

IFFI  
55

# 55<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India, Goa



Official  
Catalogue

2024

Celebrate the joy of cinema



We are grateful to various film and festival publications/websites, the extracts from which have helped enrich his book. All views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or NFDC.

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**tfi**  
55<sup>TH</sup>

**INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
OF INDIA**

**20th - 28th November 2024**



राष्ट्रपति  
भारत गणतंत्र  
**PRESIDENT**  
**REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

**MESSAGE**

I am glad to know that the 55<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is being held in Goa in November, 2024.

Indian cinema has a global impact. It inspires and unites people. Our films showcase the resilience, creativity and unity of our people.

I am told that IFFI has attracted submissions from more than one hundred countries. This confirms India's growing influence in the world of cinema and also reaffirms its commitment to fostering international collaboration, artistic excellence and goodwill.

I appreciate the efforts of the team at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in organizing this latest addition of IFFI on a larger scale. I also praise the team for its new initiatives to encourage the younger generations towards achieving globally comparable excellence.

I extend my best wishes for the success of IFFI Goa 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by a green horizontal line.  
(Droupadi Murmu)

New Delhi  
November 08, 2024



प्रधान मंत्री  
Prime Minister

MESSAGE

It is a pleasure to learn about the 55<sup>th</sup> edition of International Film Festival of India – IFFI being held in Goa. The sylvan surroundings of the state of Goa provide the perfect backdrop for hosting a Festival of such magnitude. Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of Goa and everyone associated with the Festival.

For the last several decades, IFFI has showcased the nation's unique talent, creativity and diversity. Today, IFFI is not just the world's window into India's films, but it has also become a bridge that connects people, societies and nations.

Cinema has a unique place in India both as an art form and a source of entertainment. With our various languages, regions and their cinema, the scale, scope and variety of Indian cinema is an experience that mesmerises viewers. Further, our cinema has also been bringing people of various regions closer, since art and emotions have a universal language.

Our approach has been to encourage the spirit of 'Create in India, Create for the World'. Our youth are responding to this call through their creativity and making a mark in the global cinema industry.

It is noteworthy that this edition of IFFI celebrates Australia as the 'Country of Focus'. India has a strong relationship with Australia that spans a diverse range of domains. This endeavour will further strengthen cultural ties, promote cross-cultural understanding and deepen people-to-people connect.

The presence of filmmakers, industry professionals and innovative minds from various domains of cinema will help them learn from each other and also lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation of cinema the world over.

Best wishes to all the participants at IFFI, Goa. May the Festival be an entertaining and nourishing experience for all.

(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi

कार्तिक 20, शक संवत् 1946

11 November, 2024

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

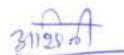
### Message

A warm welcome to all participants at the International Film Festival of India.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting remains committed to nurturing a creative environment for filmmakers to thrive. Initiatives have been launched to create world-class programmes and infrastructure to develop creators' economy. The youth-centric initiative, Creative Minds of Tomorrow, supports India's emerging cinematic talent.

This year, IFFI proudly features Australia as the Country of Focus, celebrating its rich cinematic heritage and global contributions. This inclusion showcases the growing collaboration between Indian and Australian film industries.

Congratulations to the organizers, filmmakers, and artists for their dedication to storytelling. Wishing everyone a successful and memorable festival.



(Ashwini Vaishnaw)

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Dr. L. MURUGAN



सरकारी दस्तावेज़

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

I extend a warm welcome to all participants of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI). IFFI has consistently played a pivotal role in highlighting exceptional narratives in the cinematic landscape. It is built on a vision to provide a platform for ambitious filmmakers and industry professionals to access excellent cinema from across the world and find opportunities for collaboration.

IFFI 2024 aims to honour the artistry of cinema while also emphasizing the promising future of filmmaking, where creativity fosters immersive experiences for audiences worldwide.

To follow through this vision Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has envisaged another important step in the form of World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES). Slated to launch in February 2025, the event has been strategized to facilitate a vibrant exchange of ideas and opportunities to reap the best out of the country's innovative flair and creative economy.

Events such as WAVES pave the way for India to forge itself as a global media and entertainment hub that caters to the creative aspirations of the world. The summit aims to foster innovation, strengthen local and global collaborations, promote skill development, and encourage content diversity.

That said, India has a robust Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) ecosystem, which is well on its way to becoming the future of the media and entertainment industry. Having found its niche in the young demographic, it wouldn't be very surprising to know that India boasts the second-largest anime fan base globally and is projected to contribute 60% to the worldwide growth in anime interest in the coming years. With such rapid advancements, expedited by the advent of artificial intelligence, the AVGC-XR industry is set to grow upto a \$26-bn industry by 2030.

To bolster India's position in a \$800-bn global AVGC-XR industry, the government recently approved the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE). It is expected to build a world class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as global entertainment industry.

India has transitioned from a country known for its passion for cinema to a significant centre for films that connect with audiences worldwide. This year, IFFI will also focus on

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सर्वगति जयते

### *Continuation Sheet*

Indian debut films, which will showcase a diverse range of narratives and cinematic styles from across the country.

In addition to this, a Best Debut Director of Indian Feature Film Award will also be presented at 55th IFFI to honor the creativity and potential of first-time directors. Their contribution is crucial in the evolution of Indian cinema.

IFFI serves as a crucial platform for nurturing young filmmakers, providing them with opportunities to showcase their talent and connect with industry veterans.

I conclude this message by giving my heartiest congratulations to the organizers and participants of this prestigious festival. I wish IFFI Goa 2024 immense success, marked by fruitful collaborations.

(Dr. L. Murugan)



**Secretary**  
**Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**  
**Government of India**

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt greetings to all participants of the 2024 International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

IFFI stands as a premier global platform for cinematic excellence, nurturing cross-cultural exchange and collaboration. India's commitment to film-friendly policies has established it as a favoured destination for filmmakers worldwide, resulting in fruitful co-productions and enriched cultural ties.

This year, we are excited to announce that Film Bazaar, South Asia's largest co-production market running concurrently with IFFI, will introduce a cash grant of \$20,000 for the top three winning co-production projects. Film Bazaar epitomises IFFI's dedication to fostering industry growth and collaboration. With Australia as the country of honour this year, we anticipate significant Australian participation, showcasing its vibrant offerings and incentives.

The Screenwriter's Lab within Film Bazaar will provide filmmakers with a unique opportunity to experiment with and refine their screenplays under the mentorship of esteemed international industry experts.

In addition to promoting industry opportunities, IFFI honours and celebrates legendary filmmakers through centenary celebrations that include film screenings, discussions, and audiovisual presentations commemorating the works of distinguished artists.

The 55th IFFI boasts a diverse lineup of films from across the globe, presented in 16 curated segments, including feature films and documentaries from veteran filmmakers, contemporary auteurs, and emerging talents.

The Indian Panorama Section this year is a testament to the rich diversity of our cinema, showcasing films from various regions and dialects, thereby embodying the principle of "unity in diversity."

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) continues to serve as a vital platform for showcasing India's distinctive cinematic contributions on the global stage.

I am particularly delighted to announce an alumni meet featuring the first five batches (1960-1965) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, as well as two batches (1996-1997) from the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata. This gathering will foster



an enriching exchange of ideas, celebrate our shared history, and strengthen the bonds among the filmmakers who have shaped Indian

cinema over the decades. It is a splendid opportunity to reconnect and honour the legacy of these esteemed institutions.

I extend my congratulations to the organising team of IFFI 2024 and wish all attendees a fruitful and memorable festival, filled with insightful discussions, networking opportunities, and a celebration of cinematic excellence.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Jaju".

**Sanjay Jaju**

**Ms. NEERJA SEKHAR**



**Special Secretary  
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
Government of India**

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the 55th International Film Festival of India.

IFFI has always been about more than just films. It is about the joy of cinema and also the discovery and cultivation of creativity. The Festival's diverse platforms, such as the Film Bazaar, offer filmmakers the chance to exhibit their work and interact with global industry leaders, all while offering a diverse selection of films.

IFFI continues to be a critical venue for the recognition of talent and the advancement of the cinematic industry.

The “Creative Minds of Tomorrow” initiative unites young and talented filmmakers in a very special manner. The Festival's contribution to the development of filmmaking as a viable career path is exemplified by workshops, master classes and the Debut Film Competition. We are looking forward to nurture more young talent as part of the Create in India Challenges- Season 1, in the run up to the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit, which is scheduled to be organised on February 5-9, 2025.

IFFI has consistently been at the forefront of showcasing not only great stories but also the latest innovations in cinema. This year, with a special focus on AI technologies, IFFI is leading the charge in how storytelling is evolving through new media.

I wish all the participants an outstanding experience at IFFI 2024 in Goa.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neerja Sekhar".

**Neerja Sekhar**

**Shri PRITHUL KUMAR**



**Joint Secretary (Broadcasting-II) &  
Managing Director, NFDC  
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
Government of India**

Dear Filmmakers, Film Lovers, and Esteemed Guests,

Welcome to the 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI). It is with immense pleasure and pride that I extend a warm invitation to you for our latest edition. Here we celebrate not only the artistry and vision of filmmakers from across the globe, but also the powerful cultural bridges that cinema builds between nations and communities.

IFFI, recognized by FIAPF is one of the 14 competitive international film festivals. The theme of IFFI has now been focused on "Young Filmmakers", as per the vision of Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting, recognising their potential in shaping the future of creativity. The initiative of the Creative Minds of Tomorrow, platform has been enhanced to support 100 young talents from 75 in the previous editions. Young film students, from Film Schools across the country, are being facilitated by the Ministry to attend IFFI. A new section and award of Best Debut Indian Director has been instituted this year. The masterclasses, panel discussions, film market and film packages have all been curated for the young creators. 'IFFIesta' – an entertainment zone has been started for enhancing youth participation and engagement. IFFI 2024 promises to hold the tradition in its very core of film programming. IFFI has curated an exceptional lineup of films across a wide spectrum of genres, styles, and themes, reflecting the evolving landscape of world cinema.

In a move that is a first in IFFI's history, the 55th IFFI will be an Accessible IFFI, embodying the spirit of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" given by Hon'ble Prime Minister. The venues have been made physically accessible and even the volunteers are being trained for interactions with differently abled, with the help of Svayam, a pioneering organization as the Accessibility Partner of IFFI. The films & even the events in IFFI, are being equipped with accessibility features such as audio descriptions & sign language interpretation. It will also ensure inclusivity through use of mobile applications for differently abled to watch some regular film screenings.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our sponsors, partners, filmmakers, and the festival dedicated team that has worked tirelessly to bring this festival to life. Your passion and commitment make IFFI a space where art and audience meet in meaningful ways. To all our attendees, whether you are here for the first time or have been with us for years, thank you for being part of this journey. Your presence and appreciation for the art of film make this festival a true celebration.

Let us embrace this opportunity to connect, reflect, and be inspired by the magic of cinema.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Prithul Kumar".

**Prithul Kumar**



**Joint secretary (Films)**  
**Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**  
**Government of India**

I am delighted to welcome you to the 55th edition of International Film Festival of India.

IFFI serves as a premier platform for the convergence of ideas, fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration among filmmakers. This year's festival introduces innovative elements designed to inspire both audiences and creators. IFFI envisions India as the largest global content creator and consumer, showcasing a dynamic film industry that embraces technology and innovation. By empowering emerging filmmakers, IFFI aims to cultivate creativity and enhance global competitiveness, shaping the future of storytelling and filmmaking.

As we celebrate the power of cinema, IFFI remains a beacon for creative exchange and collaboration. In alignment with a world that increasingly values sustainability, IFFI is proud to introduce a new curated section, Mission Life. This section highlights the urgent need for environmental consciousness and sustainable living, encouraging filmmakers to explore narratives that focus on climate action.

I am delighted to announce that IFFI 2024 will not only promote cinematic excellence but also celebrate the bonds among the filmmakers who have helped shape Indian cinema throughout the years. An alumni reunion featuring the first five batches (1960-1965) from the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, along with two batches (1996-1997) from the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata is scheduled, to create a vibrant forum for idea exchange, commemorate our shared past, and honour the filmmakers who have contributed to Indian cinema over the decades.

Students will play a crucial role in this year's IFFI, with the government facilitating participation from FTII, SRFTI, and ensuring representation from each state-owned film school as well as selected private film schools. This initiative underscores the festival's commitment to nurturing emerging talent in the film industry. Furthermore, IFFI is dedicated to making films accessible to all audiences. This year, five films will be screened with features designed for persons with disabilities, providing an inclusive viewing experience. These selections will cater to the visually impaired and those with speech or hearing impairments, exemplifying the festival's commitment to inclusivity in cinema.

Together, let us embrace the transformative potential of cinema as we strive for a sustainable future, ensuring that our stories resonate not only on screen but also in the hearts and minds of audiences around the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Vrunda Manohar Desai".

**Vrunda Manohar Desai**

**Shri SHEKHAR KAPUR**



**Festival Director**  
*55th International Film Festival of India,  
2024*

We love film. Since 1913, when India released its first film, our audiences have embraced film like no other nation has. We are the largest creators and consumers of films in the world. This year I have asked the festival authorities to celebrate our audiences. Who have supported our film industry. It's because of them we have grown to where we are.

We are a nation of story tellers. Formats don't matter. The future of film lies in newer and fast changing technologies. We are therefore this year are offering Masterclasses in new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.

There is an accent on youth this year. We are encouraging more interaction between our future film makers and both, Indian and internationally recognised film talents through interactions at the Film Bazaar and at our Masterclasses

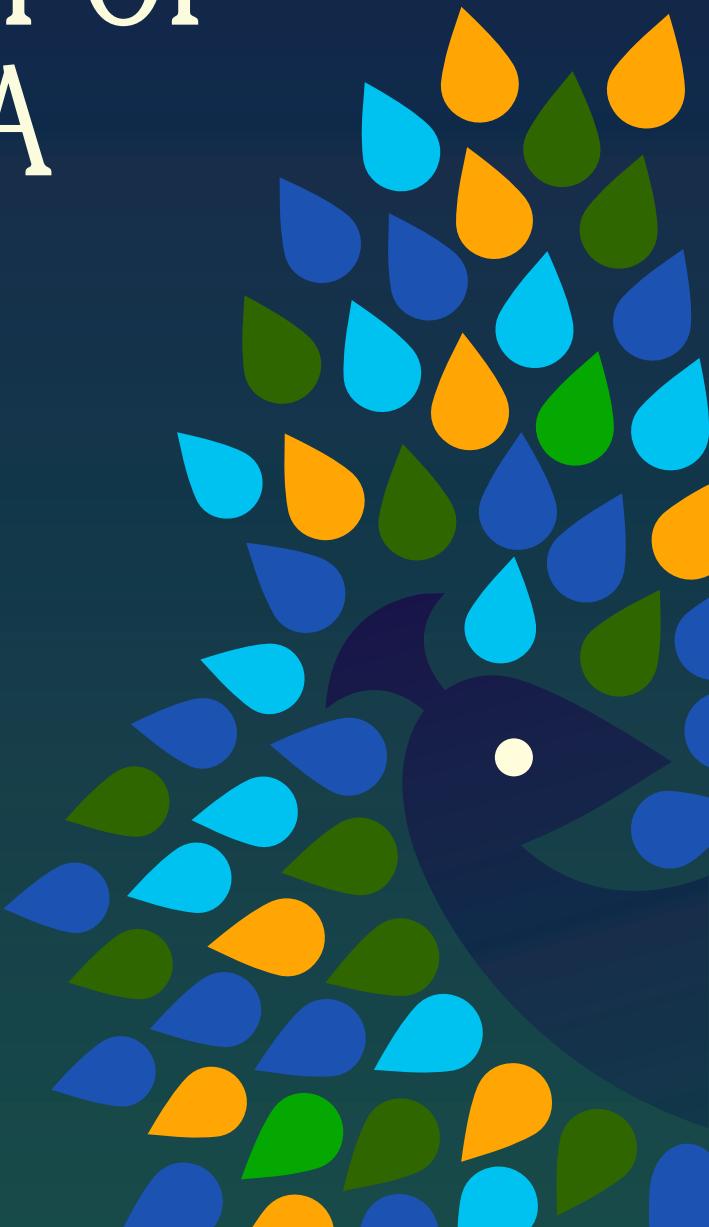
A Film Festival is a celebration. Where better to celebrate than in Goa? I am hoping that Goa and the people of Goa continue to take on a greater role in IFFI, making it truly Goan.

Each year we celebrate another Nation's achievements in Cinema. This year the Country of Focus is Australia. For me that's a particular pleasure given the number of great Australians I have had the honour of working with. Cate Blanchett, Geoffrey Rush, Heath Ledger, Abbie Cornish, Jill Bilcock amongst others.

