

19TH
MUMBAI 
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

June 15 - 21, 2026



CATALOGUE

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अश्विनी वैष्णव
Ashwini Vaishnaw



रेल, सूचना और प्रसारण एवं इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी
और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री
भारत सरकार
Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting
and Electronics & Information Technology
Government of India

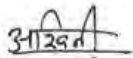


MESSAGE

India's creative economy is writing a new chapter, with filmmaking at its heart. Our filmmakers have earned recognition on the world's most prestigious platforms. The Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) has been a constant part of that journey. It has discovered, honoured, and amplified the finest Indian and international work.

The 19th edition carries that legacy forward and opens real doors for Indian stories. The Waves Doc Bazaar, in its second edition, gives our documentaries a global stage. The Conch Awards, the Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Pramod Pali Award set the bar for excellence. The new section on New Media and AI Films signals that India must lead cinema's evolution, not merely observe it.

My best wishes to the MIFF team, the jury, and the sponsors. Above all, my wishes go to the filmmakers and delegates. Without your courage and creativity, none of this would matter. I wish the 19th MIFF 2026 a landmark success.


(Ashwini Vaishnaw)

डॉ. एल. मुरुगन
Dr. L. MURUGAN



सत्यमेव जयते

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

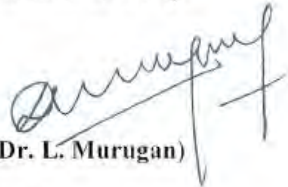


MESSAGE

A film festival is only as meaningful as the audience it reaches. The best cinema in the world, unseen, changes nothing. What makes MIFF exceptional is its commitment to bringing the finest documentary, short fiction, and animation films not merely to an industry audience, but to the film lovers. The 19th edition of MIFF 2026 carries forward that commitment with an expanded programme and a clear sense of where the festival is headed.

There is much in this edition that excites me. The Gala Screenings and Red Carpet events lend the festival a celebratory energy that it deserves. The Masterclasses and Panel Discussions ensure that MIFF is not just a showcase but a place where knowledge, craft, and experience are shared across generations of filmmakers. The curated sections - Prism, Wildlife Films and Student Films, guarantee that every delegate will find something that surprises them.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to NFDC, the organising team, and all our partners for making this edition possible. My warmest wishes to every filmmaker and delegate.


(Dr. L. Murugan)

चंचल कुमार, भा.प्र.से.
सचिव
CHANCHAL KUMAR, I.A.S.
Secretary



भारत सरकार
सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय
Government of India
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting



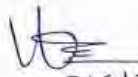
MESSAGE

Reaching a 19th edition is not merely a matter of counting years. It means an institution has earned the trust of filmmakers, the loyalty of audiences, and the respect of an industry - year after year, in changing times and through shifting landscapes. The Mumbai International Film Festival has done precisely this. As we gather for MIFF 2026, we do so with the confidence of an institution that knows its purpose and the ambition that refuses to stand still.

The 19th edition comprises in many ways, some interesting sections. International and National Competitions anchor the festival's competitive identity. Curated non-competition sections ensure that the full range of non-feature cinema finds its place in the programme. Grand Opening and Closing Ceremonies with Red Carpet events bring a new scale of celebration to the festival.

The 2nd edition of the Waves Doc Bazaar deepens the festival's industry impact significantly. It is helping to place Indian documentaries on the radar of global buyers, distributors, and collaborators.

I encourage every participant, filmmaker, delegate, student, and cinephile, to engage fully with this festival.


21/6/26,
(Chanchal Kumar)

डॉ. अजय नागभूषण. एम.एन. (भा.प्र.से.)
संयुक्त सचिव (फिल्मस्)
Dr. Ajay Nagabhushan. M.N. (IAS)
Joint Secretary (Films)



सत्यमेव जयते

WAVES
World Audio Visual &
Entertainment Summit
Summit Series

भारत सरकार
सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय
कर्तव्य भवन-2, नई दिल्ली-110001
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
KARTAVYA BHAVAN-2, NEW DELHI-110001



MESSAGE

Behind every film that screens at MIFF is a journey – a filmmaker who believed in a story, a team that worked to bring it to life, and a selection process that recognised its value. Behind the festival itself is a different kind of journey: months of programming, coordination, and preparation that most audiences never see. As we present the 19th edition of MIFF 2026, I want to acknowledge both journeys – the filmmakers' and the festival's – and the trust that each places in the other.

The competitive programme brings together International and National entries vying for the Golden and Silver Conch Awards. Non-competition sections offer a programme of extraordinary breadth. Masterclasses, In-Conversation sessions, and Panel Discussions ensure that every day of the festival is dense with insight and exchange. I am proud of what the Waves Doc Bazaar has achieved in so short a time, and excited about where it is headed.

A warm welcome to all filmmakers, delegates, jury members, and guests joining us for MIFF 2026. This festival belongs to you.

(Dr. Ajay Nagabhushan MN)



Room No. 22094, 2nd Floor, Kartavya Bhavan-2, New Delhi -110001
Tel. (O): 011-24015815, 24015816, E-mail : jsfilms.inb@nic.in



Dear Filmmakers, Animators, Delegates, and Film Lovers,

Welcome to MIFF 2026.

A good documentary makes you uncomfortable in the best possible way. A great short film plants something in you that you carry for years. An animation can make a child see the world differently and an adult even more so. This is why MIFF matters. And this is why, as we open the doors to the 19th edition, I feel not just the pride of an institution marking another year, but the genuine excitement of someone who knows that the festival will contain surprises, challenges, and moments of real cinema.

MIFF 2026 is the most ambitious edition we have mounted. The edition received 1459 entries from 47 countries. For the first time, we have introduced dedicated sections for New Media and AI Films. An acknowledgement that the tools of storytelling are being transformed, and that MIFF has a responsibility to be part of that conversation. The Waves Doc Bazaar enters its second year with a clearer sense of the role it can play in building the infrastructure that Indian documentary cinema needs.

Our programme this year spans International and National Competitions, Curated Sections and Engaging Sessions, the full range of what a generous festival should offer. Behind every section is a team of passionate programmers, jurors, and advisors who have given this edition everything they have.

Most of all, to the Filmmakers. Over the span of the festival, every conversation, screenings, discussions begin with you and the courage of your stories.

Welcome to MIFF 2026. We are honoured to have you here.

(Prakash Magdum)

Festival Director

Managing Director, NFDC

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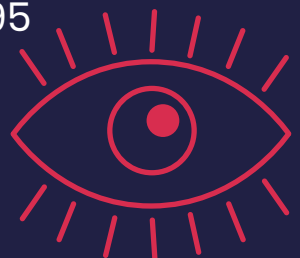
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AWARDS @19TH MIFF

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Best Documentary Film of the Festival	₹10 Lakhs, Golden Conch and Certificate
Best Short Fiction Film	₹5 Lakhs, Silver Conch and Certificate
Best Animation Film	₹5 Lakhs, Silver Conch and Certificate

Special Jury Award

Pramod Pati Award for Most Innovative/Experimental Film	₹1 Lakh, Trophy and Certificate
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NATIONAL COMPETITION

Best Documentary Film	₹5 Lakhs, Silver Conch and Certificate
Best Short Fiction Film	₹3 Lakhs, Silver Conch and Certificate
Best Animation Film	₹3 Lakhs, Silver Conch and Certificate

Sponsored Awards

Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari Award for Best Debut Director	₹1 Lakh, Trophy and Certificate
IDPA Award for Best Student Film	₹1 Lakh, Trophy and Certificate

TECHNICAL AWARDS (shared equally between National & International Competitions)

Best Cinematographer	₹3 Lakhs, Trophy and Certificate
Best Editor	₹3 Lakhs, Trophy and Certificate
Best Sound Designer	₹3 Lakhs, Trophy and Certificate

SPECIAL AWARD

Best Short Film on “Viksit Bharat / 150 Years of Vande Mataram / Bharat@2026” (up to 15 minutes, open to Indian filmmakers only)	₹1 Lakh and Certificate
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FIPRESCI AWARD

FIPRESCI Award	₹1 Lakh and Certificate
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OPENING FILMS





TIME AND WATER

Iceland, USA | 2026 | 92 Mins | Icelandic, English | Documentary

Director

Sara Dosa

Producers

Shane Boris, Elijah Stevens,
Jameka Autry, Sara Dosa

Cinematographer

PABLO ÁLVAREZ-MESA

Editors

ERIN CASPER, ACE, JOCELYNE
CHAPUT, ACE, MARK HARRISON

Sound Designers

BJÖRN VIKTORSSON, MPSE

Facing the death of his country's glaciers and the loss of his beloved grandparents, Icelandic writer Andri Snær Magnason turns his archives into a time capsule to hold what is slipping away - family, memory, time and water.

Time and Water is presented by National Geographic Documentary Films and Sandbox films in association with Ninmah Foundation.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Sundance Film Festival, 2026



Sara Dosa is an Oscar®-nominated nonfiction filmmaker whose work centers on the human relationship with more-than-human nature. The films she has directed 'Fire of Love' (2022), 'The Seer & The Unseen' (2019), and 'The Last Season' (2015) have won numerous accolades, including a Peabody and a Directors Guild of America Award, and were nominated for over 40 honors, including an Academy Award, a BAFTA, an Emmy, and an Independent Spirit Award.



AGAPITO

Philippines/France | 2025 | 15 Mins | Tagalog | Short Fiction | Drama, Comedy

Director

Arvin Belarmino & Kyla Romero

Producers

Jon Galvez, Carlos Ortiz, Mick Quito, 901 Studios, Astral 88, Kristine De Leon, Dominique Welinski, Aлемberg Ang

Cinematographer

Geia De Vera

Editor

John Rogers

Sound Designer

Monoxide Works

On the last day of the month, regulars drift into a worn-down bowling alley that has clearly seen its better days. Mira, the manager, moves through her closing-up routine - but she is distracted, waiting for someone whose arrival carries more weight than any ordinary visit.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Cannes Film Festival 2025 | Toronto International Film Festival, 2025

Awards

Golden Star Award for Best Short Film, El Gouna Film Festival (2025) | Best International Short Film Award, BOGOSHORTS - Festival de Cortos de Bogotá (2025) | Honorable Mention 2025



Filipino filmmaker **Arvin Belarmino** is an alumnus of Locarno Filmmakers Academy, Produceur Au Sud, and the Cinéfondation Residency at Cannes. During the 2024 Cannes Film Festival, Belarmino presented two short films: *RADIKALS*, selected for the Critics' Week Competition, and *SILIG*, screened at the Directors' Fortnight under Directors' Factory Philippines.



Kyla Romero is a screenwriter, director, and filmmaker from La Union, Philippines. Her debut short film, *Dosena*, was selected for the Busan International Short Film Festival under the Rendezvous with AFiS Hub of Asia program.



GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL

Canada | 2025 | 8:15 Mins | English | Animation

Director

Cordell Barker

Producers

David Christensen, Jon Montes,
Alicia Smith

Sound Designer

Luigi Allemano

A little girl plays with her toys, blissfully unaware that she may hold the future of humanity in her hands. Meanwhile, fragmented voices of scientists and thinkers drift through the film like wandering thoughts, sometimes insightful, sometimes absurd. Shifting between the child's innocent perspective and the chaotic uncertainties of artificial intelligence, 'Good Luck to You All' is a whimsical yet cautionary tale about humanity's latest shiny new toy.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Sales

National Film Board of Canada
(NFB)



Cordell Barker is a two-time Oscar®-nominated animator known for his long association with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), where his films have earned over 50 international awards. He is best known for creating acclaimed animated shorts such as *The Cat Came Back* and *Strange Invaders*, which blend humour and heart and often feature ordinary characters in surreal situations. Barker's latest and fifth NFB film, *Good Luck to You All*, is a whimsical exploration of artificial intelligence.

JURY FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION



DR. G. PRABHA

Chairperson

Dr. G. Prabha is an Indian filmmaker, writer, and retired Professor of Sanskrit, holding a doctorate from the University of Madras. He is best known for writing and directing 'Ishti (2016)', the first Sanskrit-language feature film to address a social theme rather than a mythological or biographical subject. He also produced two Malayalam documentaries – 'Akkitham (2010)', on the celebrated Malayali poet, and 'Agnaye (2012)', on a Vedic fire ritual. During his academic tenure, he published 26 research papers and authored several books in Malayalam and Sanskrit.



REVATHY SURESH

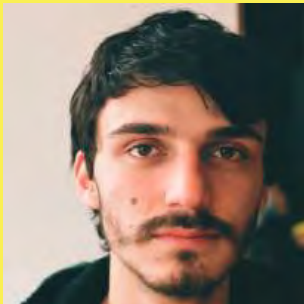
Revathy Suresh is an Indian filmmaker, visual storyteller, and classical performing artist with over a decade of experience across Malayalam, Tamil, and Hindi cinema. Mentored by filmmaker Priyadarshan and having collaborated with cinematographers Santosh Sivan and Thirunavukarasu, she served as VFX Associate Director on Mohanlal's fantasy feature 'Barroz'. A disciple of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, her classical Bharatanatyam training deeply informs her cinematic language. Her award-winning short film 'Thank U' received recognition for its experimental storytelling and emotional depth. She has also directed major cultural events in collaboration with the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) and international productions in the Middle East.

JURY FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION



BRIAN TILLEY

Brian Tilley came to film from theatre in 1981 to work on independent documentaries, and in 1985 was a founding member of the Video Collective VNS/Afravision, which made documentaries about social and political issues in South Africa. His film 'Fruits of Defiance (1990)', about the mass defiance campaign and the release of Nelson Mandela, won first prize in the Third World section of the Montreal Television Festival. His drama series 'The Line (1994)', which he wrote and directed, was broadcast worldwide and won two South African Artes Awards for screenplay and direction. He has also directed documentary series for Al Jazeera, including My Nigeria and My Cuba, produced from Cape Town.



CARLOS FEDERICO ATEHORTUA ARTEAGA

Federico Atehortúa Arteaga was born in 1990 in Medellín, Colombia. He studied film directing at the Universidad del Cine in Buenos Aires and holds a Master's in Creative Documentary from Universidad Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. He is the founding partner of the independent production house Invasión Cine. His second feature, 'Forensics (Forenses)', won the Proxima Special Jury Prize at the 60th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. The film explores the intertwined stories of Colombia's disappeared, connecting personal loss and national identity through memory and ongoing search efforts.

JURY FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION



IVÁN DARIEL ORTIZ LANDRON

Iván Dariel Ortiz is a Puerto Rican film director who began his studies at the University of Sagrado Corazón in San Juan before traveling to Maine in the United States to train in cinematography, later working as a camera assistant, editor, and producer. His short film *Héroes de Otra Patria*, about two Puerto Ricans fighting in the Vietnam War, won Best Short Film at the San Juan Cinemafest. He expanded it into a feature film that was selected as Puerto Rico's entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 71st Academy Awards. The film was also selected by the Lincoln Center Film Society in New York as one of the best Latin American films. His 2025 film *De Tal Palo* was screened at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

JURY FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION



GANGADHARA MUDALIAR

Chairperson

With over 50 years in journalism, Gangadhara Mudaliar served as Assistant Editor at Prajavani, one of Karnataka's most respected Kannada dailies. A pioneering film historian, critic, and author of 18 books, he is widely credited with shaping Kannada film culture. His contributions have been recognised with the Karnataka Government's TSR Lifetime Achievement Award, Rajyotsava Award, Sahitya Academy Award, and the Kempegowda Award, among others.



DR. NAYANA R

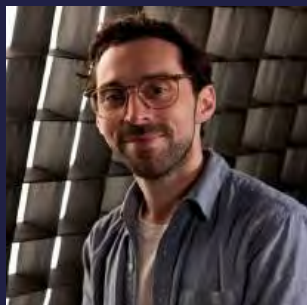
Dr. Nayana R. is a media professional and academic bringing over 17 years of experience across higher education and media production. Holding a Ph.D. in Mass Communication and Journalism, she currently serves as Creative & Content Head at ITV. Her public service credentials include serving as an empaneled Documentary Director for the Government of Kerala's IPR Department, Advisory Panel Member for the Central Board of Film Certification, and member of the Media Monitoring Cell for the Kerala State Women's Commission.

JURY FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION



HIMANSHU PRAJAPATI

Himanshu Prajapati is a National Award-winning writer-director and FTII graduate based in Mumbai. His short film 'Teen Don Ek' won the 69th National Film Award for Best Film on Social Issues, while his recent film 'Slow Steppers' premiered at the Kolkata International Film Festival. As a screenwriter, he co-wrote 'A Night of Knowing Nothing', winner of the Golden Eye at Cannes, and contributed to 'All We Imagine As Light', recipient of the Grand Prix at Cannes 2024.



ISAAC JOSEPH BANKS

Isaac Joseph Banks is a New York-based cinematographer and producer whose work has earned selection at some of the world's most prestigious festivals, including Venice, BFI London, Rotterdam, Tribeca, and the International Film Festival of India. A graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, his breakthrough feature 'Lingua Franca (2019)' premiered at Venice Days, and his most recent collaboration 'Moonglow (2026)' premiered at Rotterdam. His producing work includes 'Pescador (2025)', which had its world premiere at IFFI 2025.

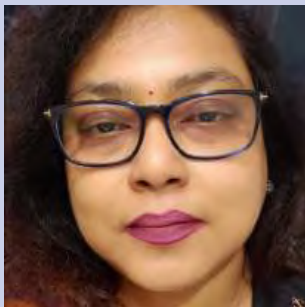
JURY FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION



ANOMAA RAJAKARUNA

Anomaa Rajakaruna is a curator, programmer, photographer, and documentary filmmaker from Sri Lanka whose work spans over two decades. Through her films, she has addressed critical issues such as women in armed conflict, displacement, and violence against women. She serves as Festival Director of the Jaffna International Cinema Festival and is the Founder of the Agenda 14 Short Film Festival in Colombo. As Artistic Director of the Colombo International Women's Film Festival and curator of 10 editions of the European Film Festival in Sri Lanka, she has served as a juror at over 20 national and international film festivals. Her notable directorial works include *Our Mother, Grandmother, Prime Minister: Sirimavo* (2023) and *The Sixth Land* (2020).

JURY FOR FIPRESCI CRITICS PRIZE



RITA DUTTA

Rita Dutta is a Professor, Film Critic, and Editor whose scholarly work spans national and international cinema discourse. She has edited 'Cinematic Cartography: Mapping the Breadth of Indian Film Landscapes' (2025) and serves as Editor of the international film journal Film Buff. Her critical writings have been published across journals in Spain, France, and several other European countries. She has served as a juror at major international film festivals including Cannes, Busan, Cairo, Kerala, and Kiev, and has delivered lectures in Istanbul, Almaty, Poland, Brazil, China, Germany, and Romania, among other places.



KYOKO ENDO INADA

Kyoko Endo Inada is a Tokyo-born film critic and former editor at leading Japanese publishing house Kobunsha, where she spent two decades in weekly news magazine editing and rights management. Transitioning into film criticism, she has written serialised reviews and conducted interviews for monthly culture magazines and web publications, engaging with filmmakers such as Béla Tarr, Denis Villeneuve, Park Chan-wook, Ryusuke Hamaguchi, and Isabelle Huppert, among others. She has been a member of the Japan Film Pen Club since 2021 and has served on its board since 2025.

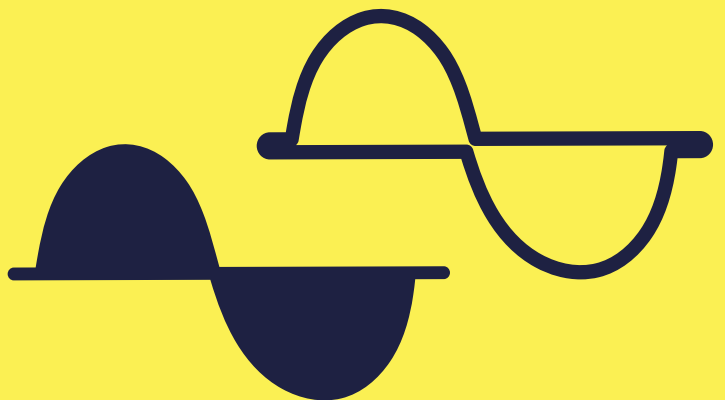
JURY FOR FIPRESCI CRITICS PRIZE



BARBARA LOREY

Barbara Lorey de Lacharrière is a Paris-based German film journalist, curator, and festival consultant with extensive experience across the international film festival circuit. From 2010 to 2025, she served as Head of Department at FIPRESCI, overseeing the FIPRESCI Award and curating special film programmes for festivals worldwide. She currently serves as President of the Académie des Lumières, the international foreign press association honouring French cinema. Her jury service spans Cannes, Venice, Berlin, Karlovy Vary, and festivals across India, the Middle East, the Americas, and Africa, with her engagement with Indian cinema spanning nearly two decades.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION





ABODE OF DAWN

Germany | 105 Mins | English, German, Russian | Color

Director

Kristina Shtubert

Producer

Margarita Amineva-Jester

Cinematographer

Hanna Mayser

Editor

Dietmar Kraus, Calle Overweg,
Adrienne Hudson

Sound Designer

Sasha Valent

In the middle of the Siberian Taiga, cut off from the outside world, a community of men and women has lived for three decades, led by the man they consider their guide: Vissarion, the self-proclaimed messiah. *Abode of Dawn* takes us into the day-to-day life of this miniature human society, oscillating between indoctrination and the desire to invent another way of being in the world.



Kristina Shtubert was born in the city of Orsk in Russia and grew up in Moscow. During her psychology studies at Lomonosov Moscow State University (1998–2004), she attended film directing courses under Alexander Proshkin. After graduating, she worked as a film editor for various productions and as a journalist. In 2010, Kristina moved to Berlin to study directing at the German Film and Television Academy (DFFB). From November 2020 to August 2021, she also studied at the Moscow School of New Cinema. Her short film *ELISA* was screened at over 40 international festivals and received awards for cinematography and acting. The German Film and Media Rating Board awarded it the distinction of “especially valuable.” Kristina is currently working as a project curator and co-producer on the episodic film *ALMANACHS DER FREMDHEIT* and is developing her debut feature film, *LEA* (working title). *SONNENSTADT* (2024) is her graduation film at the DFFB.



AMMA'S PRIDE

India | 2024 | 20 Mins | Tamil | Documentary

Director
Shiva Krish

Producers
Chithra Jeyaram, Shiva Krish, D'Lo,
Venkat Ramanan C.S.,
Ahaanaa Malhotra

Cinematographers
Naveen Kumar M.S.,
Venkat Ramanan C.S.,
Kishore Ramachandran

Editors
Venkat Ramanan C.S., Shiva Krish

Sound Designer
Hari Prasad M.A.

AMMA'S PRIDE chronicles Valli's experience as she watches her trans daughter Srija fall in love, marry, and fight for state recognition of her marriage in a traditional small town in South India. When societal pressures push Srija's marriage to the breaking point, Valli holds onto the hope of a miracle. The film traces one mother's journey of unconditional love against a backdrop of cultural resistance and institutional barriers.



Shiva Krish began his cinematic career in 2014 as an assistant director on Tamil narrative features. He has served as associate director on the acclaimed Indian documentaries 'Harmony with A.R. Rahman' and 'Borderlands', and has directed short films with NGOs.



BATTLEFIELD

India | 2025 | 86 Mins | English, Japanese, Manipuri | Documentary

Director

Borun Thokchom

Producers

Manjoy Lourembam, Radhesyam Oinam, Praveen Ramaraju

Cinematographer

Borun Thokchom

Editor

Subhadipta Biswas

Sound Designer

Jeet Kshetricha

The Battle of Imphal, one of WW II's bloodiest conflicts, ravaged Manipur in 1944, leaving deep scars on its people. Rajeshwor, driven by a lifelong fascination with the war's traumatic memory, embarks on excavations to unearth material remains and human artifacts. Through his quest and the testimonies of living war witnesses, the film explores the psychological impact of mass violence and nationalism on local communities, raising questions about the enduring legacy of conflict.

Festivals

International Film Festival of India 2025



Borun Thokchom is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and television journalist with over a decade of experience. His debut film 'The Silent Poet' received the National Award in 2011 and earned accolades at international festivals.



BERNARD APTEKAR: THE OPERA OF THE FLOATING WORLD

United States | 2025 | 78 Mins | English | Documentary

Director
Atakhan Aliyev

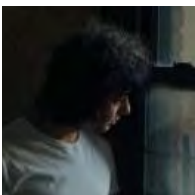
Producer
Atakhan Aliyev

Cinematographer
Atakhan Aliyev

Editor
Atakhan Aliyev

Sound Designer
Atakhan Aliyev

The film explores the life and legacy of an artist who devoted himself entirely to his work, refusing commercial compromise or public approval. Unrecognized in his lifetime, he remained unwavering in his pursuit of truth and creative integrity. Through intimate interviews, personal archives, and a reflection on his battle with Alzheimer's and dementia, the film reveals a portrait of a man who stayed true to himself until the very end.



Atakhan Aliyev is a filmmaker from Azerbaijan, now based in New York. He earned his Master's degree in Film Directing from the School of Visual Arts, where he made a series of short films exploring artistic identity, loneliness, and spirituality. 'Bernard Aptekar: The Opera of the Floating World' is his debut feature-length documentary.



GIRMIT - THE FIELDS OF SADNESS

New Zealand | 2025 | 87 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

Shyam Upadhyay

Producers

Rajendra Prasad, Aruna Prasad,
Shyam Upadhyay, Michael
Heath

Cinematographer

Shamin Kulkarni

Editor

Arunabha Mukherjee

Sound Designer

Umakant Jagtap

Between 1879 and 1920, over 60,000 Indians were taken from Kolkata to Fiji under the British indenture system, deceived by false promises of a better life. What awaited them in Fiji was 41 years of relentless labour in sugarcane fields, violence, and dehumanisation under colonial rule. Women suffered disproportionately, newborns perished due to neglect, and suicides among the Girmitias reached some of the world's highest rates. The film recovers the silenced voices of a generation stripped of dignity.

Festivals

Nepal International Film Festival
2025 | International Documentary
& Short Film Festival of Kerala
2025



Shyam Upadhyay is an Indo-Kiwi filmmaker who began his career as an associate director in Mumbai and New Zealand. His feature film 'Naate: An Unseen World' had its world premiere at the Jaipur International Film Festival, where it won Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress.



JULIA PIROTTE – BEAUTY AND STRENGTH

Poland, Belgium, France | 2025 | 80 Mins | French, Polish | Documentary

Director
Ewa Pytka

Producer
Ewa Pytka

Cinematographers
Kacper Lisowski,
Piotr Chylarecki

Editor
Wiktor Zmysłowski

Sound Designer
Michał Jankowski

The film tells the story of Julia Pirotte, a Polish Jewish photojournalist and Resistance fighter in Marseille during WWII who used her camera to document the French Resistance, the Liberation of Marseille, and the Kielce Pogrom of 1946. Her younger sister Maria, also a Resistance courier, was arrested by the Gestapo and executed by guillotine in Wrocław. The film recovers two largely untold stories of fearless women in the European struggle against fascism.



Dr. Ewa Pytka is a director, screenwriter, producer, script consultant, journalist, poet, singer, and lecturer. A graduate of Polish Philology at Adam Mickiewicz University and of Film Direction at the Lodz Film School, she also trained at the NSFTV in Leeds under the Tempus Programme. She has directed over 300 film and television productions, including 50 creative documentaries for TVP, ARTE, and ZDF, among them 'Der Bernsteinwald' for the TERRA X series.



JUNGLEKANYA (DAUGHTERS OF THE FOREST)

India | 2025 | 23 Mins | Odia | Documentary

Director

Santosh Panda

Producer

Santosh Panda

In Odisha, women have emerged as powerful guardians of the state's rich forest ecosystems. Across tribal and rural regions, they lead community-driven efforts to protect forests, guided by a deep cultural bond with nature and dependence on forest resources for everyday survival. Through vigilant patrolling, prevention of illegal logging, and sustainable harvesting of minor forest produce, these women safeguard fragile landscapes while nurturing their regeneration and ensuring the continued wellbeing of their communities.

Awards

Best Educational Film, 33rd Odisha State Film Awards



Santosh Panda is a filmmaker who has established a distinctive voice in documentary, short film, and feature production. His debut feature 'Sabas Biju', based on child rights, was selected for the National Children's Film Festival 2016 and the 20th International Children's Film Festival 2017.



MAHAMANTRA (THE GREAT CHANT)

India | 2025 | 65 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

Girish Malik

Producer

Girish Malik

Cinematographer

Surendra Singh Farswan

Editors

Kunal Suthar, NPK Purushotam,
Srikant Choudhari, Vivek Kumar

Sound Designers

Deepak Poojary,
Vaibhav Marathe

'Mahamantra' responds to a world in crisis, marked by war, environmental destruction, and unchecked greed, by drawing on the ancient wisdom of mantra and the cosmic symbolism of Shiva's dance. The film offers a global perspective on the urgent need to reconnect with timeless principles rooted in ancient tradition, presenting its message as a call to action for healing and harmony in a contemporary world that has lost its equilibrium.



Girish Malik is an award-winning Indian filmmaker known for powerful storytelling and striking visual style. He began as a state-level gymnast and Chhau dancer before moving into theatre and television acting, becoming known for roles in 'Tara' and 'Banegi Apni Baat'.



MY BEE FAMILY

Israel | 2025 | 62 Mins | Hebrew | Documentary

Director
Adva Ofir

Producer
Kobi Azran

Cinematographer
Eyal Rafaelove

Editors
Chen Shelach, Ori Dardikman

Over a decade, filmmaker Adva trains her lens on the men of her beekeeping family, spanning three generations and the shifting rhythms of their seasons. The film exposes their uncertainty and hope, the quiet grace of aging and loss, and the unbreakable bond they share with their land and one another. 'My Bee Family' is an intimate portrait of endurance, devotion, and the slow passage of time within a family.

Festivals
DocAviv Israel



Adva is a filmmaker, social worker, and daughter of farmers whose debut documentary, 'My Bee Family', grew from a decade-long personal observation of her family's world. Rooted in her daily life as a wife and mother, her work blends social engagement with a deep attentiveness to the natural world, reflecting a commitment to stories that are both intimate and universally resonant.



SHARED TABLE REGIONAL HEROES

Australia | 2025 | 82 Mins | Documentary

Director

Nandita Chakraborty

Producers

Cald Community Voices, Niru Tripathi

Cinematographer

Samuel Thang Man

Editor

Sam Thang Man

Sound Designer

Chengrui Zhang

'Shared Table' follows a small, diverse group of filmmakers on an improvised road trip across regional Victoria, visiting four unsung migrant heroes who open their homes and kitchens. What begins as a quest for connection becomes a deeply personal journey into stories of leaving home, carving space in unfamiliar lands, and feeding identity through food and memory. Along the way, the filmmakers question their own purpose, wondering what the film is really about.

Festivals

Melbourne Documentary Film Festival



Nandita Chakraborty is a Melbourne-based filmmaker who came to creative work through fashion, banking and a traumatic brain injury sustained in a 2011 climbing accident. She went on to pursue creative fiction writing under mentor Rosalie Ham at RMIT. Her disability, an invisible condition involving vestibular migraine and permanent cognitive challenges, shapes her perspective and commitment to authentic character-led storytelling.



SILVER

Poland, Bolivia | 2025 | 78 Mins | Spanish | Documentary

Director

Natalia Koniarz

Producer

Maciej Kubicki

Cinematographer

Stanislaw Cuske

Editor

Yael Bitton

Sound Designer

Yngve Leidulv Sætre

'Silver' takes audiences deep inside Cerro Rico, a mountain in Bolivia that has consumed the lives of miners for centuries. Director Natalia Koniarz follows the dark corridors of the mine where workers sacrifice their health and lives for shimmering ore. A portrait of poverty and exploitation among the residents of Potosi, the film won both the jury prize and Audience Award at the Krakow Film Festival.



Natalia Koniarz is a documentary filmmaker whose life and work span the Beskid Mountains, Chile, Bolivia, France, Warsaw, and Cairo. A graduate and lecturer at the Krzysztof Kieslowski Film School, she debuted with the award-winning 'The Dam', screened at over 50 festivals. Her next documentary, 'Postcards from the Verge', premiered at IDFA. She is a Grand Prix winner at East Doc Platform Forum and has developed projects at DocsBarcelona Public Pitch and Fipadoc Industry.



TURTLE WALKER

India | 2024 | 75 Mins | English, Hindi | Documentary

Director

Taira Malaney

Producers

Zoya Akhtar, Reema Kagti,
Angad Dev Singh, Taira
Malaney, Vikram Malaney

Cinematographer

Krish Makhija

Editor

Sam Rogers

Sound Designer

Ayush Ahuja

In the late 1970s, Satish Bhaskar sets out on an epic journey along India's coastlines and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to uncover the vital nesting beaches of sea turtles. During his quest, he unravels the mysteries of these enigmatic ocean creatures and works to protect them from extinction. When a devastating tsunami strikes in 2004, Bhaskar is confronted with a pressing question: what happens to sea turtles when their nesting beaches disappear beneath the waves?

Festivals

DOC NYC Film Festival | Jackson
Wild Media Awards



Taira is a writer, director, and producer from Goa, India, and an Explorers Club 50 (2023) honoree. She creates character-driven stories exploring the relationship between people and the natural world, developing her films alongside impact campaigns addressing social justice and environmental issues.



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

WELCOME HOME

India, United States | 2025 | 49 Mins | English, Hindi | Documentary

Director

Dr. Anuradha Singh

Producers

Dr. Anuradha Singh, Puneet Maloo, Nidhi S Kadakane, Vivek Sahasrabudhe, DR Raj Patankar

Cinematographers

Dr Anuradha Singh, Puneet Maloo

Editor

Dr. Anuradha Singh

Sound Designer

Krsna Solo

'Welcome Home' explores the lives of homeless individuals across Mumbai, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Oshawa, revealing their resilience despite having no place to call their own. The film examines the causes of their displacement, from demolitions to economic hardship and natural disaster, and traces their daily struggle for survival on the streets. Through an immersive lens, it raises questions about citizenship, rights, social structures, and the access to education that these communities are denied.



Dr. Anuradha Singh is a filmmaker and editor who has worked across Bollywood and Hollywood. A graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, she is recognised as one of the first Indian female editors to make a significant mark globally, collaborating with Walt Disney Pictures, 20th Century, Netflix, and BBC Storyville. Her editorial work includes the Academy Award-winning 'Slumdog Millionaire' and the Peabody Award-winning documentary 'India's Daughter' (2016).



A DOLL MADE UP OF CLAY

India | 2024 | 24 Mins | Bengali | Short Fiction

Director

Kokob Gebrehaweria Tesfay

Producer

Sahil Manoj Ingle

Cinematographer

Vinod Kumar

Editor

Soham Pal

Sound Designer

Haru

Driven by ambition, a young Nigerian athlete sells his father's land to chase his dream of becoming a professional footballer in India. A devastating injury ends his career abruptly, leaving him stranded and disillusioned in an unfamiliar country. As he struggles with physical pain, emotional trauma, and a crisis of identity, he turns inward, seeking healing through the forgotten spiritual traditions of his ancestors. 'A Doll Made Up of Clay' is a contemplative exploration of displacement, loss, and the redemptive power of cultural roots.

Festivals

Cannes Film Festival



Kokob Gebrehaweria Tesfay is a filmmaker from Ethiopia currently pursuing an M.A. in Direction and Screenplay Writing at the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) as an international student. His short film 'A Doll Made Up of Clay' had its world premiere in the La Cinef section at the Cannes Film Festival.



AABISKAR – THE DEBUT

India | 2024 | 29 Mins | Assamese | Short Fiction

Director

Ankur Deka

Producer

Bhaskar Hazarika

Manoranjan Kalita, a 63-year-old former clerk, drifts through the quiet routines of post-retirement life until a stranger's offer to audition for a film stirs something long buried within him. Facing ridicule at home and doubt in his own heart, he stumbles toward a hesitant debut that becomes something deeper: a fragile but defiant rediscovery of joy, dignity, and the right to dream. 'Aabiskar: The Debut' is a tender, wry meditation on invisibility, rebellion, and the beauty of beginning again.



Ankur is a filmmaker from Guwahati, Assam, drawn to stories that quietly reflect the struggles, contradictions, and small triumphs of everyday life. Rooted in the cultural and emotional textures of northeast India, his work explores themes of identity, memory, and imperfection.



ABOUT THE COW

Russian Federation | 2025 | 27 Mins | Russian | Short Fiction

Directors

Anton Simukhin,
Nikolai Alekseev

Producers

Anton Simukhin, Nikolay
Alekseev, Dmitry Yakunin

Cinematographer

Vitaly Kokarev

Editors

Evgeny Smirnov, Maksim
Smirnov

Sound Designer

Alexandra Litovchenko

Snezhana, an unlucky Muscovite, arrives in a remote village to bury her stepfather and claim her inheritance, a rundown house. With no money to pay for the funeral, she decides to sell the cow. What begins as a practical problem unfolds into an unexpected encounter with rural life, obligation, and the quiet weight of inheritance in a world far removed from the city she came from.

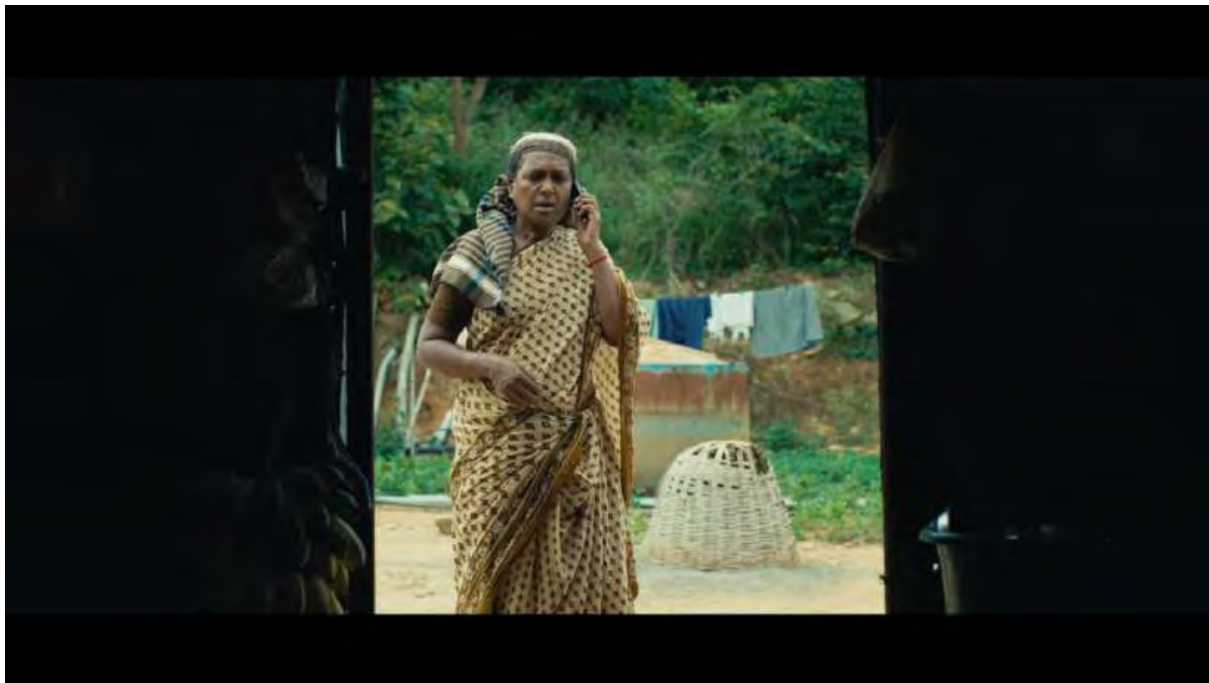
Festivals

Moscow International Film
Festival | Eurasia Film Fest
International Film Festival



Anton Simukhin was born in 1987 in Saint Petersburg. He graduated from the Baltic State Academy of Fishing Fleet in 2009 and from the acting faculty of VGIK in 2016.

Nikolai Alekseev, born in Arkhangelsk in 1990, studied sports management and acting, and later served as an advisor at Gosfilmfond (2018–2020).



ANBIRKU EN ONDRAI AZHUTHAVUM

India | 2025 | 5 Mins | Short Fiction

Director

Vignesh Paramasivam

Producer

Suganya Natesan

Cinematographer

Ramiz Naveeth A

Editor

Prem B

Sound Designer

Sivaguru K

A young man arrives at an IT company for an interview and realises he has forgotten a key certificate. He calls his uneducated mother, who lives alone in their mountain village, and asks her to photograph the document and send it to him. The film rests on a simple question: Will she be able to manage it? In that uncertainty, it quietly explores the distance between generations and the worlds they now inhabit.



VIGNESH PARAMASIVAM is an aspiring filmmaker from Tamil Nadu, India. He was selected as one of the winners of the prestigious 'Creative Minds of Tomorrow' initiative in the Screenwriting category and was honoured at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).



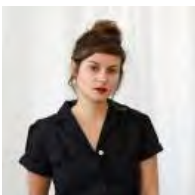
BEA

Isreal | 2025 | 19 Mins | Hebrew | Short Fiction

Director
Ziv Mamon

Producer
Harel Ben Melech

Yasmin, seventeen years old, discovers that a sexual video of her, filmed by the boy she loves, has been circulated on Telegram and seen by everyone she knows. She sets out to take down the video and track down the person responsible for sharing it. The film follows her urgent, emotionally fraught effort to reclaim control over her own image and story in the face of digital violation.



Ziv Mamon is a Tel Aviv-based director and screenwriter. A graduate of Minsher film studies (2015, with honours), she has written and directed six short films screened at international festivals, including Austin and Flickerfest.



COVER

Palestine | 2025 | 13 Mins | Arabic | Short Fiction

Director

Samira Saraya

Producer

Harel Ben Melech

Sabrina, 32, conceals her sexual identity from her mother, Souad. In the neighbourhood hair salon, a casual conversation with a customer exposes her mother's homophobic views, leaving Sabrina confronting the painful possibility that the distance between them may be impossible to bridge. The film is a quiet, tense portrait of the cost of secrets held within a mother-daughter relationship shaped by cultural expectations and unspoken truths.

Festivals

Jerusalem Film Festival | Cannes Film Festival

Awards

Best Actress Award, Jerusalem Film Festival



Samira Saraya is a Palestinian-Israeli actor, singer, and spoken word artist fluent in Arabic, Hebrew, and English. Her film career gained momentum in 2011 with a lead role in Dori Media's 'Minimum Wage'. She won Best Actress at the Jerusalem Film Festival (2017) for 'Death of a Poetess'.



DEVA AAJ PAN VHAY

India | 2024 | 15 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction

Director

Amol Jalandhar Jadhav

Producer

Amol Jalandhar Jadhav

Deva Aaj Pan Vhay' follows Deva, a playful and inquisitive young boy in a rural village who braves rough terrain and harsh weather each day to reach school. Through lessons, friendships, and small adventures, he begins to understand kindness, resilience, and the true value of education. Supported by his mother, a wise teacher, and his grandfather Dadu, the film captures the innocence of childhood and the quiet transformative power of learning.



Amol Jadhav is an advertising photographer and emerging director based in Mumbai with over a decade of experience in visual storytelling.



DUTPA (THE KNOT)

India | 2026 | 15 Mins | Tibetan | Short Fiction

Directors

TASHI DAWA, TSERING ANGDUS

Producer

SV PRODUCTION LEH

Cinematographer

TASHI DAWA svp

Editor

TASHI DAWA svp

Sound Designer

Tsering wangdus lonpo

In the windswept silence of the Himalayas, elderly Amma is driven by a singular compulsion: she ties intricate knots on everything she touches. Each day she keeps a silent vigil at the local bus stop, watching passengers depart for lives she can no longer reach, waiting for a homecoming that never arrives. As memory and isolation blur, her knots grow frantic. 'Dutpa (The Knot)' is a haunting meditation on abandonment and the invisible toll of urban migration on those left behind.



GOLD OF THE HAUNTED FOREST

India | 2026 | 19 Mins | Hindi, Marathi | Short Fiction

Director

Sachin Arun Bure

Producer

Ashish Dattatray Chavan

When his construction site shuts down without warning, migrant labourer Bheema is forced to return to his ancestral occupation, cleaning and guarding a secluded jungle graveyard. He learns that small pieces of gold are buried with the dead as offerings to the forest spirits. What begins as desperation slowly becomes obsession, and as greed overtakes him, the boundary between the living and the dead begins to blur, and the graveyard exacts a price.

Sachin Arun Bure's body of work includes documentary video projects, artist residencies, and community-based arts initiatives spanning multiple countries. Credits include a 2010 documentary on the Banganga heritage site, participation in international art workshops for refugee and orphaned children in Jordan (2010), an artist residency in Buenos Aires (2012), a 2013 documentary on folk singer and theatre artist Vitthal Umap, and a 2017 artist residency at Ne-na Art Space, Thailand, documenting the Lanna community.



KICKING TOWARD TOMORROW!

South Korea | 2025 | 30 Mins | Korean | Short Fiction

Director

Yunbin AN

Producer

Kanghwan Shin

Cinematographer

Doohyun Min

Editor

Seungwoo Ryu

Sound Designer

Jiyeoung Choi

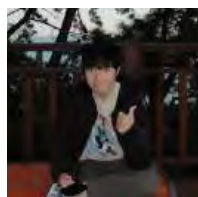
David and Goliath FC is a recreational soccer team run by a small Christian church. For star player Dongchan, soccer is not a hobby but his entire life, and his relentless desire to win leads him into rough challenges and risky tackles that repeatedly injure the opposing team. Unable to stand by, team captain Jeonghwan decides it is time to take action. The film explores the tension between individual obsession and collective responsibility within a community team.

Festivals

42nd Busan International Short Film Festival | 3rd Gyeongju Hwarang Youth Short Film Festival

Awards

Grand Prize, 2025 BISFF Short Film Project



AN Yunbin is a South Korean film director, born in 2000. His debut film 'The Unusual TV Wiki: Searching for Eccentrics in the Country!' (2021) was selected for the BIFAN 2020 Goedam Short Films Production Support programme and premiered at the 25th Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival.



NAZAR

India | 2024 | 18 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Atul Chaugule

Producer

Ulavala Veera

Cinematographer

Manoj Soren

Editor

Akshay Jakhotiya

Sound Designer

Surya Karn Gupta

Young Omkar discovers his late father's broken camera and attempts to repair it by selling a cherished ring, bringing him into conflict with his mother, Shanta. Guided by his grandfather's wisdom, he learns the meaning of family and belonging. A stolen camera bag and a rainbow become symbols of his journey from despair toward newfound hope. The film is a quiet story of grief, inheritance, and the small acts through which understanding is passed between generations.

Festivals

Daddy Deshmukh Film Festival, Akola



Atul Chaugule is currently studying film direction at SRFTI, where he has been training for six years. He previously worked in the Mumbai film industry and performed in theatre. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Mass Media (BMM) from Mumbai and is committed to crafting impactful stories through cinema.



PANTHAL

India | 2026 | 27 Mins | Malayalam | Short Fiction

Director

Mridul Madhu

Producer

Orange & Teal Studios

Cinematographer

Aswin Manohar

Editor

Mridul Madhu

Sound Designers

Manov Bhowmick,
Ryan D'souza, Sigfred D'cruz

'Panthal (The Tent)' begins with the death of Pathrose, a stern patriarch whose passing is met with an unsettling absence of grief from his son Bright and wife Rebecca. As the community erects a funeral tent, Bright's unusual behaviour and an overheard conversation with his mother generate rumours. The neighbours, led by Sandeep, become convinced that Bright induced his father's heart attack. The tension culminates in a confrontation during the funeral rites that brings the community itself to breaking point.



Mridul Madhu is a 22-year-old filmmaker, writer, director, and editor. His work spans short films, music videos, and commercial advertisements, where he brings stories to life through a distinctive visual and narrative style. Involved in every stage of the creative process from writing and directing to editing, he focuses on crafting impactful and engaging content. His latest work is *Panthal*, reflecting his continued passion for storytelling and cinematic expression.



PASWAAR (CARESS ME)

India | 2025 | 39 Mins | Gujarati | Short Fiction

Director

Shayar Kamal Gandhi

Producer

Kinjal Chuni Gajera

Cinematographer

Arnold Fernandes

Editor

Parth Savaliya

Sound Designer

Kinshuk Moran

Dr. Homi, one of the few surviving Zoroastrians in the world, is wealthy but childless, his only kin an estranged nephew, Jamshed. Into the emptiness of his vast mansion comes Lali, his young caregiver and cook, who brings the warmth of a home through her tender devotion. The film is a gentle, bittersweet portrait of an unlikely bond across generations and the quiet ways in which human care fills the spaces left by distance and loss.

Festivals

Tasveer Film Festival



Shayar Gandhi is a graduate of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, who studied architecture before transitioning to filmmaking.



PEANUT

United States | 2025 | 11 Mins | English | Short Fiction

Director

Shelia Sawhny

Producers

Laney Brabson, Graeme Finlayson, Shelia Sawhny

Cinematographer

Joewi Verhoeven

Editor

Stacey S. Clipp

Sound Designer

David Giammarco

A man at a crossroads wanders into dark woods and encounters a mysterious woman in a liminal space between worlds. What begins as a descent into darkness shifts into an unexpected passage toward light, where the strangest of offerings can alter the course of a soul. 'Peanut' is a quietly unsettling film about transformation, the nature of threshold moments, and the unexpected figures who appear at life's most uncertain crossings.

Festivals

Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles



Sheila Sawhny is a director, writer, actor, and producer originally from Mumbai. She is a winner of the Slamdance Feature Screenplay Competition and a recipient of fellowships from Outfest Screenwriting Lab, DreamAgo Plume et Pellicule in Switzerland, and Tasveer Film Festival Co-Production Market.



SECRET INGREDIENT

India | 2025 | 22 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Archit Rastogi

Producer

Tripti Rastogi

Cinematographer

Subhransu Das

Editor

Archit Rastogi

Sound Designers

Allwin Rego, Sanjay Maurya

Set in the bustling bylanes of Lucknow's Chowk Market, 'Rampher ki Kulfi' tells the story of Prakash, a frustrated kulfi vendor whose livelihood is threatened by the inexplicable popularity of Rampher, an elderly and reclusive rival kulfi maker. The film is a quietly comic portrait of competition, mystery, and the unexpected power of a well-guarded secret in the world of street food.



Archit Rastogi is a motion picture editor, creative director, and producer with 16 years of experience in feature films, web series, and documentaries. He has worked alongside major production houses including Jio Studios and Applause Entertainment.



SOMEDAY, MAYBE

New Zealand | 2025 | 13 Mins | English | Short Fiction

Director

Suvaan Shunmugam

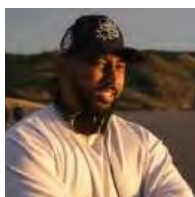
Producers

Suvi Honkanen,
Suvaan Shunmugam

'Someday, Maybe' is a romantic drama set over a single evening between two former lovers who reconnect after years apart. What begins as a chance meeting unfolds into a quiet exploration of who they were, who they have become, and the fragile space between nostalgia and reality. As shared memories resurface, old feelings, tender, unresolved, and complicated, emerge alongside the recognition that some love simply belongs to a different version of oneself.

