baral

Editor(s) George Thengummoottil

Writer(s) Pallavi Lavetti, Shaon Pritam Baral

Music Abhushek Saha

DOP(s) Shaon Pritam Baral, Amit Raj, Paushali Saha, Saptarshi Paul

Production Company(s) Lens and Stories Production

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Gap Financing
Sales & Distribution



The First Ink - Memories that Make History

The First Ink - Memories that Make History

Hindi | India | Documentary Mid-length | 47 mins

Completion Date August 2022

The film portrays the life, times and world view of Shri Shyam Saran Negi, 105 years old, and a resident of Kalpa, Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh. He is considered to be the first person to cast his vote in Independent India and since then, he has not missed casting his vote in any elections. He is a strong believer in the Constitution of India and has an indomitable belief in the institution of Democracy. He was also nominated as the Brand Ambassador for SVEEP Program of Election Commission of India for the 2019 General Elections. This film celebrates 75 glorious years of India Independence, Aazadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

Director(s) K S Shridhar

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) S. Shanmuganathan

Writer(s) K. S. Shridhar

Sound K Sathiyamurthy,
Prasanna Gadage, Pritirashmi
Das

DOP(s) R S Guram

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



The Journey of ISRO

The Journey of ISRO

English | India | Documentary Mid-length | 56 mins

Completion Date **December 2022**

The film encapsulates the journey of ISRO from its genesis to its present status as one of the top 6 space organizations in the world, and its future plans. The film records the milestones of ISRO achieved over the years, through the scientist and visionaries who have immensely contributed to ISRO's growth.

Director(s) Mr. K S Shridhar

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Amar Maibam, Oinam Bembem Devi

Sound K Sathiyamurthy, Prasanna Gadage, Pritirashmi Das

Music George Joseph, Joseph Olakkengil

DOP(s) K S Shridhar, V Sukumaran, R S Guram

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



The Last Run

The Last Run

English, Hindi, Ladakhi | India | Documentary Mid-length | 35 mins

Completion Date March 2024

In the remote Himalayan region of Ladakh, a young man, Chamba is organizing the “World’s Highest Frozen Lake Marathon”, called The Last Run at the exquisite Pangong Lake spread across the volatile border between India and China, experiencing -30°C. to highlight the issue of lack of water due to rapidly melting Himalayan Glaciers in his region. Our story follows the struggles of Chamba Tsetan, an Indian National Ice Hockey player who believes the lake may not freeze due to Climate Change in the coming years and thus came up with this extreme idea to draw global attention towards the fragile Himalayan environment and also strike a balance between tourism and climate conservation.

Director(s) Akshat Jain, Rigzen Angchok

Producer(s) Akshat Jain

Editor(s) Akshat Jain, Rigzen Angchok

Writer(s) Akshat Jain, Rigzen Angchok

Sound Stanzin Namgyail Peter

Music Paras Thakur

DOP(s) Akshat Jain, Rigzen Angchok

Production Company(s) Akshat. art

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Gap Financing
Sales & Distribution



The Lord of the Universe

The Lord of the Universe

English | India | Documentary Mid-length | 47 mins

Awaiting World Premiere

Completion Date December 2016

In the mystical land of India, where faith intertwines with the fabric of life, a belief in the eternal cycle of rebirth pervades the culture. This belief finds its embodiment in Lord Jagannath, in city of Puri, Odisha. The idols of Lord Jagannath and his divine entourage are crafted from sacred Neem wood, which is bound to decay. Just as mortal bodies succumb to the passage of time, these divine forms too require renewal. This sacred process is known as "Nabakalebara". It involves a critical and extensive process of replacing the idols at intervals ranging from 12 to 19 years.

This film delves into the grand celebration of Nabakalebara, witnessing the rituals of divine transformation. It illuminates the depth of human understanding about the universal truths of existence and the belief in the cyclical nature of life, where even gods undergo the transformative change of mortality and resurrection.

Director(s) Shibu Prusty

Music Sudhir Pal

Producer(s) Shibu Prusty

DOP(s) Shibu Prusty

Editor(s) Suresh Chandra Sahoo

Production Company(s) Raw

Writer(s) Shibu Prusty

Age Movies

Sound Rashmi Ranjan Dash

Looking for
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Tiger Army

Tiger Army

English | India | Documentary Mid-length | 36 mins

Completion Date **November 2022**

The world loves the bloodcurdling narratives of Sundarban Royal Bengal tigers where they are always the vicious villains with fangs. Killing them was a heroic act though our wise ancestors knew that the tigers are the protector of forests, people armed with guns and brains, eliminated most of them. We ended up almost losing the forest and its burning bright mega fauna. In 1973, the Government of India launched Project Tiger, a tiger conservation program. Project Tiger takes up several measures to maintain the viable population of Bengal Tigers in their natural environment. The Forest Department workforce steps into protect the tigers and inspire people to end the tussle besides protecting themselves. The film reveals the story of the real heroes, the foot soldiers, the field staffs, who carry out their job even risking their own life but do not see themselves as heroic.