Running a Film Festival is a huge enterprise. I would not know where to begin. So, a big thanks to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Entertainment Society of Goa, National Film Development Corporation, Vani Tripathi and others for their commitment and effort to make IFFI possible

**Shekhar Kapur**

55 YEARS OF  
CELEBRATING  
THE JOY OF  
CINEMA



CONTENTS

55th IFFI AWARDS	16	EXPERIMENTAL FILMS	108
SPOTLIGHTING YOUNG FILMMAKERS @55th IFFI	17	CINEMA OF THE WORLD	112
55th IFFI: CINEMA FOR ALL – EMBRACING ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY	18	MACABRE DREAMS	150
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS AT 55th IFFI	20	MISSION LIFE	154
SATYAJIT RAY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CINEMA	24	RESTORED CLASSICS	158
MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL JURY	26	COUNTRY FOCUS : AUSTRALIA	162
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION	32	BFI @ IFFI	168
BEST DEBUT FEATURE FILM OF A DIRECTOR	48	FROM THE CONSULATES	172
ICFT-UNESCO GANDHI MEDAL	56	UNICEF @ IFFI	176
ICFT-UNESCO GANDHI MEDAL NOMINEES	58	ACCOLADES	180
OPENING FILM	70		
CLOSING FILM	71		
RISING STARS	72		
FROM THE FESTIVALS	84		
DOCU-MONTAGE	102		

CONTENTS

MEET OUR INDIAN PANORAMA FEATURE JURY	182	IFFIESTA	294
INDIAN PANORAMA FEATURE	190	ALUMNI MEET	295
MEET OUR INDIAN PANORAMA NON - FEATURE JURY	216	OPEN AIR SCREENINGS	296
INDIAN PANORAMA NON - FEATURE	222	FILM BAZAAR	298
MEET OUR BEST INDIAN DEBUT JURY	234	CREATIVE MINDS OF TOMORROW	306
BEST DEBUT INDIAN FILM	238	PREVIEW COMMITTEES	314
MEET OUR WEB SERIES (OTT) JURY	244	TEAM CREDITS	316
BEST WEB SERIES (OTT) AWARD	248		
NFDC SHOWCASE & PREMIERES	254		
PANORAMA FEATURE JURY SPECIAL RECOMMENDS	258		
SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS	260		
RESTORED CLASSICS OF NFDC - NFAI	264		
ACCESSIBLE INDIA - ACCESSIBLE FILMS	268		
GALA PREMIERES	276		
MASTERCLASSES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS	284		

# 55th IFFI AWARDS

## The International Competition:

### BEST FILM

A cash prize of Rs. 40,00,000/- is shared between the Director and Producer. The Director also gets the Golden Peacock and a Certificate, while the Producer gets a Certificate.

### BEST DIRECTOR

The Best Director in this category will get a Cash Prize of Rs. 15,00,000, the Silver Peacock and a Certificate.

### BEST ACTOR (MALE)

Cash Prize of Rs. 10,00,000/- along with the Silver Peacock and a Certificate

### BEST ACTOR (FEMALE)

Cash Prize of Rs. 10,00,000/- along with the Silver Peacock and a Certificate

### SPECIAL JURY AWARD

A Cash Prize of Rs. 15,00,000/-, the Silver Peacock, and a Certificate will be awarded to a film (honored to the Director) or an individual for artistic contribution as judged by the jury.

### BEST DEBUT FEATURE FILM OF A DIRECTOR

To recognize and encourage the most promising new directorial talent in world cinema, this award includes a cash prize of Rs. 10,00,000, the Silver Peacock and a Certificate.

This year, IFFI will also focus on **Indian debut films**. The award is for:

### BEST DEBUT DIRECTOR OF INDIAN FEATURE FILM

This year's IFFI will showcase Indian debut films, highlighting diverse narratives from emerging filmmakers. Up to five features will compete, with the Best Debut Director receiving Rs. 500,000, shared if multiple directors win.

## Other awards:

### SATYAJIT RAY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CINEMA

The Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema, honouring master filmmakers and film personalities, includes a cash prize of Rs. 10,00,000, a certificate, shawl, the Silver Peacock, and a scroll.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR CONTRIBUTION TO BHARATIYA CINEMA

Honouring an Indian film personality for their outstanding contribution to Indian cinema, the award includes a cash prize of Rs. 10,00,000/-, a certificate, shawl, and the Silver Peacock.

### ICFT UNESCO - GANDHI MEDAL AWARD

The UNESCO Gandhi Medal Award, in collaboration with the International Council for Film, Television, and Audiovisual Communication (ICFT), Paris, honours a film reflecting UNESCO's ideals of tolerance, intercultural dialogue, and peace.

### THE BEST WEB SERIES (OTT) AWARD

Awarded to one web series for artistic merit, storytelling, technical excellence, and overall impact. The Director(s)/ Creator(s) and Producer(s)/ OTT Platform will share a cash prize of Rs. 10,00,000/- and receive individual certificates.

# SPOTLIGHTING YOUNG FILMMAKERS @55th IFFI

## The Future is Now

Catch them Young is the key word to identify and nurture young talent early on, providing them with opportunities to develop their skills and achieve their full potential. With the tagline, The Future is Now, the 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India in 2024 is set to celebrate and recognize the potential of young filmmakers in shaping the future of creativity. This year's focus on "Young Filmmakers" aims to highlight the fresh perspectives and innovative ideas brought by the next generation of creators.

The initiative, Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT), originally launched to commemorate 75 years of India's independence has grown significantly since its inception. This year, the CMOT platform has expanded its reach, increasing from 75 to 100 participants. To honour the success and achievements of past participants, five young filmmakers from previous CMOT cohorts, who have shown remarkable growth and success, will be felicitated at IFFI 2024.

The festival's Masterclasses, Panel Discussions, and the Film Bazaar have been meticulously curated with youth-centric topics, aiming to engage and inspire young creators. These sessions will provide valuable insights and knowledge, encouraging the exchange of ideas and fostering a collaborative environment.

To nurture and support budding talent, approximately 400 young film students from across India, including those from the North-Eastern states, have been invited and facilitated to attend IFFI 2024. This initiative ensures that aspiring filmmakers can learn from industry experts, network with professionals, and gain exposure to the latest trends and developments in the film industry.

The 55th IFFI promises to be an exciting and enriching experience for young filmmakers, providing them with a platform to showcase their talents, learn from the best, and connect with like-minded individuals. As the festival continues to evolve and adapt, its commitment to supporting the next generation of creative minds remains unwavering.

# 55th IFFI: CINEMA FOR ALL – EMBRACING ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY

The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) proudly champions Sabka Manoranjan (Entertainment for All), pushing the boundaries to create a festival that celebrates diversity, accessibility, and inclusivity. Each initiative this year is designed to make cinema a truly shared experience, accessible to all cinema enthusiasts.



## Ceremonial Moments for All: Inclusive Opening and Closing Events with Live Sign Language.

This year, the festival's opening and closing ceremonies will feature live sign language interpretation, ensuring these important events are inclusive for all attendees. With interpretation available in real-time, specially-abled cinephiles and guests can fully engage in these ceremonial highlights, sharing in the excitement, announcements, and celebrations alongside the entire audience. This initiative embodies IFFI's commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that everyone is welcomed and valued in these landmark moments of the festival.

## Kicking Off Inclusivity: The Grand Opening of the Accessible India Section

The Accessible India Accessible Films section opens with an inspiring screening of 12th Fail, a film enhanced with both audio descriptions and Indian Sign Language, on 22nd November at 11:30 AM. In a first, the inaugural will witness a captivating Classical dance performance in Indian Sign Language by acclaimed dancer Methil Devika, as we set the stage for a celebration of inclusivity.

## Bringing Stories to Everyone – The Accessible India-Accessible Films Section

This year's Accessible India Films Section makes cinema a place where everyone belongs. Audiences can experience films enriched with audio descriptions and Indian Sign Language, creating an inclusive viewing space for specially-abled cinephiles. Select Indian and international films will also feature audio descriptions accessible through our technical partner's app, allowing everyone to engage deeply with these narratives. Live sign language interpretation at various screenings will ensure a universally immersive experience.

## Masterclasses Without Barriers

This year, IFFI will feature a masterclass titled "Exhibition of Feature Films in Cinema Theatres: The Question of Accessibility," to be conducted by Senthil Kumar, Co-Founder of Qube Cinema Technologies. This session will explore the evolving landscape of film exhibitions, highlighting the importance of accessibility in cinema theatres and the steps needed to make films accessible to all audiences. Further, in this year's select masterclasses, IFFI invites all aspiring filmmakers, professionals, and cinephiles to learn and engage without limits, with live sign language interpretation facilitating inclusive conversations and

exchanges of ideas. IFFI's masterclasses bring industry wisdom to everyone, ensuring that knowledge and inspiration flow freely.

## **Press Conferences for Every Voice and Perspective**

IFFI will provide live sign language interpretation for select press conferences, allowing everyone to access updates, discussions, and insights directly from the festival's heart. This commitment ensures that every perspective and story can be shared, widening the reach and impact of IFFI's key moments.

## **Accessibility Everywhere – Digital and On-Site Support**

Accessibility at IFFI extends to our online platforms, with certain sections on our website, app, social media and digital content made user-friendly for all audiences.

## **Inclusive Spaces Designed with Care**

Our festival venue and infrastructure reflect IFFI's commitment to accessibility, offering wheelchair-accessible spaces, restrooms, and parking to ensure comfort for attendees. These thoughtful enhancements make IFFI a truly welcoming place for audiences in public spaces.

## **On-Site Sign Language Interpreters: Accessible Support Throughout the Festival**

On-site sign language interpreters will be available to assist attendees across festival events. These efforts ensure that information and assistance are accessible in every format, breaking down barriers and fostering a truly connected experience for all.

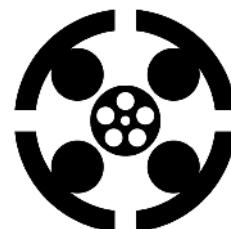


## **A Team Prepared for Empathy and Understanding**

The IFFI teams have undergone sensitivity training, creating an environment where all guests feel understood and valued. This training empowers our staff to offer compassionate support to each attendee, making IFFI an inclusive experience for all.

## **Uniting with Partners for an Inclusive Future**

This year's accessibility achievements are made possible by key partnerships. With the State Commission for PwD, Goa leading as our Inclusion Partner, Svayam as our Accessibility Partner, and Accessible Content Partners including Yes We Too Can Charitable Trust, India Signing Hands, and Billion Readers, we're proud to collaborate with leaders in accessibility to make IFFI a festival that truly represents everyone.



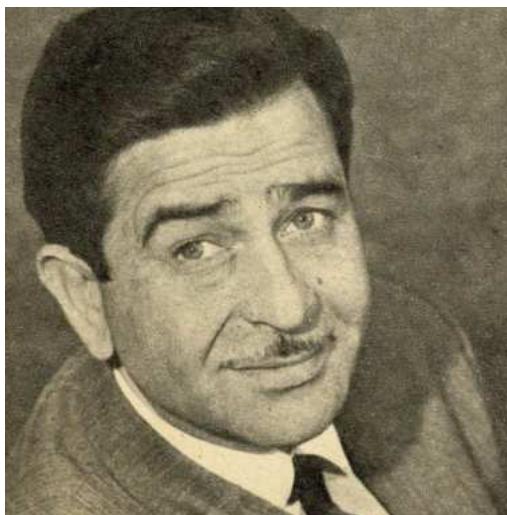
Accessibility features are available for films or sessions that have this sign in the catalogue.

# CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS AT 55th IFFI

HONOURING THE  
CELLULOID ICONS  
OF INDIA

*Any festival will turn out to be meaningful once it reflects on its history and pays tribute to its beginnings. The 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is extremely proud to commemorate the centenary of four thespians who shaped Indian cinema, the legendary Raj Kapoor, Tapan Sinha, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, and Mohammed Rafi. These luminous icons graced the industry with their unique talents and perspectives, casting an indelible spell that has inspired generations of filmmakers, musicians, and audiences alike. Their legacies continue to echo through the ages, and this celebration seeks to honour their remarkable contributions in a grand, yet deeply meaningful manner, paying homage to their enduring impact with elegance and reverence. This celebration not only commemorates their achievements but also reinforces the enduring spirit of Indian cinema that they helped shape*

#### Raj Kapoor: The Master Showman



Raj Kapoor, a titan of Indian cinema, revered for his multifaceted talent as

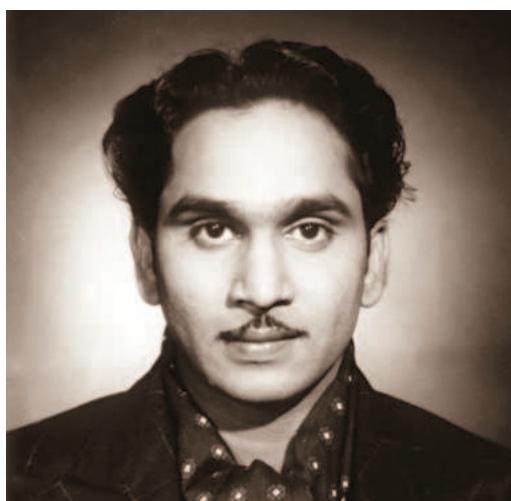
an actor, director, studio owner and producer. His films often addressed social issues with humour and empathy, making him a voice for the common man. Kapoor's innovative storytelling and memorable performances in classics have left an enduring legacy, solidifying his status as one of the most influential figures in the Indian film industry.

#### Tapan Sinha: The Storyteller



Tapan Sinha, known for his poignant narratives and keen social insights, was a master filmmaker from Bengal whose work often highlighted the conflicts of ordinary people. His ability to blend artistry with social commentary has made his films timeless. Sinha's unique storytelling and dedication to the craft earned him a prominent place in Indian Cinema, ensuring his legacy is celebrated.

## Akkineni Nageswara Rao: The Versatile Actor



Akkineni Nageswara Rao was a colossus in the realm of Telugu cinema, celebrated for his remarkable adaptability and potent performances. Spanning over six decades, his illustrious career saw him become an emblem of countless iconic roles. ANR's contribution to Indian cinema is profound, as he not only entertained but also inspired countless actors and filmmakers.

## Mohammed Rafi: The Eternal Voice



Mohammed Rafi, one of the most cherished Indian playback singers, is renowned for his exceptional vocal range and expressive singing. His timeless melodies have captivated audiences across generations and languages. Rafi's contributions to Indian cinema are significant, and his legacy as a singer continues to be revered.

### Centenary Celebrations

#### Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony will feature a spectacular performance dedicated to Raj Kapoor, Tapan Sinha, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, and Mohammed Rafi. This tribute will incorporate audiovisual presentations highlighting their illustrious careers, creating a mesmerizing experience that honours their contributions to Indian cinema.

#### Panel Discussions and In Conversation Sessions

Scheduled for specific days during the Festival panel discussions will engage celebrity guests and family members of these legends. These sessions will delve into their journeys, sharing insights and anecdotes that illuminate the personal and professional lives of the stalwarts, fostering a deeper understanding of their impact on the cinematic landscape.

#### Film Screenings

To celebrate the works of these

legends, a series of dedicated, restored film screenings will offer audiences a chance to revisit and enjoy the artistry of Raj Kapoor, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, Mohammed Rafi and Tapan Sinha. Nageswara Rao's *Devadasu* will be screened on 22nd and Raj Kapoor's *Awaara* on 24th whereas *Hum Dono* will be screened on 26th as a tribute to Mohammed Rafi and *Harmonium* on 27th to commemorate Tapan Sinha.

### **Issue of Customized My Stamp**

A unique My Stamp will be issued to honour these legends. This special stamp will serve as a lasting tribute to their invaluable contributions to Indian cinema and culture.

### **Bilingual Brochures**

Bilingual brochures will be published, detailing their achievements and recording their impact on the film industry. These brochures will provide film buffs with an informative keepsake celebrating their legacies.

### **Caravan of Songs**

A dedicated music initiative, featuring a curated collection of songs, will pay tribute to Raj Kapoor and Mohammed Rafi, showcasing 150 of their iconic songs. 75 other songs will be highlighted for Tapan Sinha and Nageswara Rao, imprinting their contributions.

### **Curated Pageantry**

IFFI's special exhibition will feature memorabilia, photographs, and artifacts of Raj Kapoor, Tapan Sinha, Nageswara Rao, and Mohammed Rafi, celebrating their legacies.

### **Sand Art Installation**

A sand art installation by the renowned artist Shri Sudarsan Pattnaik will serve as a fitting tribute, both visually stunning and deeply meaningful. It will honor four cinematic legends by blending the worlds of cinema and visual artistry, creating a unique and powerful homage through his craft



# SATYAJIT RAY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CINEMA



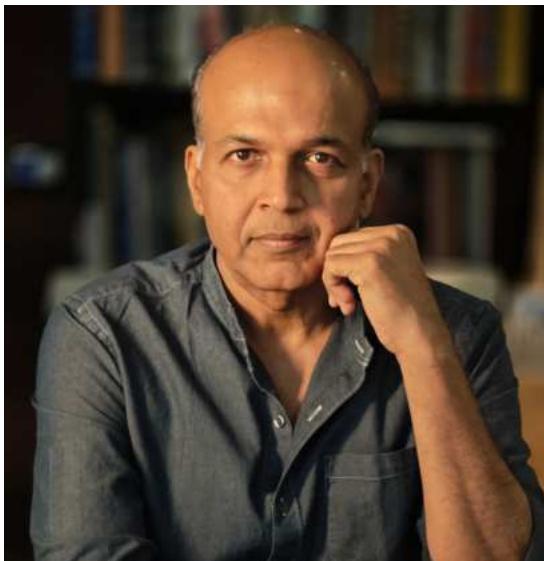
## PHILLIP NOYCE

Phillip Noyce, the celebrated Australian director, who has crafted a career spanning over 19 films since 1977 and is known for his exceptional storytelling and mastery in creating suspenseful, culturally resonant films has been selected for the coveted Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema 2024.