Festivals

Replay International Film Festival



Suvaan 'Suvi' Shunmugam is an Australian–New Zealand filmmaker and digital storyteller who has built a combined online audience of over 700,000 subscribers, developing a strong instinct for pacing, character, and emotional storytelling. He received a scholarship to the New York Film Academy to refine his craft in directing and screen storytelling. His short films include 'Parasocial', a psychological thriller exploring digital obsession, and 'Someday, Maybe', a character-driven story about friendship and identity.



TEA, AT LAST !

India | 2026 | 12 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction

Director

Sameer

Producers

Shubhangi Kulkarni, Sameeri

Cinematographer

Sameer

Editor

Aashay Gatade

Sound Designer

Akshay Vaidya

A woman prepares to leave a house that once held her whole world. Moving through familiar rooms, she pauses on light on walls, untouched corners, and the echoes of time spent. A simple cup of tea arrives, offering a moment of warmth before departure. In that pause, she gathers what cannot be packed, the quiet strength to move forward, carrying the past not as weight but as warmth into whatever comes next.



Sameer is an emerging filmmaker making his directorial debut with a drama short film that reflects a keen eye for visual storytelling and human emotion. With a strong foundation in cinematography, Sameer brings a thoughtful and visually driven approach to directing, blending technical skill with an instinct for narrative depth.



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

THE HOARDERS

Taiwan | 2025 | 30 Mins | Chinese - Min Nan, Mandarin Chinese | Short Fiction

Director

Chuan-Ying Liao

Producer

Bo-Yu Chen

Driven to the edge by her husband's hoarding, a housewife takes an extreme step, only to recognise the hunger and unmet longing beneath his obsession. This understanding arrives too late to resolve what has already been set in motion, leaving the future of their relationship suspended and unresolved. The film is a tightly contained portrait of a marriage pushed to its limits and the complicated empathy that can emerge at the moment of crisis.

Festivals

New Taipei City Student Film Awards



Liao Chuan-Ying (b. 1985, Taiwan) has been making films since 2016. With a background in journalism, she worked in advertising before transitioning to film production as a project planner and script assistant. In 2016, she founded We, Light Production, a company producing films and commercials for government and private clients. In 2019, she entered the MFA in Motion Picture programme at the National Taiwan University of Arts, graduating in 2025.



THE OTHER SIDE

United States, India | 2025 | 28 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Nikita Hattangady

Producer

Nikita Hattangady

Cinematographer

Ashish Mistry

Set in the bylanes of Lucknow's Chowk Market, 'The Other Side' follows Prakash, a street artist aspiring to attend one of the country's finest art academies. When he is forced to choose between pursuing his own dream and meeting a friend's urgent need, he must weigh his personal ambition against his conscience. The film is a tender portrait of youth, creative longing, and the moral weight of choices made at the threshold between possibility and sacrifice.

Festivals

Toronto International Film Festival
| Full Bloom International Film
Festival



Nikita Hattangady is a filmmaker based between Dallas, USA, and Pune, India. She is known for her award-winning short films 'Falafel' and 'La Pietra', both of which screened at numerous international festivals. She currently serves as Head of Programming at Indica Pictures, working to platform filmmakers whose narratives celebrate the cultural heritage of the Indic tradition.



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

THE UNWRITTEN VERSES

Sri Lanka | 2025 | 12 Mins | Tamil | Short Fiction

Director

Fathima Shanaz

Producer

Goethe-Institut Sri Lanka

Fathima, a 25-year-old woman, seeks a divorce through the Quazi court. Her journey to obtain justice becomes increasingly difficult as she encounters procedural delays, a lack of institutional support, and emotional hardship. The film follows her experience within the system, highlighting the structural challenges many women face when trying to secure their legal rights, and tracing one woman's determined effort to find fairness and independence within existing legal and social frameworks.



UNDER THE SNOW

India, Iran | 2025 | 19 Mins | Persian | Short Fiction

Director

Nafiseh Zare

Producers

Deepankar Prakash,
Kottukathira Prakash, Nafiseh
Zare

Cinematographer

Adib Sobhani

Editor

Sheyda Gorji

Sound Designer

Ramin Aboulsedgh

Rana, raised in a traditional and religious family, has a tattoo of her past lover, Tiam, a woman, on her back. With only a few days remaining before her forced marriage, she lies to her family and her fiance. The film is a tense, compressed portrait of a woman caught between the identity she carries privately and the life being arranged around her.



Nafiseh Zare is an Iranian filmmaker, screenwriter, and actress from Tehran. She began her artistic journey with a strong background in theatre before establishing herself in cinema as an actress. Over the years, she appeared in several acclaimed films, including *Valderama* and *Disappearance*, which were showcased at major international film festivals.



ANGEL & MEOW

Japan, Slovakia | 2025 | 15 Mins | No Dialogue | Animation

Director

Clemhyn Escosora

Producer

Vlado Železnák JR.

Sound Designer

Vlado Železnák JR.

'Angel and Meow' is a 3D animated non-verbal experience in which Angel, a visionary composer, is tasked with scoring a life-defining sci-fi film. His creative process is transformed by an encounter with Meow, a cat with extraordinary sensory abilities. Together they transcend the studio, diving into a deep-space mission to save humanity on a distant planet. The film's soundtrack is mastered by two-time Grammy winner Vlado Meller, the only engineer whose work travels aboard NASA's Voyager 1.



Clemhyn Escosora is a Tokyo-based filmmaker and 3D animation specialist with over 12 years of experience across Hollywood productions and the Japanese gaming industry. He currently works at SEGA and has contributed to global franchises including 'Sonic the Hedgehog 2' and 'Sonic the Hedgehog 3' (Paramount Pictures) and the Netflix series 'Alice in Borderland (Season 2)'.



ANOMALY

India | 2026 | 11 Mins | Animation

Director

HARMEHAR SINGH THUKRAL

Producer

WHISTLING WOODS
INTERNATIONAL

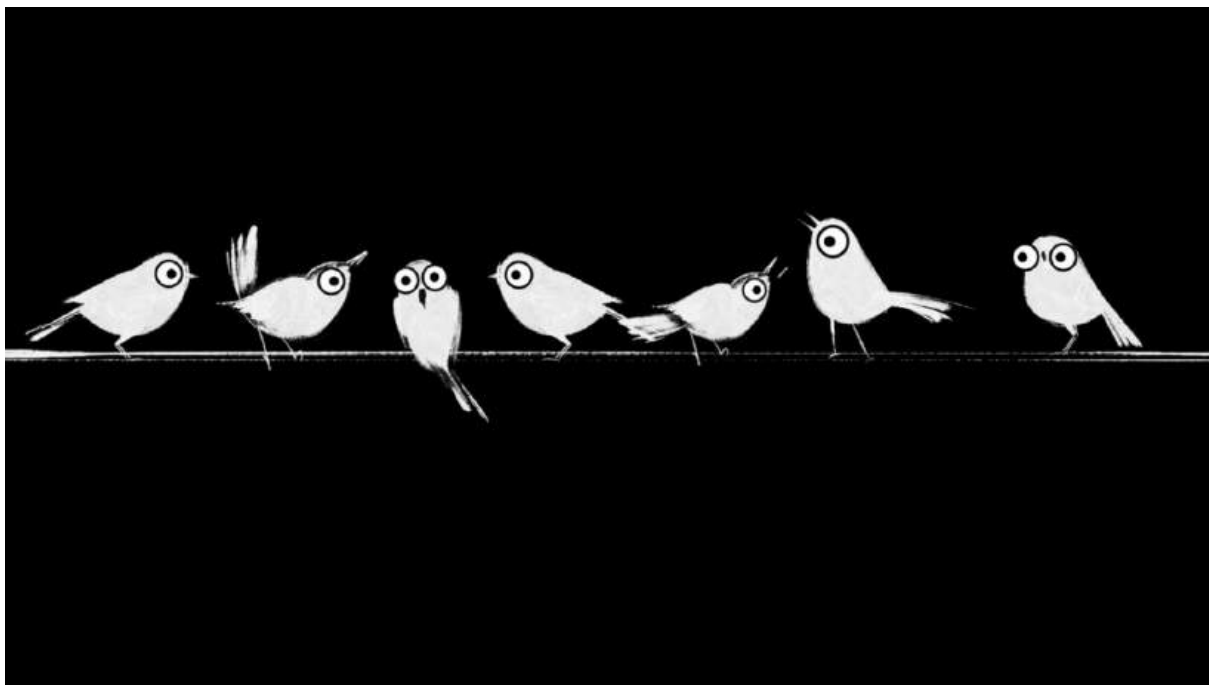
Editors

HARMEHAR SINGH THUKRA,
Joshua Karl Floyd Pinto

Sound Designer

Mukut Raj Kashyap

In a crumbling automated factory, a malfunction gives one worker robot unexpected consciousness. As he wanders through the vast, forgotten machinery, his presence triggers alarms and draws the attention of relentless security units. The film follows his desperate attempt to evade capture and understand his new awareness, leaving his ultimate fate deliberately unresolved. It is a quietly philosophical story about what it means to become aware in a world that was not built to accommodate that awareness.



ATUT – UNBROKEN

India | 2026 | 8 Mins | English | Animation

Director

Raj Vasant Shinge

Producer

Raj Vasant Shinge

Editor

Kuldeep Laxman Tandel

Sound Designer

Kuldeep Laxman Tandel

Birds settle on a rope in the open sky, chirping and calling to one another. When the sounds of helicopters, marching soldiers, and fighter jets fracture the peace, fear spreads through the flock and they scatter. One bird, shot and struggling, returns to a broken rope and works to repair it with its beak, piece by piece, until others slowly return. The rope is a wordless meditation on war, destruction, and the painstaking work of rebuilding peace.



Born in Mumbai in 1956, **Raj Vasant Shinge** pursued his art education at Sir J.J. Institute of Applied Art and Sir J.J. School of Art. He crafted his debut animation film in 1979 while still a student. A versatile artist for over two decades, he has directed documentaries across diverse themes and journeyed extensively in India and overseas. Proficient in photography, painting, metalwork, ceramics, writing, and poetry, he is presently engaged in new documentary projects.



BURDEN OF DOUBT

India | 2026 | 7 Mins | Animation

Director

Chirag Dhiman

Producer

Chirag Dhiman

Sound Designers

Lavender, Harsh Kasare,
Raghav Kashyap

'Burden of Doubt' follows a solitary hiker on his most formidable journey: the ascent of a towering mountain peak. Battling both the harsh terrain and his own inner doubts, he faces exhaustion and moments of deep uncertainty. An unexpected ally helps him rediscover his resilience and determination. The film is a story of perseverance and self-belief, exploring the strength that can be found in the most unlikely places and people.



CHALISA

India | 2026 | 6 Mins | Hindi | Animation

Director

Swati Agarwal

Producer

IIT Bombay, India

Cinematographers

Maithili Desai,
Reechik Banerjee

Editors

Swati Agarwal,
Reechik Banerjee, Palak Gupta

'Chalisa' is a short stop-motion clay animation that brings the forty verses of the Hanuman Chalisa to life. Written by the poet Tulsidas, the Chaupais are interpreted through a blend of playful and deeply considered clay visuals that celebrate Hanuman's qualities of power, dedication, and knowledge. The film pays tribute to one of India's most beloved figures while promoting cultural awareness and deepening understanding of the country's rich artistic and devotional heritage.



Swati Agarwal is an animation filmmaker, designer, and Assistant Professor at the IDC School of Design, IIT Bombay. She completed her M.Des in Animation in 2012 and has worked as a Design Research Associate on government projects.



LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP

India | 2025 | 3 Mins | No dialogue | Animation

Director
Manoj Mundayat

Producer
Manoj Mundayat

Editor
Manoj Mundayat

Sound Designer
Manoj Mundayat

A live-in relationship between nature and human beings is essential for survival itself. This film examines the urgent need for humans to coexist harmoniously with nature. It explores how deforestation disrupts our ecosystem and evaluates the ways in which forest conservation systems serve and support human life.



Manoj Mundayat is a cinematographer and alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune (1995). He has served as Director of Photography on Malayalam and Hindi feature films including 'Oridam', 'Patiala House', and 'Rowdy Rathore'.



LOOP LINE

India | 2026 | 8 Mins | Marathi | Animation

Director

Renuka Shahane

Producer

Renuka Shahane

Editors

Rohit Gaware, Vikrant Jadhav

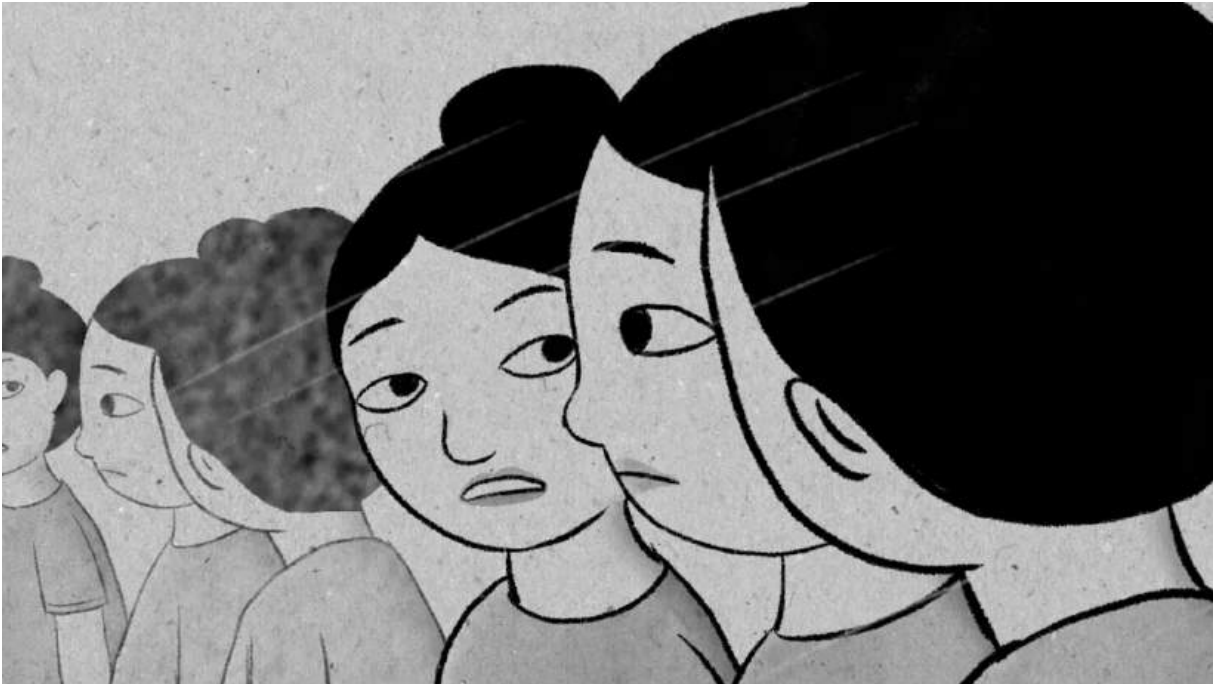
Sound Designer

Mangesh Dhakde

In Mumbai, a middle-aged Maharashtrian housewife endures her husband's chauvinism and the relentless tedium of domestic labour. She finds solace in rich fantasies. When her husband returns with misogynistic colleagues, she imagines serving them pakoras made from her own brain. These flights of fancy are her only escape from a monotonous daily rhythm she bears, unnoticed and uncelebrated, like the city's local trains. The film is a dark, wry portrait of domestic life and the interior worlds women build within it.



Renuka Sahane is a filmmaker and actress with 38 years in Indian theatre, television, and film, she is best known for her role as Pooja in the 1994 Bollywood blockbuster 'Hum Aapke Hain Kaun?'.



MAYA'S SONG

Germany | 2026 | 13 Mins | German | Animation

Directors

Franziska Schönenberger,
Jayakrishnan Subramanian

Producer

Franziska Schönenberger

Maya never feels like a stranger within her family, yet persistent questions about her German parents and her complexion begin to wear her down. To process the pain, she writes a song for everyone to hear. The film is a tender and precise portrait of a young person navigating the gap between a loving home and a world that keeps asking her to explain herself.



Jayakrishnan Subramanian and Franziska Schönenberger are an Indian-German directing duo who explore identity, belonging, and social expectations, blending documentary, fiction, animation, and hybrid formats. Their documentary 'AMMA and APPA' premiered at Berlinale and screened at over 50 international festivals. Their second documentary, 'The Shadows of the Desert', competed at Dokfest Munich and the Sao Paulo International Film Festival.



METANCHERRY – A GRAPHIC ANIMATION

India | 2025 | 24 Mins | Malayalam | Animation

Director

Sunil Nambu

Producer

Sunil Nambu

Editor

Sunil Nambu

Sound Designer

Subramanian KV

Metancherry: A Graphic Animation' is a poetic visual meditation blending hand-drawn and digital textures to explore memory, time, and consciousness. Set in an abstracted inner landscape inspired by lived experience, the film reimagines everyday gestures such as drawing, sound, and silence as metaphors for existence and transformation. Moving between personal and collective memory, it weaves fragments of rhythm, sound, and image into a contemplative visual composition.



Sunil Raj (credited as Sunil Nambu) is an artist, animator, and storyteller whose practice bridges drawing, animation, and reflective narrative.



THE WET WALL

India | 2026 | 16 Mins | Hindi | Animation

Director

Abhilasha Bhartiya

Producer

Swapnil Taank

Editor

Swapnil Taank

Sound Designer

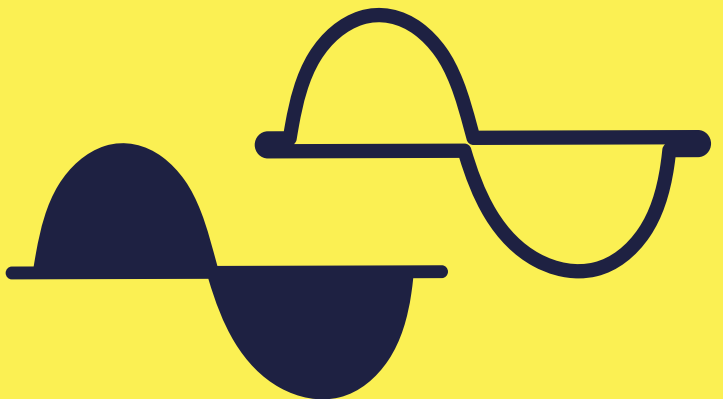
Swapnil Taank

Told from the perspective of a wall in a family home, the film explores the grief of a dwelling as a once-united family begins to fracture. The bricks that have held the warmth of shared meals and laughter cannot breathe as disagreements drive wedges between brothers and separate parents from children and grandchildren. The film is a quiet, unusual meditation on the emotional life of domestic spaces and the bonds that hold a family together.



Abhilasha Bhartiya is a multidisciplinary artist, animator, author, and educator based in Jaipur. She is the co-founder of Abhitoons Creations, an animation studio specializing in claymation and stop-motion storytelling. With a strong passion for visual arts, she has built a diverse creative career spanning animation, filmmaking, illustration, writing, and teaching. Her notable animated work includes *The Wet Wall*, officially selected at the Chandigarh University International Film Festival, highlighting her excellence in filmmaking.

NATIONAL COMPETITION





75 YEARS OF NDA

India | 2024 | 25:49 Mins | Hindi | Documentary

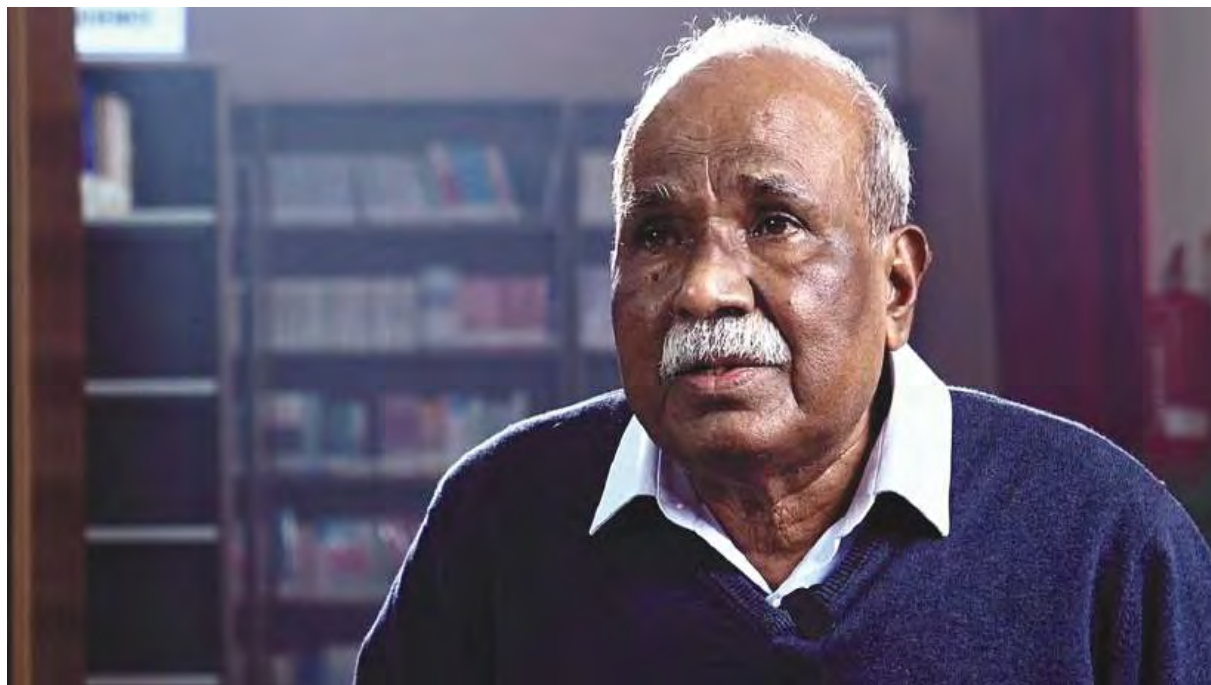
Directors

Tanuj Bhatia, Tanuka Laghate

Producers

Punit Balan, National Defense Academy

Narrated by Amitabh Bachchan, the film offers an intimate portrait of the National Defence Academy at its 75th anniversary, following first-term cadets as they undergo the gruelling transformation from young dreamers into officers. Tracing the tri-services synergy, academic rigour, and physical endurance that define the NDA experience, the documentary captures the forging of discipline, brotherhood, and an elite code of honour within the institution's storied walls.



HARINARAYAN

India | 2025 | 20 Mins | Assamese | Documentary

Director

Utpal Datta

Producers

Bandana Dutta, Gariasi Dutta

Cinematographer

Ratul Barman

Editor

Jhulan Krishna Mahanta

Sound Designer

Debajit Gayan

The film pays tribute to Hari Narayan Dutta Baruah, a towering figure of the Indian independence movement from Assam. Emerging from an era when visionaries sought not only freedom but a self-reliant and enlightened India, Baruah dedicated his entire life to that cause. The film affirms the enduring relevance of his contributions to Assamese social life and celebrates the legacy of a patriot whose work continues to shape the region's cultural and political identity.



Utpal Datta is an Indian film critic, author, and filmmaker who has shaped the study of cinema in Assam. A two-time National Film Award recipient for film criticism (Jury Special Mention 2006; Best Film Critic 2023), he has authored books including '24 Frames', 'Decoding Films', and 'Asomiya Cinemar Ata Adhyai'. His films 'By Lane No. 2' and 'Bohubritta' have screened at IFFI. He is also a four-time Assam State Film Award winner as both filmmaker and film critic.



KAKORI

India | 2024 | 31:27 Mins | Hindi | Documentary

Director

Kamlesh K. Mishra

Producers

Jaswinder Singh, Minti Mishra

On the 100th anniversary of the Kakori Rail Action, the film pays tribute to the young revolutionaries of the Hindustan Republican Association who dared to defy British colonial rule. Led by Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, and Chandrashekhar Azad, their audacious 1925 train robbery stuns the colonial government. The film goes beyond the heist to explore the emotional and ideological journeys of these patriots, their friendships, convictions, betrayals, and ultimate martyrdom.



Kamlesh K. Mishra is a National Film Award-winning writer and director, and a long-serving jury member of the National Film Awards and IFFI. His docu-drama 'Madhubani: The Station of Colours' won the 66th National Film Award for Best Narration (Non-Feature). His short film 'Kitaab', featuring Tom Alter in his final performance, screened at over 75 international festivals and won more than 30 awards. 'Kakori' opened the Indian Panorama at the 56th IFFI.



MAHIMA ALEKHA

India | 2025 | 50:15 Mins | Odia | Documentary

Director

Himansu Sekhar Khatua

Producers

Itirani Samanata, Snehashree Swain

Mahima Alekha' follows Mahima sadhus and disciples as they journey to Mahima Gadi in Joranda, Odisha, gathering each year during Magha Sukla Chaturdashi and Purnima. Rooted in the 19th-century reformist movement of Mahima Dharma, the film immerses viewers in ascetic rituals, devotional chants, and the metaphysical poetry of blind mystic Bhima Bhoi. It also confronts the sect's contemporary tensions as modernity and shifting values test the resilience of timeless spiritual ideals.



Prof. Himansu Sekhar Khatua is a multiple National Award-winning filmmaker, sound designer, and academician. An alumnus of FTII Pune, his films include *Shunya Swaroopa* (1997), *Kathantara*, *Krantidhara*, *Matira Bandhana*, and *The Sea and Seven Villages* (2023). He has served as Director of SRFTI Kolkata, Festival Director of Kalinga Global Film Festival, and CMD of Kalinga TV, while pioneering media education at KIIT University.



NILGIRIS – A SHARED WILDERNESS (INDIA)

India | 2024 | 74:41 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

Sandesh Kadur

Cinematographers

Nakul Raj, Robin Darius Conz,
Nikhil Viridi, Sameer Jain,
Sandesh Kadur

Editor

Shaun Littlewood

Sound Designers

Tim Owens, Kate Hopkins,
Johnny Crew

The first feature-length documentary about India's Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, — the country's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and one of Asia's most intensively studied regions — the film takes viewers on a journey of discovery through a land of sacred peaks, rare creatures, and landscapes suspended between folklore and ecological wonder. Celebrating nature's remarkable capacity to adapt and thrive, it uncovers the many secrets that make this ancient wilderness extraordinarily special.



Sandesh Kadur is a wildlife filmmaker and National Geographic Fellow whose recent credits include 'Our Planet' (Netflix) and 'The Okavango Experience', a 360-degree VR series for National Geographic. His films and photography have aired on National Geographic, BBC, Netflix, Discovery, and Animal Planet. He received a 2017 EMMY nomination and the 2017 BAFTA Award for his work on 'BBC Planet Earth II', and is dedicated to conservation storytelling worldwide.



PIPLANTRI : A TALE OF ECO FEMINISM

India | 2024 | 84:07 Mins | Hindi | Documentary

Director

Suraj Kumar

Producer

Garima Singh

Set in a village in Rajasthan's Rajsamand district within the world's largest marble mining belt, the film explores how a once environmentally degraded community became a global model of sustainability and women's empowerment. At its heart is Padma Shri awardee Shyam Sundar Paliwal, whose initiative of planting 111 trees for every girl born has earned worldwide recognition. The film traces how Piplantri transformed ecological grief into a movement of renewal.

Festivals

International Film Festival of India (IFFI2025), Goa, India November 24, 2025 | World Premier | Indian Panorama (Non-Feature)



Suraj Kumar is an award-winning filmmaker and producer with over 27 years of experience. An alumnus of IIMC New Delhi (1994–95), he founded Johnsons-Suraj Films International in 1997, producing over 500 documentaries for NFDC, WHO, the UN, and GIZ. His international films include Thinking of Him (2017), an Indo-Argentinean co-production on Tagore's visit to Argentina, and Sri Aurobindo: Beginning of a Spiritual Journey (2022), released in over 150 countries.



RAMALEELAS OF ODISHA

India | 2025 | 75:17 Mins | English, Odia | Documentary

Director
Shankhajeet De

Producer
IGNCA, New Delhi

Filmed over several years, 'Ramaleelas of Odisha' is an ethnographic documentary mapping the rich diversity of the Ramaleela performing tradition across Odisha's towns and villages. A beloved lyrical theatre form performed each summer, its aesthetics evolve from one community to the next. The film examines what sustains this living tradition, an annual ritual that keeps collective memory alive for performers and patrons while fulfilling the spiritual yearning of its audiences.



Shankhajeet De is a filmmaker, researcher, and scriptwriter with a focus on tangible and intangible cultural heritage. His debut feature documentary 'In the Shadow of Time', on Odisha's Ravana Chhaya shadow puppetry tradition, won the National Film Award for Best Film on Arts and Culture. He has served on festival juries, collaborated on son-et-lumière and museum projects.



NATIONAL COMPETITION

THE CINEMA TEMPLE

India | 2025 | 53:20 Mins | English, Kannada | Documentary

Director

H. N. Narahari Rao

Producer

H. N. Narahari Rao

Cinematographers

M. S. Lokesh, Nagaraj Gubbachi

Editor

Vinayak Bhat

The film chronicles the extraordinary journey of Suchitra Film Society in Bangalore from its origins in a cramped, poorly ventilated room to its evolution as a sustained movement for bringing the finest Indian and world cinema to local audiences. Through archival material and interviews with eminent filmmakers, critics, and cultural figures, it reflects on the passion and perseverance behind Suchitra's enduring legacy in nurturing a discerning film culture.



H. N. Narahari Rao, born in 1940, is a retired electrical engineer and vice president who became a pioneering force in India's film society movement. He founded Suchitra Film Society in Bangalore in 1971 and served as former President of both the Federation of Film Societies of India and FIPRESCI India. He has served as Artistic Director of multiple editions of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) and currently serves as President of Suchitra Film Society.



THE EIGHT HEROINES

India | 2025 | 47:10 Mins | Bhojpuri, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Sanskrit, Tamil | Documentary

Director

Sanskar Sudhir Desai

Producer

Indira Gandhi National Centre
for the Arts

Cinematographer

Vidya Nath Bharti

Editor

Aseem Sinha

Sound Designer

Mandar Kamlapurkar

The film decodes the Ashta-Nayika – the eight archetypal heroines first described in the Natya Shastra, tracing their presence across Indian classical dance, miniature painting, sculpture, music, folk traditions, and film songs. Through expert interviews and curated performances, it explores how these eight emotional archetypes have functioned as a codified vocabulary for expressing human experience across artistic traditions, and examines their continued relevance in contemporary contexts.



Sanskar Sudhir Desai is a filmmaker with over four decades of experience, he is currently President of the Indian Documentary Producers' Association (IDPA). Specialising in documentaries on Indian art, culture, and heritage, his films have screened internationally and won numerous awards.



THE GENESIS OF RASA

India | 2025 | 64:08 Mins | Malayalam | Documentary

Director

Harish K M

Producer

K M Productions

Cinematographer

Manesh Madhavan

Editor

Praveen Mangalath

Sound Designer

Madhu Apsara, Jikku Joshi

'Rasanishpathi' uses Kathakali as a lens to explore how all art forms evoke emotion through universal archetypes that stir the unconscious mind. Rooted in the 'Natyashastra' and enriched by the philosophical insights of Abhinavagupta and Carl Gustav Jung, the film reveals how expression, affect, and awareness converge in the spectator producing 'rasa', a shared aesthetic experience that transcends individual boundaries and connects audiences to the deeper rhythms of human consciousness.



Harish K.M. is Head of the Department of Sound at FTII Pune, with over 14 years of experience in sound for cinema. In 2022, he represented FTII at the CILECT World Congress in Spain, contributing to an MoU with eight international film schools, and presented a paper on sound pedagogy. He has worked as a music recording engineer across Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, and Telugu films.



THREADS OF TIME – THE STORY OF PAITHANI

India | 2025 | 32:20 Mins | Hindi, Marathi | Documentary

Director

Kshipra Anil Ballani

Producers

West Zone Culture Center,
Purple Ant Media

The Story of Paithani traces the extraordinary journey of one of India's most treasured textiles, the Paithani sari, woven in silk and gold. The film travels from ancient Pratishthan through the Satavahana era, medieval upheavals, and the Peshwa cultural revival, revealing the inspirations, artisan communities, and painstaking craft behind each creation. It becomes a tribute to resilience, showing how this luminous weave endures as a living expression of Maharashtra's cultural memory.



Kshipra Ballani holds a Master's degree in Communication Studies and brings extensive experience across fiction and non-fiction formats for film and television. She has collaborated with the Ministry of Skill Development, the Ministry of Culture, T-Series, ETV, Doordarshan, and major corporate brands.

Threads of Tradition

Behind radiant colors

NATIONAL COMPETITION

THREADS OF TRADITION

India | 2025 | 27:25 Mins | Gujarati | Documentary

Director

Kamlesh Udasi

Producer

Kamlesh Udasi

Cinematographer

Girish Makwana

Editor

Girish Makwana

A documentary celebrating Gujarat's exquisite handloom traditions, the film journeys through the skilled hands that create intricate Patola silk, Tangaliya patterns, vibrant Kutchi shawls, and Khambhat silk sarees. Each textile embodies centuries of cultural heritage and artistic devotion. Yet beneath this radiant artistry lies a quiet struggle, as custodians of tradition work to preserve ancient skills and sustain livelihoods in an era increasingly shaped by modern machinery.



Kamlesh Udasi is an award-winning filmmaker, educator, and media consultant with over three decades in documentary and television production. He served as Senior Producer and Project Director at DECU-ISRO (1991–2012), directing nearly 600 documentaries. Founder of ZigZag Productions, his work has received three international awards and screened at MIFF, AIFF, JIFF, BIFF, and Docs Without Borders Film Festival (USA). He teaches at over twelve universities across India.



UMMATHAT – THE RHYTHM OF KODAVA

India | 2025 | 49:14 Mins | Kannada | Documentary

Director

PRAKASH KARIAPPA K

Producer

YASHODA PRAKASH K

Cinematographer

VINAYAKA REVADI

Editor

MUTHURAJUT

Ummathat' is a vibrant folk dance performed exclusively by women of the Kodava community in Karnataka's Coorg region. Rooted in devotion to the river goddess Kaveri, it is performed during the festival of Kaveri Sankramana, with dancers in traditional attire moving in slow, rhythmic circles to the beat of cymbals and devotional song. One dancer carries a brass kalasha on her head, symbolising the goddess. The film presents this as a living expression of Kodava identity and feminine spirituality.



K. Prakash Kariappa is a producer, director, actor, writer, and novelist from Kodagu, Karnataka. He produced the National Award-winning film 'Kandeelu – The Ray of Hope'



WAAI

India | 2025 | 12:24 Mins | Sindhi, Hindi | Documentary

Director

Sainath S Uskaikar

Producer

Bharatbala Ganapathy

Cinematographer

Sudeep Elamon

Editor

Dhanesh Gopal

Waaï' tells the story of the last four Waaï singers in India, belonging to a Muslim nomadic community from Kutch. The film honours this rare musical form while bearing witness to the community's efforts to transmit their endangered legacy to future generations. Rooted in the rhythms and memory of a nomadic way of life, the film raises urgent questions about cultural survival, the fragility of oral traditions, and what is lost when a singular voice falls silent.

Sainath S. Uskaikar is an independent filmmaker from Goa working in short films and documentaries rooted in regional culture and personal storytelling. His work explores memory, identity, relationships, and the emotional textures of everyday life.



THE HUG OF EMPTINESS

India | 2025 | 20 Mins | Kannada | Documentary

Director

Pradeep Kenchanuru

Producer

Shivadhvaj Shetty

Cinematographer

Sourabh Kanti Datta

Editor

Prashanth Pandith

Sound Designer

Olivia Das

In 2003, Chandrashekhar's world was turned upside down. He had pledged his property to the Sullia cooperative bank for a loan, but when he couldn't repay, the bank took it away, despite RBI norms saying otherwise. What followed is over two decades of struggle. He has taken the bank to court, but the case drags on. And Chandrashekhar? He's made this small patch of forest his home, living in his car, night after night. It's a story of 24 years of solitude, a fight for justice, and a life left in limbo.



Dr. Pradeep Kenchanuru is a film scholar, writer, curator, and jury member with expertise in cinema and cultural studies. A National Award-winning screenwriter, he has served on the juries of the National Film Awards, IFFI, MIFF, BIFFES, and other leading film festivals. Former Artistic Director of BIFFES, he has also taught at premier institutions and is currently associated with a research project at Queen Mary University of London, UK.



DEMOGRAPHY IS DESTINY

India | 2025 | 39:39 Mins | Hindi | Documentary

Directors

Kamakhya Narayan Singh,
Anshuman Shekhar

Producer

Ravindra Manilal Sanghvi

Cinematographers

Amit Barthe and Ratul Baruah

Editor

Sandeep Chauhan

Sound Designer

Krishana Swami

The film examines how demographic trends shape a nation's social, political, and cultural future. Drawing on historical census data, expert interviews, and personal narratives, it traces shifts in India's population composition from the late 19th century to the present. It explores declining fertility rates, changing attitudes toward marriage, the rise of individualism, migration patterns, and how demographic change influences electoral politics, governance, and national identity in a democracy.

Kamakhya Narayan Singh is a filmmaker known for fearless, socially relevant cinema. His film 'Bhor', a portrait of a young Musahar girl seeking education, screened at 28 international festivals and won Best Director in Ottawa and Boston. He received the National Film Award for Best Film on Social Issues (2022) for 'Justice Delayed but Delivered, and a second National Award in 2025 for Timeless Tamil Nadu.

Anshuman Shekhar is a multimedia professional with experience in content creation and media strategy. He directed a documentary on the legacy of late Manohar Parrikar and has worked with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and FICCI. He currently leads content development at Creativeland Asia.



THE SOUND OF COINS

India | 2024 | 30 Mins | Kannada | Documentary

Director

Nandeeshwar CV

Producer

Priyadarshini V L

Cinematographer

Manju

Editor

S M Raghavendra

Sound Designer

Velu

The Sound of Coins' is a Kannada documentary tracing the history of money through numismatics, centred on the life and work of Sri K. Vishwanatha, one of Karnataka's most respected numismatists. Through rare coin collections, historical re-enactments, and insightful narration, the film spans centuries of political power, trade, and transformation. It culminates with India's 2016 demonetisation as a symbolic rupture, prompting reflection on the meaning of currency and what civilisations gain and risk losing in monetary transition.



Nandeeshwar CV is a self-taught filmmaker from Karnataka with a background in electronics and communication engineering. He debuted with the silent short 'My God' (2010) and earned critical recognition for his first feature 'Narasajana Nursery' (2012), which won multiple awards at international festivals. His second feature, 'Akkamma Bhagya' (2017), further established his reputation for socially conscious, culturally rooted cinema.



CHALO INDIA WITH ERIC JI - VARANASI

India | 2025 | 37:10 Mins | English, Hindi | Documentary (Debut)

Director

Rajdeep Choudhury

Producer

Sachin Karande

Cinematographer

Sarthak Das

Editor

Sarvat Niazi Vinod Jadhav

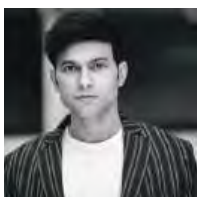
Sound Designer

Rahul Ravindra Gandhre

'Chalo India with Eric Ji' follows Eric, former Member of Parliament, OBE recipient, and history teacher of over 30 years as he immerses himself in the timeless energy of Varanasi during Makar Sankranti at the Maha Kumbh. From sacred immersion in the Ganga to the labyrinthine lanes, legendary street food, Sarnath, and temples with relics of the Buddha, the episode uncovers the city's living history, spirituality, and vibrant culture through beautiful music and breathtaking landscapes.

Festivals

International Festival Of India, Goa, India, November 25, 2025 | World Premiere | Indian Panorama



Rajdeep trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London and studied under the late Indian actor Vikram Gokhale. With 'Chalo India with Eric Ji', he makes his directorial debut, presenting a vibrant portrait of contemporary India where ancient heritage and modern energy coexist. Beginning the series in Varanasi during the Maha Kumbh, he draws on his background in acting and screenwriting to tell stories celebrating India's timeless spirit and evolving identity.



NATIONAL COMPETITION

LEADING LIGHTS

India | 2025 | 14 Mins | English | Documentary (Debut)

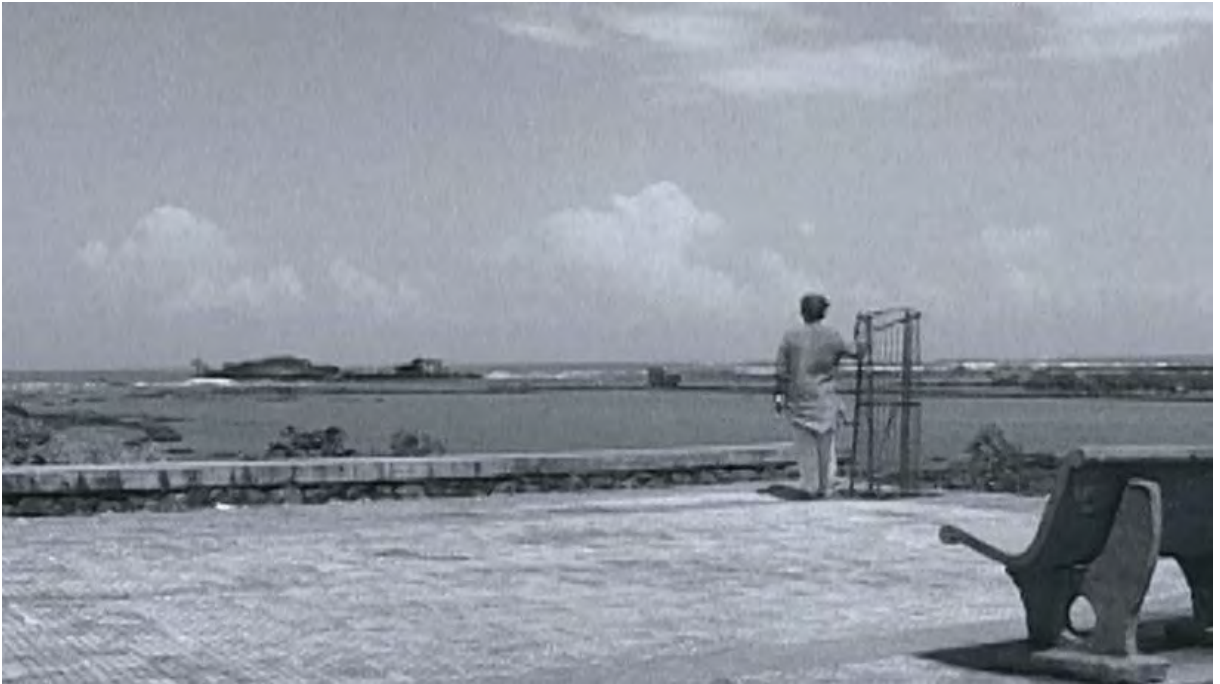
Director
Diya Suriya

Producer
2D Entertainment

Cinematographer
SHREEVARDHAN SHARMA

Editor
Nash

Leading Light' turns an intimate lens on the often-overlooked craft of gaffers in the Bollywood film industry. Through the stories of Hetall Deddhia, Priyanka Singh, and Leena Gangurde, three pioneering women in a field long dominated by men. The film uncovers the challenges, physical demands, and quiet artistry of shaping cinema's visual language. Their journeys bear witness to the grit required to break barriers, and to the solidarity that emerges when passion defies limitation.



MYSELF NIDA

India | 2024 | 60 Mins | Hindi, Urdu | Documentary (Debut)

Director

Atul Pandey

Producer

ATUL GANGWAR

'Main Nida' is an audio-visual biographical tribute to the legendary Indian poet, scholar, and philosopher Nida Fazli. The film assembles rare video footage, audio recordings, and still photographs, interwoven with tributes from distinguished poets, authors, award-winning screenwriters, and National Award-winning filmmakers. Several of Fazli's most celebrated poems are woven through the narrative, offering a sensitive and authentic portrait of one of modern India's most beloved literary voices.



Atul is a veteran media professional active in the entertainment industry since 1988, specialising in feature films, web series, documentaries, and live events. He has produced over 3,000 hours of content across ten languages. His notable credits include 'Summer 2007', selected for Indian Panorama, and 'Bombairiya', an Indo-British-UAE co-production. He has served as jury member at the 67th National Film Awards and as international jury member at IFFI 2023.



THAKAR LOK KALAYEN (THAKAR TRIBAL FOLK ARTS)

India | 2024 | 30 Mins | Hindi | Documentary (Debut)

Director

Arun Shekhar

Producer

Jagdish Nishad

The film documents the folk arts of the Thakar tribe of Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra's Konkan region - a community whose rich artistic traditions, including Chitrakathi painting, puppetry, Radha Naach, Gondhal, and Pot Nritya, are fast disappearing. At the centre is the family of Ganpat Sakharam Masge, working to preserve these endangered forms. The documentary presents folk art as a vital medium of social memory and cultural awakening.



Arun Shekhar (Arun Kumar Singh) is a director, actor, producer, and playwright from Uttar Pradesh. He holds a Diploma in Dramatics from Bharatendu Natya Akademi and a postgraduate degree in Hindi Literature from Mumbai University. He has worked with directors including A.R. Murugadoss, R. Balki, and Reema Kagti, and has served on the Preview Committee for the 53rd and 54th IFFI Goa, the 17th MIFF 2022, and as a CBFC committee member.



HERE AMONG STRANGERS

India | 2025 | 12:34 Mins | Marathi | Documentary (Student)

Director
Mohak Gandhi

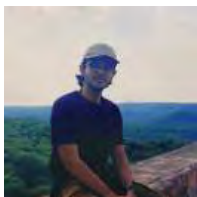
Producer
Film & Television Institute of
India (FTII), Pune

Cinematographer
Shiva Chennamshetty

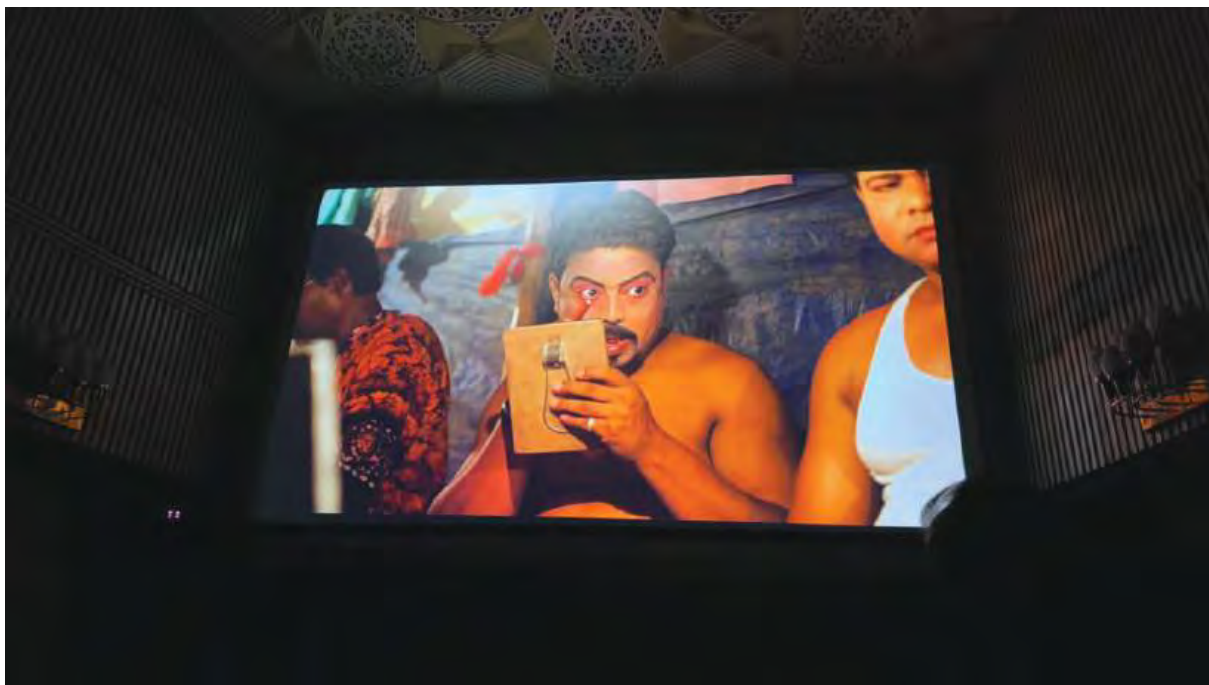
Editor
Vishal Ashok Dodake

Sound Designer
Arunasish Karan

In a rapidly growing city, seventy-year-old farmer Sudhakar Bhujbal continues to cultivate his shrinking patch of land, rooted in a world that no longer sees him. As glass towers rise around his soil, he remains- tending the earth among strangers, a quiet figure of continuity against a skyline of relentless change.



Mohak Gandhi holds a B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from PEC Chandigarh and is currently pursuing a Postgraduate Certificate Course in Direction at FTII Pune.



JATRA PALA, THE ECHOES OF AN OPEN STAGET

India | 2025 | 25:29 Mins | Bengali | Documentary (Student)

Director

Arghya Mukherjee

Producer

Satyajit Ray Film and
Television Institute

Cinematographer

Cosmos Tete

Editor

Nishant Kumar Nishu

Jatra Pala' documents Bengal's beloved folk theatre tradition as it faces the threat of extinction in the digital age. Veterans recall lantern-lit nights of cultural glory, while a new wave of practitioners - led by Kakoli Chowdhury, Anil Chakraborty, and emerging talents, continues to resist digital dominance. Capturing the resilience, spirit, and enduring soulfulness of an art form considered the root of all Indian theatrical traditions, the film is a heartfelt portrait of a living heritage in struggle.

Awards

31st Kolkata International film festival, Kolkata, India, November 8, 2025, Official Selection



Arghya Mukherjee is a student of Direction and Producing at Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, who transitioned from engineering to pursue documentary filmmaking. He has collaborated with Voice of America and TOSS Jaipur on projects including 'Mud Eyes' (2022) and *The Saree Story (2023).



KHARVAN – IN SEARCH OF THE ELUSIVE ONE

India | 2024 | 17:14 Mins | English | Documentary (Student)

Director
Nitya Navelkar

KHARVAN' is a mixed-media documentary blending live-action and animation to explore the coexistence between smooth-coated otters and the ancient Khazan ecosystem of Goa. These human-engineered wetlands harbour extraordinary biodiversity and deep cultural heritage, yet face urgent contemporary threats. Through a narrative weaving together wildlife, local tradition, and conservation, the film tells a compelling story of ecological harmony and the pressing need to protect the species and communities these ecosystems sustain.

Awards
Best Student Film, All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (2025) | Best Documentary Film, School of Cinema International Film Festival (2025)



Nitya is a Communication Design graduate from the National Institute of Design, Madhya Pradesh. Passionate about storytelling through short films that address social issues, her work explores the unique narratives of the natural world.