Director(s) Sourav Sarangi

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Sourabhkanti Mandal

Writer(s) Sourav Sanrangi

Sound Sukanta Majumdar

DOP(s) Smriti Shekar Mandal

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Tritiyo Bhuban

Beyond Boundaries

Bengali | Australia, India | Documentary Mid-length | 54 mins

Awating World Premeire

Tentative Completion Date July 2024

Kamruzzaman Balark, a Bangladesh born writer-director-actor and theatre activist selects Rabindranath Tagore's play Achalayatan, which talks about the stagnation and conflicts resulting from the rigidity of thoughts and beliefs, and Kamruzzaman finds parallels in today's fractured society. Perhaps the splitting of cultures along religious boundaries too has their root cause in the barriers created by our minds, like the historical division of Bengal. The past cannot be undone, but can shared love of one's culture bridge artificial political divides. He finds an ally from across the border, Moulinath Ganguly, an accomplished theatre artist born in West Bengal, with shared passion for their rich cultural heritage. They discover that the force which unites them is far more powerful than the one that separated them.

Inspired by the multicultural spirit in their adopted country Australia, together they set off to stage Achalayatan, in a land beyond the boundaries of their divided origin.

Director(s) Biswajit Mitra. Sankhajit Biswas

DOP(s) Biswajit Mitra

Producer(s) Biswajit Mitra

Production Company(s) Art-Im Productions

Editor(s) Sankhajit Biswas

Writer(s) Sankhajit Biswas, Biswajit Mitra

Looking for
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Gap Financing
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Yes I am Mauli

Yes I am Mauli

English | India | Documentary Mid-length | 38 mins

Completion Date April 2018

"Ashadhichi Wari" is a yearly event which takes place every year in the state of Maharashtra, India. This is a spiritual journey in which millions of people across the state and many parts of the country take part. This journey starts from a small town of Alandi in Pune district and ends at Pandharpur, Solapur district, covering the distance of approximately 250 km. This tradition has a history of more than 800 years.

SuhasJahagirdar, the producer/Director of this documentary film decided to take part in this journey. When he started walking alone, he had no intention of shooting videos or making a documentary, his only intention was to go through the spiritual experience himself. He found the whole experience so mesmerizing and life transforming that he decided to edit them and make a life transforming documentary on it, resulting in the form of a film *Yes, I am Mauli*.

Director(s) Suhas Jahagirdar
Producer(s) Suhas Jahagirdar
Editor(s) Swapnil Dinkar
Writer(s) Suhas Jahagirdar

Sound Suhas Jahagirdar
DOP(s) Suhas Jahagirdar
Production Company(s) Devaswva Productions

Looking for
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A Different Tongue

A Different Tongue

Ao, Hindi | India | Documentary Short | 27 mins

Completion Date **December 2022**

The film revolves around Padmashree Piyongtemjen Jamir, who was a Hindi litterateur, teacher and author in a land that was not ready to accept his knowledge. He strove to spread the language inspite of all the odds facing him. The story delves into how his passion was ignited in his childhood and his resolve to follow it. The film is told through the narrative of his son, daughter and wife. They weave a tale of his life through their memories and recollections. Sir Piyongtemjen was a determined man, he did not let threats against him and his family for teaching Hindi in a time where the Naga National Movement was at its peak deter him. He eventually opened a Rashtrabasha Hindi Training Institute and taught there till he passed away.

Director(s) Yapangnaro Longkumer

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Imtiwabang Jamir

Writer(s) Yapangnaro Longkumer

Sound Ajay Sharma

Music Clef Ensemble

DOP(s) Nungshitemjen Jamir

Production Company(s) NFDC

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A Star Is Born

A Star Is Born

Mizo | India | Documentary Short | 28 mins

Completion Date **December 2022**

This is a story about the girl Esther Hnamte who became a singing sensation overnight. It traces her life story through the lens of a camera. There is a reason why she has jumped into singing Hindi songs rather than singing songs of her own mother tongue, a risk many local artists hasn't dare to venture. Her grandfather and mother had pursued and encouraged her into singing Hindi song, her uncle was the one who selected the song for her and had a vision that it could bring national integration through a song. They feel they have achieved something out of it. Singing a Hindi song which is a different language posed a challenge to Esther, and it had to overcome.

Director(s) Napoleon RZ Thanga

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Napoleon RZ Thanga

Writer(s) Napoleon RZ Thanga

Sound Lalchhanhima

DOP(s) Napoleon RZ Thanga

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Andhaar Visaraleli Maanasa

People Who Forgot Darkness

Marathi | India | Documentary Short | 29 mins

Completion Date August 2023

From almost getting kidnapped to being a victim of wrongful eye treatment and resulting in losing eyesight, this group of blind musicians have faced everything. With strong inclination towards music, they all strive to make it their daily habit to perform at roadside corners in a busy metro city for few hundred rupees because survival is their topmost priority. In between few stage shows, their true artistic urge calls for applause from their listeners whose attention span is of only 90 seconds!