Beginning with the classic *Newsfront*, which explored post-war society with remarkable depth, Noyce's work has consistently demonstrated authenticity and cinematic power. His transition to Hollywood brought iconic thrillers like *Dead Calm*, *Patriot Games*, and *Clear and Present Danger*. Noyce's dedication to exploring social and human themes shines through in films like *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, a stirring narrative on Australia's past, and *The Quiet American*, a meditation on moral ambiguity. *Salt* further added layers

to the espionage genre. His diverse body of work extends to television, where he has written, directed, and produced series across Australia and North America, including *The Cowra Breakout*, *Vietnam*, *Revenge*, *Roots*, and Netflix's *What/If*. Noyce's filmography includes *Backroads*, *Heatwave*, *Echoes of Paradise*, *Sliver*, *The Saint*, *The Bone Collector*, *Catch a Fire*, *The Giver* and *Fast Charlie*. Recognised for his contributions, Noyce has received numerous awards, including AACTA Awards and the prestigious Longford Lyell lifetime achievement award, honouring his influence on both Australian and international cinema. His accolades include the Australian Film Institute Award for Best Director for *Newsfront*, the Australian Film Institute for Best Film for *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, the London Film Critics' Circle Award for *The Quiet American*, and the National Board of Review Award for Best Director. In recognition of his stellar career, Noyce received the Longford Lyell Award in 2017 and the Camerimage Lifetime Achievement Award for Directing in 2018. His collaborations with celebrated actors like Harrison Ford, Nicole Kidman, Angelina Jolie, Denzel Washington, and Michael Caine underscore his lasting impact on cinema.

# MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL JURY



# ASHUTOSH GOWARIKER

JURY CHAIRPERSON

Ashutosh Gowariker, an acclaimed Indian filmmaker and actor, is best known for his monumental work in cinema, particularly the cross-cultural period sports drama *Lagaan*. Released in 2001, this film earned worldwide acclaim and even received an Oscar nomination, securing Gowariker's place in cinematic history. Following this success, he founded Ashutosh Gowariker Productions, where he has produced several notable films, including the highly regarded *Swades* and *Jodhaa Akbar*. Gowariker's diverse filmography spans various genres, including romantic comedies, patriotic thrillers, and epic war dramas such as *Mohenjo Daro* and *Panipat*. His films often explore profound themes, addressing crucial social issues such as nationalism, patriarchy, religious tolerance, and women's empowerment. By intertwining rich narratives with relevant social commentary, he has established himself as a significant voice in Indian cinema. In addition to his filmmaking prowess, Gowariker is a member of the Director's Branch of the Academy in Los Angeles, reflecting his international recognition and influence. With a commitment to creating both historical epics and contemporary stories, he continues to leave a lasting impact on audiences worldwide.



# ANTHONY CHEN

Anthony Chen is a renowned Singaporean writer, director, and producer celebrated for his award-winning films. He first gained international recognition with his short film *Ah Ma* (2007), which made him the first Singaporean filmmaker to win at the Cannes Film Festival. His debut feature, *Ilo Ilo* (2013), drew inspiration from his own childhood experiences with a family maid and won the prestigious Caméra d'Or at Cannes, where it received a 15-minute standing ovation. The film continued its success by securing the Sutherland Trophy for Best First Film at the London Film Festival and multiple accolades at the Golden Horse Awards, including Best Narrative Feature and Best Original Screenplay. In 2023, Chen expanded his cinematic journey with the premiere of his first Chinese-language feature, *The Breaking Ice*, showcased at the Cannes Film Festival. The same year marked the debut of his English-language film *Drift*, starring Cynthia Erivo, at the Sundance Film Festival. Chen's ability to craft compelling narratives and evoke deep emotions has established him as a significant voice in contemporary cinema, earning acclaim both at home and on the international stage.



## ELIZABETH KARLSEN

Elizabeth Karlsen is a highly respected UK producer who co-founded Number 9 Films with Stephen Woolley in 2002. Together, they have made a significant impact on the film industry, earning the prestigious BAFTA Award for Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema in 2019. Karlsen is known for producing a range of acclaimed films, including *Carol*, *Little Voice*, *Made in Dagenham*, *Mrs. Harris*, and *Colette*, which have collectively garnered an impressive 52 BAFTA nominations and 20 Academy Award nominations. Her work spans various genres and themes, consistently bringing compelling and socially relevant stories to the screen. Karlsen's dedication to quality filmmaking has cemented her reputation as a driving force behind some of the most memorable British and international films of recent years. Looking ahead, Karlsen continues to champion exciting new projects, with upcoming films including *The Salt Path*, *The Assessment*, and *A Pale View of Hills*. Her commitment to nurturing bold and diverse cinematic voices ensures that her contributions will remain vital to the evolving landscape of contemporary cinema, making her a celebrated figure in the industry.



# FRAN BORGIA

Born in Spain, Fran Borgia is a distinguished producer based in Asia, known for his impressive body of work featuring award-winning films. He founded Akanga Film Asia, an independent production company in Singapore, dedicated to producing bold and innovative cinema. Over the years, Borgia has earned acclaim for his ability to bring compelling stories to the screen, with films that have made a significant impact on the international festival circuit. His notable credits include *A Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery*, which won the Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival and *A Land Imagined*, awarded the prestigious Golden Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival. Borgia's work extends to films like *Yuni*, which secured the Platform Prize at the Toronto International Film Festival and *Tiger Stripes*, which won the Grand Prize at the Cannes Critics' Week. Other recent projects include *Oasis of Now* and *Stranger Eyes*, a Golden Lion competitor, as well as *Village Rockstars 2*, which took home the Jiseok Award. Borgia's commitment to pushing creative boundaries has cemented his reputation as a leading figure in the Asian independent film industry.



# JILL BILCOCK

Jill Bilcock is a renowned Australian film editor whose innovative style has left a lasting mark on international cinema. She gained global recognition with *A Cry in the Dark* and is celebrated for her enduring collaboration with director Baz Luhrmann, bringing fresh energy to classic genres with her influential editing in films like *Strictly Ballroom*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Moulin Rouge!*. These works introduced modern, dynamic techniques that have become signature elements of contemporary film editing. Bilcock's versatility is showcased through her work on a range of high-grossing films, including beloved titles such as *Muriel's Wedding*, *Red Dog*, *The Dish*, and *The Dressmaker*. Her ability to seamlessly blend emotion and pace has made her a sought-after editor in the industry. Beyond Luhrmann, she has collaborated with prominent directors like Shekhar Kapur on *Elizabeth* and *The Golden Age*, Sam Mendes on *Road to Perdition*, and Guillermo del Toro on *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark*. Her trailblazing career continues to inspire filmmakers, with her editing style influencing both narrative and visual storytelling in cinema worldwide.

# INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Featuring outstanding international and Indian fiction feature films, this selection showcases the evolving aesthetics of contemporary cinema. It brings together the creative visions of renowned filmmakers and dynamic emerging talents, capturing the latest trends and powerful narratives shaping the film world today.

## FEAR & TREMBLING (TARS O LARZ)

Iran | 2024 | Iranian | 76' | Colour



*Manjeh Hekmat started her film career as a producer, and is now a prominent figure in Iranian cinema. Her films, Women's Prison (2002), Three Women (2007) and Bandar Band (2020) have premiered at major international festivals such as the Venice International Film Festival Berlin International Film Festival and Toronto International Film Festival.*

*Faeze Azizkhani participated in Abbas Kiarostami's film workshops, and also benefited from his presence as the advisor for her debut feature film, For a Rainy Day (2015). Her second feature film, The Locust (2022), has been screened in festivals such as Karlovy Vary International Film Festival SXSW, and Edinburgh International Film Festival.*

<b>Director</b>	Manijeh Hekmat, Faeze Azizkhani
<b>Producer</b>	Manijeh Hekmat, Amir Esfandiari, Ahmad Azizkhani
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Amir Salar, Salek Ardestani
<b>Editor</b>	Amir Adibparavar
<b>Screenplay</b>	Manijeh Hekmat, Faeze Azizkhani
<b>Cast</b>	Amaneh Agharezakashi, Ahmad Azizkhani, Ghazal Ajdadi

Manzar, a woman set in her rigid ways and beliefs, has been ostracised by her family and now ekes out a lonely existence. One day, she gets to know that her niece has been arrested for not wearing a hijab. Despite implorations from her family, Manzar sticks to her fundamentalist beliefs - her niece, an unbeliever, ought to be punished for the sin she's committed. Finding herself all alone in a changing world, increasingly racked by fear and guilt, Manzar begins to pray for heavenly deliverance.

<b>Sales</b>	Irimage
<b>Tags</b>	Films By Women, Social Impact, De/Gendered
<b>Premiere</b>	World Premiere

## GULIZAR

Turkey, Kosovo | 2024 | Turkish, Albanian | 84' | Colour



**Director** Belkis Bayrak

**Producer** Belkis Bayrak, Murat Yaşar Bayrak, Mehmet Bahadır Er, Valmira Hyseni

**Cinematographer** Kürşat Üresin

**Editor** Selin Eren Şahin

**Screenplay** Belkis Bayrak

**Cast** Ecem Uzun, Bekir Behrem, Ernest Malazoglu, Hakan Yufkacigil



*Belkis Bayrak received her MA degree in Film and Television from Istanbul Bilgi University. She has made two short films, *The Apartment* (2018) and *Cemile* (2020). Bayrak is also an alumnus of the Torino Film Lab, Reclaim the Frame's Filmonomics Program, and a member of the European Women's Audio-visual (EWA) Network.*

Twenty-two-year-old Gülizar was raised in a loving albeit strict Turkish household full of taboos and expectations. Gülizar longs to experience what lies beyond the only world that she and the women around her have ever known. Betrothed to her beloved Emre, she is eager to leave everything behind and start a new life in Kosovo. Gülizar's fairy tale, however, tragically turns into a nightmare when she is sexually assaulted en route. With wedding preparations in full swing, there's seemingly little that can be done to obtain justice. But secrets are hard to keep in close-knit societies. Told through the gaze of a woman yearning for her own internal locus of control, Gülizar delves into the complexities of trauma, societal expectations, and the universal search for self-discovery and determination.

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024, San Sebastián International Film Festival 2024

**Tags** Films By Women, Social Impact, De/Gendered

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

## HOLY COW (VINGT DIEUX)

France | 2024 | French | 90' | Colour



<b>Director</b>	Louise Courvoisier
<b>Producer</b>	Muriel Meynard
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Elio Balezeaux
<b>Editor</b>	Sarah Grosset
<b>Screenplay</b>	Théo Abadie, Louise Courvoisier
<b>Cast</b>	Clément Faveau, Luna Garret, Mathis Bernard, Dmitry Baudry, Maïwene Barthélémy



*Louise Courvoisier grew up in the Petite Montagne region of Cressia, in a home where all forms of art rubbed shoulders with nature and rurality. Her graduation short, *Mano A Mano* (2019), won the first prize at the Cinéfondation at the Cannes Film Festival. *Holy Cow* is her debut feature film.*

Eighteen-year-old Totone spends most of his time drinking beers and partying in the Jura region with his group of friends. Reality catches up when he has to take care of his seven-year-old sister and find a way to make a living. He sets out to make the best Comté cheese in the region, the one that would win him the gold medal at the agricultural competition and help him get 30,000 euros. Featuring authentic performances from its adolescent non-actors, *Holy Cow* is filled with emotional ups and downs, including the euphoria of first love and the power of boyhood friendships.

<b>Festivals</b>	Cannes Film Festival 2024, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2024, Vancouver International Film Festival 2024
<b>Sales</b>	Pyramide International
<b>Tags</b>	Films By Women, Coming of Age
<b>Premiere</b>	India Premiere

# I AM NEVENKA (SOY NEVENKA)

Spain | 2024 | Spanish | 110' | Colour



**Director** Icíar Bollaín

**Producer** Koldo Zuazua, Guillermo Sempere, Juan Moreno

**Cinematographer** Gris Jordana

**Editor** Nacho Ruiz Capillas

**Screenplay** Icíar Bollaín, Isa Campo

**Cast** Mireia Oriol, Urko Olazábal, Ricardo Gómez, Carlos Serrano, Lucía Veiga



*Icíar Bollaín began her career as an actress, before foraying into film direction. Her film Take My Eyes (2003), won accolades at Spain's National Film Awards. Her work is characterised by a commitment to major issues such as domestic violence (Take my Eyes), the Basque question (Maixabel) or the water war in Bolivia (Even the Rain).*

The film dramatises the case of Nevenka Fernández, a member of the Ponferrada City Council who in 2001 became the first woman in Spain to win a court case for sexual harassment against a high-ranking politician – her ex boyfriend and all-powerful Ponferrada mayor Ismael Alvárez. Relentlessly hounded by the mayor, a man used to getting his way both politically and personally, a twenty-three-year-old Nevenka decides to report him, knowing fully well that it could cost her dearly. What follows is a gripping and intense drama that tells the story of a pioneer of the Spanish MeToo movement.

**Festivals** San Sebastián International Film Festival 2024, BFI London Film Festival 2024, Hamburg Film Festival 2024, Zurich Film Festival 2024

**Sales** BookMyShow

**Tags** Films by Women, Historical, Social Impact, De/Gendered

**Premiere** India Premiere

## PANOPTICON (PANOPTIKONI)

Georgia, France, Italy, Romania | 2024 | Georgian | 95' | Colour



*A Georgian-American filmmaker, George Sikkharulidze holds a B.S. in Media Communications from New York University and an M.F.A. in Film Directing from Columbia University. His short films –The Fish that Drowned (2014), Red Apples (2016), A New Year (2018) and Fatherland (2019)– have premiered at renowned festivals such as Toronto International Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival. His first feature project Panopticon was selected at the Cinéfondation Residence of Cannes Film Festival as well as the Torino Script Lab (2019). Apart from writing and directing, George is a professor of filmmaking at Tisch School of the Arts*

**Director** George Sikkharulidze

**Producer** Vladimer Katcharava

**Cinematographer** Oleg Mutu

**Editor** Giorgia Villa

**Screenplay** George Sikkharulidze

**Cast** Data Chachua, Ia Sukhitashvili, Vakho Kedeladze, Vakhtang Kedeladze, Salome Gelenidze, Marita Meskhoradze, Andro Japaridze, Malkhaz Abuladze

When Sandro's father decides to devote his existence to God, the introverted teenager finds himself deprived of the fundamental certainties of life. Alone and abandoned during his formative years - with a mother illegally working abroad and a grandmother too old to substitute a parent - Sandro embarks on a dizzying journey of self-discovery, opening up both to a new friendship with the right-wing radical Lasha and also to the chance to explore his burgeoning sexuality, a trial that will eventually prove to be a revelation of his humanity.

**Festivals** Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2024, Palić European Film Festival 2024

**Tags** Coming of Age, Social Impact, Global Politics

**Premiere** India Premiere

# PIERCE (CÌ XĪN QIÈ GŪ)

Singapore, Taiwan, Poland | 2024 | Mandarin | 107' | Colour



**Director** Nelicia Low

**Producer** Sam Chua Weishi, Jeremy Chua, Patrick Mao Huang, Izabela Igel, John M. Lo

**Cinematographer** Michał Dymek

**Editor** Nelicia Low, Eric Mendelsohn

**Screenplay** Nelicia Low

**Cast** Ding Ning, Tsao Yu-Ning, Liu Hsiu-Fu, Lin Tsu-Heng



A former National Fencer for Singapore, Nelicia graduated with an MFA in Film Directing from Columbia University in New York, 2018. Her short film *Freeze* (2016) premiered at the 38th Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival and went on to screen at over 70 festivals around the world. *Pierce* is her debut feature film.

High school fencer Zijie's older brother Zihan is being released early from juvenile prison, where he has served seven years for killing an opponent in a fencing match. Zihan vehemently insists on his innocence, and, behind their mother's back, the torn brotherly bond gradually begins to heal as Zihan helps Jie perfect his fencing skills. But the initially energetic clinking of sabres is slowly drowned out by silent doubts: is Zihan really innocent? Nelicia Low's gripping and atmospheric directorial debut offers a nerve-wracking duel between the ideals of brotherly love and the illusions that we project onto those close to us.

**Festivals** Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2024, Busan International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Magnify

**Tags** Films by Women, Thriller

**Premiere** India Premiere

## RED PATH (LES ENFANTS ROUGES)

Tunisia, France, Belgium, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Qatar | 2024 | Arabic | 100' | Colour



**Director** Lotfi Achour

**Producer** Anissa Daoud, Sébastien Hussenot, Lotfi Achour

**Cinematographer** Wojciech Staroń

**Editor** Ewin Ryckaert, Malek Chatta

**Screenplay** Natacha de Pontcharra, Lotfi Achour

**Cast** Ali Helali, Yassine Samouni, Wided Dabebi, Jemii Lamari, Latifa Gafsi



*A theater and cinema director from Tunisia, Lotfi Achour has directed more than twenty-five theatrical productions in the UK, France, and Tunisia. He has also directed three short films, including *La Laine Sur Le Dos* (2016), which was nominated in the Short Film Category at the 69th Cannes Film Festival.*

Two young shepherds, Nizar and Achraf, are grazing their cattle in a secluded meadow, unaware of its status as a militarised zone. A sudden encounter with a group of jihadists results in a horrifying act of violence. Traumatised and reeling from the encounter, Achraf carries his terrible burden down the mountain, where he will be confronted by the helplessness of his elders, themselves forsaken by the authorities. Inspired by real events and deeply rooted in a ruthless social context, *Red Path* is a dreamlike journey into the wounded psyche of a child and his incredible ability to overcome trauma.