THE OLD BULL KNOWS, OR ONCE KNEW

India | 2025 | 12:41 Mins | English, Marathi | Documentary (Student)

Director

Milan Kumar

Producer

Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune

Cinematographer

Piyush Patidar

Editor

Disha Bhat

Sound Designer

Anand George

Set on the fringes of a growing Maharashtra city, the film observes the last day of Shankar - an ageing bull who, after serving the nomadic Nandiwale community for over two decades, is being sent to a Gaushala. Interwoven is the story of his old caretaker Anna, who brought Shankar to this settlement 25 years ago. Through long takes, silence, and textured soundscapes, the film meditates on displacement, fading tradition, and the unspoken bond between humans, animals, and a way of life in slow dissolution.



The director is a student of the Post Graduate Certificate in TV Direction at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune.



THREE STRIKES STILL STANDING

India | 2025 | 33:44 Mins | English, Hindi | Documentary (Student)

Director
Bhavya Bhatia

Producer
Vidha Bhatia

Cinematographer
Gouri Garg

Editor
Kartik ved

'Three Strikes Still Standing' is a deeply personal documentary about a woman who has battled cancer three times, defying the odds at every stage. Through her own words, archival footage, and cinematic re-enactments, the film journeys through each diagnosis and the emotional, medical, and psychological dimensions of survival. Featuring the perspectives of her family, it stands as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the sustaining power of hope in the face of the unimaginable.

Awards
13th Darbhanga International Film Festival, Darbhanga, Bihar India. April 18, 2026, Official Selection



Bhavya is a student filmmaker at Amity School of Film and Drama whose work explores resilience, trauma, and personal transformation through intimate visual storytelling.



A BOX OF BIRYANI

India | 2025 | 40 Mins | Bengali, Bhojpuri, Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Dr Sharmistha Mitra
Chakraborty

Producers

Dr Sharmistha Mitra
Chakraborty, Subhradip
Chakraborty

Cinematographer

Sanjib Sadhukha

Editor

Kabya Chakraborty

Sound Designers

Sabyasachi Pal,
Soumya Chatterjee

A college professor pursuing her doctorate begins weaving a story from the lives she observes during her daily train journeys – platform dwellers, slum communities, and a woman on the margins whose longing for a simple plate of biryani becomes an emblem of everything just out of reach. The film turns her quiet act of witnessing into a meditation on urban invisibility and the pace at which we pass each other by.



Dr Sharmistha Mitra Chakraborty directed *Jongom* (2023), *Pas Au Revoir.* (2019), *Prapti* (2020), *Laughing Buddha*, and *Onnyo Utsav*. Trained in advanced film direction at IIFFA and digital filmmaking at SRFTI, Kolkata, their background spans assistant directing, managing set operations, and daily shoot production logistics.



ABHIVYANJANA

India | 2025 | 28:45 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Subodh Anand Ukey

Producer

Subodh Anand Ukey

Abhivyanjana enters the world of performers who embody lions, monkeys, and gods in India's folk tradition — a vibrant but increasingly marginalised art form that exists in the shadow of more celebrated classical dance. The film examines how these artists practice and sustain their craft, and what is quietly lost when a form of expression is deemed secondary by the culture it once served.



Subodh Anand is an Indian producer and director at Rolling Pebble Productions. A 2012 Fine Arts graduate, his filmography includes *Abhivyanjana* (2025), *Zakhira* (2025), *Kinaryavarachi Shala* (2021), *Angootha*, *Gaath*, and the award-winning *Avatari* (2024). He also directed the music album *Kumbharacha Ganpati* (2020).



ALMARI KA ACHAAR

India | 2025 | 19:40 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Raakesh Rawat

Producer

Raakesh Rawat

Cinematographer

Raakesh Rawat

Editor

Raakesh Rawat

Almari Ka Achaar follows a middle-aged same-gender couple navigating the quiet pressures of family expectation and social convention. Grounded in warmth and dry humour, the film tracks their gentle but earnest effort to honour both their love and their obligations to the people around them. It is a tender, intimate portrait of the small acts of courage required to hold a relationship together against the grain of tradition.

Festivals

German Star of India, Indian Film Festival of Stuttgart (2025) | 2nd Runner Up (Indian Competition), Bengaluru International Short Film Festival (2025)



Raakesh is an award-winning Indian filmmaker, director, producer, writer, editor, and cinematographer. His debut feature *Midnight Delhi* premiered at the Singapore South Asian International Film Festival, winning Best Editor, and was officially selected at the 19th New York Indian Film Festival and the South Asian International Film Festival.



BAALIYAN

India | 2025 | 41 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

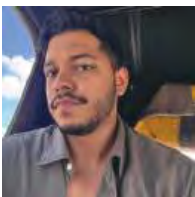
Director

Bunny Sunaria

Producers

Shyam Kumar, Leena

Baaliyan follows Battu, a young migrant who arrives in Delhi with little but his will to survive and the memory of his mother. As the city wears him down through hunger and indifference, he clings to imagined phone calls home. When that fragile refuge begins to crack, past trauma surfaces, pulling him toward a reckoning he can no longer defer.



Bunny Sunaria is a Delhi-based independent filmmaker and an AAFI Noida graduate with a diploma in Direction. Focused on realism, character, and atmosphere, his cinematic work explores deep themes of displacement, memory, and emotional isolation centered around everyday lives and understated human experiences.



DISTANT

India | 2024 | 18:48 Mins | Kannada | Short Fiction

Director

Nagbhushan Deshpandey

Producers

Kiran Srinivas, Niranjan Babu,
White Silhouette production

Cinematographer

Enosh Olivera

Editor

Sharath Vashisht

Sound Designer

Swasthik Karekad

After a fight with his parents sends his father walking out, young Rohith assumes his mother is to blame and follows his father, hoping to set things right. What begins as a son's loyalty slowly unravels into a confrontation with the patriarchal assumptions he has grown up absorbing. The film traces a boy's painful education in seeing his parents and his world more clearly.



Nagbhushan Deshpandey is an engineer-turned-filmmaker who honed his craft at the Prague Film School. Since graduation, he has worked in the Kannada film industry as an assistant director on critically acclaimed films and high-profile commercials, contributing to standout projects such as *Pedro* (2021) and *Juni* (2024).



FADED HUES

India | 2025 | 13:16 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Arpit Raj

Producer

Ankit Kachhap

On the night of Kartik Purnima, an elderly grandmother watches the life of her Maithili household unfold around her - shifting between the perspective of a child, a mother, an aunt. She wishes to hold it all in a single painting; to become a reflection of the moments passing through the house. The film is a quiet, layered portrait of family, memory, and the desire to make something last.



Arpit Raj is an Indian filmmaker, screenwriter, and researcher from Bihar, currently pursuing a Master's degree in Direction and Screenplay Writing at the Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata



FINDING NABI

India | 2025 | 22:21 Mins | English | Short Fiction

Director

Rukshana Tabassum

Producer

Syed Sultan Ahmed

Cinematographer

Vrushab Sansgiri

Editor

Manendra Singh Lodhi

Sound Designer

Bigyna Dahal

Kiaan's college dream collapses when a history of online bullying resurfaces to define him. Haunted by the digital trail he left behind and the damage it caused, he sets out to face the people he once hurt and ask for forgiveness. The film is a sober reckoning with the permanence of harm inflicted in virtual spaces, and what it takes to begin making amends.



Rukshana is an alumna of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). She is an Indian filmmaker associated with independent shorts and documentaries. Her notable works include Amoli, Saanjh, Raavi, and Scavenging Dreams, receiving National Award recognition.



FINGER RING

India | 2025 | 23:56 Mins | Hindi, Marathi | Short Fiction

Director

Advait Dhavale

Producer

Advait Dhavale

When Suresh, a sewage cleaner, stumbles upon a valuable diamond ring in the most unlikely of places, it seems like a miraculous escape from poverty. He and his wife devise a careful plan to turn the find into a new beginning. But what begins as a moment of unexpected fortune quickly spirals into a tangle of suspicion, police intervention, and uncomfortable truths about the world they inhabit.



Arpit Raj is an Indian filmmaker, screenwriter, and researcher from Bihar, currently pursuing a Master's degree in Direction and Screenplay Writing at the Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata



FREE AS A BIRD

India | 2024 | 16:10 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

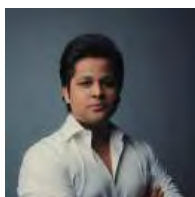
Director

Aditya khude

Producers

Darshan Patil, Aditya Khude,
Jeet Sorap, Poonam Sivia

In a cramped one-room home in Mumbai, Raj and Priya dream of a life beyond their means. Their wedding anniversary outing takes a humiliating turn when a police raid at the beach lands them at the station, stripping away the evening's fragile dignity. The film is a quiet, domestic portrait of aspiration and shame within a lower-middle-class family trying to hold their world together.



Aditya Pradeep Khude is a filmmaker, writer, producer, and the founder of Paper Cloud Films, based in Mumbai, India.



FROM NOWHERE

India | 2025 | 14:51 Mins | Chinese | Short Fiction

Director

Shomik Basuray

Producer

Shomik Basuray

Cinematographer

Kaushik Patra

Editor

Charu Takkar

Sound Designer

Moinak Bose

Henry belongs to Kolkata's fast-dwindling Hakka Chinese community. A place he calls home even as it makes him feel like an outsider. When his girlfriend announces she is emigrating to Canada, as so many others have, Henry must sit with the question he has been avoiding; what does it mean to stay, and what is he actually staying for?



A film enthusiast from his youth, **Shomik** played a key role in the distribution of World Cinema in India. He spearheaded the release of the works of acclaimed directors across various media platforms.



GUEST FOR A DAY

India | 2024 | 19:11 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Rohit Patidar

Producer

Pranay Singh Solanki

Cinematographer

Nishant Kumar

Editor

Hitesh Panwar

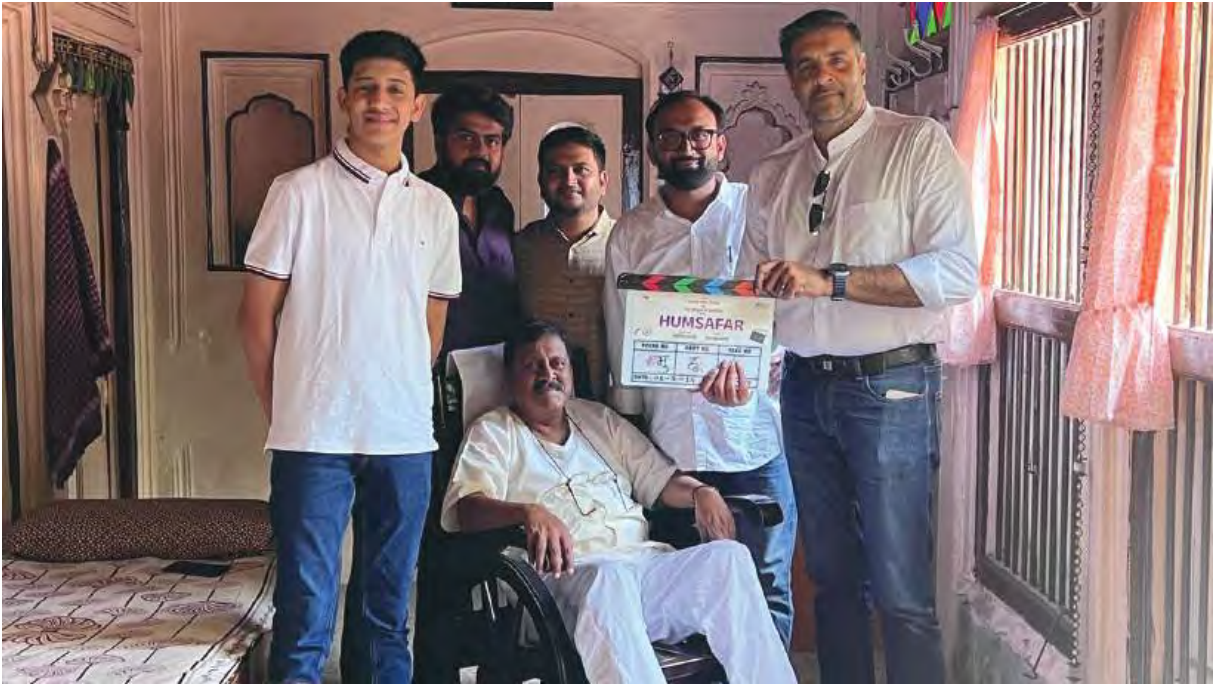
Sound Designer

Devashish Patil

On the night of Rakshabandhan, a debt-ridden man named Lakshminarayan slips back to his small-town home in secret, longing to reunite with his sister and family. The joy of the occasion is shadowed by the moneylenders circling close behind.



Rohit Patidar hails from a small town Ratlam in India, currently studying Film Direction at Satyajit Ray Film and TV Institute in Kolkata. His films, Paapi and Diary of Hitler Kumar, have screened at Kolkata International Film Festival.



HUMSAFAR

India | 2024 | 19:14 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction

Director

Abhijeet Arvind Dalvi

Producer

Narendra Shantikumar Firodia

Cinematographer

Gaurav Kulkarni

Editor

Mayur Hardas, Akshay Salve

Sound Designer

Abhijeet Arvind Dalvi

For an old man, his ageing radio is not merely a device. It is a lifelong companion woven through with memory, emotion, and a sense of self. When it goes missing, what follows is more than a search for an object. Hamsafar is a quiet, intimate story about attachment and loss, and the way certain things carry the full weight of a life lived.



Abhijeet Arvind Dalvi is an Indian filmmaker, theatre writer, and director with over 21 years of experience across theatre, cinema, and short films. He began with Marathi one-act plays, earning many awards for writing and direction at state-level theatre competitions.



IN THE FOREST OF DREAMS

India | 2025 | 15 Mins | Bengali | Short Fiction

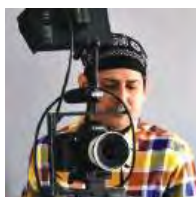
Director

Samrat Ray Chakraborty

Producer

Moumita Ghosh Sarkart

A mother and daughter from a marginal family tend their small flock of goats in a forested landscape. When the little girl's favourite baby goat disappears, she quietly skips school to search for it, day after day. The film is a gentle, unhurried story about the bonds that form between children and animals, and the small tender acts of love that hold a family together.



Samrat Ray Chakraborty is an award-winning independent filmmaker, screenwriter, and producer from rural West Bengal. He holds a master's degree in Theatre Arts from RBU, Kolkata. He has been associated with national and international projects, including a 66th National Film Awards-winning feature documentary.



KEKI

India | 2025 | 30 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction

Director

Tushar Tukaram Udeg

Producer

Nikhil Sonawane

Cinematographer

Prathamesh Nitin Rangole

In a coastal Konkan village, young Vasu grows enchanted by the calls of the last surviving peacock and the spectacle of Dashavatara folk theatre. His innocent obsession draws him deeper into a world his father Surya desperately wants to keep him from – a world shaped by poverty, superstition, and a dying illegal practice. Keki builds toward a devastating collision between a father's desperation and a child's wonder.



Tushar Udeg is a Mumbai-based director and writer, with a strong foundation as a fine artist and more than fifteen years of experience in filmmaking. He began his journey as an editor, shaping visual narratives for many years before transitioning into direction.



NATIONAL COMPETITION

KOVARTY

India | 2025 | 29:59 Mins | Malayalam | Short Fiction

Director

Rohin Raveendran Nair

Producers

Arya Menon, Shubham Karna,
Swapnil Sonawane

In a government office in 1980s Kerala, a brand-new typewriter arrives and is immediately captivated by Daisy, the young woman who operates it each day.



Rohin Raveendran Nair is a Mumbai-based writer-director and cinematographer who specialized in cinematography at FTII in 2016. His short film *The Booth* was acquired by MUBI, and his recent short film *Kovarty* qualified for Oscars 2026 after winning Best Short Film.



LAUNDA NAACH

India | 2025 | 22:28 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

ASHUTOSH UPADHYAY

Producers

YUVRAAJ PARASHAR, VIJAY
MISHRA, ASHUTOSH UPADHYAY

Cinematographer

VIJAY MISHRA

Editors

VAIBHAV DABHADE, VASIM
MULLA

Sound Designer

AJAYKUMAR BALAKRISHNAN

Birju, a sixteen-year-old from rural Uttar Pradesh, finds his truest self in 'Launda Naach' a traditional performance art his father once practised and has since forbidden. His only ally is a landlord's daughter who stands beside him against the ridicule of his peers. When a powerful man invites him to perform at a wedding, the honour conceals a devastating betrayal that the village will not easily forget.



Over the years, **Ashutosh** has developed his unique creative voice as a writer, focusing on storytelling deeply rooted in real emotions and lived experiences.



MARFOT (A FORGOTTEN TUNE)

India | 2025 | 11:35 Mins | Assamese | Short Fiction

Directors

Arindam Barooah, Indranil Gayan

Producer

Rita Barooah

Late in life, two elderly individuals find themselves drawn toward desires and possibilities they thought they had long since set aside. Their connection unsettles settled notions of contentment, propriety, and what love is permitted to look like at a certain age.



Arindam Barooah is an independent filmmaker, director, producer, and editor from Duliajan, Assam. Working outside institutional and financial support systems, his approach to cinema is a process of exploration and personal expression. His works frequently reflect themes of identity, human emotion, and cultural rootedness.



MAYDAY

India | 2025 | 20:24 Mins | Malayalam | Short Fiction

Director

SARATH AMBATT

Producers

SHOBI PAULRAJ, LALITHA SHOBI

Cinematographer

AJITH VISHNU

Editor

AKHIL KRISHNAN

Sound Designer

SADIQ CM

Two soldiers wake on a battlefield with no memory of who they are, what side they fought on, or how they came to be there. Stripped of uniform and identity alike, they must determine whether they are allies or enemies before they can figure out anything else. The film follows their cautious, uncertain journey toward a truth neither may be prepared for.



Sarath Ambatt (33) is a filmmaker from Kochi, Kerala, working as an Assistant Director in the Malayalam film industry. He has been part of five feature films and has collaborated with acclaimed filmmaker Shafi as well as several noted directors in the industry. Alongside his work in mainstream cinema, Sarath has been developing his own voice as a storyteller through independent filmmaking. MAYDAY is his third directorial short film, reflecting his interest in character-driven narratives and contemporary themes.



MONIHARA

India | 2024 | 30 Mins | Bengali | Short Fiction

Director

Subhadeep Biswas

Cinematographer

Anvesh Varala

Editor

Arya Ganguli

Sound Designer

Keerthan Berny

A wife's deep attachment to her inherited jewellery has long been a point of quiet tension in her marriage. When her devoted husband is pushed to the edge of financial crisis, that attachment is put under sudden and unexpected pressure. The film is a compact domestic story about possession, loyalty, and the surprising directions a household emergency can take.



Subhadeep Biswas is an SRFTI Kolkata graduate in Direction & Producing. He directed the short films Baazigar and 10%, alongside English music videos. His documentary Nawabi Shaikh achieved festival selections, and his diploma film Monihara was selected to premiere at the 55th IFFI Goa International Film Festival.



NATIONAL FURNITURE SINCE 1935

India | 2025 | 34:59 Mins | Bengali, Bhojpuri, Hindi | Short Fiction

Directors

Ajay Kannaujiya

Producer

Nishant Vinipra,
Ajay Kannaujiya

In the dust-covered rooms of a century-old furniture shop in North Kolkata, an aging craftsman named Rajesh keeps vigil over a legacy the modern world has largely forgotten. As his son prepares to leave for the West, the gap between inheritance and ambition grows impossible to ignore. National Furniture Since 1935 is a lyrical meditation on craftsmanship, memory, and the quiet dignity of those left standing still.



Ajay Kannaujiya is an Indian filmmaker and an under-graduate of the National Institute of Design (NID). With a career spanning more than ten years, Ajay has worked on the National Award-winning Gujarati feature film DHH and the commercial feature Dhurandhar.



NIPANIYA

India | 2025 | 19:55 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Anamika Pal

Producer

Gauri Maheshram

During a family funeral, Preeti, a daughter-in-law still nursing her four-month-old, faces a quiet crisis when her milk dries up and her child goes hungry. In desperation she takes an action that the household considers a domestic transgression.



Anamika Pal is an aspiring filmmaker studying at the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute in Kolkata.



PATRALEKHA

India | 2025 | 10 Mins | Assamese | Short Fiction

Director

Namrata Datta

Producer

Namrata Datta

Cinematographer

Ratul Barman

Editor

Jhulan Krishna Mahanta

Sound Designer

Abhijit Brman

Inspired by a haunting song by Bhupen Hazarika, the film traces two people from the same village whose lives have quietly drifted apart. She a schoolteacher caring for her ailing mother & hee a struggling artist in the city. Separated by circumstance but held in place by unspoken longing, the film uses contrasting light 'harsh noon and deep night' to render a love that never found its ending.

Awards

Critics Choice Award for Best Regional Short Film: Patralekha, Rajasthan International Film Festival (2026)



Namrata Datta is a published author, media person, novelist, and translator. After years in Government and Private Radio, she moved to TV and later print media. As a senior fellow of the Ministry of Culture, she researched India's Freedom Movement in Assamese songs.



ROOM AT THE FARM

India | 2025 | 22:54 Mins | Panjabi | Short Fiction

Directors

Jasmine Kaur Roy, Avinash Roy

Producers

Jasmine Kaur Roy, Avinash Roy

Cinematographer

Sachin Gadankush

Editor

Jasmine Kaur Roy

Sound Designer

Vivek Sachidanand

Nihal fights to hold on to the same small plot of farmland that consumed his father before him, refusing to surrender to debt or development. The struggle puts quiet but mounting pressure on his new marriage. Khooh Waala Ghar is a grounded story of a young couple trying to find tenderness in uncertainty, and of a community making its last stand against an encroaching world.



Jasmine Kaur Roy and Avinash Roy are National Award winning filmmakers from India and have been independently producing and directing shorts and documentaries. The duo seek to tell socially relevant stories and bring forth voices that have largely remained unheard and unsung. Some of their notable films are Amoli, Saanjh, Raavi and Scavenging Dreams.



ROSES ARE...

India | 2025 | 39:55 Mins | Hindi, Marathi | Short Fiction

Director

Digvijay Andhorikar

Producers

Siddharth Barupal, Satyajit Ray
Film & Television Institute

In Mumbai's red-light district, Gita, a trans sex worker, is preparing to leave her old life behind with her lover Ravi. Her seventeen-year-old neighbour Deepali misreads Ravi's attention as genuine affection. Aware of the reality her friend cannot yet see, Gita faces a difficult choice about how much truth she owes someone she cares for and at what cost.

Awards

Best Indian Short Film, Jagran
Film Festival | Best Director,
New Jersey Indian International
Film Festival



Digvijay Andhorikar is a filmmaker and trained theatre actor from Osmanabad, Maharashtra, India. He completed his formal education in filmmaking with a specialization in Direction and Screenplay Writing from Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata.



RUNANUBANDH

India | 2025 | 37 Mins | Assamese | Short Fiction

Director

Deep Choudhury

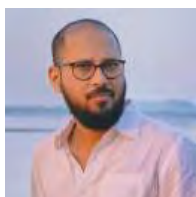
Producer

Daiji Gogoi Mohan

Runanubandh follows Ragini, the steadfast friend of 'Antara' - a woman in the final stages of breast cancer - as she becomes the emotional anchor for an entire family facing the unthinkable. As Antara's illness progresses, she places an intimate and extraordinary request before Ragini. The film explores the sacred, unspoken bonds that form between people in crisis, and the quiet selflessness that holds broken things together.

Awards

Critics Award for Best Actor (Female), Bangkok Movie Awards



Deep Choudhury is an independent Mumbai-based filmmaker who debuted with *Alifa* (2018), winning a National Film Award. His works include *Fishing Surmai* (2014), *Secrets of Mind Power* (2017), and *Cafe Storyteller*, which won Best Director at the Assam State Film Awards.



SKYWARD

India | 2024 | 30 Mins | Rajasthani | Short Fiction

Director

Suruchi Sharma

Producers

Suruchi Sharma, Kanika Patawari, Jane Himmeth Singh, Beatrice Thiriet

Cinematographer

Ashok Meena

Sound Designer

Ajit Singh Rathore

Against the layered backdrop of Jaipur's pink city, a woman moves through a landscape that blurs the line between the mythic and the everyday. Each encounter, lovers, riddles, strangers, even a goddess shifts her perception slightly further. The film unfolds as a surreal inner journey, less about destination than about the slow, strange process of seeing the world, and oneself, as if for the first time.

Awards

Best Cinematography, Aravindam - 25 National Short Film Festival (2025) | Honourable Mention, Detour Experimental Film Festival (2025)



Suruchi is an independent filmmaker from Rajasthan documenting its cultural diversity through her folk film series. A graduate of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, she received the Jury Prize at IDSFFK 2017 and the Forum Lenteng Award at Arkipel 2017. Her recent directorial work is Equals.



SOMETHING LIKE HOME

India | 2024 | 14:36 Mins | Ladakhi | Short Fiction

Director

Harsh Sangani

Producer

Harsh Sangani

Thinlas returns to his native village carrying his father's ashes. The ghosts of his parents appear and urge him to lay them to rest in the home they once knew, he is forced to reckon with the past he left behind and the identity he has been quietly shedding.



Harsh Sangani is an independent filmmaker based in Mumbai. He began his creative journey through writing, acting, and directing in nukkad natakhs before moving into filmmaking. Having worked across different roles in the Hindi film industry, he has developed a practical understanding of the craft and process of filmmaking. His films include *Ghar Jaisa Kuch* (Something Like Home), selected as the Opening Non-Feature Film at the Indian Panorama section of the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), *Prashant Ke Kuch Khwaab*, and *Murgh-e-Mumbai*, a short film shot on 16mm. Harsh is drawn to intimate, character-driven stories that explore human relationships, identity, and the contradictions of contemporary life.



SONGS OF THE MIST

India | 2025 | 21:35 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Ravi Kumar

Producers

Satyajit Ray Film & Television
Institute, Umang Ratilal
Sangani

Suresh is a rural folk dancer who cross-dresses for his performances. When plans emerge to perform in their conservative home village, his wife grows uneasy even as their young son waits eagerly to see his father dance.

Awards

Special Jury Prize, Kolkata International Film Festival (2025)



Ravi Kumar is a filmmaking student pursuing direction and screenplay writing at the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute in India. During his growing years, his village environment profoundly influenced him, leading to his fascination with indigenous folk traditions and the concept of change over time. His goal is to preserve the essence of a disappearing world through films.



STHITI

India | 2025 | 24 Mins | Assamese, Hindi, Marathi | Short Fiction

Director

Somudra Banerjee

Producer

Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune

Cinematographer

Rachit Pandey

Editor

Nikhil Tej Reddy

Sound Designer

Mohit Singh

After a late-night incident on the road, a cab driver flees the city in a panic, drifting into a remote pastoral landscape where time seems to move differently. He picks up a stranger who mistakes him for someone else entirely. An error that, unexpectedly, offers him cover. Their unhurried day together brings quiet conversation and shared meals, until an unforeseen moment forces him to confront what he left behind.



Somudra Banerjee is a student of the Post Graduate Diploma in Direction and Screenplay Writing at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune.



THAT'S A WRAP

India | 2025 | 22:48 Mins | English, Hindi | Short Fiction

Directors

Sunny Hinduja, Shinjini Raval

Producers

Shinjini Raval, Sunny Hinduja

On the final day of shooting an indie drama, a real-life married couple prepare to film the emotional climax of their film 'a scene of confrontation'. As the takes accumulate, the line between their scripted roles and their actual marriage begins to dissolve. What starts as performance gradually becomes something more unsettling, pulling long-suppressed tensions into the light. When the director calls cut, the real reckoning is only beginning.

Awards

Official Selection, Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (2026) | Official Selection, Chicago South Asian Film Festival (2025)



Shinjini and Sunny are not just accomplished actors, but true cinephiles at heart. Their love for storytelling and deep-rooted passion for cinema brought them together—both on and off the screen. As life partners and creative collaborators, they decided to channel their shared vision into something greater, founding their own production house, 'It's a Sunny Day Films'.



THURSDAY SPECIAL

India | 2024 | 26:27 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Varun Tandon

Producers

Karan Luthra, Krati Tandon,
Varun Tandon

Cinematographer

Yashveer Singh

Editor

Amitesh Mukherjee

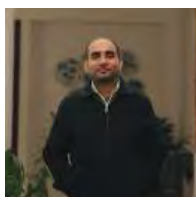
Sound Designer

Ateesh Chattopadhyay

For twenty-seven years, a married couple has marked every Thursday together. A small, steady ritual built around a shared love of food. Thursday Special is a poignant and tender look at long marriage, companionship, and change.

Awards

Most Poetic Film, Kusterndorf Film and Music Festival (2025) | Best International Short Film, Adelaide Film Festival (2024)



Varun Tandon is a Mumbai-based, National Award-winning Indian writer-director. His independent projects over the last decade include *Syaahi*, which won a Jury Award at the 63rd National Film Awards, the documentary *Dribbling Dreams*, and the viral short film *Gulcharrey*.



WE HEARD THE WORLD LOOKS BEAUTIFUL

India | 2025 | 15:36 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction

Director

Shreyas Mandhare

Producer

Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune

Cinematographer

Shakthi Balan

Editor

Kshitij Kulkarni

Sound Designer

Shivam Deshmukh

Based on a folklore about how an entire village went blind generation after generation, 'Aikiwat Jag Khup Sundar Dista' follows Jyoti, a newlywed bride entering this village after her marriage. Through her different stages of denial, confusion, intrigue and eventually acceptance the story flows. It is a folklore mystery drama about womanhood, patriarchy, rituals, gender politics and blind faith.



Born in Pune, **Shreyas** is a trained filmmaker who completed a one-year direction course at FTII. He also holds an MSc in Media & Communication Studies and has worked as an Assistant Director on Hindi, Gujarati, and Marathi feature films.



CHEMBU (THE YAM)

India | 2025 | 11 Mins | Malayalam | Short Fiction (Debut)

Director

Linta Nanda

Producer

Rajeeshlal Vamsha

Cinematographer

RR Vishnu

Editor

CR Sreejith

Sound Designer

Dhanush Nayar

In their ancestral home, elderly couple Lookachan and Merikutty observe the quiet rhythms of faith and daily routine, long settled into a life their only son has moved far from. When a soft-spoken young man named Isaac arrives hoping to buy a nearby property, something about his presence begins to disturb the peace they have built.



Linta Nanda is a filmmaker and professional dentist who brings precision and care to her creative projects. Driven by a deep passion for cinema and visual storytelling, she balances her medical career with exploring narratives through film production.



HILLS DON'T DANCE ALONE

India | 2025 | 24 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction (Debut)

Director

Shubham Negi

Producers

Udit Raj Somani, Anupama Chopra, Shubham Negi, Neeraj Churi

At a Himalayan school, fifteen-year-old Sachin is bullied after cross-dressing for a folk dance performance. When the school's middle-aged vice principal Anju steps in, the situation opens up in ways she did not anticipate. Both are carrying something unspoken.



Shubham Negi is a writer-director whose short *Hills Don't Dance Alone* debuted via a Netflix grant. His projects include *Soma Helang*, *Makeup Room*, *How Much Space Does a Firefly Take?*, and *Tuition*.



RAZAA

India | 2024 | 14:43 Mins | Hindi, Urdu | Short Fiction (Debut)

Director

Pooja Tolani

Producers

Radhika Sawhney, Suresh Triveni

Cinematographer

Monica Tiwari

Editor

Dipika Kalra

Sound Designer

Mandar Kulkarni

Eighteen-year-old Razaa and her mother Sabeen sit in a gynaecologist's waiting room, at odds over a decision neither finds easy. As the two argue about what lies ahead, Razaa's father calls and what he cannot know becomes the film's tensest undercurrent. The film is a contained, sharp portrait of a family secret under pressure, and the generational fault lines that open when crisis arrives.



Pooja Tolani is an FTII alumna who makes her directorial debut with *Razaa*. Her screenwriting credits include *Sacred Games 2*, *Lust Stories 2: The Mirror*, and *Sarfira*. She was selected for the U.S. State Department International Visitors Leadership Program and awarded the Asia Society New Voices Fellowship.



SALOON A CHILD'S DREAM

India | 2024 | 16:22 Mins | Tamil | Short Fiction (Debut)

Director

Salthivel Saminathan

Producers

Saminathan Pillai,
Thilagavathy Saminathan
Pillai

A young boy encounters a hair trimmer for the first time and is transfixed by it. Gripped by the simple wish for a haircut that feels just out of reach. What follows is his small, earnest attempt to make that wish come true.



Sakthivel Saminathan holds a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering and has pursued a career in cinema. His industry experience spans roles as an Assistant Director, Co-director, and Associate Writer. He wrote, produced, and directed the short film Saloon.



SELFIE, PLEASE

India | 2025 | 22:39 Mins | English, Hindi | Short Fiction (Debut)

Director

Anu Singh Choudhary

Producer

Prashant Raj

A younger sister quietly chafes at the attention her mother gives to her older sibling, who has Down Syndrome. The competition for affection simmers beneath the surface of ordinary family life until an accidental moment tears away the careful normalcy her household has maintained. The film is a delicate, unsettling look at sibling love, resentment, and the truths that hide inside families that appear, from the outside, just fine.



Anu Singh Choudhary is an award-winning screenwriter, journalist, author, and director of *Selfie, Please*. Her writing credits include *Aarya*, *Grahan*, *Scoop*, *Mrs.*, *Sajni Shinde Ka Viral Video*, *Alma Matters: Inside the IIT Dream*, and *The Good Girl Show*. She won the Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism.



SHADOWS OF THE MOONLESS NIGHTS

India | 2025 | 23:58 Mins | Hindi, Marathi, Panjabi | Short Fiction (Debut)

Director

Mehar Malhotra

Producer

Film and Television Institute of India

Cinematographer

Digant Sruti

Editor

Shreyas Bhopi

Sound Designer

Sai Sanjay

Rajan works the night shift at a Pune warehouse, then returns each dawn to his sister's overcrowded flat where sleep is impossible. Caught between exhaustion and the noise of a household that has no room for him, he begins to unravel at the edges. The film follows his drifting, sleepless days across the city - quiet portrait of a man searching for rest in a world that offers him none.



Mehar Malhotra is a Mumbai-based filmmaker with roots in Ludhiana. She studied Film Direction at the FTII.



SMALL CLOUDS

India | 2025 | 24 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction (Debut)

Director

Shubham Sumit

Producer

Film and Television Institute of India

Cinematographer

Ranadhir Biswas

Editor

Mazin Ali

Sound Designer

Piyush Jambhulkar

On a derelict ship stranded by the sea, inseparable siblings, Sibbu (M-12) and Jiji (F-12), drift between their make-believe games until a group of older boys bully them into questioning their relationship with each other, and fracturing their world in an instant as both learn the bitter truth about what it means to grow up and grow apart



Shubham Sumit is a filmmaker from Bihar, an alumnus of IIT Bombay, and a graduate of FTII, Pune. He began by writing and directing plays and short stories.



ULIDIDDU SAMPIGE MAATRA (ONLY THE FLOWER REMAINED)

India | 2025 | 29:10 Mins | Kannada | Short Fiction (Debut)

Director

Abhishek kh

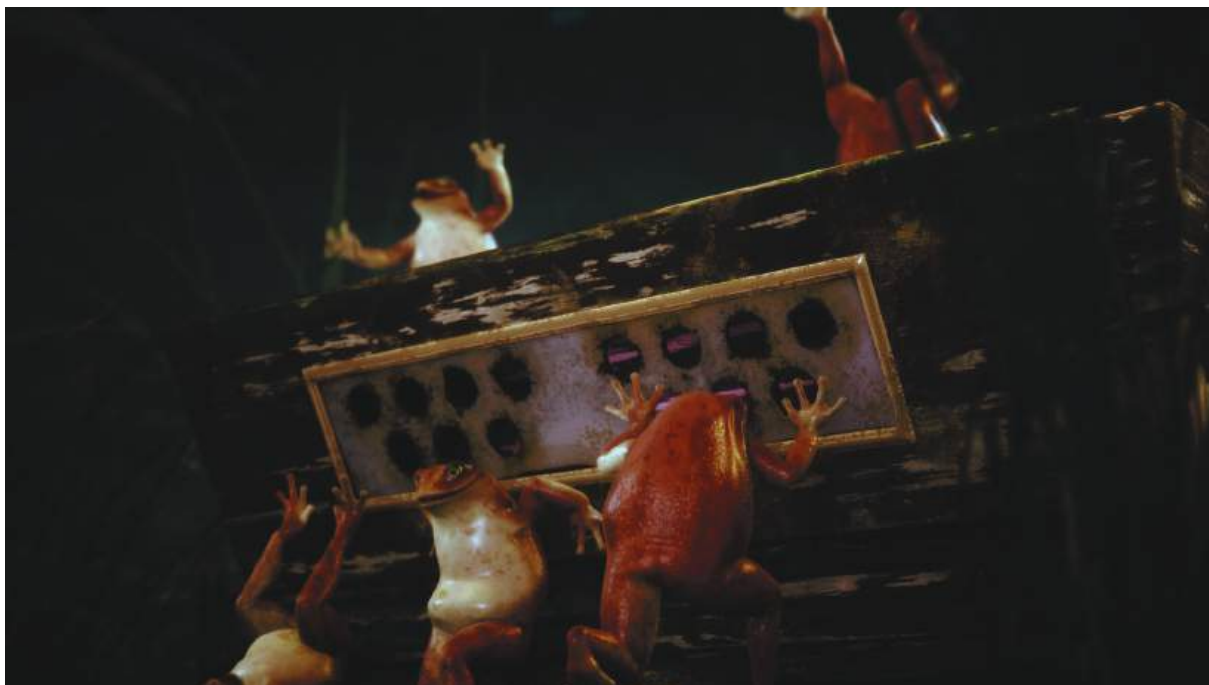
Producers

Abhishek kh, Sagar Suneel Puranik

Manjanna lives alone with the memory of a woman he loved and lost, a grief he has never been able to set down. When a photograph of her is damaged, he commissions an artist to paint her portrait from memory, describing her face from the inside out. The film follows his tender, searching journey and the unexpected encounter that awaits him once the portrait is complete.



With over a decade of experience as a film poster designer, I have been closely involved with the visual storytelling side of cinema, crafting compelling promotional artwork for numerous films. My work over the past 10 years has allowed me to collaborate with filmmakers and production teams, developing a deep understanding of cinematic aesthetics, mood, and narrative presentation.



CROAK SHOW

India | 2024 | 04:12 Mins | Hindi | Animation

Director

Suresh Eriyat

Producer

Nilima Eriyat

Editors

Nijin Nazeem, Jose Jacob,
Arkish Aftab

Sound Designers

Resul Pookutty, Vijay Kumar

A peaceful evening concert deep in the forest takes an unexpected turn when a passionate fan's burst of excitement sets off a chain of increasingly chaotic events.



Suresh Eriyat is one of India's foremost animation filmmakers, trained at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. He founded Studio Eeksaurus in 2009, whose output spans over 500 films. His accolades include three National Film Awards and the 2015 Anney Cristal, the first ever won by an Indian film. His film Desi Oon is archived at MoMA, New York.



DESI OON

India | 2025 | 07:03 Mins | Hindi | Animation

Director

Suresh Eriyat

Producer

Nilima Eriyat

Cinematographers

Bilu Tom Matthew, Arun Kumar,
Aman Gupta

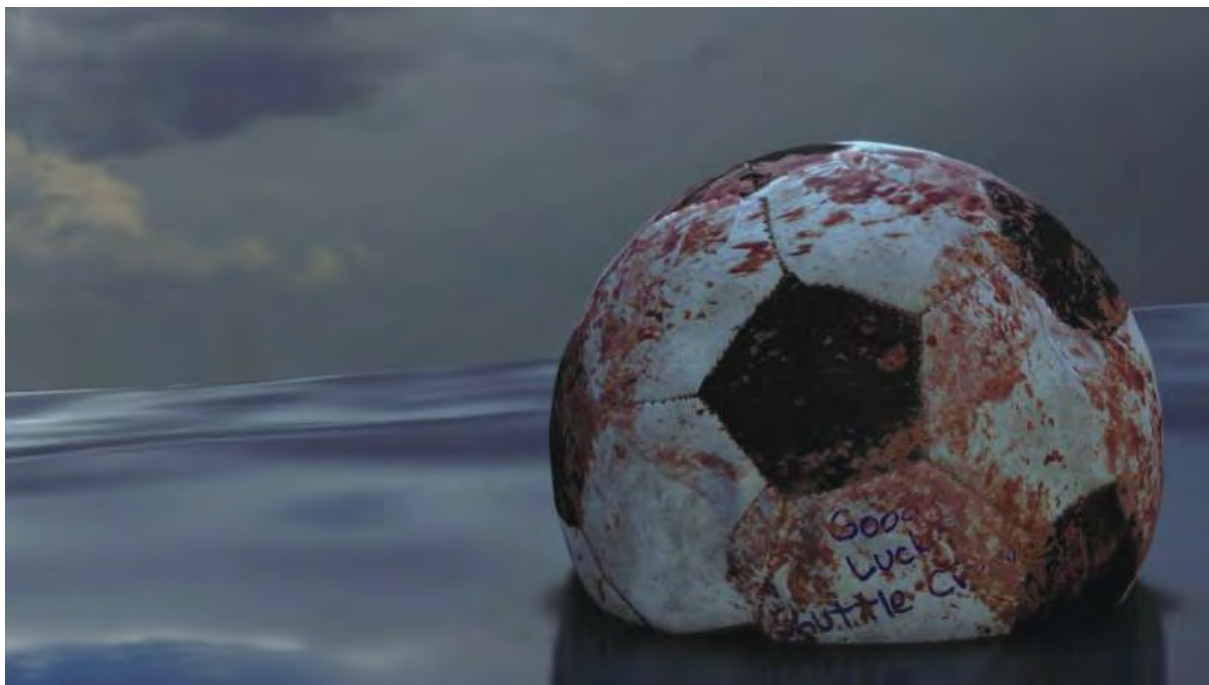
Sound Designers

Resul Pookutty, Vijay Kumar

Through the story of shepherd Balu Mama and his flock, the film uncovers the deep cultural, spiritual, and ecological roots of Deccani wool in India's pastoral heartland. It places a living heritage against the backdrop of a rapidly indifferent modern economy, and poses an urgent question: can ancient shepherding wisdom find relevance before it disappears entirely?



Suresh Eriyat is one of India's foremost animation filmmakers, trained at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. He founded Studio Eeksaurus in 2009, whose output spans over 500 films. His accolades include three National Film Awards and the 2015 Annecy Cristal, the first ever won by an Indian film.



GOOD LUCK SHUTTLE CREW

India | 2025 | 10:20 Mins | English | Animation

Director

Dhruv Chaudhary

Producer

Dhruv Chaudhary

Cinematographer

Dhruv Chaudhary

Editor

Dhruv Chaudhary

Sound Designer

Dhruv Chaudhary

Young Shane Kimbrough stumbles upon a soccer ball with an unexpected link to astronaut Ellison Onizuka and the Challenger disaster. The discovery ignites a dream that carries him all the way to space. The film is an uplifting celebration of inherited courage, the weight of remembrance, and how one small object can become the compass of an entire life.



Dhruv Chaudhary is a filmmaker, animator, director, and visual storyteller whose practice spans live action, animation, 3D, and visual effects.



INDIAN WOMAN ATLAS

India | 2024 | 09:39 Mins | English | Animation

Director

Sunil Dhankher

Producer

National Film Development Corporation Ltd

The film traces the remarkable real-life rise of Kunjarani Devi, a young woman from Manipur who goes on to become one of the greatest weightlifters her country has ever produced. It is a portrait of iron-willed perseverance, regional identity, and the relentless pursuit of excellence against the odds.



Sunil Dhankher is a director with over two decades of experience across advertising and television, specialising in ad films, corporate films, CSR content, and broadcast design. His work on promos for Discovery and Aaj Tak earned him Gold and Silver honours at Promax Awards India (2004–05) and a Silver at Promax Awards Asia (2004).



POEM OF THE ENSLAVED

India | 2025 | 13:08 Mins | English, Malayalam | Animation

Director

Rahul Riji Nair

Producers

Rahul Riji Nair, Lijo Joseph,
Ananthakrishnan TU, Visakh PK

Sound Designer

Vishnu PC

In 17th-century Cochin, an African slave named Kappiri and a local woman named Kunjala find each other across the brutal divides of race, caste, and bondage. Rendered through magical realism, their fragile bond is tested by a ruthless landlord. The story then leaps across centuries, asking whether love and destiny can outlast even history itself.



Rahul Riji Nair is a National and State Award-winning filmmaker, screenwriter, and producer working primarily in Malayalam cinema. His debut feature *Ottamuri Velicham* won four Kerala State Film Awards in 2017, and *Kalla Nottam* earned him the 67th National Film Award for Best Malayalam Film.



RANI GAIDINLIU

India | 2024 | 17:59 Mins | English | Animation

Directors

Deepak SV, Dimple Dugar

Producer

National Film Development Corporation Ltd

A young tribal woman undergoes a profound transformation, trading ordinary life for armed resistance against British colonial rule. Fuelled by spiritual conviction and guerrilla courage, she emerges as a fierce leader determined to restore her people's dignity and freedom. The film is a visceral, myth-tinged account of indigenous defiance and the personal cost of becoming a symbol.



STORY OF A FOREST

India | 2025 | 15:07 Mins | Manipuri | Animation

Directors

Trishul Yumnam, Yaso Sharma

Producer

National Film Development Corporation Ltd

In the mist-draped hills of Imphal Valley, a restless young boy named Ayangba breaks away from his group during a climb to a sacred hilltop, football in tow. What follows is an unexpected encounter deep in the living forest that quietly reshapes his understanding of nature and belonging.



Trishul Yumnam and Yaso Sharma are the students of Satyajith Ray Film and Television Institute.



THE GARLAND OF GHUGHUTI (GHUGHUTI KI MAALI)

India | 2025 | 09:59 Mins | Other | Animation

Director

Ketan Pal

Producer

Ketan Pal

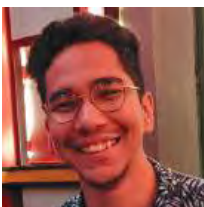
Editor

Rohan Bharadia

Sound Designer

Shashank Singh

When young Bhaanu discovers the Uttarakhand tradition of Ghughutiyaar during Makar Sankranti, a world of sweetness, ritual, and folk memory opens up before him. The film weaves together family warmth, playful custom, and a centuries-old royal folktale to paint a tender portrait of how festival traditions carry an entire community's soul.



Ketan Pal is an independent animation filmmaker and illustrator based in Bangalore, a graduate of MIT Institute of Design, Pune.



NATIONAL COMPETITION

U-KIANG NANGBAH - THE GLORIOUS

India | 2024 | 17:56 Mins | Hindi | Animation

Director

Devendra Kumar Chopra

Producers

National Film Development Corporation Ltd, Vibhore Video Vision (P). Ltd.

The film recounts the story of U-kiang Nangbah, a revolutionary from the Jaintia community in Meghalaya who refuses to submit to British colonial authority. Driven by an unyielding sense of justice, he becomes a rallying force for his people's right to self-determination and dignity.



A veteran documentary and short film director with a background in journalism and mass communication from IGNOU, this filmmaker has spent over fifteen years producing content across comedy, social drama, religious, and children's genres.



ARMSTRONG FROM ANGAALAMMAN TEMPLE STREET

India | 2025 | 13:40 Mins | Tamil | Animation (Debut)

Director

Bunz

Producer

Bunz

In a village slowly being swallowed by rising waters, survival means getting past a towering forbidden wall but entry comes at a price few can afford. As the community fractures between faith and resistance, a young man named Armstrong finds himself at the centre of an impossible choice. The film is a tense, allegorical tale of desperation, belief, and the cost of belonging.



BEACON OF LIGHT

India | 2025 | 06:53 Mins | No Dialouge | Animation (Debut)

Directors

Jayshree Verma,
Sneh Jaiswal, Sanket Deepak
Nikam, Mayuresh Ravindra
More, Anindita Naskar,
Roshni Tigga

Producer

SRFTI, Kolkata

For years, Vidhu has kept perfect, solitary watch over a lighthouse, guiding vessels through the dark while carefully avoiding the daylight world beyond. His sealed routine holds until a violent storm forces an irreversible crack in his carefully maintained existence. What floods in is not just light, but the unsettling pull of a world he has spent a lifetime pointing others toward, never once approaching himself.

Directed by students from the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), this collaborative project unites the diverse sensibilities of Jayshree (Kolkata), Sneh (Indore), Sanket (Maharashtra), Mayuresh (Maharashtra), Anindita (Kolkata) and Roshni (Kolkata). While proficient in 2D animation, the team finds their primary voice in the world of stop-motion.



BLU'S

India | 2025 | 09:50 Mins | No Dialogue | Animation (Debut)

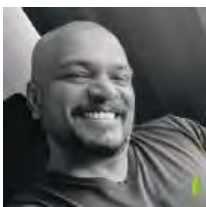
Director

Rajesh PK

Producers

Rajesh PK, Shibin KV, Jaser PV,
Jeeth Parambendavida

A young girl named BLU grows up immersed in the natural world, free and at ease within her environment. When industrialisation begins consuming the landscapes she loves, she refuses to stand aside. The film follows her determined stand to protect wildlife, rivers, meadows, and forests before they are lost for good.



Rajesh PK is an artist and animator from India with over two decades of experience in the animation industry. He began his career in 2003 and has since contributed as an animator to globally renowned studios, including DreamWorks Animation (India/US) and DNEG London.



SHOR

India | 2025 | 04:23 Mins | Hindi | Animation (Debut)

Directors

Abhishek Pathak, Anubhab Biswas, Clio Sasi, Nitesh Mishra, Sambriddhi Pal

Sound Designer

Blossom Hazarika

Six-year-old Nila retreats into drawing to escape the relentless arguments filling her home. Her small, self-made sanctuary offers fragile comfort until an unexpected intruder 'a bee' shatters her sense of refuge. Caught between the turmoil outside her door and the fear within her room, Nila faces a quiet but telling moment of choice. The film is a delicate portrait of childhood, confinement, and courage.

Abhishek Pathak, Anubhab Biswas, Clio Sasi, Nitesh Mishra and Sambriddhi Pal are a group of animation students from SRFTI, working across visual storytelling, animation, and narrative exploration through collaborative filmmaking."



THANIYE (ALONE)

India | 2024 | 5:31Mins | Malayalam | Animation (Debut)

Director

Anavadya M S

Producer

Anavadya M S

Editor

Anavadya M S

When a conflict between humans and wildlife leaves a young elephant calf alone and vulnerable, the film bears quiet witness to what follows. Weaving together the pressures of shrinking habitat, poaching, and the loss of freedom of movement, it builds a gentle but urgent case for reconsidering how humanity shares the Earth with other living beings.

Awards

Best Fiction, Earth Stories Film Festival (2025) | Best Screenplay (Animation), Kerala Short Film Festival (2025)



A passionate storyteller. Works as an Animation Film Designer and Writer in Bengaluru. Deeply drawn to contemporary dance, shows a keen interest in exploring visual art for expressing emotions and feelings through moving images.