Director(s) Vikram Bolegave

Producer(s) Nilesh Dhumal

Editor(s) Aniket Kadu

Writer(s) Vikram Bolegave

Sound Amit Baji

Music Amit Baji

DOP(s) Anand Mansuk

Looking for
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Bon Bibi The Tale of Sundarbans

Bon Bibi The Tale of Sundarbans

Bengali | India | Documentary Short | 27 mins

Completion Date **December 2022**

The Goddess Bonbibi is the protector of the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans. She is a deity worshipped by both Hindus and Muslims of the area. The people of Sundarbans are deeply dependent on the forests for their livelihood and often attacked by the Royal Bengal Tigers. The conflict between human and nature made Bonbibi so relevant for the people of Sundarbans as a guardian figure who saves humans from being attacked by the tiger. The film *Bon Bibi The tale of Sundarbans* is a story of the timeless deity Bonbibi who is the savior, the protector of the forest who builds a bridge between humans and tigers to save the Sundarbans, the nature treasure from its extinction.

Director(s) Ravi R
Producer(s) Films Division
Editor(s) Farha Khatun
Writer(s) Susmita Sinha

Sound Sanjit Chatterjee
DOP(s) Kumar Tapas Ranjan
Production Company(s) NFDC

Looking for
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Disaster Management Saving of Lives and Environment

Disaster Management Saving of Lives and Environment

English | India | Documentary Short | 25 mins

Completion Date **November 2022**

The film speaks about the emergency management required to be taken up during the national calamities, such as floods, cyclone and earthquakes. The film highlights the role played by National Disaster Responses Force (NDRF), the central agency, for carrying out rescue and relief operations during natural disasters.

Director(s) Ponnusamy Rajendran

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Arun Sanglekar

Writer(s) P. Rajendran

Sound K. Sathiyamurthy, P. Kamalakannan, Prasanna Gadge

DOP(s) Ravindra Singh Guram, Bharti, Sukumaran, Dhanpal, Anil Kumar Ambarik, M. Sakthivel, Shankar Chavan

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



Ghode Ki Sawari

Ghode Ki Sawari

Hindi | India | Documentary Short | 26 mins

Awating International Premiere

Completion Date **December 2023**

Bhuri Bai Bhil's *Ghode Ki Sawari* (The Horse Ride) captures the story of Bhuri Bai, an indigenous Bhil artist of India, in a unique form of narrative art, that expresses her tryst with destiny and how she managed to cross geographical boundaries, from a remote village in central India, to become an urban child labour, to finally receiving the highest civilian award Padma Shri for Arts and representing the same community where woman were once forbidden to paint their ritualistic 'Pithora Horse' in the Bhil art. Further, the film portrays her dilemma, between her community belief and her artistic expressions, through critical dialogue with herself. It portrays the constant negotiation with her artistic self and identity, who takes one step at a time to paint the Pithora horse that stands forbidden of painting by the woman of the community.

Director(s) Debjani Mukherjee

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Akshay Bapat

Writer(s) Debjani Mukherjee

Sound Shayok Banerjee

DOP(s) Varun Kumar, Vinay Potdar

Production Company(s) NFDC

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India Since Independence - Agriculture At A Glance

India Since Independence - Agriculture At A Glance

Hindi | India | Documentary Short | 8 mins

Completion Date **November 2022**

The short animation film highlights the silent achievements of India agriculture since independence.

Director(s) Ashis Kumar Das

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Siddartha Kumar

Writer(s) Ashis Kumar

Sound Siddartha Kumar

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Iron Women of Manipur

Iron Women of Manipur

Manipuri | India | Documentary Short | 26 mins

Completion Date **December 2022**

The film is a tribute to the Sports personalities of this country who have contributed immensely to the development of women in sports. Their inspiring stories, the pioneers of women's weightlifting in India who has inspired a whole generation and continue to do so. The film follows the inspiring stories of the pioneers of women weightlifters from Kunjarani Devi (Padma Shri Awardee, 2011) and Anita Chanu (Dhyan Chand Award) to the present day weightlifting sensation of India Mira Bai Chanu (Padma Shri Awardee, 2018) who won the first Silver medal for India in the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

Director(s) Haobam Paban Kumar

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Sankha

Writer(s) Sankha, Haobam Paban Kumar

Sound Laishram Devakumar
Meite

Music Chaoba

DOP(s) Saikhom Ratan,
Haobam Paban Kumar

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



J L Kaul - A Man of Action

J L Kaul - A Man of Action

Hindi | India | Documentary Short | 30 mins

Completion Date July 2023

This is the Story of Jawahar Lal Kaul, a blind man who received the Padma Shri Award and whose contribution allowed him to give up his material possessions in order to pursue a life of service to others. This biographical documentary film foregrounds the ethos and challenges of a time when J.L. Kaul (protagonist) had to overcome untold social barriers and prejudices to not just find a place for himself in this world but also, through his dedicated work for the visually impaired, create social and legislative spaces for thousands of others.