**Festivals** Locarno International Film Festival 2024, Vancouver International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** MPM Premium

**Tags** Thriller, Global Politics, Social Impact

**Premiere** India Premiere

## SHEPHERDS (BERGERS)

Canada, France | 2024 | French | 113' | Colour



**Director** Sophie Deraspe

**Producer** Kim McCraw, Luc Déry, Élaine Hébert, Caroline Bonmarchand, Xenia Sulyma

**Cinematographer** Vincent Gonneville

**Editor** Stéphane Lafleur

**Screenplay** Sophie Deraspe, Mathyas Lefebvre

**Cast** Félix-Antoine Duval, Solène Rigot, Guilaine Londez, Michel Benizri, David Ayala, Véronique Ruggia Saura, Younès Boucif



*One of the leading figures of new Québec cinema, Sophie Deraspe fell in love with cinema during her Visual Arts studies in Austria and Literature studies at the University of Ottawa and Montréal. Her film, Antigone (2019), won the Best Canadian Feature at the Toronto International Film Festival and was also chosen to represent Canada at the Academy Awards.*

Following a medical wake-up call, Montréal copywriter Mathyas Lefebvre abandons his life in Canada to reinvent himself as a sheep herder in the French Alps, despite knowing literally nothing about the centuries-old craft. Ever the romantic, he is clouded by bucolic visions and dreams of writing a book in untroubled pastoral repose. What he finds is very different: the brutal life-and-death realities of sheep farming and the viciousness and cruelty of isolated men. After a rough start, he's joined by Élise, a civil servant tempted by his stories of pastoral life, and together they commit to a summer on the mountainside. Adapted from a semi-autobiographical novel and set in the breathtaking French Alps, *Shepherds* is an epic of personal growth, posing tough questions about how best to live in order to feel free.

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024,  
Vancouver International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Pyramide International

**Tags** Films By Women, Ecology

**Premiere** India Premiere

# THE NEW YEAR THAT NEVER CAME (ANUL NOU CARE N-A FOST)

Romania | 2024 | Romanian, Serbian | 138' | Colour



*Bogdan Mureșanu moved from literature and advertising to screenwriting when he won the HBO TIFF Scriptwriting Competition for the short script, *The Human Touch* (2008). He is best known as the scriptwriter of *Sandals*, a short animated film that won numerous international awards, including the Youth Jury Award at Clermont-Ferrand in 2020. He is also known for *The Christmas Gift* that won the Best Short Film at the European Film Academy Award, 2019.*

After decades of all-pervasive oppression under the brutal Ceaușescu dictatorship, Romania stands on the brink of revolution on December 20th, 1989. The streets are alive with demonstrations; students mock the regime through art, while official New Year's shows glorify Ceaușescu. Behind closed doors, families grapple with personal conflicts and the omnipresent Secret Police. Over the course of a single day, six seemingly unconnected lives intersect in unexpected ways, mapping out the painful absurdities of lives governed both by fear and hopeful glimpses of a better future. As tensions reach a boiling point, an explosive moment brings them together, culminating in the dramatic fall of Ceaușescu and the communist regime.

<b>Festivals</b>	Venice International Film Festival 2024, Vancouver International Film Festival 2024
<b>Sales</b>	Cercamon
<b>Tags</b>	Historical, Global Politics
<b>Premiere</b>	India Premiere

# TOXIC (AKIPLĖŠA)

Lithuania | 2024 | Lithuanian | 99' | Colour



**Director** Saulė Bliuvaitė

**Producer** Giedrė Burokaitė

**Cinematographer** Vytautas Katkus

**Editor** Ignė Narbutaitė

**Screenplay** Saulė Bliuvaitė

**Cast** Vesta Matulytė, Ieva Rupeikaitė, Giedrius Savickas, Vilma Raubaitė, Eglė Gabrėnaitė



Saulė Bliuvaitė graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre's Film Directing program in 2018. Her short film *Limousine* (2021) received the Best Short Documentary award at the Warsaw Film Festival. Saulė is a co-writer and co-editor of the historical drama *Isaac*, nominated for a FIPRESCI prize at the 2020 European Film Awards. *Toxic* is her debut feature film.

Abandoned by her mother, thirteen-year-old Marija has trouble fitting into the gray industrial town where she now lives with her grandmother. She begins to form a tentative and volatile bond with rebellious peer, Kristina, and the two enroll in a local modeling school that promises its pupils the chance of a glamorous life far away from their bleak and isolated existence. But the financial and physical demands of the school force them to come up with increasingly extreme and dangerous ways to conform their young bodies to impossible standards of beauty. An aptly titled coming-of-age tale set amidst contaminated physical and social landscapes, *Toxic* has at its centre an exploration of the human body in all its frailty and glory.

**Festivals** Locarno International Film Festival 2024,  
Vancouver International Film Festival 2024,  
Chicago International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Bendita Film Sales

**Tags** Films By Women, Coming of Age, Festival Hits,  
De/Gendered

**Premiere** India Premiere

## WAVES (VLNY)

Czech Republic | 2024 | Czech, French, Italian, Russian, Slovak | 130' | Colour



**Director** Jiří Mádl

**Producer** Monika Kristl

**Cinematographer** Martin Žíaran

**Editor** Filip Malásek

**Screenplay** Jiří Mádl

**Cast** Vojtěch Vodochodsky, Tatiana Pauhofová, Vojtěch Kotek, Stanislav Majer, Martin Hofmann, Petr Lněnička



Jiří Mádl is a Czech actor, scriptwriter and director. He graduated from the University of J. A. Comenius, and subsequently studied screenwriting at the New York Film Academy. Waves is Mádl's third feature film, and has been selected as the Czech Republic's official entry for Best International Feature Film at the 97th Academy Awards.

The film is inspired by the true story of a group of journalists from the International Life Department of Czechoslovak Radio, who risked everything to provide independent news coverage during the turbulent year of 1968, when Soviet troops invaded Czechoslovakia under the guise of 'brotherly assistance'. Epic in both length and scope, *Waves* embraces defiance and heroism in the face of an oppressive regime, and champions the eternal themes of love, morality, and hope.

**Festivals** Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Urban Sales

**Tags** Historical, Global Politics, Thriller

**Premiere** India Premiere

## WHO DO I BELONG TO (MÉ EL AÏN)

Tunisia, France, Canada | 2024 | Arabic | 118' | Colour



**Director** Meryam Joobeur

**Producer** Nadim Cheikhrouha, Sarra Ben Hassen, Annick Blanc, Maria Gracia Turgeon, Meryam Joobeur

**Cinematographer** Vincent Gonneville

**Editor** Maxime Mathis, Meryam Joobeur

**Screenplay** Meryam Joobeur

**Cast** Salha Nasraoui, Mohamed Hassine Grayaa, Malek Mechergui, Adam Bessa, Dea Liane, Rayen Mechergui, Chaker Mechergui



Meryam Joobeur believes wholeheartedly in the transformative power of storytelling and hopes that her films can capture the beauty, complexity and universal nature of the human condition. Her short films *Gods, Weeds and Revolutions* (2012) and *Born in the Maelstrom* (2017) have been screened internationally, and her Oscar nominated short *Brotherhood* (2018) was shown at more than 150 festivals and also won 75 international prizes.

On a farm in the remote north of Tunisia, Aïcha lives with her husband Brahim and their youngest child Adam. Gifted with dreams that foretell the future, she is racked with anguish after her other sons Mehdi and Amine leave to fight for ISIS in a violent conflict in Syria. When Mehdi returns home with a mysterious and pregnant wife in tow, the village is turned upside down in a series of unsettling events. Aïcha now finds herself torn between her love for her son and her need to face the turmoil gripping the community. Meryam Joobeur's haunting debut feature weaves together elements of macabre mystery, political provocation and supernatural suspense to offer a distinctive female take on traditional masculine themes of war and radicalisation.

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2024, Hong Kong International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Luxbox films

**Tags** Films By Women, Global Politics, Social Impact

**Premiere** India Premiere

## ARTICLE 370

India | 2024 | Hindi | 160' | COLOUR



<b>Director</b>	Aditya Suhas Jambhale
<b>Producer</b>	B 62 Films, Jio Studios
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Siddharth Deena Vasani
<b>Editor</b>	Shivkumar V. Panicker
<b>Screenwriter</b>	Aditya Dhar, Aditya Suhas Jambhale, Arjun Dhawan, Monal Thakar
<b>Cast</b>	Yami Gautam, Priyamani, Skand Thakur, Raj Arjun, Vaibhav Tatwawadi, Arun Govil, Raj Zutshi, Divya Seth, Kiran Karmarkar, Sumit Kaul, Iravati Harshe, Ashwani Kumar



*Aditya has made significant contributions to both Marathi and Hindi cinema. His debut short film, Aaba Aiktaay Naa?, won the National Award for Best Direction at the 64th National Film Awards. His second short, Kharvas, opened the Indian Panorama at IFFI 2018 and earned him a second National Award in 2019. Aditya's feature debut, Article 370, starring Yami Gautam and Priyamani, was a critically acclaimed blockbuster. Currently, he's working on Baramulla, a supernatural thriller produced by B62 Studios and Jio Studios.*

In the aftermath of the 2016 Kashmir unrest, a young local field agent, Zooni Haksar, is picked out by Rajeshwari Swaminathan from the Prime Minister's Office for a top-secret mission. Their aim? Cracking down on terrorism and putting an end to the billion-dollar conflict economy in the valley, by doing the absolute impossible - Abrogating the notorious Article 370. That too, without spilling a single drop of innocent blood.

## THE GOAT LIFE (AADUJEEVITHAM)

India | 2023 | Malayalam | 172' | COLOUR



<b>Director</b>	Blessy
<b>Producer</b>	Visual Romance
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Sunil K. S.
<b>Editor</b>	A. Sreekar Prasad
<b>Screenplay</b>	Blessy
<b>Cast</b>	Prithviraj Sukumaran, K. R. Gokul, Amala Paul, Jimmy Jean-Louis, Shobha Mohan, Talib Al Balushi, Rik Aby



Blessy debuted with his first film *Kaazhcha*, a film that became a turning point in Malayalam cinema history. He is the winner of 6 state awards, 3 Filmfare awards and a National award, and has made films that have been critically acclaimed and also done well at the box office. His '100 years of Chrysostom A Biographical Film' holds the Guinness world record for longest documentary

Some men's destinies are written by others. *The Goat Life* is the true-life story of Najib, a man who leaves behind his wife, mother and his unborn child, and goes from the lush green lands of Kerala, India – famously referred to as 'God's Own Country' - to a barren desert country in the middle-East in search of a better life, a better future. In this leap into the unknown, Najib is forced into hard labour on a goat farm, in the process losing all hope and his very sense of identity. *Aadujeevitham* is the touching story of his painful acceptance of that life, and his almost miraculous escape from an impossible situation. It is the story of one man that at once also highlights the plight of a million.

## RAAVSAAHEB

India | 2024 | Marathi | 138' | Colour



**Director** Nikhil Mahajan

**Producer** Planet Marathi Seller Services Pvt Ltd, Blue Drop Films, Nikhil Mahajan Swapnil Bhangale, Prasanna Ajarekar

**Cinematographer** Amey Chavan

**Editor** Hrishikesh Petwe

**Screenwriter** Nikhil Mahajan, Prajakt Deshmukh, Shripad Deshpande, Jeejivisha Kale

**Cast** Jitendra Joshi, Mukta Barve, Mohit Takalkar, Sonalee Kulkarni, Priyadarshan Jadhav, Sagar Deshmukh, Mrunmayee Deshpande, Rashmi Agdekar



*Nikhil Mahajan is a National Award-winning filmmaker based in Mumbai, India. He is a graduate in Filmmaking from The IFS Sydney. Pune 52 (2012) was his debut feature film. His latest film, Godavari (2021), won two awards at the International Film Festival India Goa, making it the first Marathi film in history to win two awards at a major international film festival. Godavari also earned Nikhil the coveted Suvarna Kamal for Best Direction at the National Film Awards in 2022.*

In the deep forest, a battle unfolds between greed and preservation, capitalism, and conservation. Brave officers clash with a cunning mafia, fighting to protect the delicate harmony between humanity and wildlife. Raavsaheb explores the man-animal conflict from the perspectives of various uniformed and non-uniformed civilians battling a system designed to harm the environment. It is also a revenge tale, where multiple protagonists seek justice for a tribal girl, uncovering a much darker truth in the process.

# BEST DEBUT FEATURE FILM OF A DIRECTOR

A selection of 7 international and Indian fiction feature debuts that exemplify what the next generation of filmmakers are envisioning onscreen.

**BETÂNIA**

Brazil | 2024 | Portuguese, French | 115' | Colour

**Director** Marcelo Botta**Producer** Gabriel Di Giacomo, Marcelo Botta**Cinematographer** Bruno Graziano**Editor** Márcio Hashimoto**Screenplay** Marcelo Botta**Cast** Diana Mattos, Tião Carvalho, Caçula Rodrigues, Nádia D'Cássia, Ulysses Azevedo, Michelle Cabral, Vitão Santiago, Enme Paixão

*Marcelo Botta has explored storytelling cultures across regions including the Amazon, Patagonia, the Andes, the Atacama Desert and the Caribbean. His debut feature, Betânia, participated in the First Cut session of Ventana Sur 2022 and won three post-production prizes. He has created and directed documentary and fiction series for Paramount +, MTV, and FOX.*

Betânia, the 65-year-old stalwart family matriarch, is on a turbulent ride on the ever-shifting sands of time. In the wake of her husband's death, Betânia is forced to move back to the village where she was born, leaving behind a lifetime of memories. Pushed by the ancestral sound of Maranhão, Betânia and her family fight to maintain balance and a sense of identity while tradition and modernity collide. Despite the imposing sand dunes, polluted water, financial hardship, and generational quarrels, life finds a way, as it always does.

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024**Sales** MPM Premium**Tags** De/Gendered, Historical, Ecology**Premiere** India Premiere

# BOUND IN HEAVEN

China | 2024 | Mandarin | 110' | Colour



**Director** Huo Xin

**Producer** Anjin Prasad, Justine O.

**Cinematographer** Songri Piao

**Editor** Matthieu Laclau, Yann-Shan Tsai, Zhao Zhang

**Screenplay** Yu Pan

**Cast** Ni Ni, Zhou You, Liao Fan



Xin Huo is a Chinese writer and director. She has written screenplays for films including *Shower* (1999), *Kung Fu Hustle* (2004), *Sunflower* (2005), *Curiosity Kills the Cat* (2006), *Full Circle* (2012), *Journey to the West: Conquering the Demons* (2013) and *Crimes of Passion* (2013).

An exhausted woman rekindles the spirit of a man, whose heart has grown cold and desolate. Together, they embark on a journey of both physical and emotional liberation, bound tightly by desire and passion, navigating through an intense exploration of life and death.

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024  
San Sebastián International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Rediance Films

**Tags** Films by Women, Thriller

**Premiere** India Premiere

## BRING THEM DOWN

Ireland, UK | 2024 | English, Irish | 106' | Colour



**Director** Christopher Andrews

**Producer** Ivana MacKinnon, Jacob Swan Hyam, Ruth Treacy, Julianne Forde, Jean-Yves Roubin, Cassandre Warnauts

**Cinematographer** Nick Cooke

**Editor** George Cragg

**Screenplay** Christopher Andrews, Jonathan Hourigan

**Cast** Christopher Abbott, Barry Keoghan, Colm Meaney, Nora-Jane Noone, Paul Ready, Aaron Heffernan



*Christopher Andrews is a UK-based writer-director. He has directed the short films *Fire* (2015) and *Stalker* (2018), and has also written scripts for the upcoming films *Cavendish* and an adaptation of the Booker-winner *Frankenstein in Baghdad*.*

Michael, the last son of a shepherding family, lives with his ailing father, Ray. When a conflict with their rival farmer Gary and his son Jack escalates, a devastating chain of events leaves both families permanently altered.

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024  
BFI London Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Charades

**Tags** Thriller, De/Gendered, Historical, Ecology

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

# FAMILIAR TOUCH

USA | 2024 | English | 113' | Colour



**Director** Sarah Friedland

**Producer** Alexandra Byer, Matthew Thurm

**Cinematographer** Gabe C. Elder

**Editor** Aacharee "Ohm" Ungsriwong, Kate Abernathy

**Screenplay** Sarah Friedland

**Cast** Kathleen Chalfant, Carolyn Michelle, Andy McQueen, H. Jon Benjamin



Sarah Friedland is a filmmaker and choreographer blending film and dance. Her work spanning experimental films, installations, and performances has been showcased at festivals like New York Film Festival and MoMA. She also teaches choreographic filmmaking and facilitates intergenerational projects.