YEH HAI BANARAS

India | 2025 | 5 Mins | No Dialogue | Animation (Debut)

Director

Sameer Shanishchar

Producer

Maya academy of advanced creativity

In the ancient ghats of Banaras, a young boy dives into the Ganges each day, retrieving the coins that pilgrims toss in with their wishes. Saving every coin toward a dream of his own, he begins to understand the weight of hope each one carries. The film is a tender meditation on desire, empathy, and what it truly means to receive.

Awards

Gold Award for Animation Short Film, 24fps International Animation Awards (2025)



Sameer Shanishchar is an Animation Mentor and Director with over 20 years of industry and academic experience.



BUILDING INDIA FROM ITS ROOTS

India | 2025 | 03:14 Mins | English | Short Fiction (Viksit Bharat/150 Years of Vande Mataram/ Bharat@2026)

Director

Vivek Jaiswal

Producer

HCL Foundation

Cinematographer

Shashank Virag

Editor

Hira Das

Sound Designer

Abhijit Sarkar

Building India From Its Roots' is a cinematic journey through the unseen face of rural India, tracing ten years of the HCLTech Grant - an initiative empowering communities through education, healthcare, and environmental innovation. From a health worker in Nagaland ensuring safe births, to fishermen in Kerala restoring ocean life, to children in Kashmir learning peace, the film celebrates a quiet revolution of grassroots transformation through real people, authentic locations, and a soundscape woven with regional music.



Vivek Jaiswal is a filmmaker with over two decades of experience and founder of Daydreamer Film Company. His short fiction film 'Chai' won the Platinum Film of the Year at the India Film Project's 50-Hour Film Competition.



LINE OF COURAGE

India | 2025 | 04:59 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction (Viksit Bharat/150 Years of Vande Mataram/ Bharat@2026)

Director

Rushi Nirav Mehta

Producer

Drona Nirav Mehta

Cinematographer

Ankit Darji

Editor

Ankit Darji

In the quiet lanes of Vadodara, a young woman enters a small NGO with nothing but a trembling voice and a past she refuses to speak about. What begins as a simple request for help slowly unravels into a journey of strength, sisterhood, and a truth powerful enough to shake even the strongest hearts. 'Line of Courage' is a story that begins in silence and ends with a transformation that cannot be anticipated.

Awards

Best Film, Vadodara Short Film Competition (2025)



Rushi N. Mehta is an actor and director from Gujarat who holds a Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts (Theatre) from MS University of Baroda, graduating with a Gold Medal for overall performance.



SKILLING OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS INITIATIVE UNDER THE SCHEME FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS

India | 2025 | 05:08 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction (Viksit Bharat/150 Years of Vande Mataram/ Bharat@2026)

Director

Tahin Sharma Ojha

Producer

Kaivalya Education
Foundation

Sonamai is one of many young women who found a new direction through the Skilling of Adolescent Girls initiative under the Ministry of Women and Child Development's SAG Scheme, implemented in partnership with GIZ and Kaivalya Education Foundation across PM Utkarsh districts. From a region where opportunities for girls remain limited, her journey illustrates how the programme builds digital literacy, financial awareness, and vocational skills – expanding confidence and opening pathways toward greater independence.



THE LAST SHELTER

आखिरी पनाह

THE LAST SHELTER

India | 2025 | 11:27 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction (Viksit Bharat/150 Years of Vande Mataram/ Bharat@2026)

Director

Bharat Arora, Rajesh Bhatia

Producer

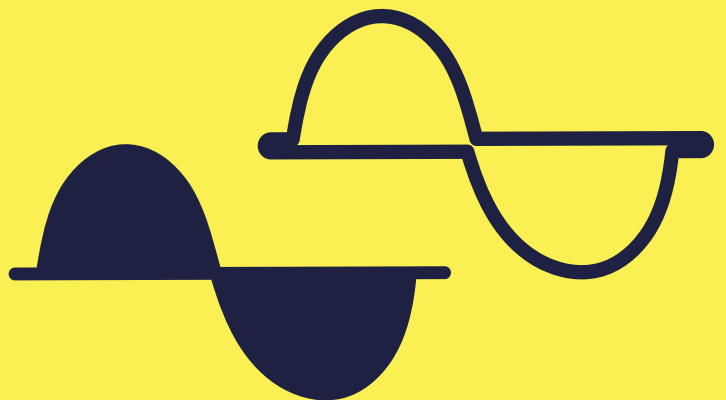
Rajesh Bhatia, Bharat Arora

After the death of her father, Neema travels to a roadside winter shelter in Ladakh intending to close it forever - a relic of a life she cannot carry. But when a storm traps strangers at her door, including an ailing mother struggling to breathe, Neema is compelled to keep it open for one night. In caring for them with tea, blankets, warmth, and oxygen, she discovers what her father's words truly meant: that patriotism is not spoken - it is practised.



Rajesh Bhatia is an FTII-trained director, producer, and writer whose work spans television, documentaries, and socially driven cinema. His notable projects include 'Voice of Cinema' and 'Unparalleled'.

INTERNATIONAL PRISM





GOING SOLO

India | 2026 | 70 Mins | English, Hindi | Documentary

Director

Ameya Vivek Gore

Producers

Ameya Vivek Gore,
Vikas Kumar

Cinematographer

Ishani Roy

Editor

Makarand Dambhare

Sound Designer

Prince Bhatra

Going Solo' follows Gareema Shankar (44) and Renu Singhi (58), two women from privileged but conservative Indian families who discovered endurance cycling after years constrained by traditional expectations. From 10-kilometre rides they have grown into long-distance cyclists covering 100 kilometres at a stretch. The film follows their most challenging test yet: the London-Edinburgh-London (LEL) ride, 1,500 kilometres in six days, as they battle sun, wind, terrain, and their own inner doubts.



Ameya Gore is a filmmaker, writer, and editor based in Pune. He holds a Bachelor's in Mass Media from KC College, University of Mumbai, and studied Film Direction and Screenplay Writing at FTII Pune.



THE DREAM OF A FRESHWATER EEL

South Korea | 2026 | 68 Mins | Korean | Documentary

Director

Hyun Jun Cho

Producer

Hyun Jun Cho

Cinematographer

Park jungwoo

Editor

Cho Hyunjun

Aspiring actors and film students are swept into a fake production in Seoul and Busan, promised stardom and a Netflix debut. 'The Dream of a Freshwater Eel' follows their painful awakening as they gradually uncover the truth behind a director's elaborate deception. The film is an emotionally resonant story about ambition, betrayal, and the vulnerability of those who invest everything in the dream of being seen.

Hyun Jun Cho is a Korean-Canadian filmmaker known for socially engaged, human-centred cinema. His breakout work, 'Bira' (2015), earned critical acclaim for its unprecedented access to daily life in North Korea and was featured at the DMZ International Documentary Film Festival.



THE SEASON OF WILD PLUMS

Georgia, Israel | 2025 | 29 Mins | Georgian | Documentary

Director

Tamar Maare

Producers

The New Fund for Cinema and Television, The Israeli Film Council

Cinematographer

Tamar Maare

Editor

Victoria Uchitel

In a small Georgian village, summer is the season of wild plums, Tkemali, and the annual gathering of grandchildren from the city and abroad.

Grandmother Ketevan, blessed with only daughters and granddaughters, spends the season perfecting her Tkemali sauce while her well-meaning city-raised grandchildren try to help. With Russia's war against Ukraine casting a shadow over Georgia, the film follows elderly women living alone as they cook, bottle, and hold onto traditions that feel more precious and more vulnerable than ever.

Tamar Maare holds an MFA in filmmaking from Tel Aviv University and a BA in Liberal Arts from Bard College Berlin. She works as editor of Israeli daily Haaretz's English website.



A PERFECT CIRCLE

Israel | 2024 | 24 Mins | Hebrew | Short Fiction

Director

Chen Shmueli

Producer

Stav Belity

Cinematographer

Shai Goldman

Editor

Noa Dulberg Alter

Sound Designer

Dolev Raphaely

Alma sets out to build a perfect family on the ruins of her own broken one, inviting her new partner, two decades her senior, to a Shabbat dinner at her mother's home. But her father has other intentions and arrives determined to destroy what she has built. The film is a tense domestic portrait of old wounds, new beginnings, and the way family history refuses to stay in the past.

Chen Shmueli is a filmmaker who served as Artistic Director of Holon Cinematheque (2024) and as Festival Director of the Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival (2020 to 2022).



HELMET

India | 2026 | 26 Mins | Hindi, Marathi | Short Fiction

Director

Shashank Charudatt Acharya

Producer

Kinnare, Somani

Cinematographer

Sambhavi Naik

Editor

Vibhav Patel

Sound Designer

Akshat Nayak

A twelve-year-old boy from a lower-middle-class family aspires to become a quasi-member of a local biker gang. When a situation forces him to choose between his family's needs and his quest for acceptance within the group, he is caught between loyalty to those he loves and the pull of a world that promises belonging of a different kind.



Shashank Charudatt Acharya is an emerging Indian independent filmmaker and director who gained recognition for his short fiction film titled Helmet.



NEELU

India | 2026 | 20 Mins | Rajasthani | Short Fiction

Director

Ankur Verma

Producers

Ankur Verma, Sumitra Devi,
Sindhu

Cinematographer

Sindhu

Editor

Gourav Chakraborty

Sound Designer

Mohit k

'Neelu' is a story of innocent friendship between Neelu, a wandering boy new to a village, and Anni, a boy from a more privileged household. The two spend their days playing and exploring a carefree world of their own, untouched by the social lines drawn around them. But whispers spread, jealousy stirs, and unseen tensions begin to gather, as forces far beyond their understanding threaten to pull them apart.



Ankur Verma is an actor, writer, and director with a background in performance and filmmaking. Born in Rajasthan, he holds a B.Tech in Computer Science from IP University, Delhi, and a PG Diploma in Acting from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He later trained at FTII Pune.



THE LAST LETTER

India | 2026 | 10 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Dr. Sudhir Aazad

Producer

Dr. Sudhir Aazad

Cinematographer

Rajeev Kushwaha

Editor

Dr. Sudhir Aazad

Sound Designer

Vickey Prasad

The Last Letter' is a tribute to the postman, a figure of quiet dedication who remains committed to his duty even while separated from his family during festive seasons. Set against the backdrop of the Indian Postal Department, the film follows the sensitivity and intimate human relationships that define a postman's working life. It is a gentle portrait of devotion, belonging, and the irreplaceable human connections that modern technology has not yet rendered obsolete.



Dr. Sudhir Aazad is an Indian author, academic, playwright, and independent filmmaker who wrote and directed the short fiction film *The Last Letter*.



THE LAST RIDE

India | 2026 | 23 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Vijesh Rajan

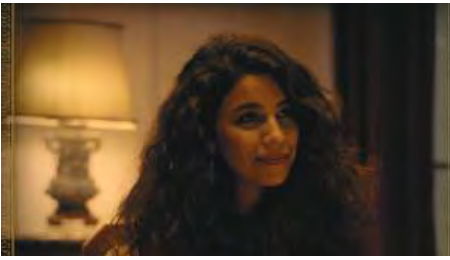
Producers

Anurag Kashyap, Ranjan Singh,
Vishesh Agrawal, Rajan E.P.K.

In Mumbai, a migrant ride-share driver's desperate act of theft takes an unexpected and terrifying turn when his final passenger of the night turns out to be a demonic witch. The film blends the everyday precarity of migrant labour with genre elements, delivering a viscerally unsettling story about vulnerability, the nocturnal city, and the dangers that can lurk in ordinary transactions.



Vijesh Rajan is a writer, director, VFX supervisor, and motion designer from Mumbai, known for his work on 'Gangs of Wasseypur' and Netflix's 'Sacred Games'. **Yashoda Parthasarthy** is a writer, director, animator, and motion designer from Mumbai with a background in biotechnology and 3D animation filmmaking. She is known for directing acclaimed title sequences for 'Ponniyin Selvan 1' and Amazon's 'Farzi'.



WE'LL MEET AT SUNRISE

Egypt | 2026 | 14 Mins | Arabic | Short Fiction

Director

Mohamed Abousoliman

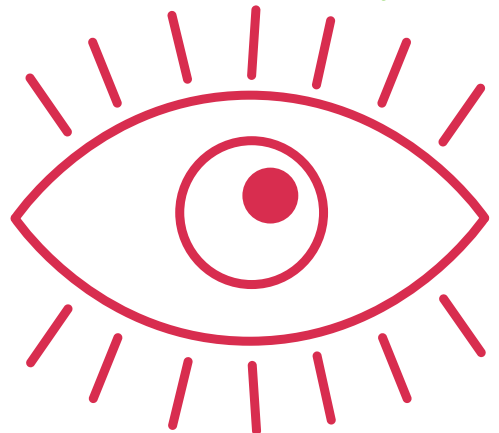
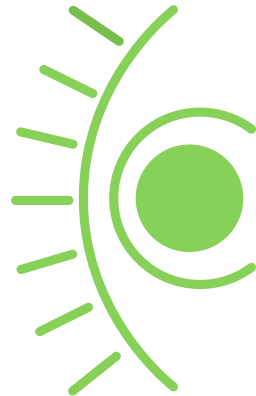
Producer

Mohamed Abousoliman

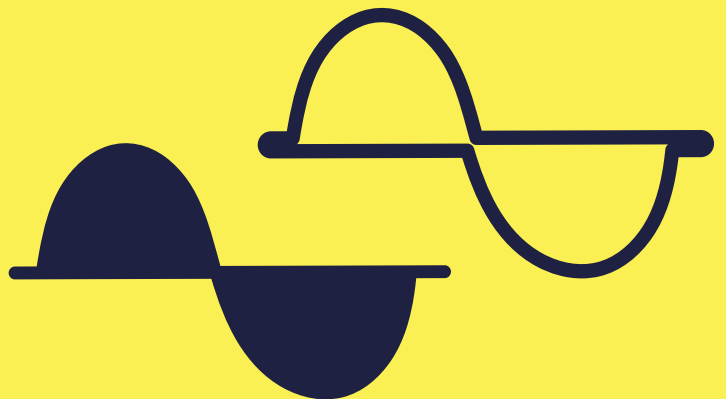
In present-day Cairo, a renowned chef welcomes a powerful tycoon for an intimate dinner where seduction hides vengeance, turning the meal into a quiet, lethal act of divine justice in this modern retelling of the myth of Isis and Osiris.



Mohamed Abousoliman is an Egyptian-Canadian director, writer, and producer whose short films and documentaries have screened at festivals worldwide. He has also produced television series in Egypt.



NATIONAL PRISM





ANAADHI ANANTAHA

India | 2025 | 12:16 Mins | Sanskrit | Documentary

Director

Niyantha Shekar

Producer

Bharatbala Ganapathy

Cinematographer

Amal Sudhakaran

Editors

Pratik Basankar, Sayan
Debnath, Christy Sebastian

On the quiet banks of the Tunga River in Karnataka, Sanskrit is not preserved, it is simply lived. In Mattur, morning conversations unfold in the ancient language, the Guru-Shishya tradition remains unbroken, and nearby pathshalas carry forward the Vedas with devotion. The unique Sankethi dialect bridges past and present. 'Anādhī Anantah' is a portrait of a community that chose continuity over loss - a way of life never interrupted, without beginning, without end.



Niyantha Shekar is an award-winning filmmaker whose clients include Netflix India, Discovery, Red Bull, VICE, Google, Disney, and Spotify. His films have won a Webby and a Kyoorius Blue Elephant, and have been featured by Tribeca, National Geographic, MUBI, and The Atlantic Selects. He has developed unscripted series with Netflix and Prime Video, and his independent films include 'Raqs-e-Inquilab' and 'Baraf'.



GOSHTA PAVSACHI (STORY OF RAIN)

India | 2025 | 12:05 Mins | Marathi | Documentary

Director

Anagha Acharekar

Producer

Bharatbala Ganapathy

Cinematographer

Anirudh Ganapathy

Editors

Apurva Bardapurkar, Sayan
Debnath

In Konkan, when the first monsoon clouds touch the mountains, life finds its rhythms again. Farmers rise with the sun, their hands shaping the land grain by grain, while women hum to the rain as they plant the seeds of tomorrow. The film is a meditative portrait of a community whose relationship with the land is devotional - where farming is a prayer, abundance comes without excess, and each monsoon cycle renews the covenant between people and the earth.



Anagha Acharekar is an Indian director, writer, and creative professional known for documentaries, television projects, and long-form storytelling exploring culture, heritage, and human experience. Her work blends research-driven narratives with visual storytelling, focusing on real people, social contexts, and the preservation of cultural memory.



MEIN HOON PABUCH

India | 2025 | 80:10 Mins | Hindi | Documentary

Director

Dev Kanya Thakur

Producer

Pushp Raj Thakur

The film traces an extraordinary living knowledge tradition rooted in the Sharada Manuscripts of Kashmir. It follows Brahmins from Himachal Pradesh who journeyed to Kashmir to learn the Sharada script and, on returning, evolved their own localised form of wisdom – the Pavuchi Manuscript tradition. In a small village in Sirmaur district, this complete Vedic knowledge system known as Sancha Vidya continues to thrive, with households safeguarding manuscripts dating back to the 15th century.



Dr. Dev Kanya Thakur is a filmmaker from Shimla whose documentary 'Behind the Bars' won a National Human Rights Commission award, and whose film 'No Woman's Land' also received NHRC recognition. She served on the Preview Committee for IFFI Goa 2024 and 2025, is a member of the Himachal Pradesh Sahitya Academy, and is founder and Creative Director of the International Film Festival of Shimla.



MERI SAKHI

India | 2024 | 04:15 Mins | Hindi | Documentary

Director

Mihir Upadhyay

Producers

Mihir Upadhyay, Pallak Smeh-ta, Shraddha Upadhyay

Cinematographer

Navneet Singh

Narrated by Emmy-nominated actor Shefali Shah, 'Meri Sakhi' is a visually rich tribute to the timeless bond between women and the saree – a garment that transcends fabric to become a symbol of identity, empowerment, and tradition. Through evocative poetry and personal narratives woven together by director Mihir Upadhyay, the film celebrates the saree as a silent witness to the most significant moments in a woman's life, embodying culture, heritage, and the depth of the feminine journey.

Festivals

Winner – Best Short Documentary, Paris Arts & Movie Awards (2024)



Mihir Upadhyay is an accomplished, multi-award-winning filmmaker whose work spans fashion films, television commercials, and documentaries. Known for emotionally charged and visually striking storytelling, he brings exceptional craft to each project – consistently creating powerful, evocative narratives that resonate across diverse audiences and platforms.



THE DEVINE SCULPTOR – ARUN YOGIRAJ

India | 2025 | 29:41 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

Chandrakumar PH

Producer

EMRC, University of Mysore

The film documents the story of sculptor Arun Yogiraj of Mysuru, whose creation of the Ram Lalla idol, consecrated in the newly built Bala Ramar Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024. Through his journey of struggle, artistic heritage, and relentless dedication, the documentary showcases the brilliance of Yogiraj's craftsmanship and the quiet simplicity of a life shaped entirely by devotion to his art.



THE SHAPE AND THE SOUND

India | 2024 | 20 Mins | English, Hindi, Marathi | Documentary

Director

Madhu Apsara

Producer

Film and Television Institute of India

Cinematographer

Digannt Surti

Editor

Shreyas Bhopi

Sound Designer

Kshitij Yadav

The film follows young sculptor Kunal Joshi, initially commissioned by Rudra Veena maestro Ustad Mohi Bahauddin Dagar to create decorative elements for the instrument. What begins as a focused assignment becomes a transformative journey as Joshi finds himself crafting the Rudra Veena itself and gradually joining the larger spiritual pursuit that the Ustad, his disciples, and collaborator Shibu are engaged in.



Madhu Apsara is an FTII alumnus (1988 batch) with a PG Diploma in Sound Recording and Engineering. He designed sound for acclaimed films including *Andhadhun* (2018, Screen Award for Best Sound Design), *Badlapur*, *Johnny Gaddar* (Filmfare Award for Best Sound Design), *Evening Shadows*, and *Throne of Death* (Camera d'Or nominee, Cannes 1999). His documentary work includes *Chasing Shadows*, *Red Ant Dreams*, and *Jashn-e-Azadi*. He is also a student of DhruPAD Gurukul, Panvel.



THE WAY SHE WEAVES

India | 2024 | 26:18 Mins | Nepali, English, Lepcha | Documentary

Director

Torsha Banerjee

Producer

National Film Development Corporation Ltd

Cinematographer

Torsha Banerjee

Editor

Rohit Gharami

Sound Designer

Anindit Roy

The film follows women of an indigenous Lepcha family across generations as they sustain their inherited tradition of weaving – simultaneously art, identity, and expression. With quiet intimacy, the documentary observes the weaving and dyeing process while exploring how women within the community carry forward a sophisticated ecological knowledge system. All materials are locally sourced and eco-friendly, reflecting a way of making inseparable from the surrounding landscape.



Torsha Banerjee is an Indian filmmaker, producer, cinematographer, and educator working between documentary and fiction cinema. Her debut fiction film was broadcast on SBS Australia, while her first feature documentary received the Golden Lotus at the National Film Awards of India.



MUGA

India | 2025 | 22:24 Mins | Assamese | Short Fiction

Director

Samujjal Kashyap

Producers

Trinav Entertainment, Jayanta Kakati

In Sualkuchi, Assam's celebrated weaving town, young artisan Shakuntala tends her loom and her ailing father with equal devotion, even as poverty tightens around her and the slow encroachment of mechanisation threatens to erase the Muga silk tradition she has built her life around. Beside her is Jatin, whose appetite for something faster and larger pulls in a different direction. The film is a story of heritage, love under pressure, and the cost of staying true to what one believes in.



Samujjal Kashyap has over 20 years of experience and serves as Creative Head of Kadambari Creations. They won a National Award for Tezpur 1962. Notable projects include The Sacred Vaults of Charaideo, the series Andolito Akax, the NFDC documentary Camellia



NYINGMA...THROUGH HER EYES

India | 2025 | 20:20 Mins | Tibetan | Short Fiction

Director

Liton Paul

Producer

Susmita Paul, Liton Paul

High in a Himalayan village, young Nyingma holds tight to her father's promise: once winter passes, she will go to school. But the season ahead looks harder than most. Poor harvests, an unforgiving weather forecast, and little certainty that the family can get through it. The film follows Nyingma on the edge of a lesson that no classroom teaches. The moment a child first understands that hope and reality do not always meet.

Awards

Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award, 31st Kolkata International Film Festival (2025)



Liton Paul is a Trans Himalaya-based documentary filmmaker, photographer, and wildlife cinema expert. His directorial debut *Inside Out* (2016) won multiple international awards, and his cinematography for *Radha-Biroho* won at KSFF.



THE HOUSEKEEPER

India | 2025 | 23 Mins | English, Hindi, Marathi | Short Fiction

Director

Surya Balakrishnan

Producer

Kedhhar Barrve

Cinematographer

Manoj Karmakar

Sound Designer

Teja Agsk

Deepa Didi is set in the shared but never simultaneous world of a Mumbai apartment. Abhi moves through it in a rush; Deepa, his housekeeper, arrives after he has gone and finds in its emptiness something he never notices. The film is a quiet study in parallel loneliness. Two lives that occupy the same space without ever quite meeting, and the understated ways each leaves a mark on the other.

Festivals

Jury Award, Miami Short Film Festival (2025) | Special Jury Mention, Nepal International Film Festival (2026)



Surya Balakrishnan is a Graphic Design and NYFA graduate who co-founded Footloose Films and directed over 100 commercials. She recently directed two episodes of the series *Khauf*. Her documentary *Deepa Didi* won at the Miami Short Film Festival.



MID FEST FILMS





I LOVE YOU, I LEAVE YOU

Switzerland | 2025 | 94 Mins | Swiss-German, Portugese, English Documentary

Director

Moris Freiburghaus

Producers

Leon Schwitter, Fabiana Seitz

Cinematographer

Ramon Königshausen

Editor

Michael Karrer

Sound Designer

Kathleen Moser

After more than fifteen years, Swiss musician Dino Brandão travels to Angola to give a concert in his father's home country. Confronted with his family's past and questions about his own identity, Dino is triggered into a manic episode. Back in Switzerland, his friends and family do everything they can to prevent him from returning to a psychiatric hospital. What happens when your best friend becomes mentally ill? How do you deal with it? How does the affected person experience this exceptional state?

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

Zürich Film Festival, 2025

Awards

Winner, Documentary Competition, Zürich Film Festival, 2025 | Winner, Audience Award, Zürich Film Festival, 2025



Born in 1989 in Switzerland, **Moris Freiburghaus** works in Zurich as a freelance director and editor. His festival-selected shorts include 'Paradox' and 'Summerloch'. His feature documentary debut 'I Love You, I Leave You' won two Zurich Film Festival awards.



HYENA

USA, China | 2025 | 21 Mins | Mandarin | Short Fiction | Thriller, Drama

Director

Altay Ulan Yang

Producers

Altay Ulan Yang, Edyta Yutong Deng,
X99 Films

Cinematographers

Hu Yinghai, Fang Jiacheng

Editors

Zhang Zhongchen, Altay Ulan
Yang

Sound Designers

Dong Borui, Zhen Cheng

Isolated within the walls of a crumbling castle, a group of students brace for an examination that feels life-defining. When a violent storm cuts off any hope of escape, the pressure that has been quietly building reaches a breaking point and the sanctuary they trusted begins to feel like a trap.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Locarno Film Festival, 2025 | Tirana
International Film Festival, 2025

Awards

Pardino d'Oro for the Best
International Short Film, Locarno
Film Festival (2025)



Writer-director Altay Ulan Yang (b.1997) is from the Chahar Mongolian tribe of Inner Mongolia. Raised in a monastery and trained as a lama until 18, he later moved to Los Angeles. His debut short *Monsters Never Know* (2020) won Best International Short at Fribourg.



EENY, MEENY, MINY, MOE!

Czech Republic, Slovakia | 2026 | 12:56 Mins | Animation | Fantastic

Director

Andrea Szelesová

Producer

Kristina Husováz

Editor

Iva KRALJEVIĆ

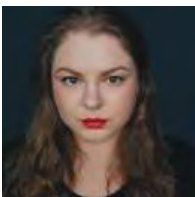
Yios, a lonely mythical boy whose head shines like the sun, struggles to make friends in the clouds. After an unfortunate prank sends him down to Earth, an unexpected encounter challenges the way he sees himself.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

76th Berlin International film Festival, 2026



Slovak director and animator **Andrea Szelesová** studied at VOŠ Václava Hollara and FAMU, creating 'Malady', 'Mon Ami', 'Anidoc 19 20 18', and 'Afternoon Tea'. Her award-winning graduation film 'Sisters' premiered at Annecy 2021 and screened at over 60 international festivals.

MOSAIC



The world is made up of countless stories, each carrying its own texture, rhythm, and truth. The films in Mosaic come together as a vibrant collection of voices that traverse geographies, histories, and lived experiences. From intimate personal journeys to broader reflections on society and culture, these documentaries reveal the beauty and complexity of our interconnected world. Diverse in form and perspective, they invite audiences to discover unexpected resonances between seemingly disparate realities, creating a cinematic mosaic that is as thought-provoking as it is deeply human.





A FROWN GONE MAD

Lebanon | 2024 | 71 Mins | Arabic | Documentary

Director

Omar Mismar

Producer

Omar Mismar

Cinematographer

Omar Mismar

Editor

Omar Mismar

Sound Designer

Raed Younan

In a Lebanese beauty salon, Bouba injects her clients with Botox and fillers. Close-ups of bleeding and reshaped faces are both gruesome and compelling as customers vent their anxieties while numbing their expressions. Outside, war encroaches.

Festivals

IDFA | Sheffield DocFest

Awards

Outstanding Artistic Contribution, IDFA | Special Mention, Inconvenient Films Festival



Omar Mismar is a Beirut-based visual artist whose practice addresses conflict and desire as they shape everyday life. He works across photography, sculpture, mosaics, performance, installation, and film.



AGATHA'S ALMANAC

Canada | 2025 | 86 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

Amalie Atkins

Producer

Amalie Atkins

Cinematographer

Rhayne Vermette

Editor

Amalie Atkins

Sound Designer

Charlene Moore

Ninety-year-old Agatha lives alone on her ancestral farm, preserving heirloom seeds and maintaining a handmade universe. Without a car, cell phone, running water, or functioning landline, her daily rituals form a vivid counterpoint to modern life. Shot entirely on 16mm film over six years, 'Agatha's Almanac' follows a woman whose practical and esoteric routines root her firmly in a world the present has largely abandoned.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

CPH:DOX, 2025 | Hot Docs Festival, 2025

Awards

Best Canadian Feature Documentary, Hot Docs Festival (2025) | Best Feature Documentary, Devour! The Food Film Fest (2025)



Amalie Atkins is a multidisciplinary artist based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, known for cinematic fables that blend 16mm film, performance, textiles, installation, and analogue photography. Her films have screened internationally at the Berlin International Art Film Festival, Bucharest Film Awards, Festival International Signes de Nuit (Paris), and Dresdner Schmalfilmstage, among others. 'Agatha's Almanac' is her first feature film.



ANDRÉ IS AN IDIOT

USA | 2025 | 88 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

Tony Benna

Producers

André Ricciardi, Tory Tunnell, Joshua Altman, Stelio Kitrilakis, Ben Cotner

Cinematographer

Ethan Indorf

Editor

Parker Laramie

Sound Designer

Dan Deacon

André, a brilliant idiot, is dying because he didn't get a colonoscopy. His sobering diagnosis, complete irreverence, and insatiable curiosity, send him on an unexpected journey learning how to die happily and ridiculously without losing his sense of humor.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Sundance Film Festival, 2025

Awards

Sundance Film Festival (2025): Winner of the Audience Award (U.S. Documentary) | Winner of the Jonathan Oppenheim Editing Award (U.S. Documentary) for editor Parker Laramie



Tony Benna is a director with a background spanning film, advertising, post-production, and broadcast. With strong roots in stop-motion animation techniques, his award-winning work focuses on pushing the boundaries of visual storytelling across multiple mediums and platforms.



APOLO

Brazil | 2025 | 83 Mins | Portuguese | Documentary

Directors

Tainá Müller & Ísis Broken

Producers

Bianca Villar, Eduardo Rezende, Fernando Fraiha, Henrique Sauer, Karen Castanho Tainá Müller and Thiago Mascarenhas

Cinematographer

Nico Mascarenhas

Editor

Tatiana Lohmann

Sound Designer

Ricardo Reis, ABC

After naturally conceiving a child during the COVID-19 pandemic, Isis and Lourenzo travel across Brazil in search of respectful, specialised prenatal care. Simultaneously, they navigate daily struggles, inside and outside their home, to secure the rights of their family in a country that records the world's highest rate of trans murders. The film follows their search for dignity and care within a hostile social landscape.

Premiere Status

Asia Premiere

Festivals

SXSW | Frameline

Awards

Best Documentary and Best Soundtrack, Rio de Janeiro Film Festival | Best Film by Audience and Honourable Mention, Festival Mix Brazil



Taina Muller is an actress, filmmaker, and journalist who graduated from PUC-RS. She began as an international model before working as a reporter for MTV and later dedicating herself to acting and filmmaking. **Ísis Broken** is an actress and singer from Sergipe, great-granddaughter of a Lampiao supporter and granddaughter of a repentista, whose career spans music, acting, and activism.



GREETINGS FROM RHODES (POZDRAVY Z RODOSU)

Slovakia, Czech Republic | 2026 | 25:57 Mins | English |
Documentary

Director

Viera Cakanyova

Producer

Matej Sotnik

Cinematographer

Viera Cakanyova

Editors

Viera Cakanyova, Alexandra
Gojdicova

Sound Designer

Marek Buranovsky

In 'Greetings from Rhodes', tourists lie carelessly on a beach while the island burns around them. Director Viera Cakanyova uses irony and kitsch to explore humanity's capacity for denial. Realistic comments from holidaymakers and glossy travel advertisements combine into a tragicomic scene that questions how far people will go to sustain the illusion of leisure while crisis unfolds in plain sight.

Premiere Status

Asia Premiere

Festivals

55th International Film Festival
Rotterdam, 2025 | 20th Prague
Shorts International Film Festival,
2025

Sales

Disco Sailing



Viera Cakanyova graduated in Documentary Film at FAMU, Prague. Her debut 'Alda' (2009) won Best First/Second Film at Visions du Reel. Her post-human trilogy, including 'FREM' (2019) and 'Notes from Eremocene' (2023), premiered at Berlinale and screened at over 50 festivals. 'White on White' (2020) won the main prize at Ji.hlava. Her retrospective was presented by Tenk in 2023 and Taiwan IDFF in 2024.



OSCURANA

Honduras, Portugal, Hungary, Belgium | 2025 |
20:30 Mins | Spanish | Documentary

Director

Violeta Mora

Producer

Violeta Mora

Cinematographer

Violeta Mora

Editor

Violeta Mora

Sound Designers

Violeta Mora, Tiago
Raposo

As sunset transforms a field into a gloomy terrain, the sound of footsteps emerges in the darkness. Unseen figures immerse themselves in the landscape, walking without pause toward an unknown destination. The film evokes the journeys of Central American migrants who cross dangerous territories on foot, using darkness and sound to render the emotional and physical weight of their passage.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

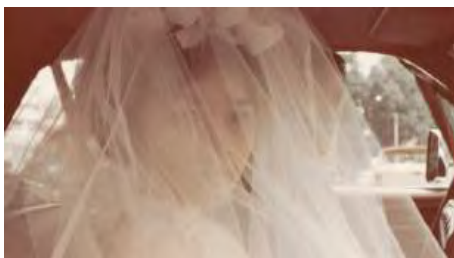
Sheffield DocFest | Pravo Ljudski
Film Festival | Dok Leipzig

Awards

Special Mention, Sheffield DocFest



Violeta Mora, a Central American artist who weaves images, sounds, and threads, her work has screened at festivals including Visions du Reel, Camden IFF, FICUNAM, Sheffield DocFest, Dok Leipzig, and FicValdivia, and has been presented at museums and cultural spaces across Latin America, the United States, Europe, and Southeast Asia.



SAIGON STORY: TWO SHOOTINGS IN THE FOREST KINGDOM

Canada | 2026 | 91 Mins | English, French, Vietnamese | Documentary

Director

Kim Nguyen

Producers

Nabil Mehchi, Robert Vroom, Ariel Nasr

Cinematographers

Glauco Bermudez, Van Royko

Editor

Andrea Henriquez

Sound Designer

Paul Lucien Col

A woman in Washington state conceals the scars of a brutal family secret. A veteran journalist in Saigon helps two siblings solve a painful wartime mystery. And a photograph becomes so iconic that it takes on a life of its own. Spanning decades and continents, 'Saigon Story: Two Shootings in the Forest Kingdom' traces the intimate connection between two families and Eddie Adams' 'Saigon Execution, an image that changed the world's perception of the Vietnam War.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Hot Docs International Documentary Festival, 2026 | DOXA Documentary Film Festival, 2026 | Sheffield (2026)

Awards

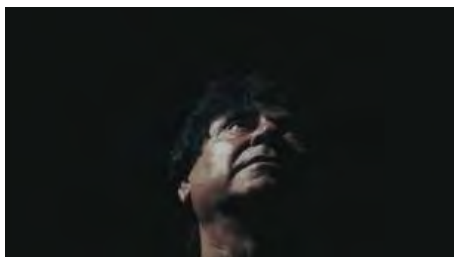
Best Canadian Feature Documentary | Colin Low Award for Best Canadian Director

Sales

National Film Board of Canada (NFB)



Kim Nguyen is a writer and Academy Award-nominated director best known for 'War Witch' (Rebelle, 2012), nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars and screened at Berlinale, 2012. His other features include 'Truffle' (Best Feature, Karlovy Vary's Fresh Film Festival), 'Two Lovers and a Bear' (Director's Fortnight, Cannes), and 'The Hummingbird Project' (TIFF). 'Saigon Story' is his second feature documentary.



SOLAR SHADOWS (À SOMBRA DO SOL)

Brazil | 2026 | 75 Mins | Portuguese, Guarani, Tukano, English | Documentary

Directors

Hugo Haddad and Isadora Canela

Producer

Victoria Mazzia

Cinematographers

Alberto Alvares, Carlos Ramon

Editors

Alan Coratto, Hugo Haddad

Sound Designer

Votú

Solar Shadows' follows an Indigenous-descendant physicist, a centenarian Guarani shaman, and a Dessana Amazonian leader on an immersion through ancient astronomy. Connecting communities across north and south Brazil, the film explores Indigenous celestial knowledge and the people who hold it, revealing contrasts and connections between First Nations' sciences and Western cosmologies under conditions of ongoing threat.

Premiere Status

Asia Premiere

Festivals

Hot Docs



Hugo Haddad studied Fine Arts at the State University of Minas Gerais and has directed projects for television and brands. In 2025, he completed filming the Netflix original miniseries 'Brasil 70' and directed the cinematic component of the play 'Das Ding'. He participated in Werner Herzog's 'Filming a Strange Planet' programme in the Canary Islands (2021). **Isadora Canela** is a Brazilian visual artist, filmmaker, and researcher from Minas Gerais, Brumadinho. She co-founded Collective Webs in 2023 and is pursuing a PhD in Social Justice at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. In 2024, she received a scholarship at the Harvard Kennedy School.



THE MUSE (LA MUSE)

Canada | 2025 | 17:59 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

Wanda Nolan

Producers

Liz Cowie, Rohan Fernando

Cinematographer

Stephanie Weber Biron

Editor

Andrew MacCormack

Sound Designer

Catherine Van Der Donckt

When seventy-four-year-old Robert Tilley agrees to join photographer Ting Ting Chen on a road trip across Newfoundland, neither anticipates the cross-generational friendship that takes shape between them, nor the way Robert's role in Ting Ting's art challenges conventional ideas of the artist-muse relationship. The film explores aging, memory, and identity through the lens of an unexpected creative connection.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

AIFF, Halifax, Canada | Lunenburg Doc Fest, Canada

Awards

Best Atlantic Short Documentary | Best Canadian Short, Audience Award



Wanda Nolan is a writer, story consultant, and filmmaker based in St. John's, Newfoundland. Her award-winning short films have screened nationally and internationally, including 'The Mystery of the Secret Room', produced by the NFB and nominated for two Golden Sheaf Awards and a Golden Egg Award. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia.



THE ROCK SPEAKS

South Africa - DR Congo | 2024 | 06:48 Mins | English, Swahili | Documentary | Experimental Short

Directors

Francois Knoetze, Amy Louise Wilson

Producers

Jorge Caballero, Anna Giralt Gris and Gustavo Leon

Cinematographer

Francois Knoetze

Editor

Francois Knoetze

Sound Designer

Caydon van Eck

A rock of cobalt channels a chorus of voices as it travels from a mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo through global circuits of extraction. Using generative AI to visualise territories usually understood as resource peripheries, the film traces the passage of a rare earth mineral through sites of conflict and labour. Archival and AI-generated imagery echoes the relentless flow of data, materials, and human effort that drives the global technological order.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

International Film Festival Rotterdam | Encounters Documentary Film Festival, South Africa

Awards

Best African Short Doc, Encounters Film Festival, South Africa | Best Short Film, Job Film Days, Italy



The Lo-Def Film Factory is a South African artist duo comprising **Francois Knoetze and Amy Louise Wilson**. Their practice combines archival research, video art, collage, installation, and participatory filmmaking with underrepresented communities.



TRAINS (POCIĄGI)

Poland, Lithuania, Netherlands | 2024 | 80 Mins | Documentary

Director

Maciej J. Drygas

Producers

Vita Želakevičiute/Poland
Rasa Miškinyte/Lithuania,

Editor

Rafał Listopad

Sound Designer

Saulius Urbanavicius

'Trains' is a found-footage documentary built entirely from archive footage and sound design, creating a collective portrait of people in 20th-century Europe. A train compartment becomes a space where individuals are briefly removed from their everyday lives, accompanied by hope or its absence. The film traces recurring historical cycles as railway carriages fill with soldiers, evacuees, prisoners, and ordinary passengers across decades of conflict.

Premiere Status

Asia Premiere

Festivals

38th IDFA, Netherlands (2024) | Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Estonia

Awards

Best Film, International IDFA Competition (2024) | Main Prize for Best Use of Archive Footage, UnArchive Found Footage Fest, Rome

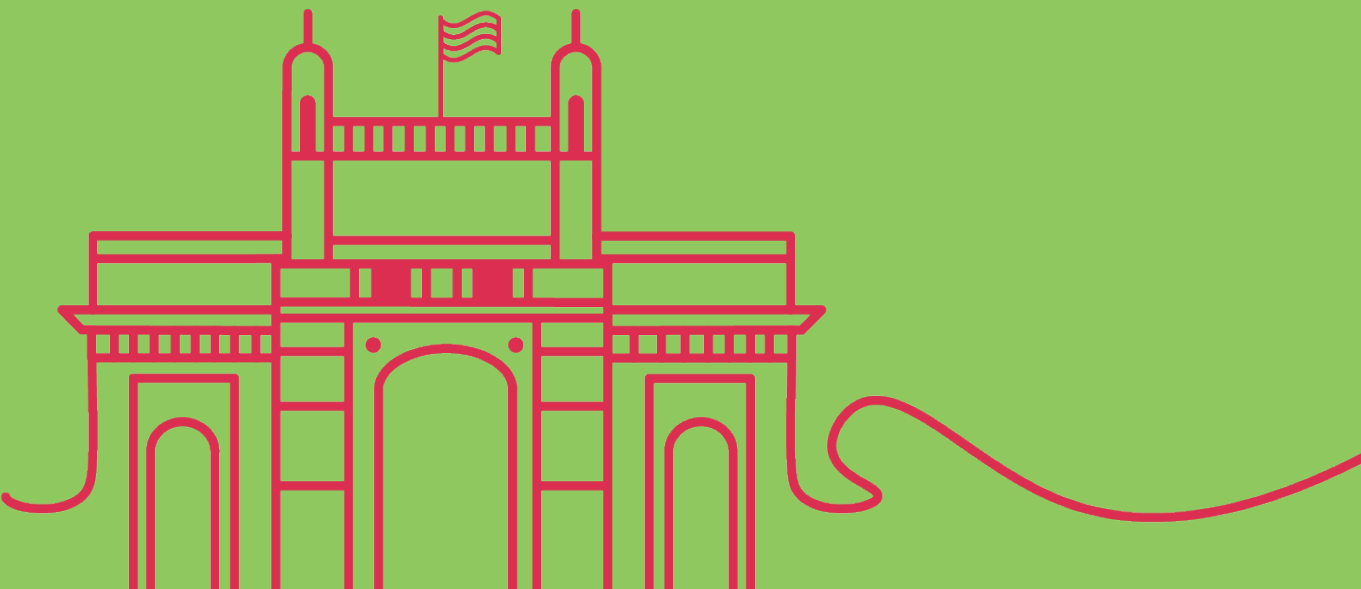


Maciej J. Drygas is a film and radio director, screenwriter, producer, and professor at the PWSFTviT in Lodz. His awards include the Best Film Award at IDFA for 'Trains' (2024), the European Film Academy Award for Best Documentary for 'Hear My Cry' (1991), and the Grand Prix at Monte Carlo ITV Festival for 'State of Weightlessness' (1995). He founded the Polish Archive of Home Movie at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Warsaw.



BEST OF FEST

Best of Fest brings together acclaimed short films by emerging talents and celebrated auteurs whose work has resonated across the global film festival circuit. Exclusively curated for the 19th MIFF, this prestigious selection of fiction, animation, and documentary shorts offers audiences a rare cinematic experience. The segment captures urgency, humor, intimacy, and sensory richness reflecting on the creative trends of short-form cinema.





A THOUSAND WAVES AWAY

Germany | 2025 | 10 Mins | English | Short Fiction

Director

Helena Wittmann

Producer

Helena Wittmann

Cinematographer

Helena Wittmann

Editor

Helena Wittmann

Sound Designer

Nika Son

In a vast and trembling garden, something has gone wrong beneath the surface. The people who wander its paths have each, separately, lost their way- searching the undergrowth for signs, listening for whispered directions, following fallen petals downstream in the hope that something, somewhere, will lead them back to themselves.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Int. Film Festival Rotterdam | Film & Media Arts Festival Berwick

Awards

EMAF Award, European Media Art Festival (2025) | New Cinema Award, Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival (2025)



Hamburg-based artist and filmmaker **Helena Wittmann** creates work shown at international film festivals and exhibitions. Her features include DRIFT (2017) and HUMAN FLOWERS OF FLESH (2022).



A VERY STRAIGHT NECK

Japan/China | 2025 | 10:35 Mins | Japanese | Short Fiction | Drama

Director

Neo Sora

Producer

Lawrence Xiao

Cinematographer

Kaori Oda

Editor

Manaka Nagai

Sound Designer

Izumi Matsuno

When a woman wakes to agonising pain in her neck, her daily life begins to unravel in ways she cannot explain. What follows is an unsettling drift through fractured memory, vivid and disturbing dreams, and the absurd difficulty of simply existing in a body that no longer cooperates.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Locarno International Film Festival | Hong Kong Summer International Film Festival

Awards

Best Auteur Short, Locarno Film Festival

Sales

Parallax Films



Based between Tokyo and New York, **Neo Sora** is a filmmaker, artist, and translator. His short The Chicken premiered at Locarno 2020 and screened at NYFF. Named one of Filmmaker Magazine's 25 New Faces of Independent Film, he was a 2022 Sundance Lab fellow. His debut feature Happypend premiered at Venice 2024.



A WOMAN'S PLACE IS EVERYWHERE

United States | 2026 | 22 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

Fanny Texier

Producer

Alison Joy

Cinematographer

Fanny Texier

Editor

Fanny Texier

Sound Designer

Anastasiia Frolova

Twin sisters Emilija and Ona have spent their entire lives in a rent-controlled loft in Williamsburg, Brooklyn – the same space their Lithuanian mother, an artist and dancer, made her home in the 1970s. After her sudden death, the two women face eviction from a neighbourhood they no longer recognise. *A Woman's Place is Everywhere* traces grief, memory, sisterhood, and new beginnings against an ever-shifting New York City.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Berlin International Film Festival | Hong Kong International Film Festival

Awards

Silver Bear Jury Prize, Berlin International Film Festival



Paris-born, Brooklyn-based documentary filmmaker **Fanny Texier** specialises in vérité storytelling with a focus on underrepresented voices. Her short *A Woman's Place is Everywhere* won the Silver Bear Jury Prize at Berlinale 2026.



AFTER THE CAT

Taiwan | 2025 | 24 Mins | Chinese | Short Fiction | Drama

Director

CHU Hoi Ying

Producer

CHU Hoi Ying

Cinematographer

Sou Wai-Kin

Editors

Tsai Yann-Shan,
Lin Sheng-Wen

Sound Designer

Chou Cheng

When their cat falls gravely ill, an elderly mother and her daughter set out together on one final journey to say goodbye. What begins as a simple errand becomes something more tender – a shared ritual of leave-taking, loss, and the quiet bonds that outlast even the smallest lives.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Golden Harvest Awards | Pingyao Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon International Film Festival

Awards

Best Director, Golden Harvest Awards | Best Short Film, Pingyao Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon International Film Festival

Sales

Parallax Films



Hong Kong director **CHU Hoi Ying** explores fragmented memory, female subjectivity, and family dynamics. Her short *Red Dates, Job's Tears, and Peanuts* won Best Director at Fresh Wave and Best Live Action Short at the Golden Horse Awards.



ALI

Bangladesh/Philippines | 2025 | 15 Mins | Bengali | Short Fiction | Absurd Drama

Director

Adnan Al Rajeev

Producers

Tanveer Hossain, Kristine De Leon, Katalog

Cinematographer

Kamrul Hasan Khosru

Editor

Taiful Chowdhury Shadhin

Sound Designer

Bien Sparks

In a coastal town governed by a prohibition on women singing, a teenage boy enters a local competition with a voice he has concealed – and a secret that grows harder to keep. The film turns on the tension between the desire to be heard and the danger of being truly known.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Cannes Film Festival, 2025 | Melbourne International Film Festival, 2025

Awards

Cannes 2025 – Special Mention



Bangladeshi director and producer **Adnan Al Rajeev** is the founder of Runout Films. Known for fiction works including *Bikal Belar Pakhi* and *YouTumor*, he served as Executive Producer on *RADIKALS* – the first Bangladesh-Philippines co-production, which premiered at Cannes Critics' Week 2024.



BOA

Canada, France | 2025 | 24:55 Mins | French | Short Fiction | Psychosexual Thriller

Director

Alexandre Dostie

Producers

Hany Ouichou (Coop Vidéo Montréal), Lucas Tothe, Jessica Arfuso (Punchline Cinéma)

Cinematographer

Vincent Biron

Editor

Jules Saulnier

Sound Designer

Harold Hennequin, Ilyaa Ghafouri

A young monk's encounter with the dedicated bodybuilders of the Boa Gym upends his ascetic existence. As he is drawn into their world of physical discipline and raw strength, something long dormant stirs within him – a reckoning with his own body that sets him on a path of radical self-discovery.

Premiere Status

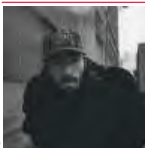
India Premiere

Festivals

Bucharest Short Film Festival, 2025 | Locarno International Film Festival, 2025

Awards

Best Director, Bucharest Short Film Festival (2025) | Best Soundtrack, Bucharest Short Film Festival (2025)



A self-taught filmmaker born in rural Quebec, **Alexandre Dostie** has built an international profile through his short films *Mutants* (2016) and *I'll End Up in Jail* (2019), both of which earned critical and jury recognition at Sundance, Clermont-Ferrand, and TIFF. He is currently developing his debut feature film.



FRUIT (BUAH)

Singapore | 2025 | 14:35 Mins | Malay | Short Fiction
| Drama, Supernatural, Mystery

Director

Jen Nee Lim

Producer

Ke Ning Lee

Cinematographer

Rachel Liew

Editor

Armilia Aripin

Sound Designer

Grace Wong

In a country where abortion is outlawed, a married woman named Siti discovers she is pregnant and knows, with certainty, that she does not want to become a mother. As every avenue she tries closes off, a chance encounter with a free-spirited female bus driver - one who may not be entirely human - opens up a stranger, more mythic path to freedom.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Busan International Film Festival, 2025 | Singapore International Film Festival, 2025

Awards

International Special Jury Prize, Clermont-Ferrand International Film Festival (2026) | Queer Jury Special Mention, Clermont-Ferrand International Film Festival (2026)



Jen spent 15 years as a producer and writer across acquisition, marketing, and distribution before turning to directing. Her shorts include Elsa (Special Mention, SeaShorts) and The Note (Inside Out Toronto).