Director(s) Bilal Jan

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Furqan Bashir, Ashiq Hussain

Writer(s) Bilal A Jan

Sound Raja Shabir

Music Dr. Ved Prakash Sharma
Collection

DOP(s) Raja Shabir

Production Company(s) NFDC

Looking for
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Sales & Distribution

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Jamna - The River Story

Jamna - The River Story

English, Hindi | India | Documentary Short | 38 mins

Completion Date **December 2023**

River Yamuna of Delhi, known to the locals as 'Jamna', the lifeline of the city is going through a crisis of pollution, mismanagement and sheer ignorance by the state authorities. A documentary crew tries to make sense of the situation by talking to many activists, the government, the people of the city and Shyam - a boatman who relies on the river for his livelihood.

In the heart of Delhi flows the once-mighty Yamuna River, now gasping for breath amidst the suffocating grip of pollution. 'Jamna: The River Story' aims to delve deep into the complex history of neglect and ignorance that has shrouded this sacred river, exploring how we, as a society, have turned a blind eye to its deterioration.

Director(s) Ishani K Dutta

Producer(s) Ashish Dutta

Editor(s) Kshitij Pandey, Jogeswar Baghel, Uddhav Goswami, Ratnam EM Kalra

Writer(s) Kshitij Pandey

DOP(s) Abhishek Halder

Production Company(s) Carrot Films

Looking for
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Sales & Distribution

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Kathi - The Dagger of the Mind

Kathi - The Dagger of the Mind

Bengali | India | Documentary Short | 19 mins

Completion Date December 2022

Caught between primitive innocence and modern decadence *Kathi* (the dagger) happens to be much more than a mere tool, the film traces the journey of the martial mind and the dagger as experienced in the ancient systems of Silambam and its successors like Kali and Silat.

Director(s) Prajna Dutta
Producer(s) Films Division
Editor(s) Aaron Targain, Prabir Giri
Writer(s) Prajna Dutta
Sound Aaron Targain

Music Aaron Targain
DOP(s) Swapnil Karmarkar,
 Krish Kumar, Prajna Dutta
Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
 Film Festivals
 Sales & Distribution



Mahendragiri - Untold Story Of A Mountain

Mahendragiri - Untold Story Of A Mountain

English, Hindi, Odia | India | Documentary Short | 20 mins

Completion Date December 2022

Mahendragiri Mountain situated in Gajapati District of Odisha. The mountain which has biodiversity, nature of paradise and mythological background.

Director(s) Manoranjan Badatya

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Manoranjan Badatya

Writer(s) Manoranjan Badatya

Sound M. Chellapandian,
Pritirashmi Das

Music Suman Rana

DOP(s) Randhir Singh, Biswajit
Mallik

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



Padmashri Wareppa Naba : Rituals To Mainstream

Padmashri Wareppa Naba : Rituals To Mainstream

Manipuri | India | Documentary Short | 27 mins

Completion Date December 2022

Wareppa Naba, Padma Shri (2017), dedicatedly practices different forms of narrative arts starting from Indian Theatre to folk arts to classical dance to traditional populist open air touring theatre form of Shumang Leela. He strives to preserve different narrative art forms practiced as oral tradition as well as rituals. The aesthetic amalgamation of different art forms makes his work unique and saves some dying arts from extinction.

Director(s) Bobby Wahengbam

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Rajkumar Lalmani

Sound Rajkumar Lalmani, Romi Lamabam

DOP(s) Bobo Heekhombha

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Revanna Umadevi World Billiards Champion

Revanna Umadevi World Billiards Champion

Kannada | India | Documentary Short | 25 mins

Completion Date **October 2022**

This film is about *Revanna Umadevi*, an Indian professional player of English Billiards and Snooker. Her journey from being just a regular shy and a financially unstable typist to a highly confident and a successful cueist is an unforgettable story that has inspired many women trying to achieve in the field of sports. This film also depicts her hard work to become World Billiards Champion and to get the honour of Presidents Nari Shakti Puraskar and Eklavya Award by the Government of Karnataka.