*Familiar Touch is a coming of (old) age film. It follows an octogenarian woman's transition to life in assisted living as she contends with her conflicting relationship to herself and her caregivers amidst her shifting memory, identity, and desires.*

**Festivals** Venice Film Festival 2024, BFI London Film Festival 2024, Vancouver International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Memento International

**Tags** Films by Women, De/Gendered, Historical, Ecology

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

## TO A LAND UNKNOWN

Saudi Arabia, Palestine, UK, France, Germany, Netherlands, Greece, Qatar, | 2024 | Arabic, Greek, English | 105' | Colour



**Director** Mahdi Fleifel

**Producer** Geoff Arbourne, Mahdi Fleifel, Maria Drandaki, Layla Meijman, Maarten van der Ven, François Morisset

**Cinematographer** Thodoris Mihopoulos

**Editor** Halim Sabbagh

**Screenplay** Mahdi Fleifel, Fyzal Boulifa, Jason McCollgan

**Cast** Mahmood Bakri, Aram Sabbagh, Angeliki Papoulia, Mohammad Alsurafa, Mouataz Alshalton, Mohammad Ghassan, Monzer Reyahnah



*Mahdi Fleifel is a Danish-Palestinian filmmaker and visual artist. His films often examine the themes of social justice and the refugee experience. His debut feature documentary, *A World Not Ours* (2012), received over 30 awards at various festivals. He received a Silver Bear Jury Prize for his short, *A Man Returned*, in 2016.*

After fleeing a camp in Lebanon, two Palestinian cousins are stranded in Athens, living in an underground limbo. Desperately seeking a way to reach Germany, they find themselves caught in an uncontrollable spiral. To a Land Unknown races along like an edgy thriller, tragic but stripped back. A compelling, uncompromising and nuanced look at the living conditions of migrants.

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024, Ghent International Film Festival 2024, Toronto International Film Festival 2024, San Sebastián International Film Festival 2024, BFI London Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Salaud Morisset

**Tags** Thriller, Global Politics, Social Impact

**Premiere** India Premiere

## GYPSY (THE NOMADIC TRIBE)

India | 2024 | Marathi | 120 ' | Colour



**Director** Shashi Chandrakant Khandare

**Producer** Bolpat Nirmitee, Shraddha Shashi Khandare

**Cinematographer** Pravin Jalindar Sonavane

**Editor** Akshay Shinde

**Screenwriter** Shashi Chandrakant Khandare

**Cast** Kabir Khandare



Shashi Khandare, a Pune-based writer and director, started as a clapper boy, and later worked as an associate director. His award-winning short films *Surma* and *Gypsy* have received accolades at many international film festivals, including Cannes.

*Jotya, a boy born in an itinerant nomadic family, quests for a better life. Forced to beg for stale and rotten food every day, little Jotya has to make do with the smell of fresh food, something he has grown to cherish. While his pregnant mother struggles to make ends meet, Jotya becomes obsessed with a particular smell, a smell that will forever change his life.*

## 35 CHINNA KATHA KAADU

India | 2024 | Telugu | 143' | COLOUR



**Director** Nanda Kishore Emani

**Producer** Waltair Productions Pvt.,Ltd.

**Cinematographer** Niketh Bommi

**Editor** T. C. Prasanna

**Screenwriter** Prashanth Vignesh, Amaravadhi, Nanda Kishore Emani

**Cast** Nivetha Thomas, Priyadarshi Pulikonda, Vishwadev Rachakonda, Gautami, K. Bhagyaraj



*Nanda Kishore Emani, a chartered accountant turned filmmaker from Visakhapatnam, works in the Telugu cinema in Hyderabad. He is known for directing 35-Chinna Katha Kaadu, Pitta Kathalu and Stand-Up Rahul.*

28-year-old homemaker Saraswathi and her husband Prasad, a bus conductor, live with their sons Arun and Varun in a modest home near the Tirupati temple. At 16, Saraswathi chose marriage over education, and her lack of formal schooling becomes a challenge when Arun struggles with his math homework. The situation worsens when Arun is suspended from school and asked to take a gap year. Overwhelmed, Arun tries to run away but is luckily found by Saraswathi's friend. Determined to help her son, Saraswathi begins learning math herself, a decision that will lead to significant personal and academic milestones. A film that underscores the power of perseverance, family support, and community intervention in overcoming adversity.

# ICFT-UNESCO GANDHI MEDAL

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2024 in collaboration with the International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication (ICFT), Paris, will present a special ICFT prize consisting of the UNESCO Gandhi Medal awarded to a film which reflects the ideals promoted by UNESCO - especially: Tolerance, Intercultural Dialogue & Culture of Peace.

## **About the UNESCO Gandhi Medal :**

In 1994, UNESCO issued a commemorative medal marking the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, India's "Father of the Nation" and the world's advocate of non-violence, peace and tolerance. The General Conference of one of the previous years had adopted a resolution calling for a series of activities around the "great world personality whose thought and creative modes of non-violent action have shaped socioeconomic and political currents in the 20th century".

The medal bears a portrait of Gandhi engraved by the French artist Pierre-Yves Tremois. Etched underneath is the Mahatma's message of hope: "In the midst of darkness light prevails". The reverse side carries the UNESCO Logo.

# ICFT - UNESCO INTERNATIONAL JURY 2024



## MS. ISABELLE DANEL (FRANCE) (CHAIRPERSON)

Journalist, Author  
Honorary President of the International  
Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI)



## MR. SERGE MICHEL (FRANCE)

Vice President of the International Council  
for Film, Television and Audiovisual  
Communication (CICT-ICFT),  
Representative of UNICA



## MS. MARIA CRISTINA IGLESIAS (ARGENTINA/FRANCE)

Former Head of Programme at UNESCO's  
Cultural Sector



## DR. PROF. AHMED BEDJAQUI (ALGERIA)

Artistic Director of International Film Festival  
of Algiers Film and Television  
Director/Producer, Journalist, Film Critic,  
Author and University Professor



## MS. XUEYUAN HUN (CHINA)

Performing artist with varying work across  
the disciplines of film, theatre, and music.  
Director, Platform for Creativity and  
Innovation (PCI, CICT-ICFT youth branch)



# ICFT-UNESCO GANDHI MEDAL NOMINEES

IFFI's annual slate of international and Indian fiction feature films competing for the ICFT UNESCO GANDHI MEDAL.

## CROSSING

Sweden, Denmark, France, Turkey, Georgia | 2024 | Georgian, Turkish, English | 105' | Colour



<b>Director</b>	Levan Akin
<b>Producer</b>	Mathilde Dedye
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Lisabi Fridell
<b>Editor</b>	Emma Lagrelius, Levan Akin
<b>Screenplay</b>	Levan Akin
<b>Cast</b>	Mzia Arabuli, Lucas Kankava, Deniz Dumanlı



*Levan Akin's work explores class, gender and sexuality. He is known for And Then We Danced (2019) which premiered in the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs at the Cannes Film Festival and was Sweden's official entry for the Oscars. He has directed the TV series, Real Humans (2012) and the series adaptation of Interview with the Vampire (2022-24).*

Lia, a retired teacher, made a promise to find her long lost niece Tekla. The search takes her to Istanbul, a beautiful city that seems full of connections and possibilities. There she meets Evrim, a lawyer fighting for trans rights, and Tekla starts to feel closer than ever. Two initially hesitant strangers overcome not only ideological but also internal boundaries on their mission and join forces.

<b>Festivals</b>	Tribeca Film Festival 2024, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2024, Sarajevo Film Festival 2024
<b>Sales</b>	Totem Films
<b>Tags</b>	De/Gendered, Social Impact
<b>Premiere</b>	India Premiere

## FOR RANA

Iran | 2024 | Persian | 87' | Colour



**Director** Iman Yazdi

**Producer** Morteza Shaysteh

**Cinematographer** Roozbeh Rayga

**Editor** Samaneh Sezavar

**Screenplay** Hossein Mahkam

**Cast** Hamed Behdad, Pantea Panahiha



Aref lives with his wife and their daughter Rana. He intends to break the world record for motorcycle ramp jump, but gets entangled in family events that put him in a dilemma.

*Iman Yazdi began his career as an Assistant Director in 2006 and later worked as a Line Producer and Executive Producer. His directorial works include the short films Homeless (2014), First Exit (2012), and After the Game (2011). For Rana is his first feature film.*

**Festivals** Busan International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Madako Pictures

**Tags** Social Impact

**Premiere** India Premiere

## LESSON LEARNED (FEKETE PONT)

Hungary | 2024 | Hungarian | 119' | Colour



**Director** Bálint Szimler

**Producer** Gábor Osváth, Gábor Osváth

**Cinematographer** Marcell Rév

**Editor** Zsófia Ördög

**Screenplay** Bálint Szimler

**Cast** Paul Mátis, Anna Mészöly, Ákos 'Dadan' Kovács, Inez Mátis, Gábor Ferenczi



Bálint Szimler studied at the University of Theatre and Film Arts in Budapest. His short film *Itt vagyok* (2010) was screened in Cannes' Cinéfondation and nominated for Best Short Film at the European Film Awards. *Lesson Learned* is his feature fiction debut.

Young teacher Juci attempts to challenge the outdated methods in her school, while new student Palkó, recently relocated from abroad, struggles to adapt to the demanding educational system. Their personal stories offer insight into an oppressive system, reflecting the broader Hungarian society.

**Festivals** Locarno International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Filmfabriq

**Tags** Social Impact, Festival Hits

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

## MEETING WITH POL POT (RENDEZ-VOUS AVEC POL POT)

France, Cambodia, Taïwan, Qatar, Turkey | 2024 | French, Cambodian | 113' | Colour



**Director** Rithy Panh

**Producer** Catherine Dussart, Rithy Panh, Justine O., Roger Huang, Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, Hanaa Issa, Mehmet Zahid Sobaci, Muhammed Ziyad Varol, Mirsad Purivatra, Jovan Marjanović, Georges-Marc Benamou

**Cinematographer** Aymerick Pilarski, Mesa Prum

**Editor** Rithy Panh, Matthieu Laclau

**Screenplay** Pierre Erwan Guillaume, Rithy Panh, Elizabeth Becker (Author, *When the War Was Over: Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge Revolution*)

**Cast** Irène Jacob, Grégoire Colin, Cyril Guei, Bunhok Lim, Somaline Mao



*At the age of 11, like all Cambodians, Rithy Panh was interned in Khmer Rouge camps for rehabilitation through labor. He moved to France, and in 1985 entered the IDHEC film school. His filmography includes Irradiated (2020, Berlinale – Golden Bear for Best Documentary), and The Missing Picture (2013, Festival de Cannes – Un Certain Regard, Winner of Best Film; Oscar 2014, Nominee, Best Foreign Language Film) among others.*

Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia), 1978. Three French journalists are invited by the Khmer Rouge to conduct an exclusive interview of the regime's leader, Pol Pot. The country seems ideal. But behind the Potemkin village, the Khmer Rouge regime is declining and the war with Vietnam threatens to invade the country. The regime is looking for culprits, secretly carrying out a large scale genocide. Under the eyes of the journalists, the beautiful picture cracks, revealing the horror within.

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Playtime

**Tags** Historical, Global Politics

**Premiere** India Premiere

## SATU - YEAR OF THE RABBIT

Laos | 2024 | Lao | 93' | Colour



**Director** Joshua Trigg

**Producer** Lee Phongsavanh

**Cinematographer** James Chegwyn

**Editor** Nick Saunders

**Screenplay** Joshua Trigg

**Cast** Itthiphone Sonepho, Vanthiva Saysana



*Joshua Trigg has worked the last decade mostly across Asia. He is known for his storytelling, high-end TV commercials and award-winning narratives and documentaries. Satu - Year of the Rabbit is his debut feature film.*

Bo, a Laotian teenager with an abusive father, wants to study journalism at the University of Hanoi, Vietnam. As part of the application, she needs to send in a photo-journalistic piece. Inspired by a project that could see her escape grimness, she sets off on a journey that takes her to the Pha Tang Temple, where she meets the young orphan Satu, taken in as a baby by the head monk. As the village tries to sort out the problem of unexploded bombs unearthed by floods, Bo agrees to head north with Satu in search of his mother – Satu hoping to find answers, Bo looking to carve out a story.

**Festivals** Raindance Film Festival 2024,  
Cambodia International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Geronimo Boy Film

**Tags** Coming of age, De/Gendered

**Premiere** India Premiere

# TRANSAMAZONIA

France, Germany, Switzerland, Taiwan, Brazil | 2024 | English, Portuguese | 112' | Colour



**Director** Pia Marais

**Producer** Pia Marais, Sophie Erbs, Tom Dercourt, Pierrick Baudouin, Murielle Thierrin, Claudia Steffen, Christoph Friedel, Steffano Centini, Chang Chu-Ti, Camilo Cavalcanti, Jorane castro, Alex C.Lo, Guilherme Cezar Coelho, Fernando Loureiro, Viviane Mendonça, Jean-Marc Froehle

**Cinematographer** Mathieu De Montgrand

**Editor** Matthieu Laclau, Yann-Shan Tsai

**Screenplay** Pia Marais, Martin Rosefeldt, Willem Droste

**Cast** Helena Zengel, Jeremy Xido, Joao Vitor Xavante, Pira Assurini, Hama Vieira, Sabine Timoteo



Pia Marais is a writer and director from South Africa and Sweden. Her feature debut, *The Unpolished* (2007), won the Tiger Award at the Rotterdam Film Festival; *Im Alter von Ellen* (2010) screened in competition at Locarno and at more than 30 festivals, including TIFF. *Layla Fourie* (2013) premiered in competition at the Berlinale, receiving a Special Jury Mention.

Rebecca, the daughter of missionary Lawrence Byrne, was declared a 'miracle' after she survived a plane crash as a child, deep in the Amazon forest. Years later, Rebecca has become a miracle healer, sustaining their mission thanks to her growing fame. But when illegal loggers invade the land belonging to the indigenous people they're evangelizing, Rebecca's father maneuvers them into the epicenter of this escalating conflict.

**Festivals** Locarno Film Festival 2024

Toronto International Film Festival 2024

New York Film Festival 2024

**Sales** The Party Film Sales

**Tags** Ecology, Global Politics, Films by Women

**Premiere** India Premiere

## UNSINKABLE (SYNEKFRI)

Denmark | 2023 | Danish | 103' | Colour



<b>Director</b>	Christian Andersen
<b>Producer</b>	Jesper Jørgensen, Hanna Rosland
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Loui Ladegaard
<b>Editor</b>	Martin Anthon Sørensen
<b>Screenplay</b>	Christian Andersen, Martin Strange-Hansen
<b>Cast</b>	Sylvester Byder, Johanne Louise Schmidt, Anders Brinck, Ellen Rovsing Knudsen, Sofie Torp, Lars Topp, Henrik Birch, Esben Dalgaard, Iben Dorner



*Christian Andersen's first feature was the thriller *None Shall Sleep* (2019). *Unsinkable* is his second feature, a personal film project inspired by the real RF2 accident in 1981, in Northern Denmark.*

In 1981, the newly built and supposedly unsinkable rescue boat RF2 tragically sank during one of its initial rescue missions, resulting in the loss of nine lives. Henrik, the son of RF2's captain, initiates an investigation as his father is held responsible for the accident. However, he encounters resistance from the town's fishermen, who are concerned about potential job losses, as well as the authorities, who fear a public scandal. Meanwhile, grief looms over Henrik's family, threatening to tear them apart. The film is inspired by true events.

<b>Festivals</b>	Bodil Awards, 2024
<b>Sales</b>	Picture Tree International
<b>Tags</b>	Thriller, Historical
<b>Premiere</b>	India Premiere

## AAMAR BOSS

Colour | 139 Mins | Bengali | 2024



**Director** Nandita Roy, Shiboprosad Mukherjee

**Producer** Windows Production House

**Cinematographer** Indranath Marick

**Editor** Moloy Laha

**Screenplay** Nandita Roy, Shiboprosad Mukherjee

**Cast** Rakhee Gulzar, Srabanti Chatterjee, Sauraseni Maitra, Shruti Das, and Gourab Chatterjee



*Shiboprosad, also a writer and actor, frequently collaborates with Nandita. Together, they have directed several notable films such as *Icche*, *Praktan*, *Bela Seshe*, *Muktodhara*, *Accident*, *Alik Sukh*, *Ramdhanu*, *Haami*, *Konntho*, and *Gotro*. Nandita made her directorial debut with *Icche* (2011) alongside Shiboprosad. Her experience includes working with many renowned directors. Both are acclaimed Indian filmmakers renowned for their socially relevant and innovative narratives.*

Aamar Boss is about a 40-year-old man, Animesh, who runs a publishing house. He is estranged from his wife, who is busy pursuing her career in Mumbai. His mother, Shubhra Goswami, a retired head nurse, has recently undergone a major heart operation and is recuperating at home. Bored, Shubhra decides to accompany her son to his office and work as an intern there, much to her son's dissatisfaction, a decision that will irreversibly change the dynamics of the company and the lives of its employees.