BLUE HEART (COEUR BLEU)

Haiti, France | 2025 | 15:19 Mins | Haitian Creole
| Short Fiction | Drama

Director

Samuel Suffren

Producer

Samuel Suffren

Cinematographer

Samuel Suffren

Editor

Samuel Suffren

Sound Designer

Roodie Rigaud Marcelin

Marianne and Pétion wait in Haiti for a phone call from their son, who has built a life in the United States. As the silence stretches on, old tensions between them resurface, and the dream they pinned to his departure begins to look increasingly fragile. The film is a portrait of waiting and of all that quietly collapses inside it.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Directors' Fortnight - Cannes, 2025
| Vienna Shorts, 2025

Awards

Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival: Grand Prix (International Competition)

Sales

Square Eyes



Haitian director and producer **Samuel Suffren** is crafting a trilogy of shorts inspired by his father's life. The first, *Agwe* (2022), screened at Locarno and won Best Diaspora Film at FESPACO. *Dreams Like Paper Boats* (2024) premiered at Sundance, and *Blue Heart* (2025) is presented at Cannes' Quinzaine des cinéastes.



COSMONAUTS (KOZMONAVTI)

Slovenia/Italy | 2026 | 14:10 Mins | English, Slovenian, Italian, German, French | Animation | Comedy, Fantasy

Director

Leo ČERNIC

Producers

Tina Smrekar, Jožko Rutar,
David Cej

Editor

Iva KRALJEVIĆ

Aboard an intergalactic cruise ship catering to the lovesick and the lonely, passengers orbit one another in search of something – a kiss, a glance, a momentary warmth. Set against the cold immensity of space, the film is an absurdist comedy about the timeless, ridiculous urgency of wanting to be touched.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Berlinale - Internationale
Filmfestspiele Berlin |
Internationale Kurzfilmwoche
Regensburg

Sales

Miyu Distribution



Slovenian-Italian filmmaker **Leo Černic (Čino)** is trained in Film and Television Directing at AGRFT Ljubljana and Animation at CSC Turin.



CUL-DE-SAC !

Belgium, France | 2026 | 17:44 Mins | French | Short Fiction
| Dystopian Drama

Director

Clyde Gates & Gabriel Sanson

Producers

Scum - Clyde Gates, Gabriel
Sanson / L'Heure d'été - Lucas
Le Postec, Thibault de Gantès
/ Naoko - Beata Saboova,
Vincent Metzinger

Cinematographer

Samuel Esselinckx

Editor

Thomas Becka

Unseen and unacknowledged, a host of angels labour ceaselessly to animate the machines that keep a city running. When they finally attempt to flee their invisible servitude, a citywide blackout follows. A surreal fable about invisible labour, dependency, and what happens when the unseen refuse to remain so.

Premiere Status

Asia Premiere

Festivals

International Film Festival
Rotterdam, 2026 | Glasgow Short
Film Festival, 2026

Awards

Jury Special Mention, Glasgow
Short Film Festival (2026) |
Audience Award Winner, Glasgow
Short Film Festival (2026)

Clyde and Gabriel met at INSAS in Brussels in 2012 and co-founded Scum Pictures. Their short films have screened at Venice, Rotterdam, and the European Film Awards. They are currently developing their debut feature *The Meteorologist*, supported by three screenwriting grants from the CNC, Île-de-France Region, and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.





KLEPTOMANIA (DI SAN XIAN)

China | 2026 | 24:17 Mins | Chinese | Short Fiction
| Drama, Student, Children

Director

Jingkai Qu

Producer

Jianing Wen

Cinematographer

Ruosen Wang

Editor

Jingkai Qu

Sound Designers

Zhuoming Ye, Jiawei Zhang

On a bitter winter night in Harbin, a boy's prized card collection is taken from him. Consumed by rage, he turns to small acts of rebellion - but each transgression only seems to invite more violence in return. Slowly, he begins to sense that he is caught inside a cycle as relentless and unforgiving as the season itself.

Premiere Status

Asia Premiere

Festivals

Berlinale International Film Festival | Golden Harvest Awards

Awards

Berlinale CUPRA Filmmaker Award, Berlin International Film Festival (2026)

Sales

Parallax Films



Born in 2000 in Inner Mongolia, **Jingkai Qu** studied at the Beijing Film Academy. His travels inspire his filmmaking, and his short *Kleptomania* was selected for the 76th Berlinale Shorts competition.



FAUX BIJOUX

France, Lebanon | 2026 | 22 Mins | English, Arabic, Finnish
| Short Fiction | Drama, Family

Director

Jessy Moussallem

Producer

Jean-Baptiste Savary

Cinematographer

Robbie Ryan

Editors

Esther Lowe, Nicolas Desmairson

Mireille arrives with promises of stardom, pulling Johnny towards an audition whose true nature only she fully understands. A tightly wound short about ambition, performance, and the terms of a deal that may never have been what it seemed.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Sundance Film Festival, 2026 | Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, 2026



Born and raised in Beirut, **Jessy Moussallem** studied at the Lebanese Academy of Arts, graduating top of her class with a short film that won first prize at the European Film Festival in Beirut.



ORDINARY LIFE (FUTSU NO SEIKATSU)

France, Japan | 2025 | 9:43 Mins | Animation | Video-Art

Director

Yoriko Mizushiri

Producers

Emmanuel-Alain Raynal, Pierre Baussaron, and Nobuaki Doi

Life proceeds in its ordinary rhythms – the same routines, the same gestures, the same passage of unremarkable hours. And yet, looked at closely, no two moments are ever quite identical. The film meditates quietly on the strangeness hidden inside repetition, and on the gap between what stays the same and what is always, imperceptibly, changing.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Animator – Międzynarodowy Festiwal Filmów Animowanych | Berlinale – Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin

Awards

Berlinale – Silver Bear for Best Short Film (2025), Chicago International Film Festival – Silver Hugo Award for Animated Short Film (2025)

Sales

Miyu Distribution



Born in 1984, this animator uses body parts and everyday objects as motifs for tactile, sensory expression. Her short *Anxious Body* (2021) premiered in Directors' Fortnight at Cannes' 74th edition and has since earned 15 international awards.



LIFE WITH AN IDIOT (LA VIE AVEC UN IDIOT)

France | 2025 | 18 Mins | French | Animation | Dramatical Comedy

Director

Theodore Ushev

Producers

Emmanuel-Alain Raynal and Pierre Baussaron

Accused by the state of insufficient productivity, Vladimir is sentenced to cohabit with a man pulled from an asylum – a fellow called 'Vova', whose entire vocabulary consists of a single syllable. What begins as punishment slowly becomes something more ambiguous, as the two men negotiate a life together in absurd, wordless proximity.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Festival International du Film d'Animation d'Annecy | Animasyros International Animation Festival + Agora

Sales

Miyu Distribution



Canadian animator of Bulgarian origin, **Theodore Ushev** was born in Kyustendil in 1968 and trained at the National Academy of Arts in Sofia. He established himself as a poster artist before relocating to Montreal in 1999, where he has since built an acclaimed career as an animation filmmaker and visual artist.



MERGING BODIES

Italy | 2024 | 23:22 Mins | Art Short Film

Director

ADRIAN PACI

Producers

LAMINAZIONE SOTTILE, KUBE STUDIOS

Cinematographer

ERFORT KUKE

Editor

ERFORT KUKE

Sound Designer

ADMIR SHKURTAJ

Merging Bodies brings artist Adrian Paci's quiet, attentive eye inside an aluminium transformation plant, where human labour and industrial machinery operate in strange, symbiotic proximity. Through precisely composed images and hypnotic observation, the film finds a kind of grace in repetitive work – dissolving the boundary between worker and machine, body and material, gesture and process.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

International Film Festival Rotterdam | Dokufest

Awards

Best Shorts, International Film Festival Rotterdam | Best Balkan Shorts, Dokufest, Prizren



Born in 1969 in Shkodër, Albania, **Adrian Paci** studied painting at the Academy of Art of Tirana and has been based in Milan since 1997. A major figure in contemporary art, his work has been exhibited at MoMA PS1, the Venice Biennale, Jeu de Paume, and Kunsthaus Zurich, and he received first prize at the Quadriennale di Roma (2008).



PRAYING MANTIS (TÁNGLÁNG)

Taiwan, Hong-Kong | 2025 | 18:09 Mins | Taiwanese | Animation | Fantastic

Director

Joe Hsieh

Producer

Yonfan

A praying mantis mutant uses seduction as a survival strategy, preying on men in a desperate bid to protect her child. When a mission goes wrong, the film peels back the layers of her story – revealing a past steeped in secrets, sacrifice, and the dark cost of doing whatever it takes to survive.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

La Biennale di Venezia – Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica | TIFF – Toronto International Film Festival



Taiwanese independent animation director **Joe Hsieh** explores dark human nature through horror and suspense. His *Night Bus* (2020) won Best Animated Short at Sundance and Grand Prix at Animafest Zagreb.



SHOT REVERSE SHOT (PLAN CONTRAPLAN)

Romania | 2026 | 22:31 Mins | English, Romanian | Documentary

Directors

Radu Jude, Adrian Cioflâncă

Producer

Alex Teodorescu

Editor

Cătălin Cristuțiu

Sound Designer

Sebastian Zsemlye

In the mid-1980s, American journalist Edward Serotta travels through Communist Romania, photographing a country under the grip of authoritarian rule. Unbeknown to him, the secret police are photographing him in turn. Decades later, both sets of images are placed side by side – a deadpan, double-exposed portrait of surveillance, absurdity, and the strange comedy buried inside history.

Premiere Status

Asia Premiere

Festivals

Berlinale | UnArchive Found Footage Fest



Radu Jude is a pioneering Romanian director whose work includes the Golden Bear-winning *Bad Luck Banging or Loony Porn*.



Adrian Cioflâncă (Piatra Neamț) is a Romanian historian specialising in the Holocaust and political violence.



THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL

China | 2026 | 18:19 Mins | Chinese | Short Fiction | Drama, Family

Director

Dean WEI

Producer

Jiaqi Liu

Cinematographers

Yi Heng, Adrien Chung

Editor

Dean Wei

Sound Designer

Yun Xie-Loussignan

A portrait of an ordinary “one child” Chinese family in their habitat an ordinary apartment. Over the course 5 nights their lives range from unremarkable to downright banal as the characters slip in and out of their respective roles.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

IFFR International Film Festival, Rotterdam, 2026 | International Dance Festival, Cinedans, 2026

Awards

Tiger Short Award & KNF Award, IFFR International Film Festival Rotterdam, 2026 | Cinedans Audience Award, Cinedans International Dance Festival, 2026

Sales

Dogme23 Film And Technology Co., LTD.



Born in Cologne Germany, **Dean** is a graduate of Beijing Film Academy's Cinematography Department. Dean's previous film “Ke Wai Huo Dong” was nominated for best short film at Berlinale Shorts 2025.



LLOYD WONG, UNFINISHED

Canada | 2025 | 28:50 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

Lesley Loksi Chan

Producers

Lesley Loksi Chan, Luo Li, Phaniel Antwi

Cinematographer

Lloyd Wong

Editor

Lesley Loksi Chan

Sound Designer

Lesley Loksi Chan

In the early 1990s, Lloyd Wong began documenting his life with AIDS in Toronto – but he died before the work was finished. For thirty years the footage sat lost, until it was rediscovered at The ArQuives. Filmmaker Lesley Loksi Chan now weaves Wong's unfinished images together with her own research, exploring what it means to inherit a queer archive and to know someone only through what they left behind.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Berlinale, 2025 | Golden Harvest Film Festival, 2025

Awards

Berlinale – Golden Bear 2025, Teddy Award 2025



Canadian artist and filmmaker **Lesley Loksi Chan** works at the intersection of invisibility, memory, and material culture. Through experimental and process-based filmmaking, she creates moving images as acts of collective remembrance.



WITHOUT KELLY (UTAN KELLY)

Sweden | 2025 | 15 Mins | Swedish | Short Fiction | Drama

Director

Lovisa Sirén

Producer

Siri Hjorton Wagner

Cinematographer

Christine Leuhusen

Editor

Lovisa Sirén

Sound Designer

Claes Lundberg

Esther, a young mother forced to leave her infant daughter in the care of the child's father, finds herself adrift in the small hours of the night. Driven by an ache she cannot name, she reaches out for warmth and closeness wherever she can find it – searching, above all, for a way to hold on to the love she has had to leave behind.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Venice International Film Festival, 2025 | Bucharest International Film Festival, 2025

Awards

Orizzonti Award for Best Short, Venice International Film Festival

Sales

Silverbelt Films



Swedish screenwriter, director, and editor **Lovisa Sirén** made her feature debut with Maya Nilo (Laura), earning Guldbagge nominations for Best Screenplay and Best Actress.



YO YO

Iran, France | 2025 | 14:49 Mins | Farsi | Short Fiction
| Drama

Director

Mohammadreza Mayghani

Producers

Romain Bent, Mohammadreza Mayghani, Tristan Kalpa

Cinematographer

Hamed Hosseini Sangari

Editor

Pooyan Sholevar

Sound Designer

Ehsan Afshrian

In the scorching desert of southern Iran, a young man is consumed by voices no one else can hear. As his inner world grows darker and more unstable, his closest friend refuses to abandon him - mounting a desperate, lonely effort to pull him back from the edge of something irreversible.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Locarno Film Festival, 2025 | Tirana IFF, 2025

Sales

Florian Fernandez (Solal Films)



An Iranian filmmaker with a Master's in Dramatic Literature, **Mayghani** premiered his debut short *ORTHODONTICS* at Cannes 2021 and at Sundance. His second short *YO YO* premiered at Locarno's Pardi di Domani. He participated in Cannes' La Résidence, where his debut feature project *DIBA* won the Best Pitching Award, and attended the Locarno Film Academy in 2023.



ANIMATION CANVAS

Animation Canvas presents a space where dynamic intersections of form, emotion, and social commentary converge, spotlighting contemporary animated shorts that offer nuanced, vivid, and layered engagements with the world around us. At the 19th MIFF, the segment features distinctive voices from countries such as the Czech Republic and Canada, spanning diverse styles, techniques, and storytelling traditions.

In addition, the segment includes specially curated showcases of Belgian and Chilean animation, and Raimund Krumme Retrospective.





9 MILLION COLORS (9 MILIONŮ BAREV)

Czech Republic, Norway, Germany | 2025 | 15 Mins | Short Animation | Fantastic

Director

Bára Anna Stejskalová

Producers

Bionaut, Divize Animation, Trollfilm, Reynard Films

Cinematographers

Lucia Zavarčíková, David Ticháček

Editor

Lukáš Janičík

Sound Designer

Kristoffer Endresen

The ocean is paradise for Fran the shrimp, whose deadly claws take whatever they desire. For the blind fish Milva, the same ocean is a daily fight for survival. Fran finds Milva beautiful and longs for her to share her view of the sea. '9 Million Colors' is a film about the tension between power and vulnerability, and the question of whether two beings so differently positioned can bridge the distance between them.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Sales

Atour de Minuit



Bara Anna Stejskalova is a director, writer, and puppet animation artist who studied at Arts University Bournemouth and FAMU in Prague. Her short films 'Fishermen' (2017) and 'Love Is Just a Death Away' (2020) were both shortlisted for a BAFTA. She was art director on the VR film 'Darkening' (Venice Biennale, 2022) and co-created the Burning Man-honoured installation HEARDT. In 2021, she co-founded the Prague-based animation studio Divize.



ANIMALIES (DIVOČINA VOLÁ!)

Czech Republic | 2025 | 15 Mins | Czech and English | Animation | Adventure, Humor

Directors

Kateřina Karhánková, Marek Náprstek

Producer

Bára Chaberová (Bionaut)

Editor

Georgy Barklaya

Sound Designer

Jiří Gráf

Izzy, Chester, Zoe, Kyle, Jesse, and Babs are a group of friends who attend a club run by Richard, who teaches them camp skills. When summer arrives, they eagerly anticipate heading to the Animalies camp, away from their parents at last. Getting there turns out to be more complicated than expected, not because of their physical disabilities, but because they are thoroughly typical pre-teens navigating ordinary obstacles.

Premiere Status

Asia Premiere

Festivals

Zlin Film Festival

Sales

Bear With Me Distribution



Katerina Karkankova graduated in animation from FAMU and completed an internship at Bergen Academy of Art and Design. Her films 'A New Species' (2013) and 'Fruits of the Clouds' (2017) won numerous awards, including the ECFA Short Film Award at Berlinale 2019. She co-created the animated series 'Hungry Bear Tales' (2020) and co-directed 'The Bugaboo' (2025). **Marek Naprstek** studied at Charles University and FAMU in Prague. His films 'The More I Know' and 'Ant Hill' have screened internationally. Originally a 2D animator, he now works primarily in 3D as an animator, art director, and cinematic designer.



BETTER MAN (LEPŠÍ ČLOVĚK)

Czech Republic | 2025 | 06:11 Mins | Czech | Animation / Documentary | Comedy

Director

Eliška Jirásková

Producers

Tereza Havlová, Tomáš Šimon

Editor

Viktorie Perlová

Sound Designer

Jakub Kraus

'Better Man' is an animated documentary exploring the world of bodybuilding and the relationship fitness-focused men have with their own bodies. Through interviews drawing on journalistic techniques, the film presents three men who use exercise to cope with inner traumas that have led to low self-esteem. The film examines what drives the pursuit of physical transformation and what emotional needs it attempts to address.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Annecy International Animation Film Festival | Anifilm



Eliska Jiraskov is a Bachelor's student in Animated Film at the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU) in Prague. During her studies she has made three short films: 'Night Mode' (2023), 'Beware Children!' (2023), and 'Better Man' (2025). Her work engages with topics relatable to younger audiences, approached with lightness and humour.



BREAD WILL WALK (LE PAIN SE LÈVE)

Canada | 2025 | 11:21 Mins | English | Animation

Director

Alex Boya

Producer

Jelena Popović

Sound Designer

Olivier Calvert

The planet is starving, but a corporation called The Mill offers a solution: miracle bread. The catch is that eating it turns people into loaves of walking bread. A devoted sister attempts to save her bread-brother from a hungry mob pursuing him through twisted streets. 'Bread Will Walk' is a hand-drawn, frenetically morphing animated short that uses surreal chase and dark humour to satirise corporate propaganda and social compliance.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Cannes Film Festival | Annecy International Animation Film Festival, France

Awards

Award Winner, International Experimental Short | DNP Award for Best Short with Environmental Themes (Ex Aequo)

Sales

National Film Board of Canada (NFB)



Born in Bulgaria, **Alex Boya** is a Montreal-based animator and filmmaker known for surreal hand-drawn storytelling. At the National Film Board of Canada, he developed a technique he terms 'genomic animation', which distorts biological forms to explore identity and transformation. His film 'Turbine' (2018) established his Kafkaesque approach. 'Bread Will Walk' continues his examination of dystopian absurdity and the grotesque.



HYPERSENSITIVE

Canada | 2025 | 06:44 Mins | French | Animation

Director

Martine Frossard

Producer

Marc Bertrand

Cinematographer

François Bonenfant

Editor

Oana Suteu Khintirian

Sound Designer

Daniel Scott

'Hypersensitive' follows a young woman on a turbulent, surrealist journey to understand her singular relationship with the world. Drawing on the filmmaker's childhood memories and imagination, the film offers a compassionate portrait of a woman seeking healing in a society with little tolerance for difference. Rich in symbolism inspired by plant life, it invites viewers to sit with difficult emotions, insisting that sensitivity is inseparable from being alive.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Cannes Film Festival | Sommets du cinema d'animation, Montreal, Canada

Sales

National Film Board of Canada (NFB)



Martine Frossard is a multidisciplinary artist working in illustration, animation, and participatory installations. Born in Strasbourg, France, she moved to Montreal in 2005 and became a self-taught animator. Her first short film, 'Thirty Masks' (2015), was chosen as a Vimeo Staff Pick. Her works have since been shown across Canada, the US, and Europe. 'Hypersensitive' (2025) is her first collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada.



PARADAİZ

Canada | 2025 | 09:27 Mins | Animation

Director

Matea Radic

Producer

Jelena Popović

Editor

Xi Feng

Sound Designer

Tyler Fitzmaurice

In 'Paradaiz', Winnipeg-based artist Matea Radic returns through hand-drawn animation, family photographs, and her own layered memories to the Sarajevo she fled as a child in the 1990s. Her animated heroine moves through a city of crumbling houses, volatile tomatoes, and wandering snails. Between chain-smoking and watching absurdist old television, she explores what remains of the home she left and what healing actually looks like.

Premiere Status

Asia Premiere

Festivals

DOK Leipzig, Germany | Warsaw Film Festival, Poland

Awards

Golden Dove, International Competition Short Animated Film | Best Animated Short Film

Sales

National Film Board of Canada (NFB)



Matea Radic is a multidisciplinary artist born in Sarajevo and based in Winnipeg, Canada. She fled her birthplace in 1992 and has since worked across illustration, painting, sculpture, and animation, including a posthumous animated music video for Jim Croce. 'Paradaiz', produced by the NFB, is her debut film.



STONE OF DESTINY (KÁMEN OSUDU)

Czech Republic | 2025 | 10:26 Mins | Czech | Short Animation

Director

Julie Černá

Producer

Kristina Husová

Animator

Julie Černá, Matouš Valchář

Editor

Alexandra Volfová

Sound Designer

Juras Karaka

An animated musical follows the anthropomorphised Stone of Destiny on a journey filled with mysterious encounters and hidden symbols, driven by a desire for freedom. 'Singing Stone' settles in a seaside villa, followed by doubt and loneliness, seeking solace that remains elusive. Based on the personal experiences of author Julie Černá, the film weaves themes of melancholy, beauty, and the emotional cost of the search for belonging.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Berlinale Shorts, Germany (2025)
| Go Short International Short Film Festival, Netherlands (2025)



Julie Černá is a visual artist and animator from Straznice in southern Moravia, currently pursuing her MA at UMRUM in the Animation and Film Studio in Prague. Her work explores the melancholy hidden within happiness. During her studies she has created three animated music videos screened at international festivals, and she maintains a parallel practice in illustration and original comics.



WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND (CE QU'ON LAISSE DERRIÈRE)

Canada | 2025 | 10:47 Mins | French | Animation

Directors

Jean-Sébastien Hamel, Alexandra Myotte

Producers

Jean-Sébastien Hamel, Alexandra Myotte (Sémaphore Films)

Editor

Jean-Sébastien Hamel

Sound Designers

François Lacasse,
Jean-Sébastien Hamel

Dan carries a wound that will not close: a hole in his chest that resists healing. He cannot remember its origin, and cannot speak about it. Returning to the sinister landscape of his childhood, he must find the part of himself left behind long ago, whose absence prevents him, now an adult, from becoming whole. The film explores trauma, fragmentation, and the difficult work of internal recovery.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Spark Animation Film Festival, Canada (2025) | Kaboom Animation Film Festival, Netherlands (2026)

Awards

Director's Prize, Spark Animation Film Festival, Canada (2025) | Best Short Film Award, Kaboom Animation Film Festival, Netherlands (2026)



Jean-Sébastien Hamel and Alexandra Myotte are a writer-director duo based in Montreal whose award-winning animated short films have screened at hundreds of festivals internationally. Their short 'Un trou dans la poitrine' ('A Crab in the Pool') has won over 30 awards, including at SXSW and Short Shorts Film Festival and Asia, and was shortlisted for the 2025 Academy Awards.

CURATED SHOWCASES

Curator's Bio



DHVANI DESAI

Dhvani Desai is an acclaimed International award winning Animation filmmaker & Curator in the field since last 35 years. Her artistic films have won worldwide accolades. Invited as Jury/Grand Jury in several international film festivals in India & abroad. Mentioned in world encyclopedias of Animation. Curator of animation programmes for MIFF/international festivals since last 14 years.

Curator's Note

BELGIAN ANIMATION

The Kingdom of Belgium, famed as the diamond capital of the world, gleams with equal radiance in the realm of animation. Its pioneering legacy began in the 1830s when physicist-mathematician Joseph Plateau invented the Phenakisticope, one of the first devices to transform still images into moving visions. Nearly two centuries later, that innovative spirit continues to define Belgian animation. As the birthplace of Tintin comics, Belgium possesses a rich storytelling tradition that blurs boundaries between fantasy & reality. This bouquet of four cinematic gems offer surreal imagery, poetic unconventional narratives, reflecting Belgium's bold artistic courage with gorgeous colourful images.

CHILEAN ANIMATION

Chilean animation enchants the world like the enigmatic Moai statues of Easter Island, standing timelessly in Polynesia. These films breathe a daring artistic spirit, one that journeys effortlessly from ancient indigenous myths and haunting folklore to the complexities of politics. Chile undoubtedly has its own distinct aesthetics which is reflected in its cinematic art. As a country it has received much recognition in festivals & Oscars, which inspired me to curate a special package that embraces subjects lesser experimented ranging from biography to myth to dreamlike magical realism. Much like the poetry of Chilean Nobel laureates Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda.



RETROSPECTIVE OF RAIMUND KRUMME

Raimund Krumme's distinctive style of minimalism fascinates me! Working primarily with hand drawn black brush strokes and uncluttered white backgrounds, he creates worlds around relationships, conflict and existence. Every movement seems governed by an invisible logic, turning animation into a form of visual labyrinth. What charms me more is that he makes "space" a very important silent character of his stories by playing with all three X,Y,& Z Axes giving endless unpredictable flow of storytelling. His films like poetic metaphors of illusion of life ,remind us that the simplest line can contain an entire world of possibilities that keeps reinventing...



BELGIUM ANIMATION

CARROUSEL

Belgium, Czech Republic | 2020 | 10:14 Mins | Animation

Director

JASMINE ELSÉN

Producer

ANIMAL TANK & BFILM

CinematographersONDREJ NEDVED, JAKUB VRBIK,
SIMON HAVEL, ONDREJ BELICA**Editor**

JASMINE ELSÉN

Sound Designer

VAHE GRIGORJAN

Roos lives with her snails in a park, maintaining a small, well-organised microcosm. A threat comes from birds that prey on snails, and the arrival of two newcomers disrupts her settled world further. As the newcomers fall in love, Roos feels invaded and withdraws, growing aggressive in defence of her way of life to the point of causing harm. The film is a portrait of dehumanisation under the pressure of perceived intrusion.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

FestivalsANIMA, Brussels (2020) | Annecy
Festival, France (2020)**Awards**Best Animated Short Film, Merlinka
International Queer Film Festival
| Special Mention, Tricky Women/
Tricky Realities

Jasmine Elsen is an animator, writer, filmmaker, and editor who graduated from RITCS in Brussels. Her short 'Kastaars' (2016) won the VAF Wildcard at the International Short Film Festival Leuven.



BELGIUM ANIMATION

HALF BABKA

Belgium, Slovakia | 2014 | 04:50 Mins | Animation

Director

JASMINE ELSÉN

Producer

JASMINE ELSÉN

Editor

JASMINE ELSÉN

Sound Designer

Migal Paluga

The film is about loneliness in society. An old woman does everything with her cat, which is more like a toy for her. sharing ice cream and knitting sweaters.. but the cat runs away and she tries to replace it.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

FestivalsSelected in more than 25 film
festivals

Jasmine Elsen is an animator, writer, filmmaker, and editor who graduated from RITCS in Brussels. Her short 'Kastaars' (2016) won the VAF Wildcard at the International Short Film Festival Leuven.



BELGIUM ANIMATION

PINA

Belgium, France | 2023 | 22:45 Mins | Sicilian | Animation

Directors

JEREMY DEPUYDT & GIUSEPPE ACCARDO

Producers

Next Days Films & Punchline Cinema

At the end of the 19th century, in a Sicilian village, young Pina holds the power to regenerate the land. Each harvest is plundered by the mafia, and Pina's encounter with its chief plunges the hamlet into an era of starvation. The film follows the consequences of that encounter as the village's survival and the future of the surrounding region hang in the balance.

Premiere Status

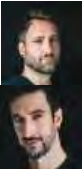
India Premiere

Festivals

Buenos Aires International Festival of Independent Cinema (2023) | Les René du Cinéma (2024) | Raindance Film Festival (2023)

Awards

Best Animated Short Film, Les René du Cinéma (2024)



Jeremy Depuydt made his first animated film in 2004 and has since worked as an animator on television productions, produced animated advertising content, co-directed the studio Pixileon, and taught motion design and animation at ESA St Luc in Brussels. **Giuseppe Accardo**, born in Alcamo, Sicily, works in Palermo and Brussels as a scenographer. He entered the field of animation through his collaboration with Jeremy Depuydt on 'Pina', on which he serves as chief decorative artist. He has worked as a production designer and screenwriter on numerous projects.



BELGIUM ANIMATION

RAVEN (RAAF)

Belgium, Portugal | 2024 | 13 Mins | French, Portuguese | Animation

Director

JEROEN CEULEBROUCK

Producers

ANIMAL TANK , PRAÇA FILMES

Editor

JEROEN CEULEBROUCK

Sound Designer

Greg Scheilinckx

Marko is haunted by his past. After collecting a box of belongings from his former lover, he sets off on a surreal journey with his daughter. As the boundaries between delusion and reality grow thin, the film becomes an aerial, raw, and tender portrait of grief, tracing a mourning process in which imagination and memory blur into one another.

Premiere Status

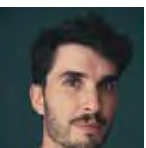
India Premiere

Festivals

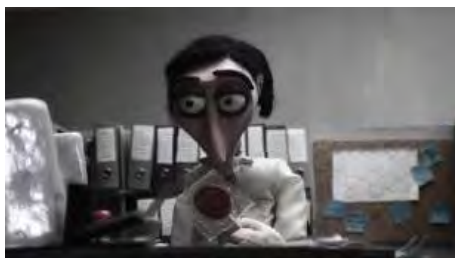
Selected in more than 40 international film festivals

Awards

Jury Award Flemish Competition Animation, Kortfilmfestival Leuven (2024)



Jeroen Ceulebroeck is a visual storyteller working as director, DOP, and animator. He completed his Master's in Animation at KASK School of Arts in Gent, Belgium, and has worked as an animator since 2014 on productions including 'The Ape Man', 'Wildebeest', and 'Nayola'. His films 'Oak' and 'Antarctica' have won awards including Best Jury Prize for Flemish Film in Belgium, CACC Golden Dragon Award, and Silver Lynx at Clermont-Ferrand.



CHILEAN ANIMATION

FLIES (MOSCAS)

Chile | 2018 | 08:53 Mins | Animation

Director

Zyanya Salcedo Petrovic

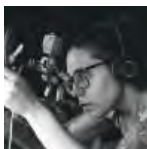
Producer

Paulina Sanhueza

X33 works in an office like any other, following an uninterrupted routine. One day he spots a fly on a pallet left by a client's daughter. Soon after, buzzing sounds follow the fly into the other cubicles of the building, spreading an unnameable disruption through the orderly workspace. The film traces the slow infiltration of the unexpected into the rigidly structured rhythms of corporate life.

Premiere Status

India Premiere



Zyanya Salcedo is a Chilean filmmaker and animator with a Master's degree in Stop Motion Animation. She has worked as editor and animator on film and television projects including 'Puerto Papel' Seasons 1 and 2, 'Zander', and the short films 'Halachaches', 'Voz de Trompeta', and 'Bestia', which was nominated for an Academy Award and won the Annie Award for Best Short Film.



CHILEAN ANIMATION

**SINGING WITH MEANING,
A BIOGRAPHY OF VIOLETA PARRA**

Chile | 2016 | 22 Mins | Spanish | Animation

Director

Leonardo Beltran

Producer

Old Boy & PlastiEstudi

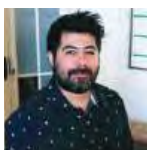
From the destitute Chilean countryside to the stages of distant Europe, 'Violeta' traces the life of Violeta Parra (1917-1967), legendary singer, songwriter, and researcher of Chilean folklore. A stop-motion biographical film, it follows her artistic journey and her misfortunes across continents, charting how she revitalised lost songs and influenced an entire generation of Latin American artists and musicians before her death.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Festival Internacional de Cine de Valdivia | Festival Cineteca Nacional FECINA



An independent art director and 2D animator, he is the founder of Nino Viejo studio. His experience spans TV series, music videos, and short films, including co-direction of two Chilean series shown on Cartoon Network Latin America and direction of two projects that won pitches at MIFA, Anney. His film on Violeta Parra has won multiple international awards.



CHILEAN ANIMATION

THE ROOTS OF EFRAIN (LAS RAICES DE EFRAIN)

Chile | 2024 | 15:28 Mins | Spanish | Animation

Directors

Carolina Cortes Balmaceda & Carolina Pedreros

Producers

Carolina Cortes Balmaceda & Carolina Pedreros

Inspired by a real discovery made in Alboyanco, Angol, in 1991, the film follows a boy who, during a game of hide-and-seek with his cousins, stumbles upon a large ceramic vessel. The encounter opens a window into his cultural heritage and, in particular, into the distinctive death rituals of the El Vergel cultural complex, connecting the child to a history embedded in the land beneath him.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

17th Chilean Film Festival (FECICH) | 14th Chilemonos International Animation Festival

Awards

Special Jury Prize, Chilean Animation | Audience Award, Best International Children's Animated Short Film



Carolina Cortes has extensive experience in teaching and audiovisual production. Her practice focuses on stop-motion animation with paper silhouettes and three-dimensional figures, inspired by shadow puppetry. Her films include 'Awakening from the Remains', 'Sayen and the Witral', and 'The Silence', all centred on the recovery of intangible cultural heritage. **Carolina Pedreros** is a graduate in agronomy from the Catholic University of Chile with experience in agricultural fieldwork and a passion for storytelling and animation. She has assisted on stop-motion animation projects and led reading and writing workshops.



CHILEAN ANIMATION

TRUMPET VOICE (VOZ DE TROMPETA)

Chile | 2024 | 12:11 Mins | Animation

Directors

David Monarte Serna & Pilar Smoje Gueico

Producer

Pilar Smoje Gueico

A trumpeter who lives with his demons and suffers the theft of his trumpet by them. This will make him travel inside her mind to face her deepest traumas in order to get her back.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Fantasia International Film Festival | Chilemonos International Animation Festival

Awards

3rd Place, Satoshi Kon Award for Achievement in Animation | Bronze, Best Animated Short



David Monarte Serna specialised in screenwriting at EICTV in Cuba and has worked as a post-producer on the TV series 'Paper Port' (2015). He is co-directing 'Trumpet Voice' (2024) and is involved in other projects at Kabum animation studio, which he co-founded with Pilar Smoje Gueico. **Pilar Smoje Gueico** is a director and producer from Punta Arenas, Chile, based in Santiago. She was part of the 'Paper Port' post-production crew and 'Trumpet Voice' (2024) is her debut musical short film, taking over five years to complete.



RAIMUND KRUMME RETROSPECTIVE

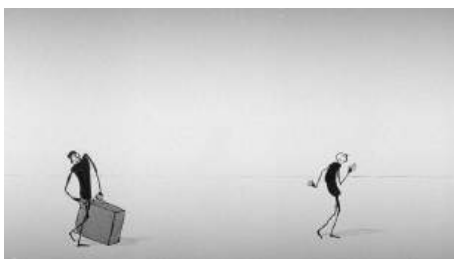
CROSSROADS (DIE KREUZUNG)

Germany | 1991 | 10 Mins | German | Animation

Crossroads' follows a man faced with a difficult decision in which no available path seems right. Made while the director was navigating great personal uncertainty, the film extends into an often humorous portrayal of a figure pulled in too many directions. In a world of constant change, all roads appear to lead back to the beginning, turning the search for resolution into a recurring loop.

Premiere Status

India Premiere



RAIMUND KRUMME RETROSPECTIVE

PASSAGE (LE PASSAGE)

Germany | 1994 | 6:54 Mins | English | Animation

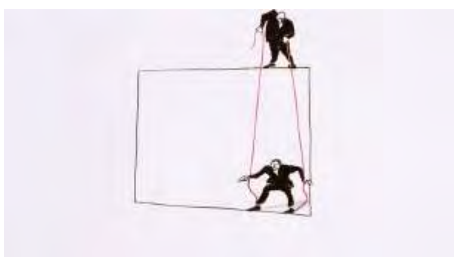
On a cold winter day, a porter and his master arrive at a frozen lake they must cross. Neither wants to go first. Their struggle to manoeuvre the other into leading becomes increasingly elaborate, and in their back-and-forth they briefly forget the class difference that otherwise defines their relationship. The film is a compact, comic study of status, pride, and the rituals of social avoidance.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Best Animation, Ottawa International Animation Festival
| In Competition, Cannes Film Festival (1994)



RAIMUND KRUMME RETROSPECTIVE

ROPE DANCE (SEILTÄNZER)

Germany | 1986 | 9:44 Mins | English | Animation

Two men, each holding one end of a rope, perform an intricate choreography over, in, and through a square figure. Raimund Krumme's 'Rope Dance' uses his signature minimalistic style to explore power, interdependence, and the geometry of human relationship, reducing interaction to its most essential physical form while revealing the complex dynamics that govern how people move in relation to one another.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Jury Award, Annecy International Animated Film Festival
(1987)



RAIMUND KRUMME RETROSPECTIVE

SPECTATORS (ZUSCHAUER)

Germany | 1989 | 6:08 Mins | Animation

The film shows spectators in a cinema. We see the different reactions of the crowd to a film. Our view is always directed towards the spectators, so we can only hear what happens in the film. More and more the crowd swings to the same rhythm, and turns into a mob, that does not leave any space for individual reaction.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Prix du Jury, Annecy International Animation Film Festival
| Bundesfilmpreis (German Film Award)



RAIMUND KRUMME RETROSPECTIVE

THE CHOIR OF THE PRISONERS (DER GEFANGENENCHOR)

Germany | 2004 | 6 Mins | German | Animation

Adapted from a scene in Beethoven's opera 'Fidelio', the film follows inmates of the Seville prison who are permitted, for the first time in years, to leave their dark cells and see the sun. 'Prisoners' uses light as a metaphor for freedom, tracing the moment of exposure to daylight as both a physical event and an expression of the longing that endures even in the most confined of human circumstances.

Premiere Status

India Premiere



RAIMUND KRUMME RETROSPECTIVE

THE MESSAGE

Germany | 2000 | 6:14 Mins | English | Animation

"He is back again" is the simple message circulating through the town. We see the reaction of people towards this news. Their fears, their denial. Some try to hide it and everyone has their own interpretation.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

German Short Film Award

OSCAR WINNERS



The 19th MIFF celebrates films that are recognized on the world's most prominent cinematic stage. These Academy Award-winning shorts exemplify the artistic ambition, innovation, and emotional power that continue to define the global short film landscape.





I AM NOT A ROBOT

Belgium, Netherlands | 2024 | Dutch | Short Fiction
| Black comedy, Sci-fi

Director

Victoria Warmerdam

Producers

Henry Gillet, Wim Goossens,
Trent

Cinematographer

Martijn Van Broekhuizen

Editor

Michiel Boesveldt

Sound Designer

Evelien Van Der Molen

After repeatedly failing Captcha tests, music producer Lara becomes consumed by a disturbing question: could she be a robot? 'I'm Not a Robot' follows her growing obsession as the boundary between human and machine becomes increasingly uncertain. The film uses the familiar frustration of digital verification as a springboard for a comedic and unsettling exploration of identity and the criteria by which humanness is measured.

Festivals

Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia (2023)
| Leuven International Short Film Festival (2023)

Awards

Academy Award, Best Live Action Short Film (2025)



Victoria Warmerdam is an Amsterdam-based writer and director known for blending dark humour with sharp social commentary. Her short 'I'm Not a Robot' won the 2025 Oscar for Best Live Action Short Film after a festival run yielding more than 70 awards. Her earlier shorts 'Mustachio' and 'Short Calf Muscle' have together collected over 100 awards worldwide.



IN THE SHADOW OF CYPRESS

Iran | 2023 | Persian | Animation

Directors

Hossein Molyayemi & Shirin Sohani

Producers

Hossein Molyayemi & Shirin Sohani

Editor

Hossein Molyayemi

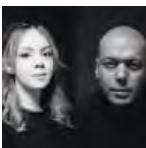
A former sea captain living by the sea with his daughter leads a tough and secluded life shaped by post-traumatic stress. 'Dar Saaye Sarv' (In the Shade of the Cypress) follows the tension within this quiet household, tracing the emotional aftermath of trauma and the difficulties it creates for the relationships between those who share a home. The film explores the weight of silence and the distance it can place between people.

Festivals

Venice International Film Festival
| Annecy International Animation Film Festival

Awards

Academy Award, Best Animated Short Film (2025)



Shirin Sohani holds an MA in Animation Directing from Tehran University of Art and has worked as concept artist, background artist, scriptwriter, and production manager since 2012. 'Dar Saaye Sarv' is her first professional film. Her graduation short 'The Fan' (2014) won national and international awards. **Hossein Molyayemi** holds an MA in Animation Directing from Tehran University of Art and has worked as director, character designer, storyboard artist, animator, and lecturer since 2004. His first film, 'Run Rostam Run' (2017), screened at Annecy and Warsaw and won national and international awards.



THE GIRL WHO CRIED PEARLS

Canada | 2025 | English | Animation

Directors

Chris Lavis and
Maciek Szczerbowski

Producers

Julie Roy, Marc Bertrand &
Christine Noël

Sound Designer

Patrick Watson

In Montreal at the dawn of the 20th century, a poor boy falls in love with a girl whose sorrow turns into pearls. He sells them to a ruthless pawnbroker who grows hungry for more. Tempted by greed, the boy must choose between love and fortune in a decision that carries the weight of his soul.

Festivals

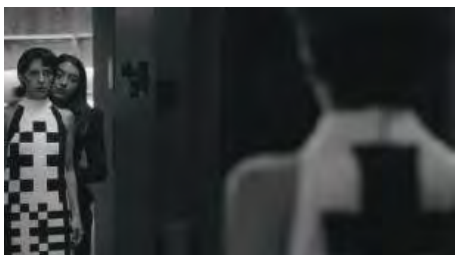
Giffoni Film Festival, Italy (2025) |
Animator International Animated
Film Festival, Poznan (2025) |
Animator International Animated
Film Festival, Poznań, Poland
(2025)

Awards

Academy Award, Best Animated
Short Film (2026)



Chris Lavis and Maciek Szczerbowski of Clyde Henry Productions are award-winning writers, directors, and animators. Their debut film 'Madame Tutli-Putli' (NFB) received an Oscar nomination for Best Animated Short (2007). They later directed Meryl Streep in an adaptation of 'Higglety Pigglety Pop!' (NFB/Warner Brothers) and created the VR stop-motion film 'Gymnasia' (2019), which won a Canadian Screen Award for Best Immersive Experience. Their NFB film 'The Girl Who Cried Pearls' won the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film at the 98th Academy Awards.



TWO PEOPLE EXCHANGING SALIVA

France, USA | 2025 | French | Short Fiction

Directors

Natalie Musteata, Alexandre Singh

Producers

Natalie Musteata, Violeta Kreimer,
Alexandre Singh, Cécile Larrigaldie,
Guillaume Houze, Zar Amir, Valenti-
na Merli, Caroline Cohen

Cinematographer

Alexandra de Saint Blanquat

Editor

Hanna Park

Sound Designer

Damian Volpe

In a society where kissing is punishable by death and currency takes the form of slaps on the face, Angine is an unhappy woman browsing a department store. There she becomes fascinated by a salesgirl and, despite the society's severe restrictions, the two begin to grow close. Their developing intimacy draws the suspicion of a colleague, placing them both in jeopardy in a world of absurdly enforced social codes.

Festivals

Telluride Film Festival, Colorado,
USA | AFI Fest, Los Angeles, USA
(2024) | Clermont-Ferrand
International Short Film Festival,
France

Awards

Academy Award, Best Live Action
Short Film (2026)

Sales

Manifest



Alexandre Singh is a Brooklyn-based visual artist born in Bordeaux to Indian and French parents, raised in Manchester and educated in Fine Art at the University of Oxford. His work spans writing, collage, installation, and performance and is held in collections including MoMA New York and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. His film 'Two People Exchanging Saliva' (2024) was selected at Clermont-Ferrand and won the Canal+ Prize and Public Prize. **Natalie Musteata** is a writer, curator, and filmmaker with a Doctorate in art history and a Master's in film from The Graduate Center, CUNY. She co-wrote, directed, and produced 'Two People Exchanging Saliva' (2024) with Alexandre Singh, selected at Clermont-Ferrand where it won the Canal+ Prize and Public Prize in the national competition.



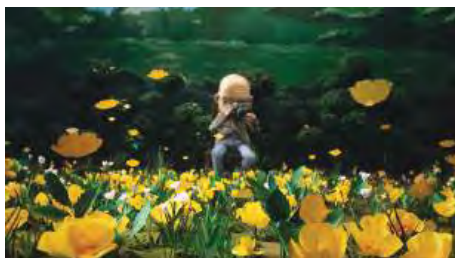
BUSAN
International Film Festival

BUSAN: NEXT WAVE



We are delighted to present a selection of representative short films from the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) under the theme of "Busan Next Wave" at the 19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF). BIFF has consistently introduced fresh and daring works from Asia that explore diverse subjects through refined and distinctive cinematic styles. These outstanding shorts reveal the expanding freedom of subject matter and the diverse experimental tendencies that have become crucial concerns for emerging filmmakers across Asia.





A MAN WHO TAKES PICTURES OF FLOWERS

USA, South Korea | 2025 | 13:02 Mins | Korean | Documentary / Animation / Biography

Director

Yoo Lee

Producers

Yoo Lee, Shengluo Zhang, Shinae Kim

Cinematographers

Jung Myung Kim, Aaron Wise

Editors

Yoo Lee, Mengyao Mia Zhang

Sound Designer

Matthew A. Schoenfeld

For over four decades, photographer Jung Myung Kim has roamed Korea in pursuit of its wildflowers - building a body of work that has become inseparable from his sense of self. Now facing serious illness, he continues to find meaning in the images he has already made and purpose in those still left to capture. The film is an intimate portrait of a man whose passion for his subject keeps him tethered to life.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Busan International Film Festival, 2025 | Hamptons International Film Festival, 2025

Awards

Sonje Award (Special Mention), Busan International Film Festival (2025)



Yoo Lee is a Korean-American writer, director, and animator based in Los Angeles. A Film Independent Laika Animation Fellow and Fox Fellow, her work is distributed through the New Yorker Screening Room and HBO Max.



DELAY

China, USA | 2025 | 15 Mins | Mandarin Chinese, French | Short Fiction

Director

Wang Han-Xuan

Producers

Ren Guang, Wang Qin-Ting, Zhang Jia-Qi, Obluda Films

Cinematographer

Liu Shuai-Liang

Editors

Wang Han-Xuan, Liu Shuai-Liang

Sound Designer

He Jun-Yi

A Chinese homosexual father sets out for Paris to attend his heterosexual son's wedding, only for the journey to unravel in ways he never anticipated. A compact, wryly observed road story, the film finds its drama in the unpredictable detours and delays that force father and circumstances into unexpected collision - tracing the quiet emotional distances between a parent and a child across borders, cultures, and years of unspoken complexity.

Premiere Status

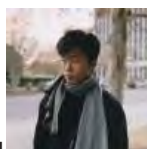
India Premiere

Festivals

Busan International Film Festival, 2025 | Bangkok International Film Festival, 2025

Awards

Sonje Award for Best Short Film, Busan International Film Festival (2025)



Wang Han-Xuan is a writer-director based in New York. His previous works have been selected at IFFR 2024, the 17th First International Film Festival, and the Rhode Island International Film Festival 2023.



INTERFACE

Japan | 2025 | Japanese | Short Fiction | Experimental

Director

Aya Kawazoe

Producer

Yuko Kanda

Cinematographer

Lizhi Zhu

Editor

Aya Kawazoe

Sound Designer

Nobuhiko Hayashi

In a vast, indifferent city, an overlooked man's existence is upended when a "bug" enters his body uninvited. What follows is a descent into internal noise: a relentless cacophony that dissolves his sense of self and gradually erodes his physical form. The film uses surreal imagery and sound to chart a haunting question about visibility, identity, and whether this man ever truly existed at all.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Busan International Film Festival, 2025 | International Film Festival Rotterdam, 2026

Awards

Sonje Award (Special Mention), Busan International Film Festival (2025)



Born in 1989, **Aya Kawazoe** trained under acclaimed directors Shinji Aoyama and Kiyoshi Kurosawa. Her notable works include *The Elephant Died* (2012, Oberhausen), *HUMONGOUS!* (2020, Cannes' Semaine de la Critique), and *HOWLING* (2022, Rotterdam).



IT SOUNDS LOUDER ON RAINY DAYS

South Korea | 2025 | 29:16 Mins | Korean | Short Fiction | Drama

Director

KIM Sang yun

Producers

PARK Jae-hyun, KIM Sang yun

Cinematographer

PARK Yong-shin

Editor

JO Hee-ju, KIM Sang-yun

Sound Designer

TIMELAB Studio

Ji-hee married without her family's blessing, and she arrives at her parents' home on her father's birthday with something to say. Her husband and child in tow, she hopes the day might offer some form of reconciliation. Instead, her father refuses to leave a locked room, the meal preparations fall apart, and the occasion she had imagined slips steadily out of reach. A quiet portrait of family estrangement and unspoken grievances.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

Busan International Film Festival, 2025 | Seongsuk Film Festival, 2025

Awards

Sonje Award for Best Korean Short Film, Busan International Film Festival (2025)

Sales

Central Park Films



Born in 2000, **KIM Sang yun** studied film directing in college and currently teaches film at an institute while continuing graduate-level studies in film directing.



NOISE CANCELLATION

South Korea | 2025 | 21:55 Mins | Korean | Short Fiction |
Mystery, Horror

Director

Jihye Choi

Producer

Nakyung Lee

Cinematographer

Sang-kyu Han

Editor

Tae-young Park

Sound Designer

Won Kim

After a workplace injury leaves Miju locked in a battle for compensation, her nights become increasingly unbearable - shattered by agonised screaming from the apartment directly above hers. As her sleep deprivation deepens and the behaviour of those around her grows stranger, her desperation to understand what is happening intensifies. Then a cryptic comment surfaces beneath an online post she had written, pulling her further into an unsettling mystery she cannot let go.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Busan International Film Festival, 2025 | Mise-en-scène Short Film Festival, 2023



Jihye Choi studied film at Chung-Ang University's Graduate School of Advanced Imaging Science. Her short film *La Vie en Rose* (2024) was presented at international festivals, including the International Student Film & Video Festival and Busan International Short Film Festival.

ATLAS



The Consulate and Embassy Screenings at the 19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2026 serve as a significant platform for fostering international cultural exchange through cinema. Curated in collaboration with various diplomatic missions, this segment presents a diverse selection of films that reflect the unique cultural identities, perspectives, and storytelling traditions of participating countries.





BALONY (BALLOONS)

Poland | 2025 | 30 Mins | Polish | Short Fiction

Director

Jakub Michnikowski

Producers

Jerzy Kapuściński, Ewa Jastrzębska

Cinematographer

Przemysław Brynkiewicz

Editors

Jakub Michnikowski, Natalia Jacheć

Sound Designers

Michał Kosterkiewicz,
Michał Kosterkiewicz jr

A family living in a remote village faces mounting financial pressures as the father, Maniek, becomes consumed by an attempt to break a bizarre world record, convinced it will solve their troubles. His wife Miłka quietly carries the weight of everyday life. Unable to express his feelings in words, Maniek channels his attention into his beloved pig. As stress overtakes the household, it begins to affect the children.