Director(s) Ponnusamy Rajendran

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) R Jagadheesan, N Balu

Writer(s) K Jagajivanram

Sound Prasanna R Gadge

Music George Joseph

DOP(s) P Rajendran

Production Company(s) NFDC

Looking for
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Revolution In The Top Gear

Revolution In The Top Gear

English, Hindi, Urdu | France, India, Pakistan | Documentary Short | 22 mins | Awating World Premiere
Tentative Completion Date **January 2025**

Stories Coming From The Man Who Was Inside The Machine: A comparative analysis of three significant revolts from the modern history... The story is told by a protagonist living in Paris who tends to look at the world affaires through an artistic prism. The uprisings in Latin America have always been his source of inspiration. Che Guevara, the revolutionary legend, and the filmmakers like Costa Gavras and Patricio Guzman are his dear ideals... Pakistan, the country of his origin somehow remains in the backlots of his mind - where people were more interested just in the accumulation of material assets. Idealism was not their cup of tea! But 2022/2023 brought a wave of uprising in Pakistan, which turned this nation cross all the boundaries of revolt and evolution. And then he looks into this new state of affaires in his native land. His investigative work reflects some BURRIED TRUTHS...

Director(s) Aslam Ansari

Producer(s) Muhammad Nafees

Editor(s) Muhammad Nafees

Writer(s) Aslam Ansari, Aziz Suherwardy, Salman Nafees

Sound Michael Jarry, Bruce Sherfield

DOP(s) Muhammad Nafees, Yves Tesuiss, Milena Donato, Barbera Visser

Production Company(s) TV2 Productions

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**Looking for
Gap Financing**



Rosemwala

Rosemwala

Bengali, Hindi | India | Documentary Short | 29 mins

Completion Date August 2023

The film is a real life documentation of Thanga Darlong, the last musician to play rosem. It focuses on the incidents and experiences, emotions and dedications of the indigenous music maestro. The film encapsulates the life and creative activity of the folk artist from his childhood to his training period and highlights the rise of the artist as a folk musician. Mr Darlong played a significant role in folk culture in Northeast India. He received Padmashri in 2019.

Director(s) Sanjib Das
Producer(s) Films Division
Editor(s) Mrityunjay Ghosh
Writer(s) Sanjib Das
Sound Sanjib Das

Music Bikash Roy Debbarma
DOP(s) Hrituraj Singha
Choudhury, Sanjib Das, Manoj
Dey
Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



Ruma Devi - The Crusader

Ruma Devi - The Crusader

English, Hindi, Marwari | India | Documentary Short | 28 mins

Completion Date **December 2022**

This film is all about a young girl of highly orthodox and deprived background from Balmer, one of the most backward regions of Rajasthan, who with a dream in her eyes and a needle in her hand, stepped out of her house breaking all the taboos of the society to provide others a better tomorrow, and who with a strong determination and courage to fight the social injustice, not only succeeded in achieving her goal but also in changing the environment for ladies in her region and that too while managing her home and social work together amazingly.

Director(s) V.P Dhar

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) V.P Dhar

Writer(s) V.P Dhar

Sound J.K Sharma

Music Nishant Nag

DOP(s) Naqash Cheettewani

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Looking for
Film Festivals
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Sapna Mukesh Ka Ghar

Sapna and Mukesh's Home

Hindi | India | Documentary Short | 24 mins

Completion Date August 2022

Sapna Mukesh Ka Ghar is a film about the dreams and aspirations of a middle-class family living in one of the most populated cities in the world. The film follows the journey of my parents from the village to the city. My mother, Sapna, a Delhi University graduate who had dreams of becoming a fashion designer found herself living in a joint family in the village after her arranged marriage. On the other hand, my father, Mukesh, a government employee who was born and brought up in the village of one of the most patriarchal states of India found it difficult to leave his parents and his village behind but moved to the city nonetheless to provide better opportunities for his kids. My parents are the protagonists of the film through which I explore the larger desire for upward mobility.

Director(s) Sarthak Gautam

Producer(s) Daljeet Wadhwa

Editor(s) Sarthak Gautam

Writer(s) Sarthak Gautam

DOP(s) Sarthak Gautam, Harsh Chetwani

Production Company(s) Sri Aurobindo Centre for Arts And Communication, Delhi

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Looking for
Sales & Distribution



Skiff

Skiff

English | India, United Kingdom | Documentary Short | 17 mins

Tentative Completion Date **June 2024**

Skiff is an epistolary film, a letter to my mom on the arrival of my daughter while on a pilgrimage to India. There is a continuity of feminine experience across three generations of women in my own family and this is metaphorically explored in the confluence of rivers at the Kumbh Mela. I travel to understand where the trail of memory and imagination begins and ends.

Director(s) Anu Vaidyanathan
Producer(s) Anu Vaidyanathan
Editor(s) Anu Vaidyanathan
Writer(s) Anu Vaidyanathan

Sound Ben Atkins
DOP(s) Karan Talukia
Production Company(s) Avani
 Films

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Looking for
 Film Festivals
 Sales & Distribution



Sri Aurobindo - A New Dawn

Sri Aurobindo - A New Dawn

English | India | Animation Short | 28 mins

Completion Date August 2023

What does freedom mean to you? Sri Aurobindo dedicated his lifetime in the pursuit of finding the answer to this question. This film is a tribute to his selfless endeavor for mankind.