**Sales** Windows Aamar Boss

**Premiere** World Premiere

**JUIPHOO**

India | 2024 | Assamese | 100' | Colour

**Director** Jadumoni Dutta**Producer** Jadumoni Dutta, Rita Dutta, Nandini Sharma Dutta**Cinematographer** Jiten Boro**Editor** Sibajit Sharma**Screenplay** Nizara Rajkumari**Cast** Shibrani Kalita, Tridip Gogoi, Rituparna Phukan

*Jadumoni Dutta is a film and theater personality and award-winning actor from Assam. He has to his credit films like Agnisakshi, Paani, and Jetuka Pator Dare. He received the National Award for CSR and Sustainability for the TV series Kuwoli. He has been a jury member for many prestigious film festivals as a nominated member of the FTII of India, Pune.*

Juiphool (Orange and Purple) Juiphool is a tale of two mothers from the conflict-ridden Assam-Nagaland border area, where the daily routine of the villagers of Naragaon has radically altered: vigilance at night, and rest during the day. Set against such a backdrop, the film follows Lakhimi, a pregnant Assamese widow, who develops a secret bond with a Naga woman, Rengma, who has suffered repeated miscarriages. As their bond grows stronger, the villagers get suspicious about Lakhimi's secret relationship and hatch a plan to catch her red-handed. Meanwhile, an Assamese folk tale -Tula Aru Teja - with a similar storyline flows along through the voices of Gita and her mother - the victims of violent border conflicts.

**Festivals** Bodil Awards, 2024**Sales** Jadumoni Dutta**Premiere** World Premiere

# SRIKANTH

India | 2024 | Hindi | 134' | Colour



**Director** Tushar Hiranandani

**Producer** Super Cassettes Industries Pvt Ltd

**Cinematographer** Pratham Mehta

**Editor** Debasmita Mitra, Sanjay Sankla

**Screenplay** Jagdeep Siddhu, Sumit Purohit

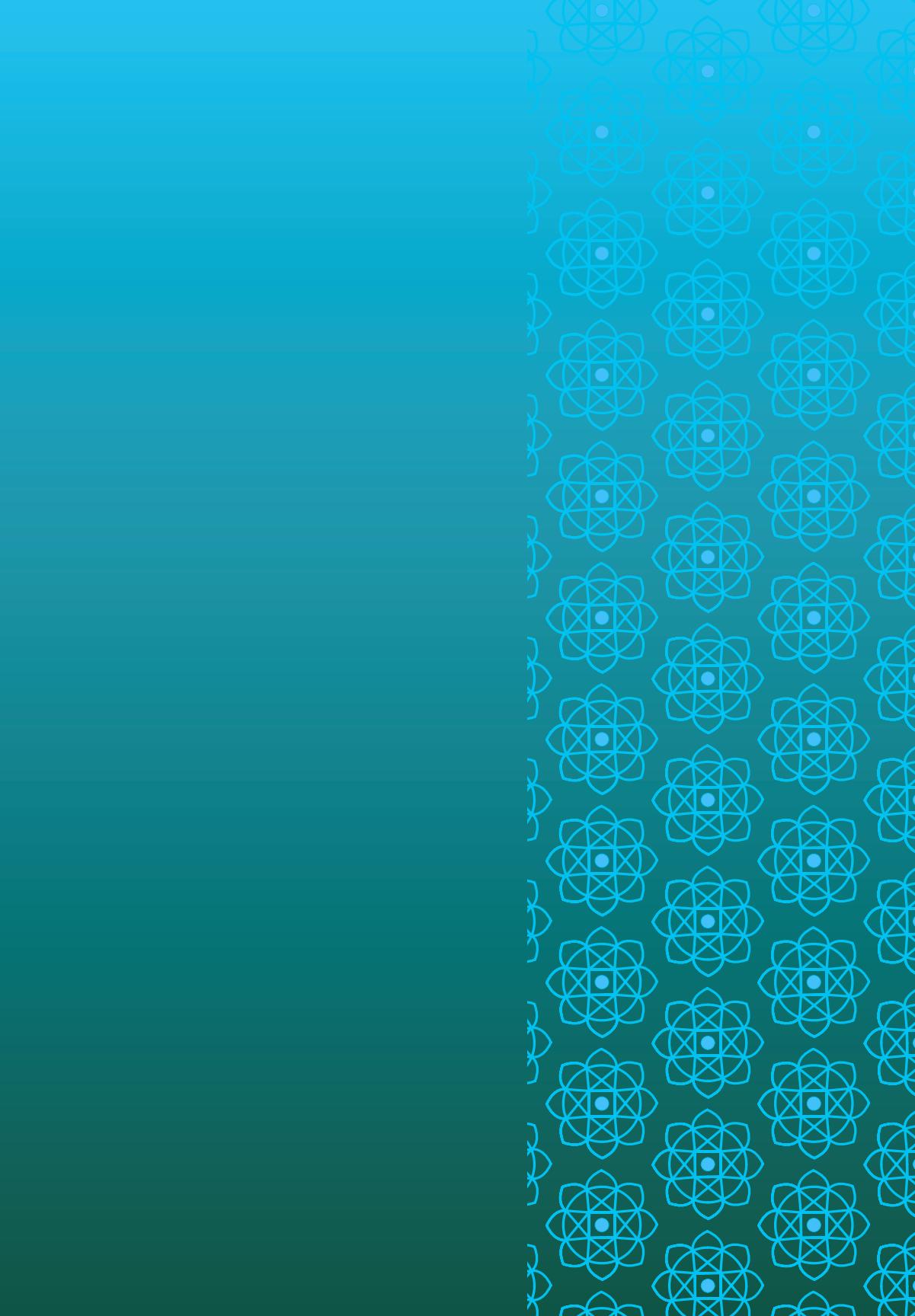
**Cast** Rajkummar Rao, Jyothika, Alaya F, Sharad Kelkar



*Tushar Hiranandani is an Indian film director and screenwriter. He has written films like Masti (2004), Atithi Tum Kab Jaoge? (2010), Housefull 2 (2012), ABCD: Any Body Can Dance (2013), Ek Villain (2014), Dishoom (2016) and Half Girlfriend (2017) among others. He then made his directorial debut with Saand Ki Aankh (2019) and went onto make Srikanth (2024). In 2023, he directed the Sony LIV series Scam 2003.*

In a world with the odds stacked against him every step of the way, Srikanth defies norms, blazing a trail straight from rural India to becoming the first visually impaired student at MIT. As he builds Bollant Industries, his success brings challenges, each of which he conquers not only to chase personal dreams but also to safeguard a shared future for the ones just like him. A biopic chronicling the life of industrialist Srikanth Bolla, Srikanth is the tale of an entrepreneur's triumph and sacrifice, both of which he welcomed with open arms and a smile.

**Sales** Super Cassettes Industries Pvt. Ltd.



# OPENING FILM

The 55th IFFI presents filmmaker Michael Gracey's riveting film BETTER MAN as the Opening Film. Intimate in portraiture and spectacular in showmanship, Gracey crafts an immersive narrative of the life and times of British popstar Robbie Williams - his talent and ambitions, his flaws and his addiction, his meteoric rise and corrosive fall. Strung in vibrant music, profused with dazzling visual effects and propelled by brilliant acting, Better Man is a disarmingly entertaining and oddly touching foray into the nebula of stardom.

## BETTER MAN

Australia | Colour | 134' | English | 2024



**Director** Michael Gracey

**Producer** Paul Currie, Michael Gracey, Coco Xiaolu Ma, Craig McMahon, Jules Daly

**Cinematographer** Erik Wilson

**Editor** Martin Connor, Jeff Groth, Lee Smith, Spencer Susser

**Screenwriter** Oliver Cole, Simon Gleeson, Michael Gracey

**Cast** Robbie Williams, Jonno Davies, Steve Pemberton, Alison Steadman

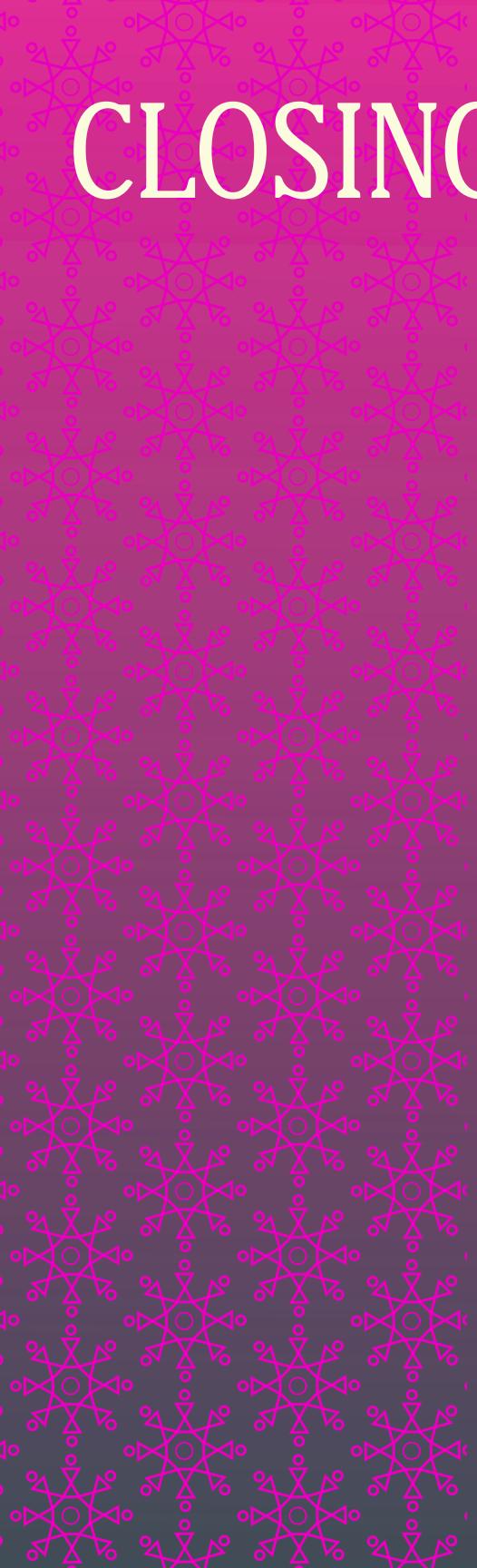


*Michael Gracey, an Australian filmmaker and visual effects artist, is celebrated for directing The Greatest Showman (2017) and executive producing Elton John's biopic Rocketman (2019). Known for his VFX expertise and music production skill, Gracey brings a dynamic, often viral approach that captivates audiences worldwide.*

In this musical biography of British pop legend Robbie Williams, Williams is played—with startling vitality—by none other than Williams himself! Uniquely told from Robbie's perspective, the film captures his signature wit and indomitable spirit. It follows Robbie's journey from childhood, to being the youngest member of chart-topping boyband Take That, through to his unparalleled achievements as a record-breaking solo artist -- all the while confronting the challenges that stratospheric fame and success can bring.

**Festivals** Telluride Film Festival 2024  
Toronto International Film Festival 2024

# CLOSING FILM



# DRY SEASON

Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia | 112' | Czech, English, German | 2024



**Director** Bohdan Sláma

**Producer** Pavel Strnad, Petr Oukropec, Marko Škop, Ján Meliš

**Cinematographer** Diviš Marek

**Editor** Jan Daňhel

**Screenwriter** Bohdan Sláma

**Cast** Dorota Šlajerová, Tomas Sean Pšenička, Magdaléna Borová, Martin Pechlát, Marek Daniel



*Bohdan Sláma is one of the major talents of Czech cinema. His films, *The Wild Bees* (2001), *Something Like Happiness* (2005), *Country Teacher* (2008), and *Four Suns* (2012), have been screened and have also won awards at major international film festivals.*

Verdant fields surround a small farm where fifty-year-old Josef farms with his wife Eva and three children. Josef tries to live an alternative life and leads a Don Quixote-like struggle against the local agribusiness owned by Viktor, for whom the land is just a tool for profit. Victor shares a turbulent relationship with his recently returned son. As the dry summer reaches its peak, the village runs out of drinking water, leading to escalating tensions between the two families.

**Festivals** Film Fleadh 2024

**Sales** Negativ film productions

**Premiere** India Premiere

# RISING STARS

A special presentation of first and second impressions from emerging auteurs with distinctive styles and bold narratives signalling the cinemas to come.

## CRICKETS, IT'S YOUR TURN

France, Kazakhstan | 2024 | Russian | 105' | Colour



**Director** Olga Korotko

**Producer** Etienne de Ricaud, Olga Korotko

**Cinematographer** Aigul Nurbulatova

**Editor** Ricardo Saraiva, Yedilkhan Amandyk

**Screenplay** Olga Korotko

**Cast** Inzhu Abeu, Ayan Batyrbek, Arnur Kusaingazin, Nurlybek Maulezaripov, Boris Yugay, Alexandr Khvan



*Olga studied film at the New York Film Academy, took part in the Berlinale Talents Campus, and subsequently obtained an MFA in film directing at the Zhurgenov National Academy of Fine Arts in Kazakhstan. Her first feature film, Bad Bad Winter, had its world premiere at ACID Cannes 2018.*

Twenty-five-year-old Merey lives a quiet but happy life in Almaty. By chance, she meets the charming Nurlan, who invites her to a birthday party in the mountains. She expects a simple celebration with new friends, but what ensues is an intense and tumultuous night that quickly spirals into a dark game of cat and mouse.

**Festivals** Locarno International Film Festival 2024, Helsinki International Film Festival - Love & Anarchy 2024

**Sales** Cercamon

**Tags** Films by Women, Thriller, De/Gendered

**Premiere** India Premiere

# CU LI NEVER CRIES (CU LI KHÔNG BAO GIỜ KHÓC)

Vietnam, Singapore, France, Philippines, Norway | 2024 | Vietnamese | 92' | B&W



**Director** Pham Ngoc Lan

**Producer** Nghiêm Quỳnh Trang, Trần Thị Bích Ngọc

**Cinematographer** Vũ Hoàng Triều, Nguyễn Vinh Phúc, Nguyễn Phan Linh Đan

**Editor** Julie Béziau

**Screenplay** Pham Ngoc Lan & Nghiêm Quỳnh Trang

**Cast** Minh Chau, Ha Phuong, Xuan An, Hoang Ha



*Born and raised in Hanoi, Lân graduated with a degree in urban planning and taught himself filmmaking at 27. His short films include *The Story of Ones* (2012, Visions du Réel); *Another City* (2016, Berlinale); *Blessed Land* (2019, Berlinale) and *The Unseen River* (2021, Locarno, Sundance). Cu Li Never Cries is his first feature-length film.*

A woman tries to cling onto dimming links to her past after inheriting a pygmy slow loris from her long-estranged husband. Meanwhile, her niece prepares for marriage as the young couple ponders their gloomy future together. The present and the complex echoes of Vietnamese history are entwined before a contemplative and poetic perspective.

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024, Jeonju International Film Festival 2024

**Awards** GWFF Best First Feature Award, Berlinale, 2024  
Best Picture Prize (International), Jeonju International Film Festival, 2024

**Sales** Square Eyes

**Tags** Historical, De/Gendered, Global Politics

**Premiere** India Premiere

## ELSE

France, Belgium | 2024 | French | 100' | Colour



**Director** Thibault Emin

**Producer** Damien Lagogué, Benoit Roland

**Cinematographer** Léo Lefèvre

**Editor** Ariane Boukerche

**Screenplay** Thibault Emin, Alice Butaud, Emma Sandona

**Cast** Matthieu Sampeur, Edith Proust, Lika Minamoto



Anx has just met Cass when a mysterious virus breaks out: everywhere, people's bodies are merging with objects. Stuck in their apartment, the couple must face this dreadful threat.

*Thibault Emin is a French director and screenwriter. He studied film at Paris 8 University, and then at La Fémis. He has directed several short films, including Else (2007), which formed the basis for his feature debut.*

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** WTFILMS

**Tags** Avant-Garde, Hybrids, Horror, Technology

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

## HUNTERS ON A WHITE FIELD (JAKT PÅ ETT VITT FÄLT)

Sweden | 2024 | Swedish | 97' | Colour



**Director** Sarah Gyllenstierna

**Producer** Maria L. Guerpillon, Charlotte Most

**Cinematographer** Josua Enblom

**Editor** Philip Bergström

**Screenplay** Sarah Gyllenstierna

**Cast** Ardalán Esmaili, Magnus Krepper, Jens Hultén



*Sarah Gyllenstierna was born in Stockholm, Sweden. She is a producer and director, known for Juice (1992) and He Got Game (1998).*

Three men go on an extended weekend hunting trip deep in the Swedish forest. Gregor and Henrik are old friends and more experienced hunters, while Alex is a novice. Their trip is initially greeted by success on the hunt, sharpening their instincts in the field and drumming up a rivalry between the three men. But one day all the animals vanish without a trace, leaving the forest eerily quiet and the men with nothing to hunt. Spurred on by overactive male bravado, the misguided macho inclination to compare themselves to men of the past, and a bit of natural hallucinogens, the trio find a way for the hunt to continue, even in a forest without animals.