Festivals

In the Palace International Film Festival, SCANORAMA Film Festival, International Alexandria Short Film Festival



Jakub Michnikowski is a film director and screenwriter whose short films include 'It's Only a Dream' (2014), 'Maja' (2014), and 'Wasteland' (2017). In 2016 he received the prestigious National Center for Culture Poland 'Young Poland' scholarship in the film category. He has worked in special effects for Canal+ and Netflix productions and is currently completing doctoral studies at the Łódź Film School.



BLUE BIRD

Poland | 2025 | 9 Mins | Animation Short

Director

Stanisław Buczkowski

Producers

Jerzy Kapuściński, Magdalena Tomanek, Ewa Jastrzębska

Cinematographer

Stanisław Buczkowski

Editor

Stanisław Buczkowski

Sound Designer

Bartosz Szafrański

'Blue Bird' is a touching film that tells the story of a small sparrow who desperately tries to join the flock. His small size and weakness make him stand out, and the group refuses to accept him. Through an allegorical portrayal of bird life, the film explores the universal themes of loneliness and a sense of not belonging, which are also well known to humans.

Awards

AnimaFest, Młodzi i Film Koszalin
Festiwal Filmowy, 22nd Rolan
International Film Festival



Stanisław Buczkowski is an acclaimed animator, director, screenwriter and producer whose work in the world of independent short films has won numerous awards.



FULL SUPPORT

Israel | 2024 | 72 Mins | Hebrew | Documentary

Director

Michal Cohen

Producers

Maya Fischer, Gal Greenspan

Cinematographer

Tulik Galon

Editor

Noit Geva

Set in the fitting room of a Jaffa bra shop, the film observes women as they confront themselves in the mirror and narrate their stories. With each curtain opening, a woman faces her own reflection, her mood shaping the visual framing. What begins as a search for a fitting garment becomes a space for intimate reflection on the body's lifelong relationship with identity, desire, and vulnerability.

Awards

Official Selection – Doc Edge International Film Festival 2025 | Official Selection – Krakow Film Festival 2025

Festivals

Winner – Best Debut Film, DocAviv Film Festival 2024 | Winner – Best Cinematography, Israeli Documentary Awards 2024 | Nominee – Best Feature Documentary, Israeli Academy Awards 2024

Broadcaster

ARTE/SWR, KAN11



Michal Cohen is a director and editor of documentaries, television series, and fiction films. Her documentary 'As Themselves' screened in Israel and internationally, and 'Independence' screened in Israel. As editor, her credits include the Israeli Television Academy Award-winning series 'The Writer', 'In Treatment', and 'Arab-Labor', as well as Netflix productions 'Beauty-Queen of Jerusalem' and 'Dumb'. She also serves as a consultant for film funds and broadcasters.



STORIES FROM THE HIDDEN WORLDS (NIGERIA'S SLUM-ON-WATER: MAKOKO)

Türkiye, Russia, Nigeria, Peru, Ethiopia, Phillipinnes, India | 2021 | 45 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

Orçun Berham

Producers

Mustafa Tayfur Sonkaya and Ahmet Eren Uzun

Cinematographer

Gökhan Ünlü

As globalisation accelerates, languages and cultures across the world are disappearing. This documentary series visits communities that have preserved their cultural heritage or forged distinct identities of their own despite modern pressures. Each episode is narrated by the people at the centre of its story, moving from Siberia's white villages to the deserts of Mali, exploring diverse traditions and landscapes shaped by centuries of lived experience.



Born in Istanbul in 1987, **Orçun Berham** is a director, cinematographer, and photojournalist. After studying in Switzerland, he graduated from Columbia College Chicago in 2011 with a degree in cinema. He directed the short films Column (2005), Photoroman (2008), and Mongolia (2015).



ODE TO GHOSTS (ELOGIO A LOS FANTASMAS)

Argentina | 2024 | 17 Mins | Spanish | Documentary

Director

Facundo Rodríguez Alonso

Producers

Mariano Corbacho, Facundo Rodríguez Alonso

Cinematographer

Facundo Rodríguez Alonso

Editor

Facundo Rodríguez Alonso

Sound Designer

Facundo Rodríguez Alonso

Ode to Ghosts' is a cinematic meditation framed as an intimate dialogue with the past. Rather than engaging with supernatural horror, the documentary treats ghosts as emotional remnants, tracing how personal memories, historical echoes, and lost connections continue to inhabit the landscapes and architecture of contemporary Argentina. The film approaches absence as a form of presence, exploring what physical spaces retain of the lives they have held.



A filmmaker born in Buenos Aires in 1995, he holds a degree in Audiovisual Arts from the UNA (National University of the Arts). His short films have screened at BAFICI, the Havana Film Festival, FIDBA, and FIDOCs, among others. He participated in the Arts and Trades School of the Centro Cultural Kirchner and in Berlinale Talents BA 2023.



OUT AT SIX

Israel | 2025 | 55 Mins | Hebrew | Documentary

Director

Livi Kessel

Producers

Sol Goodman, Livi Kessel

Cinematographers

Einav Giat Goodman, Naomi Maroz, May Abadi Grebler

Editor

Arik Lahav-Leibovich

Sound Designer

Daniel Meir

A teenage girl's relationship with an older man quickly isolates her from her friends, family, and everyday life. Living in a secluded world with large dogs at the door, she has never been physically harmed, yet her fear of leaving remains constant. 'Out at Six' unfolds her story through eight research-based stages that researchers have identified as typically preceding intimate partner violence.

Awards

Winner – Best Mid-Length Documentary, Israeli Documentary Awards (2025) | Special Mention – Jerusalem Women's Film Festival (2025) | Winner – Beyond the Screen Award, DocAviv Film Festival 2025



Livi Kessel is a filmmaker and key figure in Haifa's artistic community. 'Out at Six' is a deeply personal work that draws on the director's own experience alongside research into intimate partner violence, blending interviews and careful observation to explore how relationships can turn dangerous in the absence of overt physical abuse.



THE GIRL ON THE BUS (LA FLACA)

Argentina | 2025 | 19:54 Mins | Spanish | Short Fiction

Directors

Julio César Rodríguez
Calogero & Gustavo Winkler

Cinematographer

Hernán Cibello

Editors

Gustavo Winkler & Julio
Calogero

Sound Designer

Mariano Curcio

A woman returns to her childhood neighbourhood in Tapiales, a suburb of Buenos Aires, driven by a singular obsession: to track down a person she encountered only once, yet never forgot. As she navigates the changing streets of her past, the search becomes something wider, a meditation on memory, identity, and the weight of connections that were never fully made. 'The Skinny Girl' is an intimate neighbourhood drama rooted in loss and longing.

Festivals

Official Selection – Lift-Off Global
Network Sessions 2026



Julio Calogero is an independent Argentine film director, writer, and editor rooted in the grassroots cultural movements of Buenos Aires. His work, often developed with co-director Gustavo Winkler, is grounded in suburban landscapes and humanistic stories of urban solitude. Previous films include 'Love Bondi Story' and 'No te asustes si estoy perdido'. He is an active advocate for independent Argentine cinema.



LA SOBREVIDA (THE SURVIVAL LIFE)

Argentina | 2024 | 25 Mins | Spanish | Short Fiction

Director

David Arias Sanguino

Producers

Cristian H. Maidana &
Francisco A. Ferrer

Cinematographer

Bruno Scarponi

Editor

David Arias Sanguino

Roberto is a metal worker who lost his job when the factory where he spent twenty years closed down. On his daughter's birthday, he sets out across a city deep in economic crisis to find new work. As he moves through familiar streets now changed, he begins to question beliefs he has long held about work, dignity, and what a life is built from.

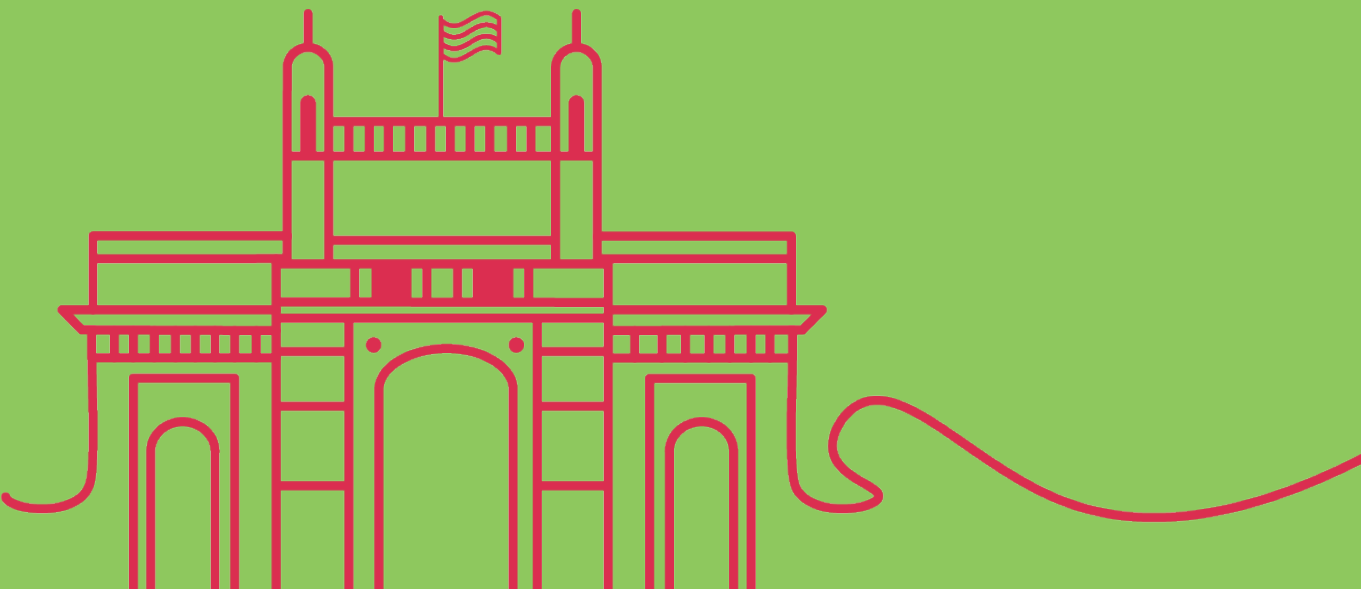


David Arias Sanguino is an independent Colombian film director, editor, and screenwriter born in Cucuta. He co-founded the production house Ratio Laboratorio Audiovisual and developed the script for 'La Sobrevida' in 2018 in response to mass layoffs across industrial hubs in South America. Working between Colombia and Argentina, his cinema focuses on social realism, labour rights, and working-class vulnerabilities.

INDIA: LIVES AND LANDSCAPES



INDIA: LIVES & LANDSCAPES brings together stories rooted in the country's diverse geographies and lived realities. Spanning the coral islands of Lakshadweep, the high-altitude pastures of Ladakh, and the bustling streets of Mumbai, these films explore the relationship between people, place, identity, and aspiration. Together, they offer a nuanced portrait of an India shaped by tradition, change, resilience, and the enduring connection between communities and their landscapes.





BETWEEN HERDS AND HORIZON

India | 2026 | 23:39 Mins | Ladakhi | Documentary

Directors

Jaideep Singh Kanyal and
Namgyal Tsering

Producer

Green Hub

Cinematographers

Jaideep Singh Kanyal and
Namgyal Tsering

Editors

Jaideep Singh Kanyal and
Namgyal Tsering

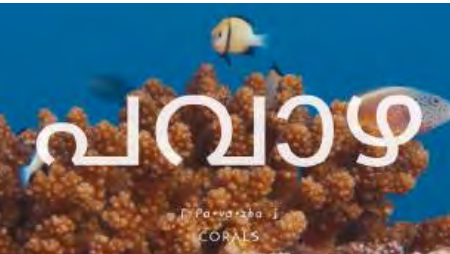
Sound Designer

Jaideep Singh Kanyal

In the high-altitude Changthang region of Ladakh, Changpa herders live in close relationship with their animals. Goats, sheep, and yaks shape every aspect of daily life, providing food, clothing, and income across a landscape where survival depends on seasonal movement and care. Across each season, families migrate with their herds in search of pasture and water, following patterns learned over generations. The film observes this pastoral world and the changes reshaping it.



Jaideep Singh Kanyal is an environmental change-maker and filmmaker from Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, India. He is associated with Green Hub as a fellow in the GreenHub Western Himalayas Fellowship, where his filmmaking practice is connected to ecological awareness and community-based environmental documentation.



CORALS (PAVAZHA)

India | 2025 | 37:29 Mins | Jessari | Documentary

Director

Akanksha Sood Singh

Producer

Roshni Nadar Malhotra

Cinematographer

Abhinandan Sharma

Editor

Abhinandan Sharma

Sound Designer

Damanjeet Singh

Idrees Babu, a marine biologist from the coral Lakshadweep Islands in the Arabian Sea, left for the mainland to study in the 1990s and returned to find his home ecosystem under serious threat. Rising ocean temperatures, intensifying storms, mining, and heavy boat traffic are destroying the coral that sustains island life. Idrees and his locally trained team run a coral nursery and travel across islands to advance their conservation programme.

Festivals

Neum Underwater Film Festival,
2025 | Sondrio Festival, 2025



Akanksha Sood Singh is one of India's most prominent natural history filmmakers and founding partner of The Gaia People, an independent natural history production company. Over a career spanning 25 years, she has received six National Film Awards, Green Oscar nominations, and a UN Film Award. She is a communications consultant for UNEP, juror for the International Emmy and RealScreen Awards, and has been named among 75 Women Leaders in India by UN Women.



ONE DAY

India | 2025 | 10:12 Mins | Short Fiction

Director

Adityam Saikia

Producers

Purvi Sharma & Devank
Sharma

Cinematographer

Aniruddha Barua

Editor

Debabrot Phukan

Sound Designer

Manas Protim Goswami

Abhay is a young man from a small town who has come to Mumbai with ambitions of breaking into the film industry. 'One Day' follows a single day in his life in the city, capturing the quiet struggles, the energy of the streets, and the persistence required to keep moving in the face of repeated rejection. In one compressed day, the film reflects on the cost of chasing a dream far from home.



Adityam Saikia is a National Award-winning filmmaker and director whose film 'Rongatapu 1982' won the Best Assamese Film award at the 71st National Film Awards.

ECHOES FROM NORTH EAST

Rooted in memory, tradition, and lived experience, Echoes from Northeast brings together stories that reflect the rich cultural, historical, and ecological tapestry of India's northeastern region. Through portraits of remarkable individuals, enduring traditions, evolving communities, and landscapes under change, these films reveal the many voices that define the region. Together, they celebrate a vibrant mosaic of heritage, identity, resilience, and nature that continues to shape the rhythms of everyday life.



KA PATENG

India | 2023 | 30 Mins | Khasi

Director

Sankirang L Khongwir

Producer

Ponvishal Chidambaranathan

The death of a mother brings three estranged siblings under the same roof after years of separation. The oldest brother returns after a long stay in the city, the middle child carries the weight of a painful childhood memory, and the youngest sister harbours a secret that makes her doubt her imminent motherhood.



LENTINA AO – A LIGHT ON THE EASTERN HORIZON

India | 2023 | 33:50 Mins | English, Nagamese, Ao

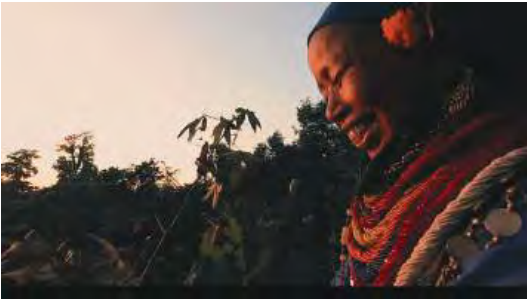
Directors

Sanjib Parasar and Nilakshi Medhi

Producer

National Film Development Corporation Ltd.

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.



MY LAST FACE: FLAT-NOSE (MY LAST FACE: KUNGBARA)

India | 2024 | 60 Mins | Kokborok, Kaubru

Directors

Sujit Debbarma and Pranab Jyoti Deka

Producers

Pranab Jyoti Deka, Dilip Debbarma and Sujit Debbarma

Set in the verdant landscapes of Tripura, the documentary explores the cultural significance of attire and ornaments within the Reang community – symbols of beauty, spirituality, identity, and protection passed down through generations.



SHANGRILA – THE HIDDEN PARADISE

India | 2025 | 90:04 Mins | Sikkimese (Bhutia)

Director

Samten Bhutia

Producer

National Film Development Corporation Ltd.

Sikkim, a stunning Himalayan state protected by Mt. Kanchenjunga, has gained global recognition for its breathtaking scenery and growing tourism. Yet, its rich history, culture, and geography remain largely unexplored.



TEENS OF 1942 (BIYALLISAR LARALI)

India | 2023 | 30:26 Mins | Assamese

Director

Samiran Deka

Producers

Samiran Deka, Bhaskar Jyoti Das

Celebrating 75 years of Indian independence, “Teens of 1942” honors the splendid patriotism of then-teenage freedom fighters like Bholanath Nagaria and Radha Bora. By recreating their fragmented memories, this tribute inspires future generations with the stories of our valiant, unsung heroes.



THE HEALING PRIEST (PUITHIAM)

India | 2026 | 9 Mins | Mizo

Director

Napoleon RZ Thanga

In the olden days whenever there was a sick person it was assumed to be the work of a bad spirit. An ancient Mizo ritual called Daibawl was performed by the healing priest called Puithiam. Lenglep was hanged to scare the bad spirit away. People got healed. With the greed for a healthy life in the modern times, a frustrated young man is looking for means to cure his ailing sick father.



MANIPUR BROW ANTLERED DEER (SANGAI)

India | 2025 | 30 Mins | Manipuri and English

Director

Akanksha Sood Singh

Producer

Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Rushikesh Atmaram Chavan

In a land torn apart by ethnic and political tensions, a delicate figure dances through the floating grasslands of Manipur – the Sangai, a deer subspecies and the icon of this eastern Indian state, has always had to fight for its survival.

NATURE IN FOCUS

Nature is not merely a backdrop to human existence – it is a living network of relationships, struggles, and survival. Nature in Focus presents compelling stories from the wild and from those who dedicate their lives to protecting it. Spanning diverse habitats and perspectives, these films celebrate the beauty, complexity, and resilience of the natural world while encouraging a deeper understanding of our place within it.



LEOPARD DYNASTY- THE RISE OF RANA

India | 2026 | 51:56 Mins | Hindi | Documentary

Director

Aishwarya Sridhar

Producers

Jacqueline Farmer, Aishwarya Sridhar

Jhalana, India's leopard kingdom, is ruled by the vicious and mighty Bahadur. But his realm is uneasy. The perpetrator is Bahadur's own blood – his son Rana. Once lazy and helpless, Rana has grown into an ambitious prince. But power is not always a birthright in the royal forest. It must be earned with teeth and claws.



TENZING BODOSA – A STORY OF A TRIBAL ENTREPRENEUR

India | 2023 | 56:14 Mins | Hinglish | Documentary

Director

Mushuka Ramchiary

Producer

National Film Development Corporation Ltd.

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.



THE ANCIENT FOREST

Russia | 2025 | 70 Mins | Russian | Documentary

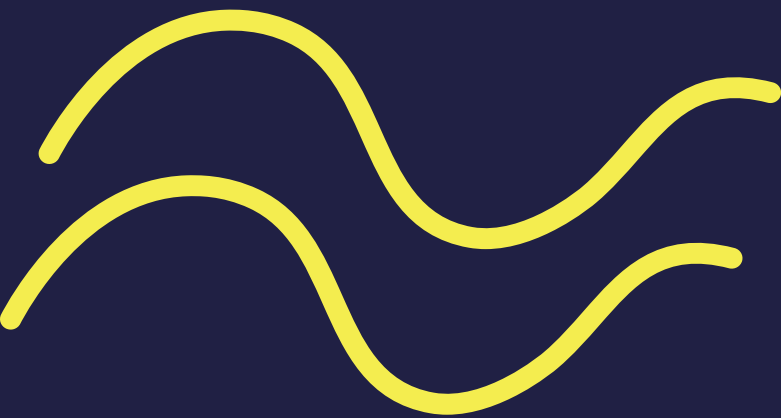
Directors

Vladislav Grishin, Irina Schaepman

Primeval forests that have existed for millennia provide water and air to all life. They are a world full of interconnections that have developed over thousands of years. Cedars, spruces, and firs, living their remarkable lives, create communities of millions of living creatures around them, many of which can be found nowhere else on the planet. Among the most important areas that remain unaltered since prehistoric times are old-growth forests.

NFDC SHOWCASE

The curated selection of documentaries presented by NFDC at the 19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2026 reflects a diverse and compelling showcase of storytelling from across India. Carefully programmed to highlight artistic excellence, thematic depth, and cinematic innovation, this segment brings together a rich mix of voices and narratives that resonate with contemporary audiences.





ARANYA PRAHARI (KEEPERS OF THE WILD)

India | 2024 | 69:27 Mins | Assamese | Documentary

Director

Karma S Paljor

Producers

National Film Development Corporation Ltd & Atvi Infotainment Pvt Ltd

Cinematographer

Mukut Medhi

Editor

Deepjyoti Das

Sound Designer

Nitunjay Borah

Indigenous communities in Northeast India stand at the forefront of the climate crisis, combining traditional ecological knowledge with modern approaches to protect the natural world they have long stewarded. The documentary centres these communities as primary actors, giving space to those doing substantive work on climate change while examining the challenges they face and the wider lessons their practices hold for all.

Festivals

National Indian Film Festival of Australia, 2026



Karma S Paljor is an award-winning journalist and entrepreneur from Sikkim and a two-time winner of the Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism. He was also named Reporter of the Year by Indiantelevision.com in 2010.



DISCOVERING DEVIKA

India | 2023 | 67:38 Mins | Hinglish(EST) | Documentary

Director

Usha Deshpande

Producer

National Film Development Corporation Ltd

Cinematographers

Ramsahay Yadav, Ravinder Singh Guram, Shankar S Chavan, Govind Sahu, Sreenivas V, Rameshwar Pawar, Sath yamurthy K

Editor

Sukumaran V

Sound Designer

Prasanna R Gadge

The film traces the life and legacy of Devika Rani, the first recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award and co-founder, with husband Himanshu Rai, of Bombay Talkies Studio. Through Bombay Talkies, Devika Rani acted in socially engaged films including 'Achhut Kanya' and mentored talents including Dilip Kumar, Ashok Kumar, and Madhubala. The film examines her enduring influence on Indian cinema across past, present, and future.



Usha Deshpande is a graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, in Film Direction and Screenplay Writing, and holds degrees in Journalism and English. She has worked as Producer-in-Charge of Fiction Programming at ETV Marathi, Guest Lecturer at FTII, and Content and Production Head at IndoGlobal Mass Media, directing across fiction, non-fiction, and promotional formats.



MAJULI (THE SHRINKING ISLAND)

India | 2024 | 52:30 Mins | Assamese | Documentary

Director

Ratul Baruah

Producers

National Film Development Corporation Ltd & Atvi Infotainment Pvt Ltd

Cinematographer

Ratul Baruah

Editor

B.Sakthi Doss

Sound Designer

Rakesh Nayak

'Majuli' examines the slow disappearance of the world's largest inhabited river island, situated in Assam at the confluence of the Brahmaputra and Subansiri rivers. Home to over 150,000 people who depend largely on agriculture, Majuli is shrinking rapidly due to severe soil erosion from annual floods. The film explores the threat to the island's agricultural life, Vaishnav culture, mask-making, and pottery traditions.

Festivals

5th Nadi Utsav Documentary Festival

Awards

Best Documentary, 5th Nadi Utsav Documentary Festival



Ratul Baruah studied Cinematography at the Film and Television Institute in Bengaluru. Over eighteen years in the commercial field, he has built a practice distinguished by its visual craft and commitment to bringing marginalised and underrepresented stories to the screen.



MOVING FOCUS

India | 2023 | 69:47 Mins | English, English Partly Hindi, Bengali | Documentary

Director

Caesar Das

Producers

National Film Development Corporation Ltd & Atvi Infotainment Pvt Ltd

Cinematographer

Ishaan Ghose

Editor

Niladri Roy

Sound Designer

Ayan Bhattacharya

'Moving Focus' surveys the five-decade body of work of filmmaker Goutam Ghose, whose documentaries and features have mapped the socio-economic, cultural, and political terrain of India. From early portraits of rural life to later studies of post-globalisation consumption, and through biographical films on Bismillah Khan and the Dalai Lama, the film presents Ghose's evolving thought and cinematic practice.



Caesar Das holds a postgraduate degree from the University of Calcutta and completed a filmmaking course at Kolkata Chitrabani. His films include 'Mind and Canvas' (Films Division, 2016), screened at the 10th SiGNS Film Festival and 23rd Kolkata International Film Festival; 'Vision Unveiled', selected for the 11th Mumbai International Film Festival (2010); and his debut feature 'Untitled', which had its international premiere at the 14th Jeonju International Film Festival, South Korea (2013).

NFAI PRESENTS- RESTORED CLASSICS



BEGUM AKHTAR

India | 1971 | 17:29 Mins | English | Documentary

Director
N. K. Issar

The film portrays different aspects of the personality of 'Begum Akhtar' known as 'Gazal and Thumri Queen'. Intimate pictorial depiction of the artist at home and on the stage enriches the film.



MAHATMA: LIFE OF GANDHI 1869–1948 (PART 1)

India | 1968 | 32:28 Mins | English | Documentary

Director
Vithalbhai K. Jhaveri

Mahatma Life of Gandhi is a sprawling documentary film, using exhaustive archival footage, which illuminates the life and work of Mahatma Gandhi

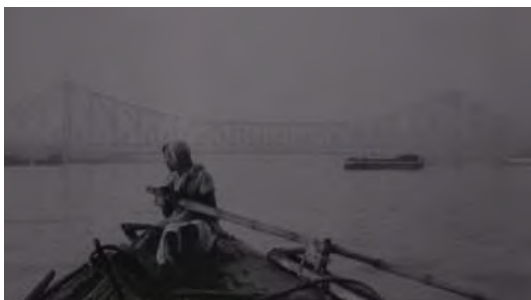


OUR ORIGINAL INHABITANTS

India | 1953 | 11:12 Mins | English | Documentary

Director
Jagat Murari

This film describes the variety of tribal population in India with their distinctive culture patterns, dress, decoration, dance and music. Tribal inhabitants of this country number some 25 million and belong to a hundred and seventy two different groups scattered through the length and breadth of this sub-continent.



PORTRAIT OF A CITY

India | 1961 | 20:38 Mins | Music | Documentary

Director
Chidananda Dasgupta

The activities of a typical big city full of factories, newspaper offices, rivers and race courses. All these are depicted here accompanied by background music, incidental dialogue and some effects, highlighting the overall impression of the city life.



RAVI SHANKAR

India | 1970 | 28:05 Mins | English | Documentary

Director
Pramod Pati

Ravi Shankar is a film portrait of the Sitar Maestro, depicting through a series of interviews and recitals his versatile personality as a well-known classical performer and a creative composer of Indian Music.

IFFI- CREATIVE MINDS OF TOMORROW

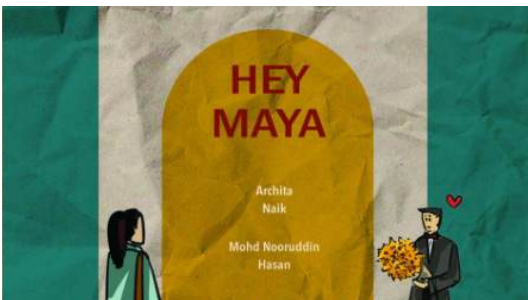


GULLU

India | 2024 | 06:56 Mins | Short Fiction

Director
Arshaly Jose

After losing his phone in Goa, Gulshan searches frantically for it and finds himself in the company of Salim, an unconventional driver whose approach to life unsettles him. Salim uses an imaginary phone, an empty hand shaped into a handset, to take pictures and send messages, deflecting Gulshan's irritation with unfazed ease. As the search continues, Gulshan lets his guard down and opens up about an estrangement that has long gone unaddressed.



HEY MAYA

India | 2024 | 06:37 Mins | Short Fiction

Director
Suryansh Deo Srivastava

Pratik, a corporate employee, turns to an AI relationship advisor app called Hey Maya to plan a perfect anniversary surprise for his girlfriend Priya, hoping to salvage their struggling relationship. Overriding his own instincts, he follows the app's suggestions and the evening collapses. In its wake, both Pratik and Priya independently consult the same AI for guidance on their relationship, unaware the other has done the same.



KHALI KHOPDI

India | 2025 | 08:08 Mins | Short Fiction

Director
Vishnu PK

A man standing at the edge of the sea encounters a stranger who claims to hold the sun. After a confrontation shaped by grief and exhaustion, the man wishes for no tomorrow. The stranger takes him at his word, and the man is forced to reckon with what disappearance truly means and what remains worth holding onto.

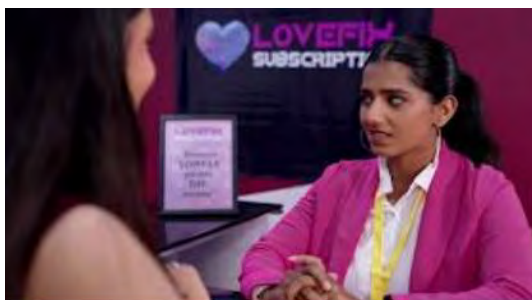


KOKUM

India | 2025 | 08:42 Mins | Short Fiction

Director
Srishti Garg

A young woman navigates the seductive convenience of digital life, forming connections that feel meaningful but grow increasingly hollow. As the gap between online interaction and genuine human intimacy widens, she begins to examine what is lost when emotional life is mediated entirely through screens. The film draws on animation and collaborative performance to explore the limitations of digital substitutes for real human presence.



LOVEFIX SUBSCRIPTION

India | 2024 | 05:29 Mins | Short Fiction

Director
Suryansh Deo Srivastava

A woman purchases a Partner Upgrader subscription service with the intention of improving her boyfriend, setting in motion a series of unintended consequences. Three months later, she finds the subscription impossible to cancel. The film examines what happens when the desire to change another person is met with the unpredictable logic of a system she no longer controls.



THE PAPER SKY

India | 2025 | 09:29 Mins | Short Fiction

Director
Raghunath S N

Neerja, once celebrated as the Traffic Girl for her dance performances at Mumbai traffic signals, stands alone on a Goa beach preparing to leave everything behind. When a

dishevelled journalist named Aakash arrives, claiming he has travelled far to find her.



THE WINDOW

India | 2024 | 07:21 Mins | Short Fiction

Director
Piyush Sharma

Leena, a seventy-year-old grandmother, and Sam, her twenty-year-old granddaughter, share a home but inhabit entirely different rhythms. Leena finds meaning in quiet

observation of nature through a weathered window, while Sam moves at pace through the digital world on her phone. Over the course of a single day, their contrasting ways of being in the world gradually open into unexpected moments of empathy and mutual recognition.



THE WOMAN WHO HAS A NAME

India | 2025 | 10:07 Mins | Short Fiction

Director
Sanjoli Malani

Swati's life unravels when an intimate video is leaked online and spreads rapidly. A wave of public abuse, humiliation, and scrutiny pushes her into a severe emotional

breakdown, leaving her too frightened to step outside. She covers herself as the world around her feels hostile. Drawing on reserves of courage, she enters a police station and begins the process of reclaiming agency over her own story.



WE CAN HEAR THE SAME MUSIC

India | 2024 | 08:13 Mins | Short Fiction

Director
Bonita Rajpurohit

Aman, a twenty-two-year-old mute man, falls in love with Aafiya, a twenty-five-year-old blind woman. Unable to communicate through conventional means, Aman turns to

AI technology to find a way to express his feelings to her. The film traces the tentative, searching quality of their connection as two people navigate the gap between what they feel and what they are able to share.

PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING TRUST PRESENTS

Emerging from PSBT's Doc_Commune mentoring programme for documentary filmmakers under 35, these films represent a new generation of Indian documentary voices.





MIC DROP

India | 2024 | 35 Mins | Bundelkhandi, Hindi | Documentary

Director

Kallol Mukherjee

Producer

PSBT India

Cinematographer

Yash Dubey

Editor

Kamal Gupta

Sound Designer

Jahnab Roy

In a region where the native Bundelkhandi dialect is often overlooked, a young rapper from Madhya Pradesh works tirelessly on his debut album. As financial pressure and a lack of resources mount around him, the central question of the film remains open: will he be able to make it, and at what personal cost?

Festivals

13th Annual DC South Asia Film Festival, 2024 | 8th DokuBaku International Documentary Film Festival, 2024



Kallol Mukherjee is a filmmaker whose work has screened widely at international festivals. Three of his films premiered at the International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala between 2022 and 2024. His short fiction 'The Unowned House' won First Prize from India's Ministry of Culture, and his recent short 'Mic Drop' has screened at over 25 festivals worldwide.



ONLY IF THE BABY CRIES...

India | 2024 | 14:58 Mins | No Dialogues | Documentary

Director

Shadab Farooq

Producer

Rajiv Mehrotra

Cinematographer

Sahib Syed Goni

Editors

Sahib Syed Goni, Shadab Farooq

Sound Designer

Caster Rinoy Gomez

In the Himalayan village of Dhadkai in Jammu and Kashmir, a large proportion of the population cannot hear or speak. Young couple Misra Khatoon and Mohammad Iqbal approach childbirth with a mixture of fear, anxiety, and hope. As the birth nears, villagers gather around their home and create noise through drums, utensils, and whistling, a traditional test to assess a newborn's hearing, whose result may not be confirmed for months.

Festivals

Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival, 2024 | Slamdance Film Festival

Awards

Best Short Documentary, Short Joy, Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival (2024) | Honourable Mention, Slamdance Film Festival



Shadab Farooq is an independent documentary filmmaker and journalist from Bhaderwah, Jammu and Kashmir. His student film on migration issues was a finalist at the 2022 Kolkata International Film Festival. His short 'Only if the Baby Cries...', commissioned by India's PSBT, documented the world's only entirely deaf and mute village. In 2022, he was recognised as a finalist for Human Rights and Religious Freedom Awards for his photojournalism.



WAITING FOR THE KINGS

India | 2025 | 30 Mins | Hindi | Documentary

Director

Omish Sharma

Producers

Rajiv Mehrotra and Aparna Sanyal

Cinematographers

Prem Jyothis and Omish Sharma

Editor

Omish Sharma

Sound Designer

Omish Sharma

Pushed to the margins of the wedding celebration they make possible, a group of migrant brass band players waits in a corner of the city while the ceremony unfolds without acknowledging their presence. The film observes their patience and stillness, attending to the structures of visibility and invisibility that organise the social world around them and determine whose contribution is seen.

Festivals

Chicago South Asian Film Festival, 2025 | Before the Third Bell, Veenapani Festival



Omish is a grant-winning filmmaker based in Delhi whose work attends closely to space, routine, and the power structures that shape everyday movement. Coming from a background in geography, his films examine how human and non-human actors move through and relate to their surroundings, approaching filmmaking as a practice of careful, sustained observation.



WHERE THE TARO GROWS

India | 2024 | 19:19 Mins | Sylheti | Documentary

Director

Anunay Barbhuiya

Producer

Rajiv Mehrotra (PSBT, India)

Cinematographer

Anunay Barbhuiya

Editor

Anunay Barbhuiya

Sound Designer

Shashank Kothari

Two siblings, each living far from the region where they grew up, speak over the phone about their deserted childhood home in southern Assam. As the area rapidly gives way to newer structures, formations, and beliefs, their conversation holds the home in place through memory and shared recollection. The film explores how connection to a place survives physical distance and the passage of time.

Festivals

16th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala, 2024 | 17th Habitat Film Festival, 2025



An independent filmmaker and artist from Barak Valley, Assam, and a graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, with a specialisation in film direction. His diploma film 'Wet Blue Tarpaulin' (2019) won Best Direction at the DMCS National Film Festival and screened at IDSFFK Kerala. His short documentary 'Where the Taro Grows' (2024) premiered at the 16th IDSFFK, Kerala, supported by the PSBT Doc_Commune Fund.

AI CINEMA HACKATHON @MIFF 2026

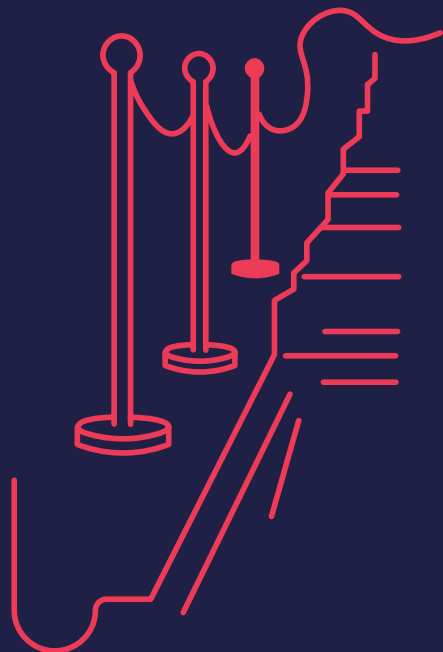
The Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2026, in its 19th edition, in collaboration with LTM, introduces the first ever AI Cinema Hackathon at MIFF and a bold step toward reimagining cinema in the age of artificial intelligence.

Bringing together filmmakers, creators, and technologists, this initiative explores a new frontier of storytelling, where creativity is amplified by AI and traditional boundaries of cinema are redefined.

Designed as a competitive, theme-based, time-bound challenge, the 48-hour virtual hackathon invites participants to create original short films using end-to-end AI-driven workflows. From concept to screen, creators will experiment with emerging tools, formats, and techniques, unlocking new possibilities in cinematic expression.

More than a competition, the AI Cinema Hackathon is a platform for discovery and future-facing storytelling, extending MIFF's legacy into the evolving language of cinema.

LTM



THE AI FILMS

The AI Films showcases a new frontier of cinematic expression where storytelling, technology, and imagination converge. Spanning history, mythology, personal memory, music, and meta-cinematic explorations, these films demonstrate how artificial intelligence is expanding creative possibilities while raising compelling questions about authorship, authenticity, and the future of filmmaking. Far from replacing human creativity, the works in this section reveal AI as a powerful new tool—one that enables filmmakers to visualize untold stories, reimagine the past, and explore ideas beyond the limits of conventional production.





LEGENDS – THE ETERNAL FLAME OF MEWAR

India | 2025 | 5:27 Mins | Mewari | AI Film

Director

Deepak Vijay (Deekay)

A lone bard sings across the Aravalli hills, awakening the memory of Mewar, a civilisation sustained over a thousand years not by conquest alone but by a commitment to dharma. The film moves through successive eras, from Bappa Rawal's founding vision to the reign of Rana Kumbha, the battles of Rana Sanga, the sacrifice of Panna Dhai, the founding of Udaipur, and Maharana Pratap's defiant years in exile. It is a portrait of a kingdom defined by honour and refusal.

Festivals

AI Film Showcase, AI Summit 2026



Deepak Vijay is an Indian digital artist, filmmaker, and prominent prompt engineer who has gained recognition within the global AI filmmaking community. His work focuses on using generative AI to visualise historical and cultural narratives, bringing the landscapes and legacies of Indian civilisation to contemporary audiences through cinematic AI-generated storytelling.



THE SCREENWRITER

Belgium | 2025 | 4:58 Mins | English | AI Film

Director

Laurent Cliquet

Producer

DresscodeAI

'The Screenwriter' is a chamber piece set inside the mind of a writer working under pressure. Every minute carries weight as the protagonist battles not with plot or dialogue but with the psychological and emotional forces that govern the act of creation itself. The film uses a confined, interior perspective to examine what it costs to make something out of nothing and what a writer risks when the page refuses to yield.

Festivals

LAAIMPA, Los Angeles, USA | AI Film 3 Festival, Arizona, USA

Awards

Bailey Award, AI Film 3 Festival Arizona | Best AI Screenplay, LAAIMPA

Laurent Cliquet is a Swiss-based digital artist, director, and filmmaker working within the European and international generative AI cinema movement. His short films have won recognition at AI film festivals in the United States and internationally, and his work focuses on narrative tension, conceptual writing, and the expressive possibilities of AI-generated cinema.



THE STAR SHEPHERD

China | 2025 | 4:24 Mins | English, Chinese | AI Film

Director

Xuan Li

Producer

LIX STUDIO

Editor

Xuan Li, Wuzhichiii

Sound Designer

Roy Wang (Wang Yuan)

The Star Shepherd' is an AI-generated felt-animation music video created for Chinese artist Roy Wang, inspired by his 2024 UNICEF ambassador visit to Malawi. Observing the natural harmony between local children and their environment, Wang transformed the experience into a poetic concept: that love is what connects strangers beneath the same sky. The film translates that vision into a tactile animated world rendered through generative AI and felt-textured imagery.

Festivals

BURANO AI International Film Festival

Awards

Bronze Cube, ADC 105th Annual Awards, New York | Best AI Application, The Anthem Awards

Xuan Li is a Chinese director, visual storyteller, and digital artist known for culturally influential music videos and experimental media. His work spans AI-generated cinema, digital art, and large-scale visual projects for major artists and brands across China and internationally.



KISHKINDHA: VAN KATHA

India | 2026 | 03:47 Mins | Hindi | AI Film | Historical Drama

Director

Aksht Verma

Producers

Sandhya Saxena,
Aksht Verma

Cinematographer

Aksht Verma

Editor

Aksht Verma

Sound Designers

Aksht Verma, Abin Dang

Kishkindha' presents a retelling of the Ramayana story of Kishkindha, drawing on research across multiple Puranas and historical documents. The film examines the kingdom through the journeys of the tragic king Sugriva, his brother Vali, and the rise of the crowned prince Angad. It explores the diverse Vanara species, the social and political dimensions of the epic, and the grand conflicts that shaped Kishkindha before and during the events of the Ramayana.

Festivals

16th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala, 2024 | 17th Habitat Film Festival, 2025



Aksht Verma is the founder of Abstract Eyes Creative Studio. His work includes campaigns for clients such as PUBG, PineLabs, DRI, and Cheq, and a recent collaboration with Freefire creating an opening event theme alongside his team. He has previously assisted directors on music videos and works with generative AI as his primary filmmaking tool.



STONEWALL, THE MAKING OF

Israel | 2026 | 10:14 Mins | English | AI Film

Director

Talya Lotan

The Making of Stonewall' is a documentary following the creation of a historical feature film, as yet unmade, about American Civil War Confederate general Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson. Through interviews with actors and the director, reconstructed scenes, and on-set footage, the film documents the process of bringing a complex historical figure to life. At certain points, the boundary between staged scenes from the unmade feature and the documentary recording them begins to dissolve.

Festivals

Bali International AI Film Festival | AI Film 3 Festival, Arizona, USA

Awards

Best Behind the Scenes, World Film Festival, Cannes (2026) | Best AI Film, Oniros Film Awards (2026)

Talya Lotan (also credited as Tali Lotan) is an Israeli digital artist, filmmaker, and multimedia creator who has built a reputation as a distinctive voice within the international generative AI cinema movement. Her work spans narrative film, music video, and experimental media, and has been recognised at AI film festivals in Bali, Arizona, and globally.



THE ACT OF KILLING DREAMS

India | 2025 | 10 Mins | English | AI Film

Director

Karsh Jhaveri

After the first AI-created film wins at Cannes, four legendary purist directors vow to confront every emerging AI filmmaker. Their crusade takes them through painterly, surreal worlds where each encounter forces them to face their own fears, ego, and attachment to a receding era. The film explores the collision between artistic tradition and technological change, and asks what becomes of creativity when the tools of cinema are fundamentally transformed.

Festivals

AI Film Showcase, AI Summit 2026



Karsh Jhaveri is a Toronto-based editor and filmmaker whose work spans documentary, branded, and AI-driven storytelling. He began his career under National Award-winning director Bishnu Dev Halder and has since contributed to projects for brands including Google and Abbott. His documentary credits include Basti and W.O.M.B – Women of My Billion, the acclaimed feature documentary co-produced by Priyanka Chopra Jonas and released on Amazon Prime Video. Alongside traditional filmmaking, Karsh explores AI as a creative medium, combining emerging technologies with cinematic craft to tell impactful stories that resonate with global audiences.



THE CINEMA THAT NEVER WAS

Germany | 2025 | 5:32 Mins | English | AI Film

Director

Mark Wachholz

Producer

Mark Wachholz

Cinematographer

Kling 2.0 Master

Editor

Mark Wachholz

Sound Designers

Udio 1.5 & 1.5 Allegro

Cinema has always carried a shadow archive: scripts never filmed, reels lost to fire or decay, careers cut short by war, censorship, or systemic exclusion. Using generative AI as a lens, the film does not attempt to recreate specific lost works but instead conjures the ghosts of a parallel cinematic history that never had the chance to exist. It is a meditation on absence, imagination, and what the history of film might have been.

Festivals

Reply AI Film Festival, Venice (82nd Venice IFF) | Artefact AI Film Festival, Paris

Awards

Grand Prix, Artefact AI Film Festival, Paris | Grand Prize, OMNI International AI Film Festival

Mark Wachholz is a novelist, video game writer, and television scriptwriter with over twenty years of experience in traditional storytelling. Wachholz moved into AI filmmaking to execute highly conceptual projects as a solo creator. His film 'The Cinema That Never Was' has won major prizes at the Reply AI Film Festival in Venice and the Artefact AI Film Festival in Paris, co-organised by mk2.



THE ECHO MONASTERY

India | 2026 | 03:47 Mins | Hindi | AI Film | Drama

Directors

Rajesh Bhatia, Bharat Arora

Producers

Rajesh Bhatia, Bharat Arora

Cinematographer

Bharat Arora

Editor

Rajesh Bhatia

Sound Designer

Rajesh Bhatia

Haunted by the loss of her father and the questions he left unanswered, a grieving Ladakhi woman journeys to a remote monastery hidden deep in the mountains. Legend holds that its walls echo not the prayers spoken aloud, but the words people never found the courage to say. Hoping to finally hear what her father withheld from her, she confronts memory, silence, and the weight of the unexpressed.

Festivals

AI Film Showcase, AI Summit 2026 | International Film Festival of Delhi, 2026

Awards

Best AI Film, International Film Festival of Delhi (2026)



Rajesh Bhatia is an FTII alumnus and filmmaker with over three decades of experience as a director, writer, producer, and educator across television, documentaries, and feature films. **Bharat Arora** is a cinematographer, colorist, and AI film director with over 25 years of experience in commercial, industrial, and narrative filmmaking. Together, they combine cinematic craft and emerging AI technologies, and their film 'The Echo Monastery' won Best AI Film at IFFD 2026.



THE LEGEND OF BIRSA MUNDA

India | 2025 | 7:48 Mins | Hindi | AI Film | Biopic

Director

Samresh Shrivastav

Producer

Samresh Shrivastav

Cinematographer

Samresh Shrivastav

Editor

Yagya Gautam

Sound Designer

Tarun Sharma

The Legend of Birsa Munda' is a generative AI-assisted animation film revisiting the life of Birsa Munda (1875 to 1900), a tribal leader, freedom fighter, and spiritual guide from Jharkhand. At twenty-five, Birsa mobilised India's tribal communities against British colonial rule and exploitative landlords through the historic Ulgulan, or Great Tumult. The film blends historical research with cinematic storytelling to pay tribute to his legacy and the resilience of indigenous voices.

Festivals

AI Film Showcase, AI Summit 2026
| AI Impact Summit 2026



Samresh Shrivastav is an IT professional with over twelve years of experience who began filmmaking through school and college theatre before directing short films that were selected at festivals and won awards. He now balances filmmaking with his full-time profession, using generative AI to develop and produce projects with lean teams. 'The Legend of Birsa Munda' reflects his interest in recovering important histories for contemporary audiences.

EMERGING
VOICES:
FILM SCHOOL
EDITIONS



FILMAKADEMIE BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG GMBH (FABW), GERMANY



A SPARROW'S SONG

Germany | 2025 | 9:11 Mins | Animation | Drama, Historical

Director

Tobias Eckerlin

Producer

Tobias Eckerlin

Sound Designer

Marc Uhlherr

Inspired by a true story, an elderly widow in World War II works as an air raid warden, bearing witness to the suffering of children and others in crowded shelters. One morning she discovers a dying sparrow and resolves to nurse it back to health. As the bird gradually recovers, a bond grows between them, sustained and deepened by the shared language of her piano playing.

Festivals

TIAF Taichung | Anima Brussels

Awards

Student Academy Award, Gold Animation Category (2025) | Best Student Project, SIGGRAPH Asia (2025)



Tobias Eckerlin (born 1993 in Schwetzingen, Germany) is a director and CGI artist who earned his Master of Arts in Communication Design from Mannheim University of Applied Sciences in 2018. In 2025, he graduated from Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg with a diploma in Directing Animation. He wrote and directed the animated short 'A Sparrow's Song' as his graduation project.



CHASING KITES (DRACHENFANGEN)

Germany | 2025 | 8 Mins | German | Short Fiction | Drama

Director

Anna Niebert

Producers

Lena Sophie Daun, José Julián Santisteban Pérez

Cinematographer

Laura Köhler

Editor

Immanuel Thiele

Sound Designer

Timo Kleinemeier

Sixteen-year-old Tjarg is exhausted by his younger brother Eik's grief, which has begun to overtake their shared home. To hold onto the memory of their recently deceased mother, Eik fills the apartment with handmade paper kites, small and large, until they become inescapable. When the tension between the brothers breaks into open conflict, Tjarg attempts to clear space for his own feelings in the only way he knows how.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Flickerfest Sydney | Filmfest Dresden



After graduating from the University of Applied Sciences in Salzburg specialising in film, she worked as a production coordinator and creative producer for commercials and music videos in Los Angeles, then as production coordinator and producer in the Berlin feature film industry. She has been studying Fiction Directing at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg since 2021.



FLYING ANIMALS (DIE FLIEGENDEN TIERE)

Germany | 2025 | 19:56 Mins | German | Documentary

Director

Lea Zitzenbacher

Producer

Amalia Starrach, Antonia Winkler

Cinematographer

Pola Zuk

Editor

Gianna Staude

Sound Designers

Lukas Huber, Antonin Nils Senge

Three children living with serious medical conditions, Phil, Ida, and Emily, spend much of their lives navigating a routine of appointments, tests, and hospital stays, isolated from the freedom of ordinary childhood. Through drawing, each preserves access to a rich inner world of imagination. The documentary uses animation to enter these private landscapes, revealing the vivid lives that persist far from the clinical realities around them.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

Hofer Filmtage | Nonfiktionale Bad Aibling



Lea Zitzenbacher was born in 2001 in Schwarzach im Pongau, Austria, and moved to Vienna in 2020 to begin an apprenticeship at a film production company. She later spent time in Switzerland, where she worked while shooting her application film for Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, where she is now studying.