Director(s) Suresh Eriyat

Producer(s) Nilima Eriyat

Editor(s) Arkish Aftab

Writer(s) Arkish Aftab, Shania Brinda Symons

Sound Resul Pookkuty CAS, MPSE, Vijay Kumar MPSE

Music Shri Sriram

Production Company(s) Studio Eeksaurus Productions Pvt. Ltd.

Contact

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Looking for
Film Festivals
Sales & Distribution



The Untiring Woman

The Untiring Woman

Manipuri | India | Documentary Short | 30 mins

Completion Date December 2023

Young and energetic Oinam Bembem Devi chased her goal of becoming a footballer despite the resistance from her father. At fifteen, her journey rose to a dreamy height when she marched in the field with an Indian jersey in 1995. Since then, there was no looking back for her. After playing for more than two decades for the country, she is now coaching Manipuri Women's team. Her mission is to retain the Senior National Championship once again. The film follows the gritty spirit of a woman that is lit up by the power of determination.

Director(s) Maibam Amarjeet Singh

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Amar Maibam Oinam Bembem Devi

Writer(s) Amar Maibam Oinam Bembem Devi and Team Manipur

Sound Biju Das

DOP(s) Amar Maibam Oinam Bembem Devi

Production Company(s) NFDC

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War And Our Voices

War And Our Voices

English, Hindi, Rajasthani | India | Documentary Short | 24 mins

Completion Date December 2022

In the backdrop of the various wars fought by the Indian army forces; this documentary film using poetic narrative, touches upon the emotional expression of the war widows from the heartland of Shergarh village in Rajasthan. Through the individual stories of the war widows, this film portrays the contribution of War widows Association and an appeal for global peace and humanity.

Director(s) Mukesh Sharma

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Dinesh Arya, Mahesh Dhumal

Writer(s) Mukesh Sharma

Sound K. Sathiyamurthy

DOP(s) Mukesh Sharma,
Shankar Chavan

Production Company(s) NFDC

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War and Worship

War and Worship

English | India | Documentary Short | 28 mins

Completion Date **November 2022**

With the initiative of Subhas Chandra Bose, Durga Puja in Bengal became a symbol of Swadeshi to propagate anti-British protests. Simla Byam Samiti, Baghbazar Sarbojonin and few other Anushilan Samitis, sheltered and trained the revolutionaries, who under the leadership of Bose used Durga Puja as a platform to ignite in the hearts of millions, the flame of Patriotism. Not only did Subhas lead the youth; he brought radical changes in the society to empower women, the 'Incarnation of Durga'. His motivation further led the women to form an army. His war was not only against the British, but also to eradicate the conventions of society. He involved the mass from all strata, to rise against colonialism. His worship for Durga transformed into conceptualising and interpreting the deity as Deshmatrika. The film gives a new insight to the life and times of not only Netaji, but also the armed revolution of that era. Her recent Film *War And Worship* has been produced by the Films Division (NFDC) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, a project for the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The film unveils a new perspective of the great leader and his ideologies.

Director(s) Ms. Abanti Sinha

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Patibra Jana

Writer(s) Abanti Sinha

Sound Suchisuvro Sen

DOP(s) Susanta Adhikary,
Prमित das

Production Company(s) NFDC

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War Widows Declare Peace Family Rehabilitation Programmes

War Widows Declare Peace Family Rehabilitation Programmes

English, Odia | India | Documentary Short | 26 mins

Completion Date [December 2022](#)

Peace is declared. Yet within the homes of lost heroes, the war and its aftermath last a lifetime or two. Women and children are left to cope with becoming the gravest impacted victims. Undoubtedly war affects men and women, but differently. There are programmes and processes the Central and State Governments have evolved over the years with civil society efforts joining hands. The aim is to empower war widows and children so they are emotionally and economically independent. The film brings to the forefront some schemes. Efforts of civil society and NGOs in providing economic and emotional support, guidance and assistance further enrich the film.

Director(s) Meera Dewan

Producer(s) Films Division

Editor(s) Ganesh Prasad, Bharat Barik, Rashi Harsha

Writer(s) Meera Dewa

Sound Adnan Khan

Music Rene Singh, Deepmala Mohan

DOP(s) Ajmal Jami, Vilayat Ali

Production Company(s) NFDC

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Aakki

Aakki

Marathi | India | Short Fiction | 28 mins

Completion Date **December 2023**

Aakki, a woman living with her family in a small village. As stuck in the situation of unreliable dry land farming, growing debt on the land and house, one day Aakki's husband commits suicide after getting tired of the moneylender's pressure. After his suicide both of Aakki's brother-in-law's divide farm and property between them within the process of completing his rituals. On the contrary allegation, Aakki killed their brother, they throw her out with the child. Finally, helpless Aakki returns home. On returning home, the responsibility of mother and father also falls on Aakki. Seeing Aakki's loneliness, a village gardulla named Bungya follows Aakki. While taking care of parents and children, lawyers and court rounds for property rights, searching job to handle financial burden, Aakki faces the wrinkled men like a Bungya. *Aakki* is the story of burning struggle of rural women trapped in such situation. The story of Marathwada and the suicide of farmers has come before the audience in countless films, but rarely has a film showing the struggle of a farmer's family following his suicide come before the audience. Even in those, movies do not talk about the issues of single widows like Aakki.