**Festivals** Tribeca Film Festival 2024

**Sales** LevelK

**Tags** Films By Women, Thriller, De/Gendered

**Premiere** India Premiere

## HUNTING DAZE (JOUR DE CHASSE)

Canada | 2023 | Quebec French | 79' | Colour



**Director** Annick Blanc

**Producer** Maria Gracia Turgeon, Annick Blanc

**Cinematographer** Vincent Gonneville

**Editor** Amélie Labrèche

**Screenplay** Annick Blanc

**Cast** Nahéma Ricci, Bruno Marcil, Frédéric Millaire-Zouvi, Marc Beaupré, Alexandre Landry, Maxime Genois, Noubi Ndiaye



*Annick is driven by her love for visually intriguing and innovative storytelling. Her filmography of shorts includes: The Colour of Your Lips (2019), Turn Off Before Living (2015) and Nowhere Elsewhere (2010) which have garnered prizes at many festivals. Hunting Daze (2023) is her first feature film as a director.*

Nina, a headstrong young woman, joins a group of hunters at a remote cabin. In this male micro-society, she finally feels a newfound sense of belonging. But the delicate balance of their pack is threatened with the arrival of a mysterious stranger.

**Festivals** SXSW 2024

**Sales** ArtHood Entertainment

**Tags** Films by Women, Thriller, De/Gendered

**Premiere** India Premiere

# LILIES NOT FOR ME

USA, UK, France, South Africa | 2024 | English | 99' | Colour



**Director** Will Seefried

**Producer** Will Seefried, Robert Aramayo

**Cinematographer** Cory Fraiman-Lott

**Editor** Julia Bloch

**Screenplay** Will Seefried

**Cast** Fionn O'Shea, Robert Aramayo, Louis Hoffman, Erin Kellyman, Jodi Balfour



*Will Seefried is an award-winning writer, director and filmmaker. He is known for Lilies Not for Me (2024), Homesick (2022) and Sink Sank Sunk (2018).*

In 1920s England, a gay novelist and his psychiatric nurse form an unlikely friendship over a series of doctor-prescribed 'dates'. Through their conversations, he tells her the story of his relationship with an old friend which spiralled out of control when they turned to a risky procedure to cure themselves of their forbidden feelings for one another.

**Festivals** Edinburgh International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Memento International

**Tags** LGBTQ+, Social Impact

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

## LINDA

Argentina, Spain | 2024 | Spanish | 100' | Colour



**Director** Mariana Wainstein

**Producer** Pablo E. Bossi, Cabe Bossi, Pol Bossi

**Cinematographer** Marcos Hastrup

**Editor** Miguel Colombo

**Screenplay** Mariana Wainstein, Diego Bliffeld, Luciano Cocciardi, Horacio Convertini, Juan Cordoni, Sabrina Campos, Nancy Gai

**Cast** Eugenia China Suárez, Rafael Spregelburd, Julieta Cardinali, Minerva Casero



*Mariana Wainstein is a writer and director. She's directed short films including Las Hormigas (2017) and Error 404 (2016). Linda (2024) is her feature film debut.*

Linda, a captivating housemaid with a unique charm and beauty, unveils a family's secrets and erotic fantasies. The attraction that she sparks in each member of the family leads her to exercise power over them. Behind their seemingly happy lives, lies unexpected complexity.

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024, Zurich International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Meikincine Entertainment

**Tags** Films by Women, De/Gendered

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

## LOCUST (CHONG)

Taiwan, USA, France, Qatar | 2024 | Mandarin, Hokkein, Hakka | 133' | Colour



**Director** KEFF

**Producer** Anita Gou, Siuloku O

**Cinematographer** Nadeem Carlsen, DFF

**Editor** KEFF, Siuloku O., Jenson Tay Yi

**Screenplay** KEFF, Junu Wu

**Cast** Liu Wei-chen, Rimong Ihwar, Devin Pan, Yu An Shun, Wu Yi-Jung



*KEFF is a Taiwanese-American multidisciplinary artist based in New York and Taipei. He recently completed the NYU Graduate Film program on scholarship. His short film and NYU thesis, Taipei Suicide Story, had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival (Cinéfondation), and won the Grand Jury Prize (Narrative Feature) at the Slamdance Film Festival.*

As the 2019 Hong Kong protests erupt across the strait, Zhong-Han, a silent twenty-nothing in Taiwan, leads a double life – working at a family restaurant by day, and running with a group of local gangsters by night. But when the ownership of the restaurant changes hands, it sets off an unexpected chain reaction that forces Zhong-Han to witness and confront the corrupt power games of his country.

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024, Warsaw International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** MK2

**Tags** Thriller, Global Politics

**Premiere** India Premiere

## MANAS

Brazil, Portugal | 2024 | Spanish | 101' | Colour



**Director** Mariana Brennand

**Producer** Carolina Benevides, Marianna Brennand

**Cinematographer** Pierre De Kerchove

**Editor** Isabela Monteiro de Castro

**Screenplay** Felipe Sholl, Marcelo Grabowsky, Marianna Brennand, Antonia Pellegrino, Camila Agustini, Carolina Benevides

**Cast** Jamilli Correa, Fátima Macedo, Rômulo Braga, Dira Paes, Emílu Pantoja, Samira Eloá, Gabriel Rodrigues, Enzo Maia



*Marianna Brennand graduated with a degree in film at UCSB, made Francisco Brennanda (2012), a documentary film that won both Best Brazilian Documentary and Best Brazilian Film at the São Paulo Film Festival. Manas marks Brennand's feature film directorial debut and is the result of a ten-year research into the complex and delicate subject of the sexual abuse and exploitation of children and teenagers.*

Island of Marajó, Amazon rainforest. Marcielle, 13, lives by the riverbanks with her father, mother, and three siblings. Prompted by her mother's words, she idolises her older sister who supposedly escaped her reality by 'finding a good man' on the barges that ply the region. As Tielle matures, her idealised visions shatter, leaving her trapped between two abusive environments. Increasingly worried about her younger sister and the bleak future they face, she decides to confront the oppressive system that controls her family and the women in their community.

**Festivals** Venice International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Bendita Film Sales

**Tags** Films By Women, Global Politics, De/Gendered, Social Impact

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

## MEMORIES OF A BURNING BODY (MEMORIAS DE UN CUERPO QUE ARDE)

Costa Rica, Spain | 2024 | Spanish | 90' | Colour



**Director** Antonella Sudassassi Furniss

**Producer** Antonella Sudassassi Furniss

**Cinematographer** Andrés Campos

**Editor** Bernat Aragonés

**Screenplay** Antonella Sudassassi Furniss

**Cast** Sol Carball, Paulina Bernini, Juliana Filloy, Liliana Biamonte



*Antonella Sudassassi Furniss's first film, *The Awakening of the Ants* (2019), premiered at the Berlinale Forum in 2019 and was selected for more than 65 international festivals, representing the country at the Academy Awards and becoming the first Costa Rican film to be recognized by the Platino Awards and the first Central American movie to receive a Goya Award nomination.*

Growing up in a repressive era when sexuality was a taboo subject, sixty-eight-year-old Ana, sixty-nine-year-old Patricia and seventy-one-year-old Mayela developed their understanding of what it means to be a woman based on unspoken rules and implicit expectations. Now they dare to talk about it openly. The memories, secrets and longings of the three are interwoven in a poetic way: while the women tell their stories off-screen, they are lived out in the body of another woman of their generation.

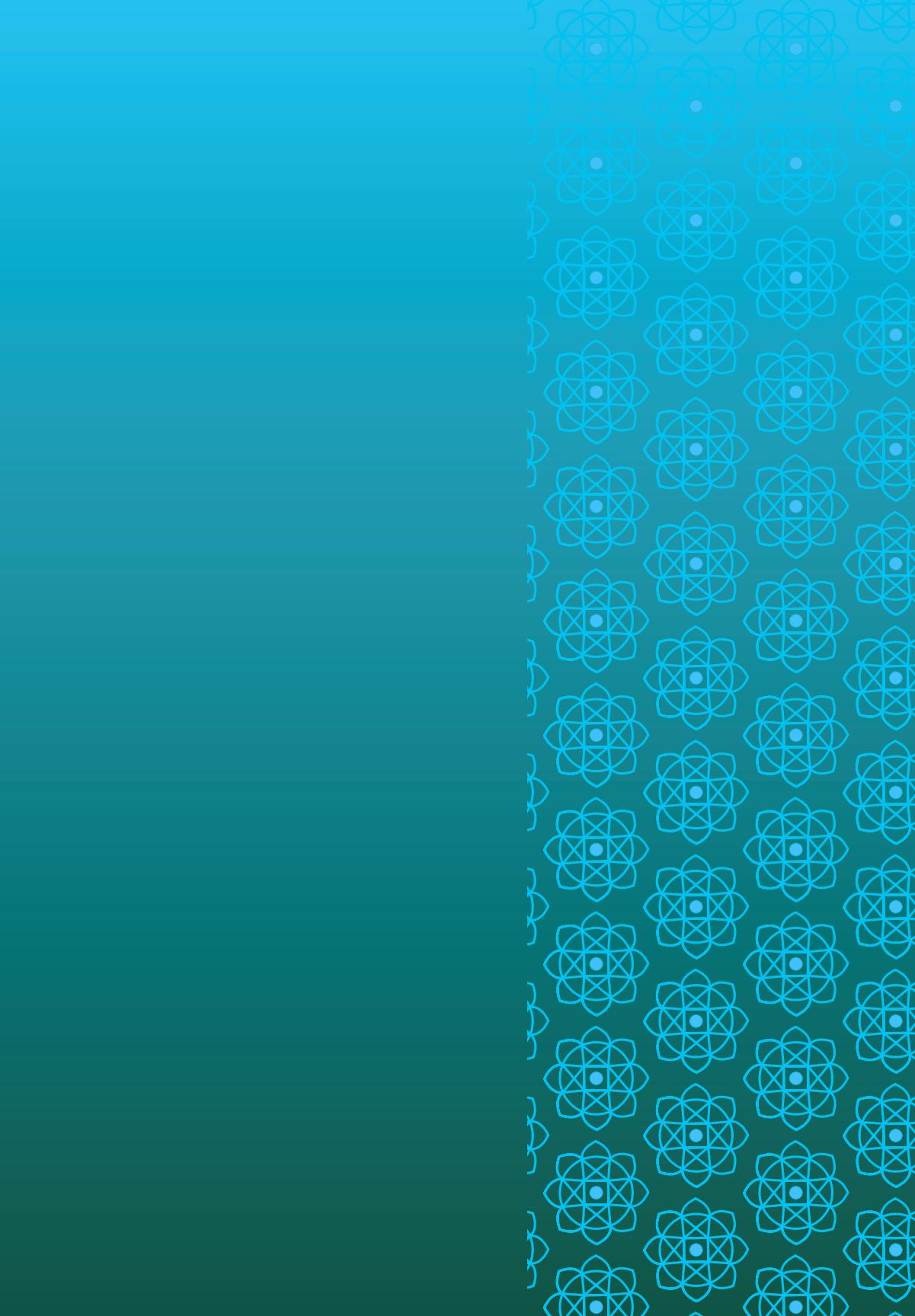
**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024, Istanbul Film Festival 2024

Seattle International Film Festival 2024,  
Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Bendita Film Sales

**Tags** Films by Women, Social Impact, De/Gendered

**Premiere** India Premiere



# FROM THE FESTIVALS

Exceptional films from veteran filmmakers, emerging powerhouse talents, and critically acclaimed hits from reputed international film festivals of the year assorted in an impressive category.

**BLACK DOG (GOU ZHEN)**

China | 2024 | Mandarin | 106' | Colour



<b>Director</b>	Guan Hu
<b>Producer</b>	Zhu Wenjiu
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Weizhe Gao
<b>Editor</b>	Matthieu Laclau, He Yongyi
<b>Screenplay</b>	Rui Ge, Guan Hu, Wu Bing
<b>Cast</b>	Eddie Peng, Jia Zhangke



*Guan Hu is a sixth-generation Chinese filmmaker. A prolific producer and director, he is known for Mr. Six (2015), The Eight Hundred (2020), and most recently Black Dog (2024), which has added to his list of accolades with the coveted Un Certain Regard.*

On the edge of the Gobi desert in Northwest China, Lang returns to his hometown after being released from jail. While working for the local dog patrol team to clear the town of stray dogs before the Olympic Games, he strikes up an unlikely connection with a black dog. These two lonely souls now embark on a new journey together.

<b>Festivals</b>	Cannes Film Festival 2024, Warsaw International Film Festival 2024, Edinburgh International Film Festival 2024, American Film Institute Festival 2024,
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<b>Awards</b>	Un Certain Regard, Cannes Film Festival 2024 Crème de la Crème Award, Warsaw International Film Festival 2024
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<b>Sales</b>	Alliance Media
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<b>Tags</b>	Social Impact, Global Politics, Festival Hits
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<b>Premiere</b>	India Premiere
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# FLATHEAD

Australia | 2024 | English | 89' | Colour



<b>Director</b>	Jaydon Martin
<b>Producer</b>	Patrick McCabe
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Brodie Poole
<b>Editor</b>	Patrick McCabe
<b>Screenplay</b>	Jaydon Martin
<b>Cast</b>	Cass Cumerford, Andrew Wong



*Born in Australia, Jaydon Martin worked as a camera operator for narrative and documentary features before becoming a director. His experience growing up in a low socio-economic area of Australia, drives him to explore maligned cultures, mundane existence and working class expressions in his projects. Flathead (2024) is his directorial debut.*

Cass Cumerford has borne more than his fair share of setbacks in life. Now in his seventies, he decides to return to his childhood home of Bundaberg in Queensland, a small city famous for its rum. Through conversations with strangers and the friends he makes, Cass gradually reveals the events that have shaped his life – the mistakes he has made, the moments of joy and the grief that weigh him down. Drawing on the lives of a rich panoply of characters in Bundaberg, Flathead revels in the fabric of everyday lives, while dealing with subjects that range from addiction and race to faith and the forces that bind and repel us.

<b>Festivals</b>	International Film Festival Rotterdam 2024, Sydney International Film Festival 2024
<b>Awards</b>	Tiger Competition Special Jury Award, International Film Festival Rotterdam 2024
<b>Sales</b>	Portmanteau Pictures
<b>Tags</b>	Hybrids, Social Impact, Festival Hits
<b>Premiere</b>	Asia Premiere

## GRAND TOUR

Portugal, Italy, France | 2024 | Portuguese, Chinese, Thai, French, Burmese, Vietnamese, Filipino, Japanese | 128' | B&W



**Director** Miguel Gomes

**Producer** Filipa Reis

**Cinematographer** Rui Poças, Sayombhu Mukdeeprom, Gui Liang

**Editor** Telmo Churro, Pedro Filipe Marques

**Screenplay** Mariana Ricardo, Telmo Churro, Maureen Fazendeiro, Miguel Gomes

**Cast** Gonçalo Waddington, Crista Alfaiate, Cláudio da Silva, Lang Khê Tran



*After starting his career as a film critic, Miguel Gomes directed a series of short films, followed by his first feature film in 2004, *La Gueule que tu mérites*. In 2012 his film, *Tabu* won the Alfred Bauer Prize at the Berlin Film Festival. Drawing on popular imaginaries, his works are marked by the blurring of documentary and fiction that defines his style.*

In this spirited cinematic journey, ambitious Portuguese filmmaker Miguel Gomes explores East Asia, weaving a tale of a restless couple from colonial England in 1918. As Edward escapes a looming marriage, pursued by his determined fiancée Molly across Mandalay, Bangkok, and Shanghai, Gomes crafts a captivating series of scenes that blend history and magic, immersing us in the rhythm, texture, and emotional essence of these places while maintaining an exotic traveler's perspective.

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024, Toronto International Film Festival 2024, BFI London Film Festival 2024

**Awards** Best Director, Cannes Film Festival 2024

**Sales** MUBI

**Tags** Historical, Festival Hits

**Premiere** India Premiere

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Palestine, Germany, France, Italy, Qatar | 2024 | Arabic, Hebrew | 123' | Colour



**Director** Scandar Copti

**Producer** Tony Copti, Jiries Copti, Dorothe Beinemeier, Jean Bréhat, Marco Valerio Fusco, Micaela Fusco

**Cinematographer** Tim Kuhn

**Editor** Scandar Copti

**Screenplay** Scandar Copti

**Cast** Manar Shehab, Wafaa Aoun, Toufic Danial, Meirav Memoresky



*Scandar Copti is a Palestinian filmmaker and visual artist, now based in Abu Dhabi. His co-directed debut feature film, Ajami, won the Camera d'Or Special Mention at the Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the 82nd Academy Awards. Copti is the recipient of the prestigious Sutherland Trophy and the Council of Europe Film Award.*

Four interconnected characters navigate complex realities across gender, generational, and cultural divides. Rami, a Palestinian, faces his girlfriend's sudden decision about an abortion; his mother Hanan struggles with financial and legal complications. Miri contends with her daughter's depression while interfering in Rami's relationship, and Fifi harbors a secret that threatens her family's reputation. In Scandar Copti's family drama, personal struggles and social pressures test enduring and emerging relationships.