LINIE 12

Germany | 2025 | 8:35 Mins | German | Animation | Drama, Adventure

Directors

Christopher Schmier, Sarah Schulz

Producers

Christopher Schmier, Sarah Schulz, Saskia Stirn

Editors

Christopher Schmier, Sarah Schulz

Sound Designers

Sophia Sämann-brandes, Torsten Brandes

In a world of towering mountains, train conductor Peregrin follows the world's precise rhythm across huge bridges and dangerous ridges, his routine as reliable as clockwork. One day, chaotic musician Clara smuggles herself into his cab and begins improvising on the innate sounds of his machine. When catastrophe strikes, the two must find a way to work together across their differences.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Tribeca Film Festival | World Festival of Animated Film Varna

Awards

Poplar Award for Best Music and Sound, ANIWOW! Beijing (2025) | Audience Award, Shorts Offenburg (2026)



Sarah Schulz was born in Zweibrücken in 1996 and has contributed to several animation projects in Germany and internationally, most recently doing clean-up on Cartoon Saloon's Oscar-nominated 'Wolfwalkers'. She completed her studies at the Animationsinstitut of Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in 2023. **Christopher Schmier** has worked for the ARD/ZDF subsidiary phoenix before beginning his studies at the renowned Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in 2016. During his studies, he created several animation short films. Since 2020, he is working for E.D.FILMS in Montreal, a studio that has garnered international acclaim for various projects.



MAJINI

Germany | 2025 | 19:25 Mins | Swahili | Short Fiction | Drama

Directors

Joshua Neubert, Victor Muhagachi

Producers

Leon Harms, Franziska Unger, Fabienne Sailer

Cinematographer

Larius Kieninger

Editor

Emma Holzapfel

Sound Designers

Marc Lehnert, Rachel Oker

Fari is afraid of deep water but deeply admires his older brother Danford, who fishes with their father to provide for the family. When their father falls ill, Fari must take his place on the boat. Fearing they will return empty-handed, Danford steers further and further out to sea, and the two brothers find themselves alone on open water, drawn into a dangerous test of masculinity.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Tirana International Film Festival | Aesthetica Short Film Festival

Awards

Best Student Fiction Film, In The Palace International Short Film Festival (2025) | Best International Short Film, Africa International Film Festival (2025)



Joshua Neubert is a German filmmaker born in 1994 in Bavaria who grew up in Tanzania. He enrolled in the Fiction Directing programme at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in 2020 and has since directed films in Germany, Tanzania, and the United States, screened at festivals worldwide. His latest work 'Gránica' was shortlisted at the Student BAFTAs. He is currently developing his debut feature film. **Victor Muhagachi** (1996) is a Tanzanian filmmaker who loves telling stories that matter. He's mixed his eye for beauty with real, raw narratives to create something truly special. Outside the lens, he's all about exploring, passionate about culture and landscapes. When he's not behind the camera, you might find him enjoying sports or planning his next adventure. Victor's work is a reflection of his journey, and he's just getting started.



SPARK (CHISPA)

Germany | 2025 | 11:07 Mins | Spanish | Short Fiction | Drama, Children

Director

Vera Kayh

Producer

Vera Kayh

Cinematographer

Flope Velozo

Editor

Frederik Bösing

Sound Designer

Timo Klabunde

Eight-year-old Marta is unusually independent and responsible, eager to support her overworked single father. But in taking on so much, she risks losing what she needs most from him: his attention. When the weight of it becomes too much, she skips school to find him at his second job. Disappointed by his unavailability, she leaves alone, and together they must find a way to speak to her feelings.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Filmets de Badalona | Kurzfilmstage Oberhausen



Vera Kayh has been studying fiction film directing at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg since 2020. Supported by a Baden-Württemberg scholarship, she spent a semester abroad at UCINE in Buenos Aires in 2023. Her short films as writer, director, and co-director include 'Chef' (19 min), 'Man Up' (5 min), 'Never Nude' (9 min), and 'Into the Light' (23 min). She previously worked as an actress at Theater Krefeld and Monchengladbach.



PEAR GARDEN

Germany | 2024 | 7 Mins | Farsi | Animation | Drama

Director

Shadab Shayegan

Producer

Shadab Shayegan

Editor

Revan Sarikaya

Sound Designers

Rachel Oker, Jonathan Rösch

Six-year-old Lily visits her grandmother, who has undergone a mastectomy, in her pear garden. Confused by her grandmother's changed appearance, Lily discovers at night that her grandmother's shadow still has breasts. She follows the shadow through the window and, guided by her own, sets off on a dreamlike journey in search of something she believes she can find and return.

Festivals

Spark Animation | Bengaluru International Film Festival

Awards

Best Visual and Audience Award International Competition, Fantoche (2024) | Best New Talent Short Film, POFF Shorts Tallinn (2025)



Born in Tehran, Iran. At 18, she moved to Vienna to study music composition at the University of Performing Arts. While experimenting with composing sounds, she discovered her interest in combining images with sounds, which led her to explore animation. This passion inspired her to join the Animation and Painting class at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. To further develop her skills, Shadab pursued Animation Directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg, Germany. There, she worked on her diploma film "Pear Garden", which was longlisted for BAFTA student and nominated for Annie Awards and has been shown in many festivals.



RISE AGE

Germany | 2024 | 4:42 Mins | Animation | Experimental, Music

Director

Tatjana Theuer

Producer

Tatjana Theuer

Editor

Wolfgang Purkhauer

Sound Designer

Timo Kleinemeier

Fluorescent critters groove through a coastal world led by a superior choir. Their carefree rhythm is increasingly disturbed by rising seas. As an invisible force creeps up the beaches, individuals begin to disappear one by one. The film is an animated portrait of a community shaped by peer pressure, shining egos, and a reluctance to acknowledge a danger that cannot be seen.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Interfilm Berlin | LIAF London

Awards

Best International Animation, Future World Film Festival, Lisboa (2025)



Tatjana Theuer is a German motion designer and filmmaker based in London, specialising in stylised 3D motion design and character animation. Her work focuses on translating complex social and environmental topics into charming, playful visual concepts that engage broad audiences.



SILVER STRINGS

Germany | 2025 | 6:40 Mins | Animation | Children

Director

Paul Kley

Producers

Sibel Chalkias, Georgia Tekidou

Sound Designers

Anna Eberhard, Monika Gatzka, Lion Potrebny

An elderly man and his daughter find it difficult to get along. The fastidious daughter does her best to support him but struggles with his idiosyncrasies. When the old man discovers a small spider in his house, an unexpected friendship begins to bloom, transforming his daily life into something lighter and more imaginative. But while he thrives in this new world, his daughter is left to contend with the disorder it brings.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Paul Kley was born in Ludwigsburg in 1999 and studied design, art, and media in Stuttgart before completing his Bachelor of Arts with the animated short 'Leg Day'. He has worked at Studio Seufz and Studio Film Bilder in Stuttgart and has been studying animation at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg since 2023. In 2021, his work was recognised at the Bruno Frey Film Prize.



THIS IS NOT A CHARACTER, THIS IS BETRAYAL (DAS IST KEINE FIGUR, DAS IST VERRAT)

India | 2024 | 13:20 Mins | German, French | Short Fiction |
Drama, Comedy

Director

Romina Küper

Producers

Katharina Mumper, Maxine
Paatzsch, Isabella Müller De
Paula

Cinematographer

Philipp Schaeffer

Editor

Silvan Marty

Sound Designer

Sirius Kestel

Fifty-eight-year-old hairdresser Melanie drives her son Stefan, a young author, to the first reading of his autobiographical debut novel 'Der Salon'. As Stefan becomes consumed by questions of class, upward mobility, and identity, Melanie grows quietly unsettled. She struggles to recognise who her son is becoming and to hold her own in an environment that seems entirely foreign to the world she knows.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

Trieste Film Festival | Short Shorts
Film Festival and Asia

Awards

Short Film Award, Kinofest
Lunen (2025) | Audience Award,
Flensburger Kurzfilmtage (2024)



Romina Kuper (born 1992) grew up in the Ruhr region and Munsterland, and studied philosophy, theatre studies, and comparative literature at RUB Bochum, FU Berlin, and UDK Berlin before beginning her acting career. She appeared in more than 30 productions before turning to directing. Since 2021 she has been studying film direction at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg.

LA FÉMIS (ÉCOLE NATIONALE SUPÉRIEURE DES MÉTIERS DE L'IMAGE ET DU SON), FRANCE



BOWL CUT (COUPE AU BOL)

France / Germany | 2025 | 08:20 Mins | French | Short Fiction | Comedy

Director

Tamara Vittoz

Producers

Daniel Rothstein, Michele D'Avenia

Cinematographer

Plume Fabre

Editor

Raphaël Goldszal

Sound Designer

Louise Lagabbe

On a hot summer day, seven-year-old Suzie receives a haircut she does not like. As tension rises between her separated parents, she resolves to take matters into her own hands. The film is a compact and quietly comic portrait of a child's determination and the way children navigate the emotional consequences of adult discord.

Premiere Status

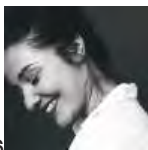
Asia Premiere

Festivals

Flickerfest International Short Film Festival 2026, Australia | Festival International du Film de Comedie de l'Alpe d'Huez 2026, France

Awards

Audience Award, Festival Faites des Courts



Originally from the Landes region, **Tamara** graduated from La Femis Residence in 2022. In her filmmaking, she enjoys playing with genre conventions and bringing a touch of humour to the heart of drama. She is currently developing her first feature film.



MAX

France | 2025 | 15 Mins | French | Animation | Comedy

Director

Emilien Pichon

Producer

Adèle Fressoz

Animation/Animator

Juliette Ragot

Sound Designer

Emilien Pichon

Ten-year-old Max moves into a run-down building with his father, but something feels wrong from the start. Strange noises, disturbed neighbours, and a locked room upstairs accumulate into a growing sense of unease. Little by little, Max begins to uncover what the building is hiding. The film is a quietly suspenseful portrait of childhood curiosity and the particular fear of discovering that a new home holds secrets.

Premiere Status

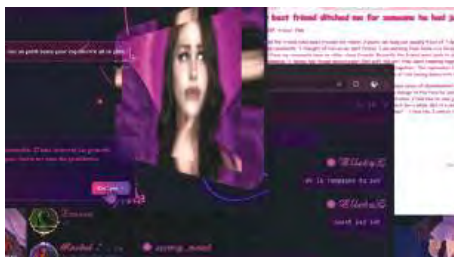
Aisa Premiere

Festivals

Festival International du Film d'Amiens, FIFAM (2025) | Carrefour du Cinema d'Animation (2025)



Emilien graduated from the Sound Department at La Femis in 2025. He currently works as a sound editor and continues to write and direct animated short films alongside his professional work.



MY INTERNET COUNTRYSIDE

France | 2025 | 24:44 Mins | French | Short Fiction | Teen Drama

Director

Lily Belbèze

Producer

Adèle Fressoz

Cinematographer

Esther Bourcereau

Editor

Lily Belbèze

Sound Designer

Juliette Couvreurt

Gaëlle, isolated in the countryside, feels betrayed by her best friend who has begun dating a boy. She finds companionship in Luna GPT, an AI positioned as a big sister figure on the internet, using it as a mirror for her emotions. Through this connection she begins to explore her desires and fears, eventually moving toward a virtual encounter that raises questions about digital intimacy and longing.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

Festival National du Court Mètrage Etudiant Court'Echelle 2026, France



Lily grew up near Toulouse and joined La Femis in 2021 to study editing. She is drawn to emerging narrative forms, particularly those shaped by the internet, and approaches editing as a tool for hybrid storytelling that moves between documentary and fiction. Her graduation film reflects her interest in the emotional and psychological dimensions of online life.



NOT TO DIE ALONE (POUR PAS MOURIR SEUL)

France | 2025 | 19:57 Mins | French | Short Fiction | Drama

Directors

Tommy Boulet, Valentin Noël

Producers

Florian Glasgall,
Orana Larthomas

Cinematographer

Tommy Boulet

Editor

Anaïs Manuelli

Sound Designer

Pascaline Peyclit

When a high school organises a simulated terrorist attack, Dylan, a student with low self-esteem, is assigned the role of hostage-taker. The exercise quickly becomes something more psychologically charged as Dylan inhabits the role and the boundaries between simulation and real feeling begin to blur. The film is a tense examination of identity, social pressure, and what happens when institutions ask vulnerable students to perform violence.

Premiere Status

India Premiere

Festivals

ISFVF, Beijing (2025)

Awards

Outstanding Award, ISFVF | Best Actor for Ambrym Guedin, ISFVF



Valentin Noël graduated from La Femis in the Scriptwriting Department. Tommy Boulet graduated from La Femis in the Cinematography Department. 'Simulate' is the first short film they have directed together.



SIGNS FROM BELOW (COMME UNE PIEUVRE)

France | 2025 | 22 Mins | French, French Sign Language | Documentary, Animation

Director

Maude Vuillez

Producer

Adrio Guarino

Editor

Maude Vuillez

Sound Designer

Lucia Rodriguez

The film immerses the viewer in the sensory experience of growing up deaf in a hearing world, where underwater silence becomes a recurring metaphor for a different kind of listening. Meeting other young deaf people for the first time opens new questions about identity, belonging, and what it means to move through a world calibrated for those who hear. The film approaches deafness not as a problem but as a distinct and formative experience.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

Festival International du Film d'Amiens, FIFAM (2025) | CineMAiubit Student Film Festival, Bucharest (2025)

Awards

Emergence Award, La SCAM



A graduate of cinema, culture, and communication studies, she chose editing as her creative practice and focused her graduation film at La Femis on deafness, a subject of personal significance. She is drawn to films with meaning and works primarily in documentary, where her editorial sensibility can engage with lives and perspectives that are often overlooked.



STILL WATERS (L'EAU QUI DORT)

France | 2025 | 24:53 Mins | French, Aluku | Documentary

Director

Juliette Gaudin

Producer

Lilas Roy

Cinematographer

Juliette Gaudin

Editor

Surya Natarajan

Sound Designer

Yvan Buttaud-gallot-lavallée

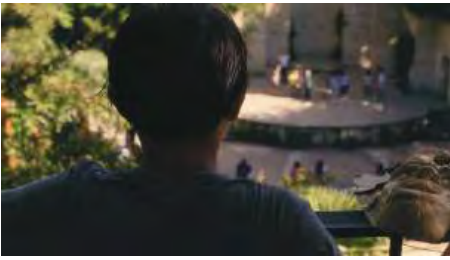
In the photographs left behind by her father, a reporter, Juliette recognises a colonial gaze that endures. In Maripasoula, a nurse named Lucille works to reinvent her gestures of care while navigating the power dynamics embedded in them. Along the water's edge, memory and power become entwined in a film that examines the inheritance of perspective and the difficulty of seeing differently.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Juliette holds a master's degree in documentary filmmaking and joined the Cinematography Department at La Femis in 2021. She now works primarily as a director of photography, bringing her background in documentary to her approach to image-making across both fiction and non-fiction forms.



THE AWAKENING (LA PERCÉE)

France, Germany | 2025 | 08:44 Mins | French | Short Fiction | Drama, Poetic

Director

Faeze Karimpour

Producers

Basile Healy, Gonzalo Regás De Peña

Cinematographer

Alexandre Vigier

Editor

Guilain Chaussard

Sound Designer

Fabien Beillevaire

An eleven-year-old boy is about to go on stage for his end-of-year show when stage fright takes hold and he stains his costume. He runs away to fix the mistake and his escape becomes an initiatory journey through the school and beyond. The experience gradually restores his confidence and brings him back to himself, ready to face the stage he fled.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Faeze Karimpour came from visual arts and discovered cinema in Tehran before pursuing studies in France. Trained at La Femis, she develops poetic and sensory cinema in which images and sounds transform everyday reality. She is currently writing her first feature film.

FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE OF INDIA



AT THE MARGINS (EK CHAUTHAI ZINDAGI)

India | 2024 | 20 Mins | Hindi, Marathi | Documentary

Director

Shubham Sumit

Producer

Film & Television Institute Of
India

Cinematographer

Ranadhir Biswas

Editor

Atharva Karvekar

Sound Designer

Piyush Jambhulkar

After his father dies, Vicky, a young slum dweller, abandons dancing and falls into substance abuse. His mother is left facing an impossible dilemma: whether to send her son to a de-addiction centre. Caught between grief and hope, the family navigates the painful gap between love and the limits of what care alone can do.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

14th Dharamshala International Film
Festival, 2025 | 17th IDSFFK, 2025



Shubham Sumit hails from Buxar, Bihar, and holds a background in chemical engineering before joining the Film and Television Institute of India. At FTII Pune, he completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Direction and Screenplay Writing.



IN SEARCH OF STONE (ASMA VAIDH)

India | 2025 | 20 Mins | Marathi, Hindi | Documentary

Director

Shekhar Sarkar

Producer

Film & Television Institute Of India

Cinematographer

Manav Raj

Editor

Shantanu Naik

Sound Designer

Jeet Vyas

Along the Konkan Coast, recently discovered geoglyphs spark competing mythologies among local villagers, with polyphonic narratives clashing over their meaning. As the community debates the past, illegal brick mines operating along the same sites pose an active threat to the prehistoric artefacts. The film holds these two forces in tension.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Shekhar Sarkar grew up in Cooch Behar, West Bengal, and completed a Master's degree in English Literature at Banaras Hindu University, after which he briefly taught at a local college. He joined FTII in 2019 as a direction and screenplay student, with a focus on migration, urbanisation, and the blurring of reality and fiction.



INERTIA

India | 2025 | 16 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction

Director

Gopal Tiwari

Producer

Film & Television Institute Of India

Cinematographer

Rohit Nikam

Editor

Nilesh Rasal

Sound Designer

Umakant Jagtap

After a massive heart attack, rigid physics professor Kulkarni Sir recuperates at the home of his estranged daughter and the son-in-law he has never accepted. A lifelong subscriber to Newton's First Law, he embodies inertia in his own life. As days pass under the same roof, small acts of care and quiet confrontations begin to chip away at the barriers he has long maintained.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Gopal Tiwari was born in Ambajogai, Beed district, Maharashtra, and completed a Master of Engineering followed by a Postgraduate Certificate in TV Direction at FTII. Having had no prior professional filmmaking experience, this student project marks his debut as a director.



MR. FRANCIS & THE LAST STANDING PCO

India | 2025 | 16 Mins | English, Marathi, Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Divya Kharnare

Producer

Film & Television Institute Of
India

Cinematographer

Aditya Dattatraya Tanpure

Editor

Gurunadh Rajulapati

Sound Designer

Hrithik Sunil

In bustling Pune, lonely old man Mr. Francis learns of a mythical phone booth atop the strange 'Kacharu Bicharu Hills' said to connect calls to heaven. A mysterious woman offers to take him there at a price: he must surrender two precious memories of his late wife. Desperate for one final conversation with Sonia, Mr. Francis sets off on a surreal rickshaw road trip that challenges what he is willing to forget.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Divya Kharnare holds a degree in mass communication and has spent six years working on feature-length documentaries and fiction films. He was among the winners of the '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' award at IFFI 2021, which led to directing '15 Seconds A Lifetime' and 'Letters to My Grandma', premiering at the New York Indian Film Festival in 2022 and 2023.

SATYAJIT RAY FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE



BLACK CLAY (KHIEW RANEI)

India | 2023 | 6:18 Mins | Pnar Dialect |
Documentary, Animation

Director

Riah Taipodia

Producers

Satyajit Ray Film And Television Institute, Kolkata

Cinematographer

Ronald A D Kharsyiemlieh

Editors

Riah Taipodia And Ronald A D Kharsyiemlieh

Sound Designer

Erick Franky Kharsyiemiong

Roilin Pyrtuh's family stands among the last remaining practitioners of black pottery in Meghalaya. With the tradition at risk of disappearing, Roilin takes on the responsibility of preserving this ancient craft and passing its knowledge on to her daughter, La-ini Pyrtoh.

Festivals

Chalchitra Film Festival, 2023 |
Northeast India International Film Festival, 2024

Awards

Winner, Non-Fiction Category
(National Level), Chalchitra Film Festival (2023) | 2nd Best Director, Northeast India International Film Festival (2024)



The director draws on roots in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, working in animation to recover and share Northeastern folk narratives. The work is driven by a commitment to reviving forgotten oral traditions through the medium of animated storytelling.



DURJOG

India | 2025 | 15:05 Mins | Hindi, Bengali | Short Fiction | Suspense and Thriller

Director

Harshavardhan Mahendra Ubale

Producer

Srfti (Shamit Dhar)

Cinematographer

Ramakrishnakumar T

Editor

Akshay Kragi

Sound Designer

Arpan Bain

A devoted caretaker serves an elderly man with complete integrity, his life defined by quiet duty. When his wife is suddenly hospitalised and requires costly treatment, he faces an agonising conflict between loyalty to his employer and the urgent need to secure funds for her survival. The film traces the moral weight of his predicament.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



The director has three years of professional experience across fiction, documentary, and commercial formats, working on short films, scene studies, and advertising productions. His practice centres on translating personal vision into cinematic reality.



INCOMPREHENSIBLE DOKRA (DOKRA KEU BOJHEY NA)

India | 2023 | 7:44 Mins | Bengali, Hindi, English | Documentary, Animation

Directors

Sneha Das, Monjima Mullick

Producer

Satyajit Ray Film And Television Institute

Cinematographer

Jayadev Ir

Editor

Sneha Das

Sound Designer

Sukrit Sen

'Dokra Keu Bojhey Na' is an animated documentary exploring the endangered state of Dokra, a 4,000-year-old craft tradition in West Bengal. Through conversations with artisans and sellers, the film examines the lack of patronage threatening its extinction and the difficult living conditions of its practitioners, while asking how the craft might be preserved.

Festivals

VGIK International Film Festival | International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala

Awards

Jury Award for Animation, VGIK International Film Festival | Distinction from Festival Director, Rising of Lusitania AnimaDoc Film Festival



Sneha Das is a filmmaker and animator from Kolkata, holding a Bachelor's in Multimedia from St. Xavier's University and a PG Diploma in Animation Cinema from the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, where she now serves as Assistant Professor. Her work includes 'Dokra Keu Bojhey Na' (2023), 'Hocchey Ta Ki?' (2022), and 'Stop. Look. Go.' (2022). In 2024, her film 'We Can Hear the Same Music' placed second at IFFI's Creative Minds of Tomorrow.

AUROVILLE FILM INSTITUTE



DOGS & DUST

India | 2025 | 10 Mins | Punjabi, Dogri | Documentary

Director

Tanny Kaler

Producer

Auroville Film Institute

Cinematographer

Tanny Kaler

Editor

Tanny Kaler

Sound Designer

Tanny Kaler

Ashok Singh is a migrant stone-breaker living on the fringes of Pyang village, unsettled by the sudden death of a neighbour whose precarious existence closely mirrors his own. When his brother-in-law calls with a request that his body be transported home to his native land upon death, Ashok is confronted with the full weight of displacement. The film explores what it means to live and die far from where one belongs.

Premiere Status

World Premiere

Festivals

14th Dharamshala International Film Festival, 2025 | 17th IDSFFK, 2025



Tanny Kaler (Gurpreet Singh) is a documentary filmmaker, cinematographer, and farmer from Punjab whose practice is rooted in observational, poetic cinema that values deep listening and the quiet dignity of reality. His filmmaking was shaped by sixteen months living at the Tikri Border during the Indian Farmers' Protest, where he documented the resistance and developed a foundational commitment to community-centred storytelling.



IN THE LIGHT OF TIME

India | 2025 | 12:21 Mins | English | Documentary

Directors

Amogh Chauhan & Jahnnav Pradeep

Producer

Auroville Film Institute

Cinematographers

Amogh Chauhan & Jahnnavi Pradeep

Editors

Amogh Chauhan & Jahnnavi Pradeep

Sound Designers

Amogh Chauhan & Jahnnavi Pradeep

Set amid prehistoric rock art sites along the Indus and Zaskar rivers, the film is a love story between past, present, and future. An archaeological peculiarity in Ladakh becomes a doorway into a time before recorded history, raising questions about how artifacts of the past can speak to a universal human desire to create something lasting beyond the self.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Jahnnavi Pradeep is an interdisciplinary creative and Mount Holyoke College alumna (2019-2023) whose work explores roots, identity, and the relationship between personal and collective memory. Through Auroville Film Institute and OSDA (2024-2025), she developed films including 'Notes for the Self' and 'Excavating the Present', working across film, photography, installation, and research. **Amogh Chauhan** is a multidisciplinary creative from Solan, Himachal Pradesh, who developed his documentary practice through Auroville Film Institute and the OSDA programme (2024-2025). His work engages with landscape, memory, and the layered histories embedded in specific places, with a focus on Ladakh and its cultural significance.



IN THE WAKE OF THE WIND

India | 2025 | 6:25 Mins | Documentary

Director

Pia Sukhija

Producer

Auroville Film Institute

Cinematographer

Pia Sukhija

Editor

Pia Sukhija

Sound Designer

Pia Sukhija

'In the Wake of the Wind' is set across a single day in the lives of a nomadic herder community on the high-altitude Chanthang plateau in Ladakh. With a quiet, observational approach, the film traces the slow rhythms of time and space as people, animals, and landscape move together in unhurried harmony. It is an immersive portrait of a way of life defined by endurance and attentiveness.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Pia Sukhija is a documentary filmmaker based in Bangalore and a B.Des graduate from Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology (2023). She recently completed a PG Diploma in Documentary Filmmaking through Auroville Film Institute's OSDA programme. Her work explores time, space, ecology, and everyday rituals, with films set in Ladakh and Auroville.



MEMORIES OF HOME

India | 2023 | 11:13 Mins | Ladakhi | Documentary

Director

Stanzin Angdu

Producer

Auroville Film Institute

Cinematographer

Stanzin Angdu

Editor

Stanzin Angdu

Sound Designer

Stanzin Angdu

Memories of Home' is a meditation on the old stone and mud houses of Ladakh, built for centuries from locally sourced materials and designed to harmonise with the mountainscape. The director returns in memory to his grandmother's now-abandoned home, reliving childhood moments spent there. Confronted by the realization that such houses are no longer being built, he wonders whether they will vanish entirely.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Stanzin Angdu is a visual artist from Leh, Ladakh, working across documentary film and photography. His practice is shaped by observation, curiosity, and a commitment to stories rooted in Ladakhi experience. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Arts from Punjab University (2021) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Documentary Film from the Auroville Film Institute.

BIJU PATTNAIK FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE OF ODISHA



KALACHAKRA

India | 2025 | 16:47 Mins | Odia | Short Fiction | Drama / Thriller

Director

AYUSHMAN BADAPANDA

Producer

Biju Pattanaik Film And Television Institute Of Odisha, Cuttack

Cinematographer

Ayushman Badapanda

Editor

Pritam Das

Sound Designer

Ritish Kumar Jena

Biswa flees from corrupt police officers while protecting a gold bracelet, injuring himself during the chase. He takes shelter in an abandoned property in the woods, where he encounters Dharmaraj, an eccentric old man. A warm exchange gradually turns tense as Biswa's true identity surfaces, and he finds himself drawn into a confrontation with forces far beyond the ordinary.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Ayushman Badapanda is a screenplay writer and director who completed his bachelor's in filmmaking at Biju Pattnaik Film and Television Institute of Odisha. He has written and directed independent short films with recognition at film festivals, and won an IFP Golden Script Award at the 50 Hours Screenwriting Challenge in 2023.

DR. BHUPEN HAZARIKA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE



ECHOES OF EMPTINESS (PAAR BHANGAA BAAT)

India | 2023-24 | 15:08 Mins | Assamese | Short Fiction

Director

Pallab Rajbonshi

Producers

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Regional
Government Film & Television
Institute, Assam

Cinematographer

Suvrajit Das And Raktim Ranjan
Barpatra

Editor

Pallab Rajbonshi

Sound Designer

Abhinash Saikia

Inspired by a true story from Assam, the film follows a poor mother and her devoted daughter as they struggle against poverty and loneliness. As Alzheimer's slowly erases the mother's memories, the daughter survives on fragile hope, waiting for her missing uncle's return from a dangerous and hidden world. Amid fading memory and unanswered absences, a brief moment of love offers light before another painful separation.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

Northeast International
Documentary and Film Festival
(NIDFF), Dibrugarh (2024) | Official
Selection, 7th International Short
Film Festival Pune (2026)

Awards

Best Short Film, Mud House
International Short Film Festival
(2024) | 2nd Best Director, Berar
International Short Film Festival,
Bangalore (2024)



Pallab Rajbonshi is a filmmaker and editor from Assam, currently studying Film and Video Editing at Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film and Television Institute.



THE LAST HERD (MOISHAL)

India | 2026 | 29:55 Mins | Assamese | Short Fiction

Director

AISHWARJYA BORA

Producers

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Regional
Government Film & Televisio Institute,
Assam

Cinematographers

Aishwarjya Bora, Bhaskar Jyoti
Tamuli, Suprove Tamuli Phukan, Ankita
Upadhyaya And Jyutimoy Bhuyan

Editors

Nibir Kumar Nath, Alakesh Pathak,
Bitopon Talukdar, Satyabrot Das,
Manish Kumar Das , Debasish Kalita,
Nitupal Saikia

Sound Designers

Himangshu Talukdar, Bhaskar J Mahanta

Bupai is a humble buffalo keeper whose quiet life, devoted to his beloved animals and young daughter, is shattered when a devastating flood sweeps through the village. One by one his buffaloes fall sick and die, and his livelihood begins to disappear. Faced with overwhelming uncertainty, Bupai must find the resilience to protect his daughter's future and endure what the flood has taken from him.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

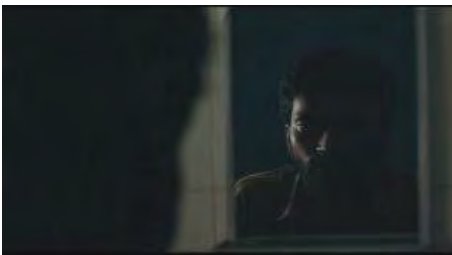
Festivals

International Film Festival Delhi
(2026)



Aishwarjya Bora is an independent Assamese filmmaker and alumnus of DBHRGFTI with over five years of experience.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN



KAVARCHA

India | 2025 | 13:15 Mins | Malayalam | Short Fiction

Director

Amarnihal Noora Showkathaly

Producers

Yaatra Khan, Nid

Cinematographer

Dev B Raj

Editor

Amarnihal Noora Showkathaly

Sound Designer

Aravindan P B

Set in the late 1990s in a vintage pawn shop in Mattancherry, Kavarcha unfolds over the course of a single tense night. The shop is run by two brothers: Ravi, the younger and shrewder one who has inherited both the business and a sense of superiority, and Mohan, the older brother who works quietly under his command.



Amarnihaal is a filmmaker currently pursuing Film & Video Communication at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.



PEOPLE OF MOUNTAIN EBBY (EBBY MALAI MAKKAL)

India | 2025 | 21:06 Mins | Tamil, English | Documentary

Director

Akshith PS Sathyananthan

Producers

Akshith Ps Sathyananthan & Nid

Cinematographer

Mithilesh Gunasekaran

Editor

Akshith Ps Sathyananthan

Sound Designer

Akshith Ps Sathyananthan

'Ebbay Malai Makkal' is a documentary set in the Nilgiris that explores the lives and histories of the Paniyas, one of South India's most marginalised tribal communities. Once bonded labourers, the Paniyas continue to face discrimination and are frequently reduced to the identity of workers. Through a participatory approach, the film allows the community to narrate their own stories alongside perspectives from other tribes within the same social structure.

Premiere Status

World Premiere

Festivals

Cut.In, Tata Institute of Social Sciences | Baripada International Short Film Festival

Awards

Special Mention, Cut.In



Akshith PS Sathyananthan is a filmmaker from Chennai and final-year Film and Video Communication student at the National Institute of Design, his work explores storytelling as a way to reflect on human experience, power structures, and social hierarchies.



SEMAR

India | 2025 | 29:11 Mins | Halbi, Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Sachin Das

Producers

Sachin Das, Nid

Cinematographer

Deependra Yadav

Editor

Sachin Das

Sound Designer

Satyanarayan Hembram

Eleven-year-old Kishan wants to run far enough to reach his father in Raipur. Shankar, a fugitive, runs because stopping means the end. The two move through forests and past rivers that pass no judgment, watched by unmoved trees. Kishan believes running will take him somewhere. Shankar knows it will not. In this land, running is not escape, only delay.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Sachin is a multidisciplinary artist with a Master's degree in Filmmaking from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, and a Bachelor's in Computer Science Engineering from the University of Pune.

RV UNIVERSITY



NAGALAND, A VISUAL POEM

India | 2025 | 04:05 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

Advaith Ashok

Producer

Sofmca, Rvu

Cinematographer

Advaith Ashok

Editor

Advaith Ashok

Sound Designer

Advaith Ashok

Nagaland, A Visual Poem by Advaith Ashok, student of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is an alluring look into the beauty of life and love through the lenses of a hopeless romantic. The words uttered complement the visuals we see and give us a feeling of peace as we join the narrator on his journey through the magnificent Nagaland.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Advaith Ashok is a 3rd year filmmaking student at RV University. His films aim to capture the nuances of human connection and the deep desire for freedom of the spirit. True connections emerge from an openness that is built slowly, and this is reflected in the kind of stories he creates. He aspires to continue capturing the complexities of life and the diversity of experiences that touch souls and heal identities.



STELLA AMOR (STAR OF LOVE)

India | 2025 | 14:14 Mins | Kannada, Malayalam | Short Fiction

Director

Aldo A Clement

Producers

Sofmca,rvu And Ashwanth Gowdru

Cinematographer

Athul Vinayak Ajitkumar

Editors

Harithej, Aldo A Clement

Sound Designer

Anubaraja Arul

'Stella Amor' follows Aldo, a laid-back film-loving youth, who is surprised by a late-night visit from his girlfriend Ria. Their reunion is filled with unspoken tension, playful banter, and unresolved feelings. As they share a quiet moment under the stars, deeper questions about love, permanence, and the future of their relationship begin to surface between them.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

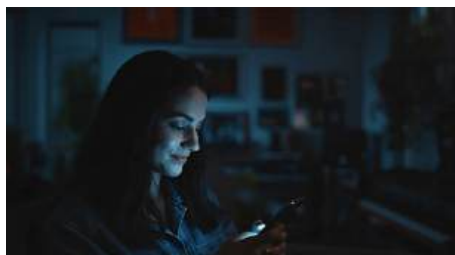
TIFA 2025

Awards

Best Actor, TIFA 2025



Aldo A. Clement is an emerging filmmaker from Kerala and a Master's student at RV University specialising in Film, Media, and Cultural Studies. He has worked as Assistant Director on productions including 'Kathanar: The Wild Sorcerer' and is a three-time Kerala State Award (SIET) winner. He is also recognised in the India and Asia Book of Records and has directed advertising content for leading brands.



THE ENDLESS SCROLLER

India | 2025 | 02:05 Mins | English | Short Fiction

Director

V Srinivas Rao

Producers

Sofmca, Rvu And V Srinivas Rao

Cinematographer

V Srinivas Rao

Editor

V Srinivas Rao

Sound Designer

V Srinivas Rao

Anna's routine late-night scroll is disrupted when a mysterious black post appears on her feed. What begins as a small glitch escalates quickly as distorted fragments of social media spill into her physical space, twisting reality around her. The chaos briefly subsides before a single screaming notification shatters the silence and something threatening moves in the shadows behind her.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

2026 India AI Summit | HorrorCon 2025



V. Srinivas Rao is a filmmaker and animator pursuing a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Animation, VFX, and Gaming at RV University. His debut AI-generated short film 'The Endless Scroller' was an official selection at the 2026 India AI Summit and HorrorCon 2025. He works at the intersection of traditional storytelling and AI-integrated cinematic workflows.



WHERE DOES A BODY BEGIN & END

India | 2025 | 5:27 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

SURIYA KIRAN T

Producers

Sofmca,rvu And Skt Films

Cinematographer

Suriya Kiran T

Editor

Suriya Kiran T

Sound Designer

Suriya Kiran T

Where Does a Body Begin and End? is an experimental short that blurs the boundary between body and soul, posing philosophical questions about where the self truly resides.

Through abstract visuals and a meditative tone, it encourages viewers to look beyond the physical and consider the deeper, less tangible dimensions of existence. The film resists easy interpretation in favour of reflective openness.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Suriya Kiran T. is a twenty-year-old filmmaker based in Bangalore who has been making films since the age of nine. A student of the School of Film, Media and Creative Arts at RV University, he works across writing, directing, editing, and cinematography, with a focus on visually immersive and narratively engaging cinema.

DADA LAKHMI CHAND STATE UNIVERSITY OF PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS



JUNGLEE RANI

India | 2025 | 8:01 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Navya Hayaran

Producer

Dicsupva

Cinematographer

Kartik Pandit

Editors

Diptanshu Tank,
Karan Bhardwaj

Sound Designer

Ravi

Junglee Rani' follows Rani, an actress subjected to a grotesque and exploitative scene on a disturbing film set. Behind the camera, the director and crew clash over the film's direction while the producer grows increasingly frustrated. As chaos takes hold, with flashing lights and distorted sound, Rani's distress deepens and her pleas go unheard. The film confronts the dark, dehumanising realities of the movie industry.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

17th IDSFFK (2025) | Cut.Dot.In, TISS (2025)



Navya Hayaran is a filmmaker born and raised in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in filmmaking. An emerging voice with a bold and distinctive cinematic style, her work explores controversial and emotionally charged themes, blending elements of psychological drama and documentary-style realism. She has previously directed a self-reflective short documentary and a short narrative film.



L-EARN (TAAL-MEL)

India | 2025 | 8:51 Mins | Hindi | Documentary

Director

Anushkka Gupta

Producer

Dada Lakhmi Chand State University Of Performing And Visual Arts, Rohtak

Cinematographer

Prateek Tiwari

Editor

Dinesh Kumar

Sound Designer

Karun Arora

Set against the streets and buses of Rohtak, 'Taal Mel' follows a group of teenage boys who play tambourine to earn money for themselves and their families. Through their musical journeys, they encounter hundreds of strangers whose reactions reflect differing opinions about their age, poverty, and social place. The film examines the tension between music as expression and the harsh social realities the boys navigate daily.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Anushkka Gupta, from Bikaner, Rajasthan, is a film student pursuing a BFA in Screenplay Writing and Direction at Dada Lakhmi Chand State University of Performing and Visual Arts, Rohtak. Drawn to fine arts and the small moments of everyday life, she focuses on coming-of-age stories that explore urban life, women, friendship, and self-discovery.



ROHTAK MY CITY (ROHTAK MERA SHEHAR)

India | 2025 | 12:05 Mins | Hindi | Documentary

Director

Vinayak Sharma

Producer

Dada Lakhmi Chand State University Of Performing And Visual Arts

Cinematographer

R.v. Narayan Das

Editor

Rajat Songra

Sound Designer

Gautam Beniwal

"Rohtak Mera Shehar" is a heartfelt journey of three students who leave their hometown behind in pursuit of higher education. As they navigate the unfamiliar streets of a new city, they find themselves caught between longing and discovery—drawn to the contrasts yet comforted by the unexpected similarities. Through moments of struggle, friendship, and self-reflection, their search for Home evolves from a place to a feeling.

Premiere Status

India Premiere



Vinayak Sharma is an emerging director and storyteller from Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. His work focuses on simple, honest, and emotionally grounded narratives. His documentary Rohtak Mera Shehar, inspired by his own experiences and those of his cast and crew, explores the idea of what home truly means. Through realistic storytelling and thoughtful visuals, he aims to create films that feel personal, relatable, and genuine.

WHISTLING WOODS INTERNATIONAL



WINTER RAIN

India | 2024 | 18:28 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Abhishek Chaturvedi

Producer

Jayam R Shah

Cinematographer

Vibhu Devansh

Editor

Hibah Bhat

Sound Designer

Akshay Patil

A retired man struggles to balance the demands of home with regular hospital visits, grappling with the growing challenge of managing alone. As his wife's condition worsens, he faces the painful emotional reality of preparing to let her go. The film quietly examines the weight of caregiving, solitude, and the unspoken grief that accumulates within long marriages.

Premiere Status

World Premieret

Festivals

Kobani International Film Festival
| Waterfront Indie Festival (Non-Competition)



Abhishek was born in Hyderabad in 1992 and relocated frequently due to his family's defence background, completing schooling in Hyderabad and Jabalpur. After an MBA in Lucknow and over six years at Euromonitor International, he left the corporate world to pursue filmmaking, driven by a lifelong passion for visual storytelling and human-centred narratives.



CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

India | 2024 | 18:03 Mins | Hindi, English | Short Fiction

Director

Fiza Batra

Producer

Elin Kullman

Cinematographer

Lavanya

Editor

Simran Chirania

Sound Designer

Devkrit Baluni

During a summer vacation at their family beach house, sixteen-year-old Anaya is left in charge of her playful nine-year-old brother Ansh when their parents leave unexpectedly. In her bid to manage the situation and keep him safe, she inadvertently pushes him away. The film explores the tension between responsibility and connection in the dynamics of a sibling relationship.

Premiere Status

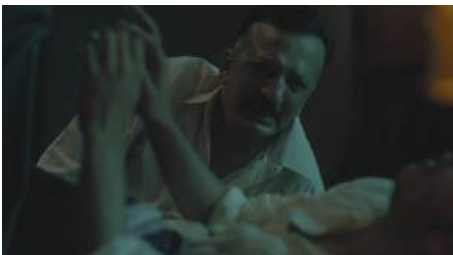
World Premiere

Festivals

Pune Short Film Festival | Kerala Short Film Festival



A recent graduate in Film Direction from Whistling Woods International, Mumbai, she grew up in Udaipur with a background in theatre, acting, and dance. Her graduate course allowed her to write and direct several short films, deepening her voice as a storyteller focused on personal and emotionally honest narratives grounded in family and coming-of-age themes.



DOORI

India | 2025 | 19:03 Mins | Hindi, English | Short Fiction

Director

Sparsh Banerjee

Producer

Rohan Satish

Cinematographer

Nikhil Pires

Editor

Joshua George John

Sound Designer

Asmee Tolia

A grieving father and his estranged son must face the ghosts of their past to mend the wounds that keep them apart.

Festivals

World Culture Film Festival | Nanocon International Film Festival



Award-winning Indian filmmaker **Sparsh Banerjee**, a "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" honoree and Whistling Woods alumnus, crafts evocative psychological dramas like *Doori*, exploring family dynamics, identity, and generational trauma.

MARATHI FILMS

Bringing together emerging voices from Maharashtra, this package of fiction and documentary shorts explores desire, identity, disability, and belonging, offering tender, provocative, and deeply humane portraits of contemporary society through fresh and fearless cinematic perspectives.





17TH YEAR

India | 2025 | 24:59 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Drama, Coming-of-age

Director
Nilesh Arun Kunjir

'17th Year' is a tender coming-of-age story of Baban, a teenage boy in rural Maharashtra. When a new family moves in next door as tenants, Baban begins respectfully addressing the young married woman as 'Vahini' (sister-in-law). Over time, his innocent admiration for her gentle nature slowly transitions into a confusing, unspoken desire. As he witnesses love, longing, and loss within the walls of an old mansion, Baban experiences his first emotional and sensual awakening.



ARJUN

India | 2020 | 14:45 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Drama

Director
Shivraj Waichal

Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, so they say. We look at the world as we see it. But, what about those who are deprived of the vision? Arjun is a story of a little blind boy who sees the world... through his own vision. This slice of life film is about a simple incident in his life. Arjun is introduced to the art of sketching, rather stencil sketching by his cousin and an artist – Ateesh. Someone who perceives this world through touch, this is another way of seeing the beauty of this world, for Arjun.



BRAMHAKAMAL

India | 2025 | 20 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Drama

Director
Ashutosh Jare

Brahma Kamal is a poignant exploration of love, legacy, and the fragile beauty of life. At the center of the story is Nalini, a woman who has made a life-altering request in court, an application for Icchha Mrityu (passive euthanasia). The court grants an ultimatum to her children: they must spend 25 days with her before the decision is finalized.



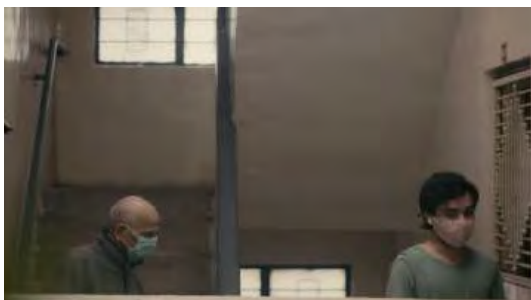
DAARAVTHA (THE THRESHOLD)

India | 2015 | 30 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Drama

Director

Nishant Roy Bombarde

While boys his age play cricket, an adolescent boy longs to play a female part in a mythological school play opposite an elder boy whom he secretly likes.



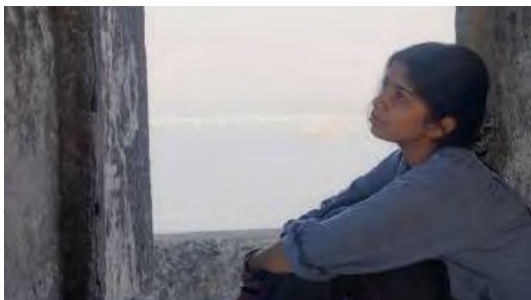
DEAR 202

India | 2025 | 23:04 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Drama

Director

Aniket Kale

In the stillness of the Covid-19 lockdown, a young bachelor, frustrated by the ceaseless cries of a dog trapped in the flat below, finds his own restless soul stirred. Each bark, a lament, echoes the reflection of his own entrapment. As the world shuts the doors, guarding human life above all else, he alone heeds the call of another kind of suffering. Thus begins a quiet journey—tender, aching, and profound—toward connection, compassion, and the quiet strength of resilience.



DONGAAR PAANI

India | 2025 | 25 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Drama

Director

Sanjeevani kamble

When Savi leaves Mumbai for a new job in Alibaug, her roommate Anu struggles with unspoken emotions. Their farewell becomes an introspective journey exploring love, friendship, and growing up.



GADHUL (TURBID)

India | 2018 | 25:24 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Drama

Director
Ganesh Shelar

Gadhul is a story of relationship of a son (Rohit, 14) and his mother (Latika, 35). An incident takes place on the death anniversary of his father which takes a sinister turn, to change his relationship with mother.



JASWANDA (HIBISCUS)

India | 2024 | 13:40 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Romantic Drama

Director
Shoneel S Yallattikar

The film journeys through the day in the life of a retired couple in their 70s. The woman - seemingly stereotypical, but with a mind of her own; the man - much less hypocritical than others of the same generation. The story explores their interpersonal dynamics, their small world through their lens, interspersed with the dichotomy of melancholy and hope that the arrival of the monsoon brings.



MAAYBAAPACHE AASHIRWAAD (BLESSINGS)

India | 2025 | 19:57 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Dark Comedy

Director
Apurva Bardapurkar

Overprotective parents Sangeeta & Suryakant will go to any length to protect their son's childhood secret from his girlfriend.



MAHALLE'S SCHOOL

India | 2025 | 20 Mins | Marathi | Documentary

Directors
Akshay Ingle

Janu and Vedu are neatly dressed in their school uniforms, but they're not going off to school. They're at home, tensely watching the screen of a mobile phone firmly mounted on a tripod. In India, as in other places, the pandemic has meant that millions of children are being educated online. Janu and Vedu are two of them. While they do their assignments, debut filmmaker Akshay Pradip Ingle focuses mostly on the reactions of the kids – sometimes they're serious, other times inquisitive and at times a touch rebellious. Every so often Ingle asks them a brief question. Can Janu do arithmetic? What are Vedu's thoughts about the future? Their parents look on with great interest and support—their father teaches online himself.



METKUT

Australia | 2024-25 | 30 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Drama

Directors
Anand Tamboli, Deepti Madi

When Sayali joins a new company after a long maternity break, the workplace feels familiar and yet completely different. Through office humour, small discomforts, and the quiet expectations placed on her, the film asks a simple but layered question: when a woman returns to work, who really needs to adjust?



MUKTA

Australia | 2024-25 | 30:50 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Drama

Directors
Anand Tamboli, Deepti Madi

Mukta is dependable, hardworking, and used to carrying responsibility without complaint. But when a busy day forces her to fulfil an important commitment, she must step beyond the hesitation that quietly limits her. The film explores the invisible mental roadblocks that hold back capable people, especially when pressure, duty, and self-doubt arrive together.



NEHEMICH

India | 2023 | 23 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction
Drama

Director
Yudhajeet Basu

Banished from the village to a dilapidated hut for the duration of her period, a young girl hopes to elope with her lover. She belongs to an erstwhile village of nomads believing that the dead return in the form of the most beloved one.



PANKHOL

India | 2024 | 26 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction |
Drama

Director
Parag Pradip Sawant

Pankhol is the story of Rama and Mohan who lost their son Chinya accidentally. They both are in deep sorrow and trying to cope up with the bitter reality. Where Rama holds the grief Mohan is trying to bring her out of depression and anxiety. The drowning boat is symbolically represented as their lost son Chinya. It is the journey of acceptance and healing.



PAMPHLET

India | 2018 | 29:41 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction |
Live Action

Director
Shekhar Bapu Rankhambe

A 12 yrs child receives 1 religious pamphlet which mandates circulation of copies of the same to avoid misfortune. But the child does not have money to print the copies of the same. As he cannot follow the same, he develop a tremendous fear.



PHAD – A MAHARASHTRIAN FOLK ART

India | 2018 | 30:10 Mins | Marathi | Documentary

Director

Dhananjay Yamuna Ahirani

The documentary 'Phad' is based on the great folk tradition of Maharashtra known as 'Tamasha' and on the life of its artists. These artists were born on-stage, brought up on stage and have carried forward the baton inherited from their parents and grandparents, selflessly. This art, that can be traced back to nearly 250-300 years, and its artists are still living the lives of the illiterate and the abandoned for generations together."



SAAPSHIDI (SNAKES AND LADDERS)

India | 2020 | 29:18 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Drama

Director

Mayura Dolas

Saapshidi is a story of chance and internalised oppression. Eleven-year-old Amruta has become so accustomed to the habitual uncertainties her dominant father has ingrained into her life that, for every dice she throws in a game of snakes and ladders, she's come to believe a serpentine attack is imminent.



VENI

India | 2024 | 23 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction | Drama

Director

Vishal Jejurkar

Set in a small apartment, the story follows the chaotic daily routine of Varsha. She lives with her husband, Amol, and their son, Yash. They care for 70-year-old Narmada, who is suffering from the late stages of Alzheimer's. Narmada's past memories and her consciousness have diminished almost entirely. Even so, she remembers a few Ovis (folk songs) from her laborious past, her fingers remember the touch of garlic and how to peel it, her body remembers the addiction to roasted tobacco (misri), and she remembers her son, who never existed. Amongst all this chaos, Varsha realises she has missed her period, and a paradox unfolds.