Director(s) Madan Deshmukh

Producer(s) Madan Deshmukh

Editor(s) Vrushabh Panchal

Writer(s) Madan Deshmukh

Sound Sunny Kshirsagar

Music Mandar Patil

DOP(s) Tushar Vibhute

Production

Company(s) Shreichchha
Production

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Fitrat

Fitrat

Hindi | India | Short Fiction | 15 mins

Awating World Premiere

Completion Date **January 2021**

A local goon, who is arrested because of his faith, a man in desperate need of money, an old woman who finds herself in an unusual situation and a young unassuming girl who is caught in a chase, are the four pivotal characters in this story. Their lives intersect with each other in an unexpected manner leading to an unanticipated climax.

Director(s) Taher Ali Baig
Producer(s) Taher Ali Baig
Editor(s) Prawin Pudi
Writer(s) Taher Ali Baig

Music Rajesh
DOP(s) Eshwar Yelumahanti
Production Company(s) TAB
Productions

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Gav Vikane Ahe

Village For Sale

Marathi | India | Short Fiction | 15 mins

Awating International Premiere

Completion Date **December 2023**

The Drama group has chosen Farmers' Suicide as a subject for the Maharashtra State Competition. However, the director realizes that actors have no real connect with the subject and are just uttering their scripted lines. He decides to take them to a nearby village. As luck would have it, there is actually a suicide committed by a farmer. The media people are asking menacing questions, the family is in great grief and no one is bothered to actually help them. Having seen this harsh reality, the actors are now performing very well. Ahilya in stone-form will be blessed and for that Ram will have to appear. Likewise situation of Farmers will improve but for that Ram in form of technology, AI, Robotics, Financial/Psychological Support groups will have to reappear and actually help the farmers. This is not work of Govt. alone but entire society will have to join in. How the actors who have no connect with harsh realities of farmers, transform into actors with lot of empathy is one important transition point.

Director(s) Vilas Kamble

Producer(s) Sudhir Joglekar

Editor(s) K Vilas

Writer(s) Dr Nilima Tigga, Sudhir Joglekar

DOP(s) Pratik Vijaykumar

Production

Company(s) Akshaya International

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Kathakaar

The Story Teller

Hindi | India | Short Fiction | 30 mins

Awating International Premiere

Completion Date April 2024

Kathakaar creatively intertwines the essence of Kathak, a traditional Indian storytelling form, with its narrative about a female inspector's quest to solve a case of child trafficking. The title itself, derived from "Kathak", (A popular Indian Dance Form) signifies the storytelling through the medium of dance, adding depth to the film's exploration of women empowerment. Just as Kathak dancers convey narratives through their movements, the characters in the film weave a tale of resilience, courage, and eventual triumph over adversity. Embodying the spirit of Kathak storytelling, as the lead character tackles the complexities of the case alongside her colleague; her journey becomes a metaphorical dance, where each step represents a challenge overcome and each gesture symbolizes her unwavering determination. Through a thematic connection, "Kathakaar" not only sheds light on the issue of child trafficking but also celebrates the power of storytelling as a tool for empowerment and advocacy.

Director(s) Anshuman Chaturvedii

Music Sanjoy Chowdhury

Producer(s) Siddharth Sibal

DOP(s) Navneet Singh

Editor(s) Sandeep Singh Bajeli

Production Company(s) Jai
Guruji Productions

Writer(s) Anshuman Chaturvedii

Sound Savitha Nambrath

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Lost Letters

Lost Letters

Hindi | India | Short Fiction | 11 mins

Completion Date **May 2024**

Kiara, an unusual teenager is left home alone only to find out that she is adopted. Kiara is a person that has grown up in an old fashioned way. The abundance of time in her life makes her do unusual intriguing things. Though she can't do one thing, she cannot finish anything. She leaves books in between, her favorite series and her perfume bottles are always half filled. This tendency of leaving things in between comes in as a conflict when she gets on the adventure to find who his real father is. All the answers lie in the room she grew up in.

Director(s) Rohan Gadi

Producer(s) Sahil Kapoor

Editor(s) Rohan Gadi

Writer(s) Rohan Gadi

DOP(s) Pranshu

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Makkaar

Cunning

Hindi | India | Short Fiction | 19 mins

Awating International Premiere

Completion Date July 2023

A young woman visits a physiotherapy centre along with her husband where she notices an old man is helping his old wife in her exercises and thinks, the older generation is more loving and caring than hers. When she interacts with the old woman, gets insight about the nature of men and gets the chance to introspect about her relationship.