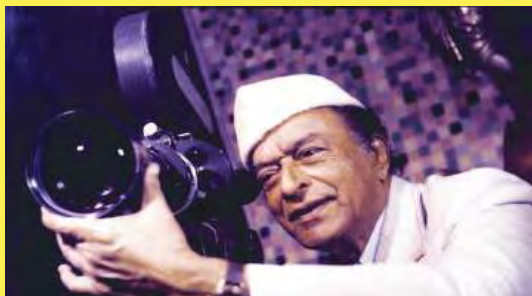
WAAGH (THE LEOPARD)

India | 2025 | 19:59 Mins | Marathi | Short Fiction |
Drama, Psychological

Director
Mukti Krishan

When a leopard wanders into a redeveloped apartment complex in Mumbai - its natural habitat long since encroached upon - fear quickly spreads. Mumbai is the only city in the world with a forest nestled within its limits, where leopards co-exist with malls, highways, and high rises. When the leopard is found dead, 8-year-old Apu's world begins to distort. Waagh is a tense psychological drama about childhood, fear, and the quiet violence that lingers long after the world has moved on.

125 YEARS OF V SHANTARAM



V. SHANTARAM – THE PIONEERING SPIRIT

India | 2011 | 41:42 Mins | English | Documentary

Director
Sanjit Narvekar

Biographical film on veteran film maker Dr. V. Shantaram.

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH CENTENARY



SECRETS OF WILD INDIA: DESERT LIONS

UK | 2012 | 48:02 Mins | English | Documentary

Director
Duncan Chard

Narrator
David Attenborough

Secrets of Wild India is a captivating three-part natural history documentary narrated by David Attenborough. It showcases the immense biodiversity of India, balancing the intense reality of the wild with dramatic, localized narratives across three distinct and extreme ecosystems: lush jungles, towering mountains, and arid deserts. The desert of northwest India is one of the most challenging environments on the planet, where only the best adapted survive.



HOMAGE



HIGH SCHOOL

United States | 1968 | 75 Mins

Director

Frederick Wiseman

High School is a landmark observational documentary that examines everyday life inside Northeast High School in Philadelphia during the late 1960s. Through Wiseman's cinéma vérité approach, the film captures classroom discussions, disciplinary interactions, assemblies, counseling sessions, and student-teacher relationships, revealing the institutional structure, discipline, and social values embedded within the American public education system of the era.



RAGHU RAI: HEARING THROUGH THE EYES (L. V.)

India | 2016 | 28:47 Mins

Director

Suvendu Chatterjee

This is a journey through the inner and outer world of the legendary Indian photographer Raghu Rai. The film takes us through an intertwined passage of photographs, personal narratives and world views that combine in the process of the making of a Maestro and his life so far.



TALA AND RHYTHM - MRIDANGAM PLAYED BY PALGHAT RAGHU

India | 1972 | 10:44Mins

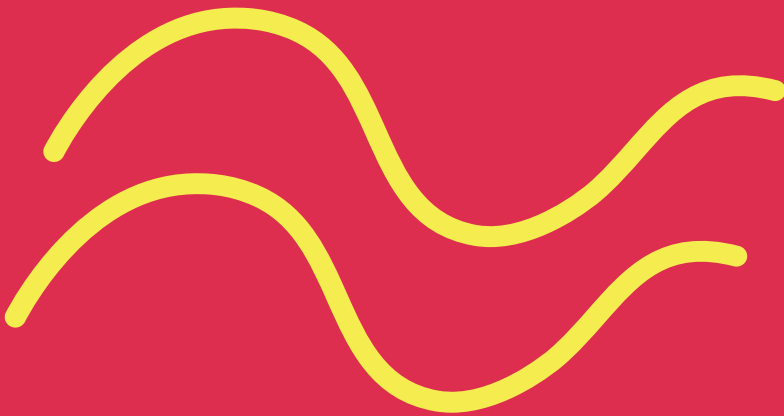
Director

Shyam Benegal

A film on the Mridangam which is the most ancient of all our percussion instruments.

GALA PREMIERES & SPECIAL SCREENINGS

The Red Carpet, Gala Premieres and Special Screenings segment, witnesses its second edition at the 19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF). The segment continues to feature a curated selection of films across World, Asia, and India premieres, offering audiences exclusive first-viewing experiences while fostering meaningful interactions between filmmakers, industry professionals, and global cinephiles, thereby enhancing the festival's international stature and appeal.





ALICE IN WONDERLAND

USA | 1951 | 75:16 Mins | English | Animation

Directors

Clyde Geronimi, Wilfred Jackson, Hamilton Luske

Producer

Walt Disney

Cinematographers

Bob Broughton, Dick Grills, F. Bud Mautino, William J. Tomkin

Editor

Lloyd L. Richardson

Sound Designer

C.O. Slyfield

When a curious young girl named Alice follows a White Rabbit into a rabbit hole, she enters the fantastical world of Wonderland. Searching for a way home, she encounters eccentric figures including the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, and the Queen of Hearts. Disney's animated adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic follows Alice through a dreamlike landscape of riddles, absurdity, and whimsy, where logic is persistently inverted and imagination governs all. Walt Disney's 1951 animated adaptation of Lewis Carroll's timeless classic follows Alice through the whimsical world of Wonderland.



Clyde Geronimi (1901-1989) was an animator and director at Walt Disney Studios who co-directed several canonical features including 'Cinderella', 'Alice in Wonderland', 'Peter Pan', and 'Sleeping Beauty'. His work helped define Disney's visual and narrative language during the studio's golden age. **Wilfred Jackson (1906-1988)** was a pioneering Disney animator and director whose credits span 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' and 'Fantasia', among other landmark productions, shaping the studio's foundational approach to character and sound. **Hamilton Luske (1903-1968)** was a Disney animator and director who contributed to 'Pinocchio', 'Cinderella', and 'Alice in Wonderland', and played a formative role in developing the studio's character animation principles.



BHARATI AUR BIBO - AHILYABAI HOLKAR

India | 2026 | 16:51 Mins | Hindi | Animation Series

Director

Sneha Ravishankar

Producers

NFDC & Puppetica Media

Sound Designer

Bowrchid Media

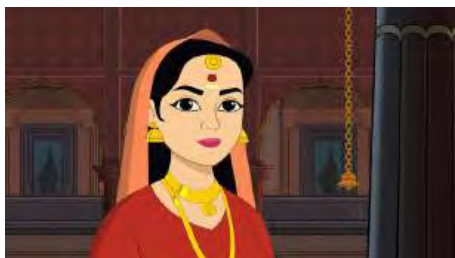
Destiny took her to the royal family of Indore, but her courage and wisdom took her to even greater heights. One of the greatest queens of the Maratha Empire, Ahilyabai Holkar overcame immense challenges to establish her kingdom as a force to reckon with. Her diplomacy, administration, and philanthropy continue to inspire generations across India.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Sneha Ravishankar is a filmmaker and Project Lead at AI4Bharat, an IITM initiative.



BHARATI AUR BIBO – RANI DURGAVATI

India | 2026 | 16:08 Mins | Hindi | Animation Series

Director

Sneha Ravishankar

Producers

NFDC & Puppetica Media

Sound Designer

Bowrchid Media

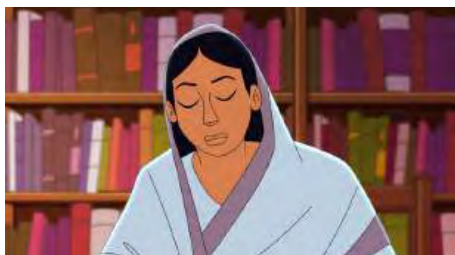
Rani Durgavati was a fierce warrior queen of the Gondwana Kingdom who defeated several invading forces and defended her people with unmatched courage. Her reign focused on education, irrigation, and prosperity. Even while facing the mighty Mughal Empire, she fought bravely till her last breath to protect her kingdom and its people.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Sneha Ravishankar is a filmmaker and Project Lead at AI4Bharat, an IITM initiative.



BHARATI AUR BIBO – RANI RASHOMONI

India | 2026 | 17:26 Mins | Hindi | Animation Series

Director

Sneha Ravishankar

Producers

NFDC & Puppetica Media

Sound Designer

Bowrchid Media

Rani Rashmoni was a courageous social reformer from Kolkata who worked tirelessly for the welfare of the poor. She challenged the oppressive policies of the East India Company, built ghats and public welfare spaces, and supported progressive reforms alongside Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Sneha Ravishankar is a filmmaker and Project Lead at AI4Bharat, an IITM initiative.



BHARATI AUR BIBO - SAALUMARADA THIMMAKKA

India | 2026 | 16:56 Mins | Hindi | Animation Series

Director

Sneha Ravishankar

Producers

NFDC & Puppetica Media

Sound Designer

Bowrchid Media

Saalumarada Thimmakka, a legendary environmentalist from Karnataka, transformed a barren roadside by planting and nurturing hundreds of trees like her own children. Her dedication towards nature became an inspiration for environmental conservation across generations.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Sneha Ravishankar is a filmmaker and Project Lead at AI4Bharat, an IITM initiative.



ÚTÓIPE CHEILTEACH (CELTIC UTOPIA)

Sweden/Ireland | 2025 | 90 Mins | English, Irish Gaelic |
Documentary

Directors

Dennis Harvey, Lars Lovén

Producers

MDEMC & Sveriges Television
(SVT)

Cinematographers

Tuva Bjork, Jamie Goldrick

Editor

Dominika Daubenbüchel

Sound Designer

Thomas Jansson

Set against the backdrop of a rapidly changing Ireland, Celtic Utopia explores identity, belonging, and modern aspirations through a visually immersive cinematic narrative.

Premiere Status

Asia Premiere

Festivals

Chicago Film Festival

Awards

Critics' Week Grand Prize, Locarno
Film Festival (2025)



Dennis Harvey is a Stockholm-based filmmaker and writer whose documentary work focuses on music, culture, and social identity. His films examine how communities use artistic expression to engage with history, politics, and contemporary life. 'Celtic Utopia' continues this approach through the lens of Ireland's evolving folk scene. **Lars Lovén** is a Swedish documentary filmmaker known for observational, culturally focused work. His collaboration with Dennis Harvey on 'Celtic Utopia' combines music documentary craft with social portraiture of a country renegotiating its cultural identity.



FORCE OF NATURE: EXTREME EARTH

48:07 Mins | Natural History, Documentary

Director

Simon Muriel

Producer

Plimsoll Productions

Commissioning Broadcaster

ITV Studios

Channel Partner

Animal Planet

As climate change intensifies, wildlife worldwide faces extreme weather. A burrowing owl saves her chicks from tornadoes; cheetah brothers navigate record floods in Kenya; an Arctic polar bear hunts reindeer as sea ice vanishes; and Senegalese chimpanzees dig wells amid devastating drought.



Simon Muriel is an award-winning documentary filmmaker with extensive experience creating premium natural history and factual programming for international broadcasters and streaming platforms. His credits include Earth at Night in Colour for Apple TV+ and Incredible Animal Journeys for Disney+.



GUDGUDI

India | 2026 | 21 Mins | Hindi | Short-Fiction

Director

Manisha Makwana

Producer

White Peacock Films

Cinematographer

Vishal Vyas

Editors

Bhushan Mane, Sumeet Kotian

Sound Designers

Sanjay Mauryya & Allwin Rego

Ritu, a 25-year-old woman, lives a life stretched thin — caring for her younger brother, supporting her distant mother, and working inside a furry mascot costume at a children's amusement park. When she unexpectedly bonds with Aarav, a quiet 9-year-old boy, she slowly confronts loneliness, survival, and her longing to be truly seen. Gudgudi is a deeply emotional story about quiet human connections and healing.

Premiere Status

Asia Premiere



Manisha K. Makwana is an Indian filmmaker making her directorial debut with 'Gudgudi'. Before directing, she spent nearly a decade working with Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D.K. on projects including 'The Family Man', 'Farzi', 'Guns & Gulaabs', and 'Citadel: Honey Bunny'. The film, drawn from her personal experiences, marks her debut at Cannes.



NAAYAB – THROUGH THE TEACHER’S LENS

India | 2026 | 35:02 Mins | Hindi | Documentary

Director

Shweta Parakh

Producers

Department of Education,
Ladakh & Kidding Around
Bharat

Naayab is an educational travel documentary on inclusive education that captures a meaningful learning exchange between special needs teachers from Ladakh and Jodhpur. The film explores teaching methods, skills training, arts, culture, and building self-reliance in children with special needs.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Shweta Parakh is an Indian filmmaker, TEDx speaker, and Founder-Director of Purple People Labs. Through her Kidding Around Bharat initiative, she uses cinema as a pedagogical tool for K-12 students. Her mobile Cinema School in a Sandook approach has empowered children including those with special needs in Ladakh to write, shoot, and direct their own films.



SONAM AUR SONA KE SAPNE (LITTLE BIG DREAMS)

India | 2026 | 19 Mins | Hindi | Short Fiction

Director

Rakesh Nair

Producers

Jitendra Mishra, Shweta Parakh,
Yash Nagarkoti

A spirited young girl from Ladakh with a special ability sets out to prove she is far more than an object of pity. Alongside her loyal donkey and determined friends, she embarks on a heartfelt journey to earn her education - leading to unexpected opportunities and dreams much bigger than they ever imagined.

Premiere Status

India Premiere



Rakesh Nair is an Indian independent filmmaker and associate director with nearly two decades of experience across commercial entertainment, children’s educational programming, and social advocacy documentary. He is known for his participatory filmmaking approach, using digital media to support children from rural, underserved, and neurodivergent communities in telling their own stories.



UP AND RUNNING (CORREN LAS LIEBRES)

Spain | 2025 | 71 Mins | Spanish | Documentary

Director

Lorena Ros

Producer

Patricia Sánchez (Novena Nube Producciones)

Editors

Florencia Aliberti,
Iván Guarnizo

Sound Designer

La Masia

After serving ten years in prison, Noa, a 48-year-old trans Romani woman, fights to regain custody of her children while struggling to avoid eviction. Alongside friends surviving on the margins of Barcelona, she navigates poverty, exclusion, and resilience with humour and strength.

Premiere Status

International Premiere

Festivals

Docs Barcelona

Sales

Novena Nube Producciones

GALA PREMIERES & SPECIAL SCREENINGS



The director is a documentary photographer and filmmaker whose work addresses memory, identity, and the representation of trauma. She holds three World Press Photo awards, the One World Media Award, and grants including the Getty Grant and Open Society Engagement Grant. She is the author of 'Unspoken', and her work is held in the MNAC collection.



Y64 – WHISPERS OF THE UNSEEN

India | 2025 | 65:50 Mins | English | Documentary

Director

Jain Joseph

Producer

Beena Unnikrishnan

Cinematographer

Pradeep Badhar

Editor

Prajeesh Prem

Sound Designer

Ajith A George

Y64 – Whispers of the Unseen is a cinematic exploration of the wisdom and spiritual legacy of the 64 Yoginis. Through stunning visuals and immersive storytelling, the film journeys across India's Yogini temples, blending spirituality, creativity, and artistic expression into a meditative cinematic experience.

Premiere Status

World Premiere



Dr. Jain Joseph is a cinematographer, scriptwriter, and filmmaker trained at FTII Pune and IIM Ahmedabad. He is Founder-Director of Film as a Profession (FAAP), a global initiative aimed at bringing professionalism and sustainability to film careers. His practice encompasses curriculum design, concept museum creation, and mentoring creative practitioners across disciplines.



SESSIONS
@19TH
MIFF



From Idea to Outline: The Anatomy of a Scene

Speaker: Biplab Goswami

Launching on the first day of MIFF's awaited workshop series, this inaugural session sets the foundation for powerful visual storytelling. Every great screenplay relies on the strength of its individual scenes to build a truly unforgettable story. In this workshop, Biplab Goswami, the acclaimed screenwriter behind India's official entry for the Best International Feature Film, 'Laapataa Ladies', breaks down the essential anatomy of powerful scene construction. The audience will walk away with practical, professional insights on how to create narrative fiction, character agency, and emotional depth into every scene they write.



**BIPLAB
GOSWAMI**

Acclaimed screenwriter, director, and film editor whose script 'Two Brides' was adapted into the film 'Laapataa Ladies' which was India's official entry for the Best International Feature Film at the Oscars.

Core Craft and Visual Language: The Soul of Cinematography

Speaker: Modhura Palit

This second session shifts the focus to the powerful art of cinematic storytelling through light and shadow. Well-known cinematographer Modhura Palit, celebrated for her evocative visual storytelling will lead participants through the mechanics of cinematic expression. Drawing from her extensive experience across fiction, documentaries, and international collaborations, she will dissect how a camera lens translates human emotions into visual magic.



**MODHURA
PALIT**

ISC cinematographer trained at SRFTI. First Indian to win the Pierre Angénieux Excellens at Cannes 2019. Academic Council member at SRFTI; Shera Bengali Award winner 2024.

Surviving the Cut : Challenges of Modern Editing

Speaker: Deepa Bhatia

For the third day of MIFF's workshop series, this session tackles the evolution of raw footage in the editing room. Acclaimed editor Deepa Bhatia, renowned for shaping the narrative emotional core of landmark films like 'Taare Zameen Par' and 'Rock On!!', will teach the hidden complexities of the modern editing table. Drawing from her rich filmography spanning commercial blockbusters and documentaries, she will explore how to maintain artistic vision while balancing massive volumes of footage and shrinking digital timelines.



**DEEPA
BHATIA**

Mumbai-based editor, director, and producer. Credits include 'Rock On!!', 'Taare Zameen Par', 'My Name is Khan', and 'Sachin: A Billion Dreams'. Selected for BAFTA Breakthrough Cohort 2025.

The Cinema of Social Advocacy: Turning Issues into Narratives and Bringing into the Frontlines

Speaker: Sanjeev Sivan

Award-winning filmmaker with an extensive portfolio including over 30 short films and 75 documentaries directed for major international networks, including National Geographic, Discovery, and Al Jazeera.



**SANJEEV
SIVAN**

Filmmaker from the Sivan family. Directed 30+ short films and 75 documentaries for National Geographic, Discovery, and Al Jazeera, earning multiple international awards.

Exploring Cinema in a Compact Future

Speaker: Anand Pandey

As AI reshapes the horizons of filmmaking, Anand Pandey guides us through the final day of our workshop series to uncover the next generation of storytelling. Leveraging his deep industry expertise, Pandey connects technology with creative vision to map out the future of micro-cinema and compact narratives. Attendees will discover how emerging AI tools empower creators to produce high-impact, cinematic experiences on a smaller, more accessible scale.



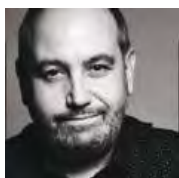
**ANAND
PANDEY**

Head of AI Centre of Excellence at IIT. Producer of 'Bhoot Bandhus (Nickelodeon)' and 'Twisted Timeline of Sammy and Raj'. Former line producer at Reliance Animation.

Stanislavski and the Search for Human Truth: From Theatre to Documentary Cinema

Speaker: Fabrice Carrey

This masterclass explores how Konstantin Stanislavski devoted his life to one essential question: how can we recognize living human truth and distinguish it from imitation? Through his life, his encounter with Anton Chekhov, the birth of the Moscow Art Theatre, and the evolution of his system, the masterclass will show how Stanislavski transformed the way we observe human presence, silence, rhythm, behaviour, inner life and authenticity. The topic will be connected to documentary cinema, short films and animation, because every cinematic form deals with the same essential question: how to reveal what is alive, truthful and human on screen. In a poetic sense, before documentary cinema became a language, Stanislavski was already investigating the same deep question: how to recognize the truth of life.



**FABRICE
CARREY**

Artistic Director of Demain le Printemps, a Franco-Belarusian Stanislavski theatre school. For 20+ years, he has led cultural exchange projects between France, Belarus, and international partners.

The Philosophy of Montage: Unveiling the Folds

Speaker: Federico Atehortúa

Drawing from the speaker's background in directing documentaries like 'Pirotecnia' and "Forensics", he demonstrates how cutting image and sound is a deep act rather than a simple technical transition. By investigating the structural "folds" where separate shots collide, the speaker guides us to see montage not just as a tool for chronological storytelling, but as a philosophical battlefield where history, trauma, and reality are actively constructed.



**FEDERICO
ATEHORTÚA**

Colombian filmmaker and professor. His features Pirotecnia (IFFR 2019) and Forensics (Karlov Vary 2025, Jury Prize) have screened at major festivals worldwide.

Depiction of Space as a Means of Storytelling in Animation

Speaker: Raimund Krumme

Moderator: Dhvani Desai

Animation is like dancing with lines". Raimund Krumme, a master in minimalistic animation, will talk about how space can determine movement in different forms of animation. Always with an eye on other media, like fine arts, theatre or dance he will show examples in animation, including his films and commercials, as he puts the emphasis on space to convey a content.



**RAIMUND
KRUMME**

Internationally acclaimed minimalist animation filmmaker. Shorts have won the Prix du Jury at Annecy, Grand Prix Montreal, and the Renato Guttuso Award (2025). Oscar Academy member.



**DHVANI
DESAI**

Award-winning animation filmmaker and curator with 35 years in the field. Jury member at international festivals; animation curator for MIFF and other global festivals for 14 years.

Is Micro Drama the Fast Fashion of Cinema?

Speakers: Saameer Mody, Archana Kavi, Ujjwal Chopra, Rafael Stemplewski

Moderator: Sheena Chohan

This year, MIFF sessions open by exploring the latest, recent and trending currents shaping world cinema. As short vertical series content explodes across digital platforms, this session examines whether the rise of “micro-drama” is redefining cinematic storytelling or solely reducing the production cost and screen time. Bringing unique perspectives from the front lines of digital innovation and traditional narratives, Saameer Mody, Archana Kavi, and Ujjwal Chopra will talk about the rapid production cycles, monetization strategies, and acting challenges that define this changing phenomenon. Guided by moderator Sheena Chohan, the panel will discuss whether this format is a sustainable evolutionary step for entertainment or a fleeting trend sacrificing depth for clicks. They will also explore what this massive shift means for the future of creators, performers, and the art of storytelling itself.



**SAAMEER
MODY**

Founder and MD of Pocket Films, India’s leading short-format platform since 2009, with 5,000+ curated films, 4M+ YouTube subscribers, and 1.7 billion views across digital platforms.



**ARCHANA
KAVI**

Pioneering micro-drama creator, actress, writer, and producer. Career spans Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu cinema, best known for her acclaimed debut in Neelathaamara (2009).



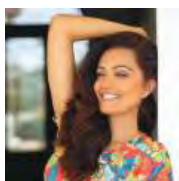
**UJJWAL
CHOPRA**

Seasoned actor headlining vertical series on Vaha Flix, Quick TV, and Pocket Films, with credits in Padmaavat, Uri, Heeramandi, Jamtara, and 500+ TV commercials.



**RAFAEL
STEMPLEWSKI**

Rafael Stemplewski is a Polish-German author and film director. He is currently in pre-production as director of the series The Guardians of the Himalayas, a Hindi-language multi-season micro series on sustainability set in Himachal Pradesh.



**SHEENA
CHOHAN**

Award-winning actress, lead in ten pan-Indian films including Ant Story (Netflix). South Asia Ambassador for United for Human Rights; recipient of the Human Rights Hero Award at the United Nations.

ROUND TABLE

19TH MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL | MIFF 2026

Many Forms, One Vision: Celebrating Diversity in Film Festivals

Speakers: Anand Varadaraj , Deepak Beshra, Premendra Mazumdar, Nilotpal Majumder, Shaikh Khaja Vali, Patricia Sanchez Mora, Prakash Magdum

Moderator: Sheena Chohan

Bringing together festival directors representing documentary, short film, and animation film festivals from India, this inaugural round table gathers a panel of veteran curators and festival directors, including Anand Varadaraj, Deepak Beshra, Premendra Mazumdar, Nilotpal Mazumdar, Shaikh Khaja Vali, Patricia Sanchez Mora and Prakash Magdum to explore the evolving landscape of global and regional cinema. Drawing from their collective decades of experience steering major film festivals and networks, these visionaries will discuss how festivals serve as crucial custodians of diverse voices, experimental formats, and festival diversity. Guided by moderator Sheena Chohan, the conversation will focus on the challenges of curation in a fragmented digital age, championing the inclusive programming that unites varied cinematic expressions under a shared artistic vision. Ultimately, the panelists will chart a collaborative roadmap for how international and domestic festivals can continue to foster cultural exchange, elevate marginalized narratives, and inspire the next generation of global storytellers.



ANAND VARADARAJ

Founder and Artistic Director of BISFF, India's largest and only Oscar-accredited film festival for Live Action and Animation Short Films.



DEEPAK KUMAR BESHRA

Award-winning filmmaker from Odisha's Santal community. Founder of SAFDF and the Baripada National Indigenous Short Film Festival (2017), championing tribal voices in Indian cinema.



PREMENDRA MAZUMDAR

Film critic, author, and VP of the Federation of Film Societies of India. Editor of E-CineIndia; jury member at 45 international festivals; multiple lifetime achievement award recipient.



NILOTPAL MAJUMDER

Founder-president of DocedgeKolkata, Asia's first documentary incubator. Former dean and professor at SRFTI. Supported by Sundance, IDFA, and NHK as producer and director.



SHAIKH KHAJA VALI

COO of TVAGA and Project Lead for IndiaJoy, India's largest Digital Entertainment Festival, connecting 30,000+ creators, studios, and content buyers annually.



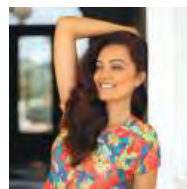
PATRICIA SÁNCHEZ MORA

Director of L'Alternativa PRO and EXTREMLAB Fest. Founder of Novena Nube productions; films screened at Idfa, Busan, Dok Leipzig, Seminci, and Seville European Film Festival.



PRAKASH MAGDUM

MD of NFDC and Festival Director of 19th MIFF. Former Director of NFAI and FTII Registrar. Author of The Mahatma on Celluloid, Best Book on Cinema at MAMI 2023.



SHEENA CHOCHAN

Award-winning actress, lead in ten pan-Indian films including Ant Story (Netflix). South Asia Ambassador for United for Human Rights; recipient of the Human Rights Hero Award at the United Nations.

Is AI the future of creativity ?

Speakers: Sanath P.C., Ujwal Nirgudkar, Hetal Desai, Subodh Bhave

Moderator: Lohita Sujith



**SANATH
P.C.**

Co-founder and Director of Firefly Creative Studio, over the last two decades, he has made a name for himself as a visual effects supervisor and designer in the Indian film industry by generating some of the most memorable and spectacular visual experiences on the large screen with films like Peddi, Patriot, Kalki, Baahubali, Maghadheera, Anji, Robot, Arundhati, Pulimurugan, Kayamkulam Kochunni, Malik, and Bhaag Milkha Bhaag.



**UJWAL
NIRGUDKAR**

A Technical Advisor for India's National Film Heritage Mission and a chemical engineer by training. He is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, joining the Class of 2017. He is the first Indian to join the Academy as a member-at-large, having worked in the film industry for 36 years.



**HETAL
DESAI**

Hetal is a corporate lawyer with more than 25 years of work experience and specialisation in Intellectual Property Rights. Her core field is advertising and media industry where she has headed in-house legal teams in multinational corporations for India and Asia pacific region.



**SUBODH
BHAVE**

An Indian actor, writer, director and theatre producer who works in Marathi cinema, television, and theatre. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including four Maharashtra State Film Awards, eight Zee Chitra Gaurav Puraskar and a Maharashtra Favourite Kon Award.



**LOHITA
SUJITH**

Based in Mumbai, MH, IN, is currently a Sr. Director - Copyright and Digital Economy at Motion Picture Association. Lohita Sujith brings experience from previous roles at The Walt Disney Company, Motion Picture Association, Casting Networks, Inc. and Whistling Woods International.

Documentary as a means of archiving men, moments and memories

Speakers: Roopa Barua, Suresh Sharma, Amborish Roychoudhury, Yunus Khan

Moderator: Sanjit Narwekar



**ROOPA
BARUA**

A Mumbai-based documentary filmmaker, published author and founder of Kahini Media. A NYFA and Boston University alumna and former Morgan Stanley banker, she has spent over a decade telling stories rooted in identity, women and endangered cultures.



**SURESH
SHARMA**

Honoured with the National Award for Best Film Critic in the year 2001, spent three decades in journalism, Editor-in-Chief of 'Sandhya Times' - a Times of India tabloid, he served as an art Critic for Jansatta and editor for Navbharat Times' film page from 1998 till 2007.



**AMBORISH
ROYCHOUHURY**

A writer, biographer and film historian. His first book In a Cult of their Own: Bollywood Beyond Box Office won a Special Mention at the 66th National Film Awards. His most recent work is Raj Khosla: The Authorized Biography.



YUNUS KHAN

A film music historian and a writer-translator-columnist who has worked with All India Radio for over three decades. His books include Ummedon ke Geetkar, an analytical biography of the poet-lyricist Shailendra.



**SANJIT
NARWEKAR**

A National Award winning film historian, critic and documentary filmmaker who has been conferred the I&B Ministry's Dr V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award (at MIFF 2022), the Bimal Roy Memorial Award (2020) and was made Distinguished Fellow of the Mumbai Marathi Patrakar Sangh in 2017.

Are young filmmakers redefining documentaries ?

Speakers: Dhiraj Singh, Dr. Amit Arya, Prabal Khaund, Preety Sharma, Mridul Madhu

Moderator: Santoshee Mishra



**DHIRAJ
SINGH**

An officer of Indian Information Service, 1995 Batch, currently on deputation to the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune as Vice-Chancellor of the Institute. He has worked primarily in Government Communication and has handled official media relations of the Prime Minister's Office for three Prime Ministers. He also looked after Media Relations of the President Secretariat, Cabinet, and NITI Aayog.



**DR. AMIT
ARYA**

Noted journalist and media professional, serves as the Vice-Chancellor of Dada Lakhmi Chand State University of Performing and Visual Arts (DLCSUPVA) in Rohtak, Haryana.



**PRABAL
KHAUND**

A prominent filmmaker from Assam who received the Rajat Kamal at the 71st National Film Awards for his acclaimed debut film, Pai Tang – Step of Hope. His creative vision consistently centres on the rediscovery and preservation of the endangered folk cultures of Northeast India through digital media.



**PREETY
SHARMA**

An independent writer and filmmaker based in Shimla, India. Her work includes poetry, fiction, screenwriting, and film. She often focuses on emotions, relationships, and everyday experiences. Inspired by ordinary moments, she creates narratives that connect with audiences worldwide.



**MRIDUL
MADHU**

A 22-year-old filmmaker, writer, director, and editor. His work spans short films, music videos, and commercial advertisements, where he brings stories to life through a distinctive visual and narrative style.



**SANTOSHEE
MISHRA**

Journalist & Documentary Filmmaker, is embarked on a journey through the lens of truth and the eloquence of words. A trailblazing journalist turned visionary documentary filmmaker.

Streaming revolution: Documentaries in the age of OTT

Speakers: Kinnari D. Dave, Sai Abishek, PadmaShri – Ramesh Patange, Dharam Gulati

Moderator: Lalit Rao



**KINNARI D.
DAVE**

A business leader with 20+ years of experience building and scaling digital businesses across OTT, D2C, and consumer technology. Recognised as one of India's leading women leaders in the digital media space.



SAI ABISHEK

A renowned name in the Media and Entertainment industry, Sai Abishek has over 18 years of experience in the industry. Currently, he serves as the Head of Factual Entertainment, Lifestyle & Kids – South Asia, Warner Bros. Discovery.



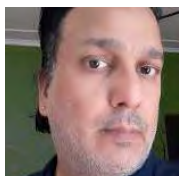
**PADMASHRI
RAMESH
PATANGE**

Has served as director of Udyog Krishi Vikas Mandal, an organisation focusing on youth entrepreneurship, before entering journalism. Chief Editor of Marathi weekly Vivek.



**DHARAM
GULATI**

Dharam Gulati, an alumnus of FTII, has worked in the film, advertising and TV industry for over 40 years as director of photography, director and producer. He has worked with filmmakers like Ramesh Sippy, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Ketan Mehta, Pankuj Parashar, Late Kalpana Lajmi, Late Vijay Tendulkar.



LALIT RAO

Mr. Lalit Rao is a veteran film critic from Jaipur, India. He is currently writing a book on 25 best French films (1990-2015). Mr. Lalit Rao is the member of the advisory board (World Cinema) of RIFF 2021 [Rajasthan International Film Festival].

Changing technologies changing audiences: Are film festivals in transition ?

Speakers: Vidyashankar N., Prof.(Dr.) K G Suresh, Premendra Mazumder, Aditi Akkalkotkar

Moderator: Sanskar Desai



VIDYASHANKAR N.

Founder member & Former Artistic Director of Bengaluru International Film Festival, a Film Society activist. Has compiled a book on European Film Theories, edited a book on African Cinema and published a compendium of articles on Film Art & Culture.



**PROF. (DR.)
K G SURESH**

A Senior Journalist-turned Academician, Public Intellectual, Educationist, Institution Builder, Culturist, Columnist & Communication Strategist. Currently serving as Director, India Habitat Centre, the country's leading intellectual and cultural hub in the heart of the national capital.



**PREMENDRA
MAZUMDER**

A film critic, author, curator, consultant, society activist, festival-organizer, and festival-consultant. Vice President - Federation of Film Societies of India General Secretary - Fipresci-India, India Chapter of the International Federation of Film Critics Secretary - Asia Pacific, International Federation of Film Societies (IFFS).



**ADITI
AKKALKOTKAR**

A leading film festival professional with a background in Business Management and a specialization in Event and Festival Management. For the past 18 years, she has played a key role in shaping the international presence of the Pune International Film Festival.



**SANSKAR
DESAI**

Renowned-Mumbai based Indian filmmaker with over four decades of experience. Currently-President of Indian Documentary Producers' Association. Plays pivotal role in the documentary movement in India. Makes Documentaries on Indian Art-Culture-Heritage.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Official Members

Shri Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (Chairperson)
 Shri Deepak Narain, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
 Dr Ajay Nagabhushan M. N., Joint Secretary (Films), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
 Ms Swati Mhase Patil, Managing Director, Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari, Government of Maharashtra
 Shri Pravin Kumar Kawade, Additional Director General/Director, Doordarshan, Mumbai
 Ms Smita Vats Sharma, Director General, Press Information Bureau, Mumbai
 Shri Rajesh Kumar Sharma, Additional Director (Films-I), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
 Shri Dhiraj Singh, Director, Film and Television Institute of India, Pune
 Shri Prakash Magdum, Managing Director, NFDC and Director, MIFF (Member Secretary)

Non-Official Members

Shri Sanskar Desai, President, Indian Documentary Producers Association, Mumbai
 Shri Abhay Sinha, President, Film Federation of India, Mumbai
 Shri Kiran Shantaram, President, Federation of Film Societies of India, Mumbai
 Shri Premendra Mazumdar, General Secretary, FIPRESCI-India, Kolkata
 Ms Vandana Kohli, Documentary Filmmaker (North Zone), Delhi
 Dr Chandra Prakash Dwivedi, Documentary Filmmaker (West Zone), Mumbai
 Shri Vipin Vijay, Documentary Filmmaker (South Zone), Thiruvananthapuram
 Shri Lipika Singh Darai, Documentary Filmmaker (East Zone), Kolkata
 Ms Aimee Baruah, Documentary Filmmaker (North-East Zone), Guwahati

SELECTION COMMITTEES FOR 19th MIFF 2026

National Competition (Documentaries)

Bharatt Shitole
 Ashok Kumar K.
 Mahesh Digrajkar
 Prasanna V. Shetty
 Umesh Badiger

National Competition (Short Fiction & Animation)

Sandeep Chauhan
 Raviraj Hombal
 Sheena Gola
 Aditya Aman
 Supratim Bhol

International Competition (Documentaries, Short Fiction & Animation)

Hariom Kaushik
 Althaf Hussan
 Sombhadra Mukherji
 Anitha Karnavar
 Preety Sharma

Non-Competition

Ardra Swaroop
 Anand Kumar Singh
 Sourabh Kanti Dutta
 Dip Bhuyan
 Dinesh P. Bhonsle

SUB-COMMITTEE FOR SELECTION OF DR. V. SHANTARAM LIFE-TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Nallamuthu Subbaiah
 Kiran Shantaram

Sanskar Desai
Adv. Sasidharan Pillai
Ashok Palit
Manas Choudhary

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Prakash Magdum, Managing Director, National Film Development Corporation

FESTIVAL DIRECTORATE

Rajesh Singhla, Director (Finance), NFDC
Gautam Bhanot, General Manager – Film Promotion
D. Ramakrishnan, General Manager (P&A)
Pankaj Saxena, Artistic Director
A. K. Maharaja, Coordinator, 19th MIFF

COMPETITION

A. K. Maharaja, Head, Festival Programming (Competition Section) & Coordinator, 19th MIFF
Debi Priya Garai, Associate Film Programmer
Abhinav Kshirsagar, Associate Film Programmer
Anirban Gupta, (Programmer, Films & OTT, Waves Bazaar)

NON-COMPETITION

K. S. Shridhar, Director, SSE (FD) and Head of Programming
Nisha Thakkar, Manager – Programming (International Cinema)

PROGRAMME CURATION AND SCHEDULING

Satyaprakash Upadhyay, Senior Programmer (WAVES Bazaar)
Sahil Bhardwaj, Associate Film Programmer (International Cinema)
Ishnoor, Associate Film Programmer (International Cinema)
Antony Sebastian Francis, Associate Film Programmer (International Cinema)
Kritika Khurana, Associate Coordinator (Festival & Events)
Irfan Faras, Deputy Manager (Distribution)
Iyasha Abbas, Curator (NFAI, Film Preservation)
Vaishali Rajpal, Consultant – Skill & Talent Development
Saranjeet Singh (Festival Attendant)

MASTERCLASS AND PANEL SESSIONS

Gouri Nair, Head – Masterclass & Panel Sessions, Domestic Film Festivals, NFDC
Ashwani Anilkumar, Deputy Programmer – Masterclass & Panel Sessions, NFDC
Manoj Dubey, Assistant Video Editor, NFDC
J. Rajaselvanathan, Senior Engineer, SSE

RED CARPET AND GALA PREMIERES

Tarun Talreja, General Manager – Production & Distribution
Irfan Faras, Deputy Manager (Distribution)

FESTIVAL CELL

Pankul Gupta
Keshav
Aman Gangrade
Abhiruchi Anand
Gurpreet Kaur
Rohit Gupta
Ankit Singh
Adil Ahmed

FINANCE OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

Vivek Toshniwal, Deputy General Manager (Finance & Accounts), NFDC

Kanti Jogadia, Manager (Finance & Accounts)

Ms Madhavi More, Assistant Manager (Finance & Accounts)

SPONSORSHIPS

Yogesh Saini, Head – Marketing & Business Development

MEDIA AND OUTREACH

Balaji Mani Khumaran M., Deputy General Manager, NFDC

Yogesh Saini, Head – Marketing & Business Development

Ms Vaishali Raj, Manager – Social Media

Ms Surbhi Kulkarni-Chati, Manager – Marketing & Public Relations, NFDC-NFAI

Ms Vaishali Rajpal, Consultant – Skill & Talent Development

Lalit Rawat, Media Planner

Ms Megha Rawat, Media Planner

Adil Ahmed, Client Servicing Supervisor

PRINT CHECK UNIT

P. Ellappan

Manoj Dubey

Suresh Dandavate

Nitesh Bhosle

Aman Dubey

Aditya Nawle

Rahul Patil

Dhruv Kerkar

Sandeep Shinde

Aryan Gurav

Vinod Parab

Pravin Bansode

Arnav Thatte

Shubham Kadam

Netaji Patil

Ninad Borkar

Rahul Sawant

Akash Telang

Vidula Bangar

Disha Gawari

DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY

Tanmay Shankar, Head – Digital Growth & Technology

Alok Katiyar, Sr. Project Manager

Ankit Srivastava, Product Manager

Avinash Yadav, Senior Website Developer

Pratibha Arora, Content & Support Lead

Ranjeet Sah, Website Designer

Aditya Tyagi, Web Developer

Girish Mukkirwar, IT Consultant

Sujeet Yadav, IT Support

Abhishek Srivastava, Tech Lead

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ujwal Nirgudkar
Ramsahay Yadav, Cameraman, SSE (FD) – Head
Satyajit Mandle, Deputy General Manager (NMIC)
P. Ellappan, Chief Editor, SSE (FD)

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Ms Sneha Ramachalam, Senior Executive to Managing Director, NFDC
Ms Sukanya Pednekar, Executive

DOCU FILM BAZAAR

Vineeta Mishra – Head of Programming Film Bazaar
Mayur Patel – AM (Film Bazaar & Screenwriters' Lab)
Rohit Chauhan – AM (Programming)
Eshan Harsh – Sr. Programmer (CPM)
Aniruddha Pawar – Sr. Programmer (VR)

HOSPITALITY

P. P. Math, Deputy General Manager (P&A)
Satyajit Mandle, Deputy General Manager (NMIC)
Soumitra Sahu, Head (ICH)
Sachin Veralkar, Assistant Manager (P&A)
Sanjay Mahadik, Assistant Manager (P&A)
Padmashree Kulkarni, Assistant Manager (P&A)
Harsha Prajapati, Assistant Manager (ICH)
Saideep Salaskar, Executive (HR), P&A
Aslam Hussain, Assistant Operational Management (ICH)
Vijay Rajput, Assistant (P&A)
Mahesh Shinde, Junior Officer (P&A)
Shardul Naik, Junior Executive (P&A)
Dayanand Poojari, Junior Office Assistant (P&A)
Devendra Sawant, Junior Office Assistant (P&D)
Vaibhav Jadhav, Projectionist (P&A)
Vishal Goyal, Data Entry Operator (P&A)
Shrutika Parab, Data Entry Operator (P&A)
Shreyash Chavan, Data Entry Operator (P&A)
Deepak Kumar, Data Entry Operator (P&A)
Yash Khade, Data Entry Operator (NMIC)
Kiran More
Subramanya Devadiga

SIR J. J. SCHOOL OF ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Aniket Chikhale
Drashti Joshi
Abhith M.

FESTIVAL PUBLICATION (OFFICIAL CATALOGUE)

Shivaram Mony, Deputy Manager, Film Production
Arun Sharma, Designer



सुचना एवं
प्रसारण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING

सत्यमेव जयते



MIFF 2026

NFDC

cinemas of india



Government of Haryana



BUSAN
International Film Festival



LTM



HARYANA

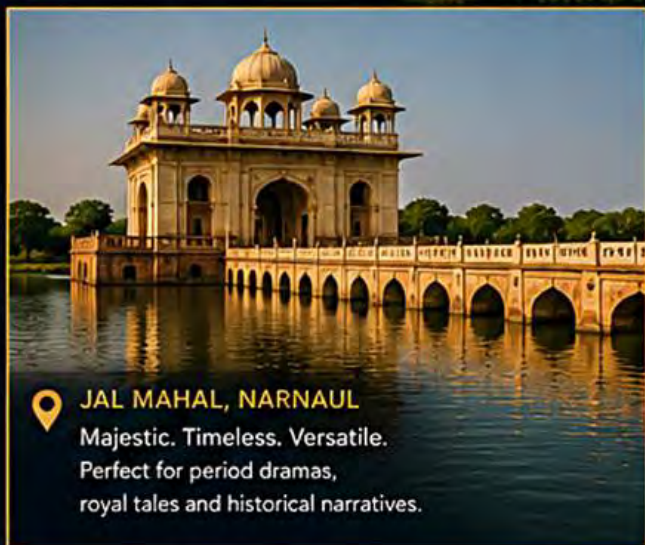
ONE STATE. INFINITE FRAMES.

From mist-covered hills to timeless heritage, from vibrant culture to modern skylines—Haryana offers filmmakers a world of cinematic possibilities, just minutes from the nation's capital.



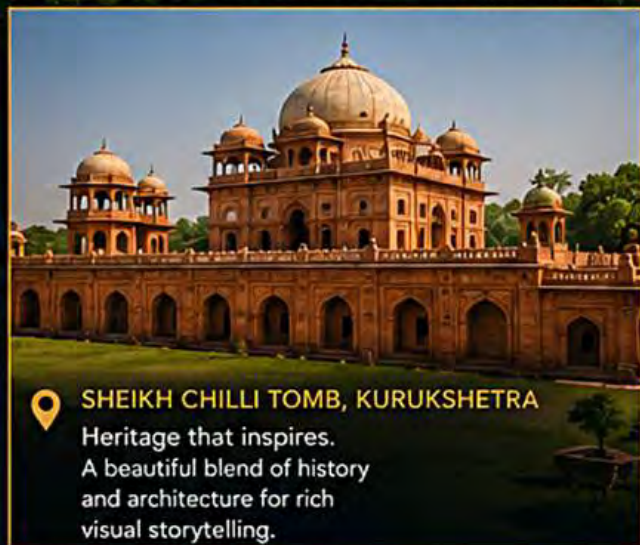
TIKKAR TAL, MORNI HILLS

Serene waters. Scenic escapes. Perfect for soulful storytelling.



JAL MAHAL, NARNAUL

Majestic. Timeless. Versatile. Perfect for period dramas, royal tales and historical narratives.



SHEIKH CHILLI TOMB, KURUKSHETRA

Heritage that inspires. A beautiful blend of history and architecture for rich visual storytelling.

EVERY LANDSCAPE TELLS A STORY.

Morni Hills • Jal Mahal • Sheikh Chilli Tomb • Sultanpur • Rural Haryana



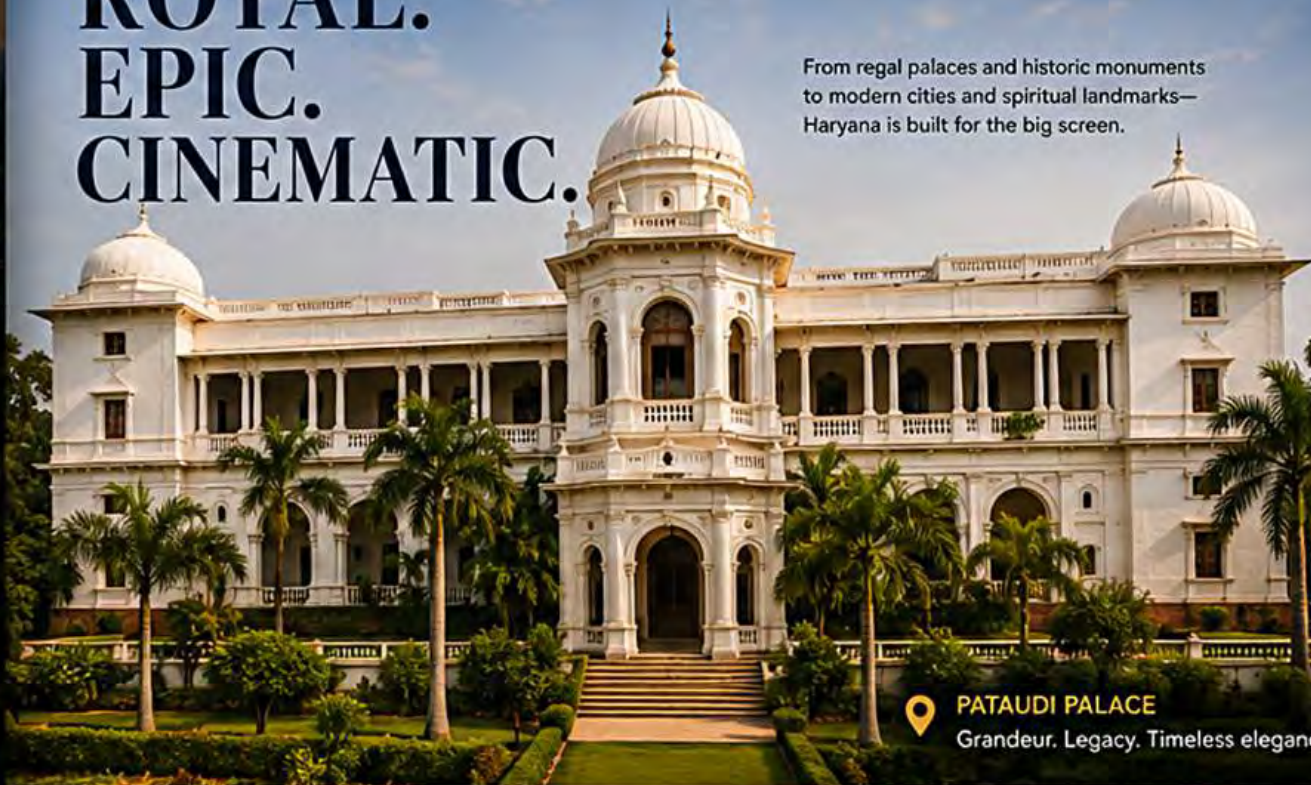
SULTANPUR BIRD SANCTUARY

Where nature performs. A haven for migratory birds and natural beauty.

WHERE ROYAL HERITAGE, SACRED LANDSCAPES, MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE AND CINEMATIC DIVERSITY CONVERGE TO CREATE EXTRAORDINARY STORIES.

ROYAL. EPIC. CINEMATIC.

From regal palaces and historic monuments to modern cities and spiritual landmarks—Haryana is built for the big screen.



PATAUDI PALACE

Grandeur. Legacy. Timeless elegance.



PINJORE GARDENS

Historic beauty. Cinematic charm.



BRAHMA SAROVAR, KURUKSHETRA

Sacred. Iconic. Infinite stories.



MAHA AARTI, BRAHMA SAROVAR

Spiritual energy like no other.

→ WHY FILM IN HARYANA ←



SINGLE WINDOW CLEARANCE

Fast-track permissions and hassle-free facilitation.



DEDICATED FILM PROMOTION BOARD

Your partner at every step of your film journey.



ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVES

Up to ₹1 Crore for Haryanvi films and up to ₹2 Crore for non-Haryanvi films. Support for short films.



FILM INFRASTRUCTURE

Film City under development at Pinjore.



SKILLED TALENT PIPELINE

Access to trained professionals and creative talent.



MINUTES FROM DELHI NCR

Excellent connectivity and world-class infrastructure.



Government of Haryana



HARYANA FILM & ENTERTAINMENT POLICY 2022

SCAN TO EXPLORE FILMING IN HARYANA



MAHARASHTRA FILM, STAGE &
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION LIMITED



Lights, Camera, Maharashtra: The Ultimate Filming Destination





ND Studio & NDS Film World

Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)

ND Studio spans 42 acres in the rapidly developing region of Navi Mumbai, within the MMR. It features a comprehensive administrative and fabrication setup, expansive green lawns, luxurious chalets, and extensive indoor studio spaces. The facility includes: 110 well-appointed rooms for crew and staff Acres of open land, showcasing iconic sets such as the Mughal-era Ashoka Palace, Shaniwar Wada & Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's village.



The Craze

Cinema plays a crucial role in shaping emotions and aspirations. Movie sets, songs, and dialogues become cultural landmarks, while digital content consumption continues to grow exponentially. NDS Film World aims to tap into this cinematic passion.

Destination Weddings

NDS Film World provides a unique and grand venue for weddings, allowing guests to customize themes such as:

- Decor inspired by palaces
- Superstar-style celebrity entries.
- A diverse selection of world cuisines.
- Traditional and regal attire options.
- Personalized entertainment, including film song-based performances



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