Director(s) Anil Kumar Anand

Producer(s) Anil Kumar Anand

Editor(s) Mahesh Nema

Writer(s) Anil Kumar Anand,
Ishwar Shunya

Sound Mandal

Music Shekhar Singh

DOP(s) Rabiuel Aezaz

Production Company(s) Papier-
mch Film Production

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Ri

Mountains

Silent | India | Short Fiction | 05 mins

Completion Date August 2023

Two schoolboys buy their grandmother some apricots, but the trek to her house through winding valleys and hills - proves costly.

Director(s) Stanzin Idzes

Producer(s) Tsering Angmo

Editor(s) Stanzin Idzes

Writer(s) Stanzin Idzes

Sound Karchen

Music Karchen

DOP(s) Stanzin Idzes

Production Company(s)

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Vellapokkathil

Once Upon A Deluge

Malayalam | India | Animation Short | 7 mins

Completion Date May 2024

In the heart-wrenching narrative, a dog is left stranded on a rooftop in a flood-ravaged village, abandoned by its owner. The dog's struggle for survival unfolds as it scavenges for food, finding temporary shelter amidst the relentless rain. Days pass, marked by fleeting interactions and desperate attempts to catch fish. Tragedy strikes as the rooftop collapses, plunging the dog into the water. Memories of happier times provide comfort as the dog battles exhaustion. Just as hope fades, rescue arrives in the form of a boat, offering nourishment and care. Joined by other pets, the dog is reunited with its owner, symbolizing resilience and the bond between humans and animals in the face of adversity.

Director(s) Remya Rajeev

Producer(s) Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute

Editor(s) J J Abraham

Writer(s) Remya Rajeev

DOP(s) Remya Rajeev

Production Company(s) SRFTI

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Vyarth

Vyarth

Marathi | India | Short Fiction | 20 mins

Completion Date **June 2023**

Based in an Indian rural village, the gripping storyline of this short film revolves around Suman, a hopeful bride who enters her in-laws home with dreams of a happy life. However, strange things start happening, making Suman feel uneasy and paranoid. Trapped in a state of uncertainty, Suman confronts a chilling truth about her in-laws. She must find a way to outsmart those who seek to hurt her and ensure her own wellbeing.

In a society where women are often seen as vulnerable and powerless, Suman challenges these stereotypes and fights for her life. Will she succeed in exposing her in laws' true motives and escaping the imminent danger? This captivating tale explores themes of strength, empowerment, and the potential for societal transformation as one woman defies expectations and preconceived notions.

Will she be able to break the vicious circle?

Director(s) Vijay Chaugule

Producer(s) Vijay Chaugule

Editor(s) Ajay Netke

Writer(s) Vijay Chaugule

Sound Sumeet Bellary

Music Sumeet Bellary

DOP(s) Sanjana Sawant

Production Company(s) Maai Studios

Looking for
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Winter Interlude

Winter Interlude

English | India | Short Fiction | 23 mins

Awating World Premiere

Completion Date **December 2023**

After her husband dies due to Covid-19 while working in Estonia, a Bengali woman is distraught as she is forced to travel to the country and deal with the work he has left behind. Over there, she meets his employer, an Estonian who is now separated from his Ukrainian wife. As she finds the similarities her mother faced during her displacement from East Pakistan during India's partition and living in refugee camps and the trauma, they bond over the bittersweet nature of human life.

Director(s) Bijaya Jena
Producer(s) Bijaya Jena
Editor(s) Prashant Naik
Writer(s) Bijaya Jena

Sound Bhaskar Roy
Music Gene Pritsker
Production Company(s) Encore Productions

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Zabaan

Language

Hindi | India | Short Fiction | 22 mins

Awaiting World Premiere

Completion Date **December 2023**

In the volatile India-Pakistan borderlands, a mysterious woman, suspected of espionage, is captured by the Indian Police. Held in a clandestine location, she skilfully avoids revealing her identity during intense interrogations. Unable to crack her enigma, the In charge Police Inspector brands her a spy and traitor. With her avoidance of confession persisting, the inspector opts for a final solution- an execution.

In a twist of fate, she narrowly escapes the firing of the gun, leaving the inspector bewildered. It's then she discloses her supernatural identity- not a person but the embodiment of a language. The revelation lingers in the air, prompting contemplation on the profound power of a language and the mysterious forces that transcend human understanding.

Director(s) Kishore Srinivasaraju
Producer(s) Kishore Srinivasaraju
Editor(s) Pradeep Rao
Writer(s) Khwaja Ahmed Abbas,
 Deevas Gupta

Sound Arka Dey
Music Nishanth Ramteke
DOP(s) SD Livingston
Production Company(s) Napoleon films

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Disclaimer

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Doc Viewing Room Team

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