**Festivals** Venice Film Festival 2024, Toronto International Film Festival 2024

**Awards** Orizzonti Award for Best Screenplay, Venice Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Indie Sales

**Tags** Social Impact, Global Politics, Festival Hits

**Premiere** India Premiere

## LOVEABLE (ELSKLING)

Norway | 2024 | Norwegian | 100' | Colour



<b>Director</b>	Lilja Ingolfsdottir
<b>Producer</b>	Thomas Robsahm
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Øystein Mamen
<b>Editor</b>	Lilja Ingolfsdottir, Anton Robsahm
<b>Screenplay</b>	Lilja Ingolfsdottir
<b>Cast</b>	Helga Guren, Oddgeir Thune, Elisabeth Sand



*A graduate of the London Film School and the Film and Television School of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU), Lilja Ingolfsdottir has written and directed around 20 short and mid length films that have been shown at prestigious festivals and have been distributed both nationally and internationally. Loveable is her debut feature.*

Years after a whirlwind romance leads to her second marriage, Maria finds herself lost and confused amid her busy life when her husband says he wants a divorce. As she struggles to understand what went wrong, everyone around her gives her the impression that she was the cause. Featuring an outstanding and vulnerable performance from Guren, Lilja Ingolfsdottir's debut feature takes a fresh and nuanced approach to contemporary ideas of romance, relationship equality, and the power of womanhood.

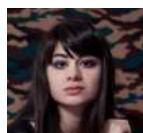
<b>Festivals</b>	Kalovy Vary International Film Festival 2024
<b>Awards</b>	Crystal Globe Special Jury Prize - Kalovy Vary International Film Festival 2024
<b>Sales</b>	Trust Nordisk
<b>Tags</b>	Social Impact, De/Gendered, Films By Women, Festival Hits
<b>Premiere</b>	India Premiere

## MOON (MOND)

Austria | 2024 | German, English, Arabic | 92' | Colour



<b>Director</b>	Kurdwin Ayub
<b>Producer</b>	Ulrich Seidl
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Klemens Hufnagl
<b>Editor</b>	Roland Stöttinger
<b>Screenplay</b>	Kurdwin Ayub
<b>Cast</b>	Florentina Holzinger, Andria Tayeh, Celina Antwan, Nagham Abu Baker



*Kurdwin Ayub, born in 1990 in Iraq, is a filmmaker and artist based in Vienna. Her first fictional feature film, Sonne (2022), premiered at the 2022 Berlinale in the Encounters competition and won the Best First Feature Award. She was also nominated for European Discovery at the 35th European Film Awards.*

Former martial artist Sarah leaves Austria to train three sisters from a wealthy Jordanian family. What initially sounds like a dream job soon becomes unsettling - the young women are cut off from the outside world and are under constant surveillance. The sport doesn't seem to interest them. So why has Sarah been hired?

<b>Festivals</b>	Locarno International Film Festival 2024
<b>Awards</b>	Special Jury Prize, and Special Mention: Ecumenical Prize, Locarno Film Festival 2024
<b>Sales</b>	Bendita Film Sales
<b>Tags</b>	De/Gendered, Global Politics, Films by Women, Festival Hits
<b>Premiere</b>	Asia Premiere

## NORAH

Saudi Arabia | 2023 | Arabic | 94' | Colour



**Director** Tawfik Alzaidi

**Producer** Tawfik Alzaidi, Sharif Al-Majali

**Cinematographer** Shaun Harley Lee

**Editor** Mounir Soussi

**Screenplay** Tawfik Alzaidi

**Cast** Yaqoub Alfarhan, Maria Bahrawi, Abdullah Alsadhan



*Tawfik Alzaidi is considered to be a leading and influential member of the new cinema wave in Saudi Arabia. His first short film, *The Fabricated Crime*, won best editing in the Jeddah Film Festival in 2007, and his film *The Silence* won the Gulf Short Film Award in the Muscat International Film Festival 2009. *Norah* is his debut feature.*

Nader, a new school teacher and a closeted artist, arrives at a small and remote Saudi Arabian village. He meets Norah, a young woman who ignites the creativity inside him and inspires him to paint again. At great risk, they develop a delicate connection and a quiet bond. Nader enlightens Norah on the wider world outside of her tiny community, and Norah realizes that she must leave to find a place where she can be free to express her true artistic self. Set in the 90's when artistic expression was banned, *Norah* is a deeply moving story about the basic human need to communicate through art.

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024, Melbourne International Film Festival 2024

**Awards** Special Mention (Un Certain Regard), Cannes Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Cercamon

**Tags** Social Impact

**Premiere** India Premiere

## PEPE

Dominican Republic, Namibia, Germany, France | 2024 | Spanish, Afrikaans, Mbukushu, German | 122' | Colour, B&W



**Director** Nelson Carlos De Los Santos Arias

**Producer** Pablo Lozano, Tanya Valette, Nelson Carlos De Los Santos Arias

**Cinematographer** Camilo Soratti, Roman Lechapelier, Nelson Carlos De Los Santos Arias

**Editor** Nelson Carlos De Los Santos Arias

**Screenplay** Nelson Carlos De Los Santos Arias

**Cast** Jhon Narváez, Sor María Ríos, Fareed Matjila, Harmony Ahalwa, Jorge Puntillón García, Shifafure Faustinus, Steven Alexander, Nicolás Marín Caly



*Nelson studied cinematography in Buenos Aires and at Edinburgh College of Art. He then received his MFA in Film and Video from CalArts. De Los Santos Arias' feature film Cocote (2017) was crowned Best Film in the Signs of Life section of the Locarno International Film Festival.*

A voice that claims to belong to a hippopotamus. A voice that does not understand the perception of time. A voice that tells of a historical event as if in a trance. "Am I making that sound that comes out of my mouth? And what is a mouth anyway?" The only thing the animal knows for sure is that it is dead. The first and only hippopotamus ever killed in the Americas. The Colombian press called him Pepe. Between encounters and misunderstandings, epiphanies and sadness, we enter a world full of stories replete with even more stories. In a serious and playful way, both authentic and deceptive, images and sounds narrate the overwhelming orality of places full of beings who, like Pepe, died without ever knowing where they really were.

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024, Toronto International Film Festival 2024

**Awards** Silver Bear for Best Director, Berlin International Festival 2024

**Tags** Hybrids, Festival Hits

**Premiere** India Premiere

## PHANTOSMIA

Philippines | 2024 | Tagalog | 246' | B&W



**Director** Lav Diaz

**Producer** Lav Diaz, Paul Soriano, Mark Victor

**Cinematographer** Lav Diaz

**Editor** Lav Diaz

**Screenplay** Lav Diaz

**Cast** Ronnie Lazaro, Janine Gutierrez, Paul Jake Paule, Hazel Orencio



*Lav Diaz focuses on social and political struggles in the Philippines. He has received many awards, including the Golden Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival for From What Is Before (2014), the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival for The Woman Who Left (2016), and the Silver Bear at the Berlinale for A Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery (2016).*

Hilarion Zabala, a former master sergeant, is tormented by a strange smell. The diagnosis is phantosmia, i.e. olfactory hallucinations, where he perceives smells that do not actually exist. His doctor attributes this to past trauma and recommends that he confront and recall his dark military service period as a solution. Zabala, willing to take on any task, voluntarily visits a military base and is eventually assigned to a remote island penal colony. However, another horrific reality awaits him there.

**Festivals** Venice International Film Festival 2024, Busan International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Diversion

**Tags** Global Politics

**Premiere** India Premiere

# SIMON OF THE MOUNTAIN (SIMÓN DE LA MONTAÑA)

Argentina, Chile, Uruguay | 2024 | Spanish | 98' | Colour



**Director** Federico Luis

**Producer** Patricio Alvarez Casado, Fernando Bascuñán, Ignacio García Cucucovich, Carlos Rincones

**Cinematographer** Marcos Hastrup

**Editor** Tomás Murphy, Andrés Medina

**Screenplay** Federico Luis, Tomás Murphy, Agustín Toscano

**Cast** Lorenzo Ferro, Pehuén Pedie, Kiara Supini, Laura Nevole, Agustín Toscano, Camila Hirane



Federico Luis studied Social Communication Sciences at the UBA (University of Buenos Aires). His short film *La Siesta* had its international premiere at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival. It was also distinguished with an Honorable Mention at the Toronto International Film Festival's Shortcuts program and won Best Short Film at the 2019 BAFFI.

Twenty-one year old Simón introduces himself as a mover's helper. He claims not to know how to cook or clean the bathroom, but he does know how to make a bed. His parents are increasingly frustrated with odd changes in his behavior as he has become more withdrawn and appears to be affecting a strange, facial tic. But a group of disabled teenagers accept him as one of them, which clearly gives him a new sense of belonging. Federico Luis' debut feature *Simon of the Mountain* is a playful and provocative drama that deftly questions societal attitudes and social boundaries and reinvents familiar scenes from a more conventional coming of age drama with fascinating new twists.

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024, San Sebastián International Film Festival 2024

**Awards** Semaine de la critique Grand Prix, Cannes Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Luxbox

**Tags** Social Impact, Festival Hits

**Premiere** India Premiere

## STEPPENWOLF (DALA QASQYRY)

Kazakhstan | 2024 | Kazakh, Russian | 102' | Colour



<b>Director</b>	Adilkhan Yerzhanov
<b>Producer</b>	Aliya Mendygozhina, Alexander Rodnyansky, Olga Khlashova
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Yerkinbek Ptyraliyev
<b>Editor</b>	Arif Tleuzhanov, Adilkhan Yerzhanov
<b>Screenplay</b>	Adilkhan Yerzhanov
<b>Cast</b>	Azamat Nigmanov, Yerkin Gubashev, Nurbek Mukushev



*Adilkhan Yerzhanov was educated as a filmmaker at the Kazakhstan National Academy of Arts. He is a two-time participant of the Cannes Film Festival's Official Programme (The Owners, 2014 and The Gentle Indifference of the World, 2018) as well as the Venice International Film Festival (Yellow Cat, 2020 and Goliath, 2022).*

A civil war rages across a vast, seemingly unpopulated landscape. As men fight and die, a mute woman searches for her son who has been kidnapped by child organ traffickers. She is accompanied by 'the Steppenwolf', a reformed ex-convict now hardened into a ruthless investigator. They resemble a bloody odd couple, but are determined to see their mission through, removing every obstacle in their path. Adilkhan's *Steppenwolf* stands as a testament to his cinematic prowess, skillfully interweaving classic elements from stylised Westerns, road movies and bloody revenge dramas.

<b>Festivals</b>	International Film Festival Of Rotterdam 2024
<b>Sales</b>	Blue Finch Film
<b>Tags</b>	Thriller, Festival Hits
<b>Premiere</b>	India Premiere

# THE EMPIRE (L'EMPIRE)

France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Portugal | 2024 | French | 110' | Colour



**Director** Bruno Dumont

**Producer** Jean Bréhat, Bertrand Faivre

**Cinematographer** David Chambille

**Editor** Bruno Dumont, Desideria Rayner

**Screenplay** Bruno Dumont

**Cast** Lynda Khoudri, Anamaria Vartolomei, Camille Cottin, Fabrice Luchini, Brandon Vlieghe, Julien Manier



One of France's most important filmmakers, Bruno Dumont directed his debut feature film *Life of Jesus* in 1997, which was selected for the Director's Fortnight at Cannes. His feature films *Humanity* (1999) and *Flanders* (2006) both won the Grand Prize of the Jury at Cannes.

The Opal Coast, northern France. In a quiet and picturesque fishing village, something finally happens: a special baby is born. A child so unique and peculiar that it unleashes a secret war between extraterrestrial forces of good and evil. On the one hand, *The Empire* plays like a Star Wars spoof, and on the other is a natural extension of Dumont's transcendent style, spiked with crude sexuality and freak-show mysticism à la *Twin Peaks*.

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024

**Awards** Jury Prize, Berlin International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Memento

**Tags** Festival Hits, Comedy, Social Impact

**Premiere** India Premiere

## THE END

Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, UK, Sweden | 2024 | English | 148' | Colour



**Director** Joshua Oppenheimer

**Producer** Signe Byrge Sørensen, Joshua Oppenheimer, Tilda Swinton, Viola Fügen, Conor Barry, Flaminio Zadra, Tracy O'Riordan, Ann Lundberg

**Cinematographer** Mikhail Krichman

**Editor** Niels Pagh Andersen

**Screenplay** Rasmus Heisterberg, Joshua Oppenheimer

**Cast** Tilda Swinton, George MacKay, Moses Ingram, Michael Shannon



*Joshua Oppenheimer is an American filmmaker and holds a B.A. from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from Central St. Martins College of Arts and Design in London. His directorial credits include the "pseudo-documentary" *The Entire History of the Louisiana Purchase* (1998) and the documentaries *The Act of Killing* (2012) and *The Look of Silence* (2014).*

*The End* is a story about what seems to be the last remaining human family on earth, as they hide in an ornate bunker built deep inside a salt mine after environmental collapse has destroyed society. George MacKay, born in this bunker, has only heard stories of the outside world. He spends his days working on a dubious book with his father, a former energy tycoon, while his mother frets over the upkeep of the many priceless paintings and artworks adorning their walls. It's the semblance of a normal (albeit affluent) life. But when a woman from the outside arrives at their doorstep seeking refuge, the family's delicate dynamic begins to crumble.

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024, San Sebastián International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** The Match Factory

**Tags** Hybrids, Comedy, Social Impact, Festival Hits

**Premiere** India Premiere

# THE GREAT YAWN OF HISTORY (KHAMYAZEYE BOZORG)

Iran | 2024 | Farsi | 93' | Colour



**Director** Aliyar Rasti

**Producer** Aliyar Rasti

**Cinematographer** Soroush Alizadeh

**Editor** Mohammad Najarian

**Screenplay** Aliyar Rasti

**Cast** Mohammad Aghebati, Amirhossein Hosseini, Saber Abar, Mahin Sadri, Mehrdad Ziae, Ramin Alizadeh



Aliyar began his career in photography, video and video installations before moving towards filmmaking. His music videos for independent Iranian bands have been screened at various festivals. His first short film, *In Between*, won the Best Debut Film award at the 2018 Tirana International Film Festival. *The Great Yawn of History* is his first feature-length film.

*The Great Yawn of History* is a critique of Iranian religious extremism anchored in humour and fantasy. Beitollah is a man who constantly dreams of finding a cave with gold coins in a coffer. Against the precepts of his religion, he wishes to find this treasure, and recruits a young atheist, Shoja, as his assistant. Together they embark on a quest that will take them to different parts of the Iranian landscape. The film narrates an odyssey where the oneiric, and even the absurd, intrude on reality. A journey of external exploration that ends up revealing the tensions between two apparently opposing characters, who nevertheless find in each other a mirror to look into.

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024

**Awards** Encounters Special Jury Award, Berlin International Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Heretic

**Tags** Festival Hits, Social Impact

**Premiere** India Premiere

## THE QUIET SON (JOUER AVEC LE FEU)

France | 2024 | French | 119' | Colour



<b>Director</b>	Delphine Coulin, Muriel Coulin
<b>Producer</b>	Olivier Delbosc, Marie Guillaumond
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Frédéric Noirhomme
<b>Editor</b>	Béatrice Herminie, Pierre Deschamps
<b>Screenplay</b>	Delphine Coulin, Muriel Coulin, Laurent Petitmangin
<b>Cast</b>	Vincent Lindon, Benjamin Voisin, Stefan Crepon, Sophie Guillemin, Hugo Bariller, Denis Simonetta, Thomas Arnaud, Franco Provenzano, Abdel Bouchendiridkh



*Delphine and Muriel Coulin are a French writer-filmmaker duo. Muriel graduated from the prestigious Louis Lumière school, and started her career as a camera assistant. Delphine studied literature and political science before taking charge of the documentaries program for the Franco-German TV Group Arte. In 1995, the two sisters started directing short films together, and in 2011, they directed their first feature film, 17 girls, which was screened at La Semaine de la Critique (Cannes).*

Pierre, a widowed fifty-year-old man, raises his two sons alone. The three of them are very close. Louis, the younger son, is about to leave home to go to a university in Paris. On the other hand, Fus, the elder one, has become withdrawn, and is slowly evincing an interest in far-right extremist activities, going against everything his father believes in. Set in France's Grand Est region, where decades of rising unemployment have opened the doors to a wave of far-right radicalism, *The Quiet Son* is as revealing of our contemporary world as it is of the one to come.

<b>Festivals</b>	Venice Film Festival 2024, Busan International Film Festival 2024
<b>Awards</b>	Coppa Volpi for Best Actor, and Collateral Impact Award, Venice Film Festival 2024
<b>Sales</b>	Playtime
<b>Tags</b>	Social Impact, Global Politics, Festival Hits, Films by Women
<b>Premiere</b>	India Premiere

## THE SECOND ACT (LE DEUXIÈME ACTE)

France | 2024 | French | 85' | Colour



**Director** Quentin Dupieux

**Producer** Hugo Séignac

**Cinematographer** Quentin Dupieux

**Editor** Quentin Dupieux

**Screenplay** Quentin Dupieux

**Cast** Léa Seydoux, Vincent Lindon, Louis Garrel, Raphaël Quenard



*Quentin Dupieux is a filmmaker and musician from France. His films are unique and skew away from narrative conventions, with a penchant for the absurd. His *Incredible But True* (2022) premiered at Berlinale, *Smoking Causes Coughing* (2022) at Cannes, while *Daaaaaali!* (2023) was selected for IFFR 2024.*

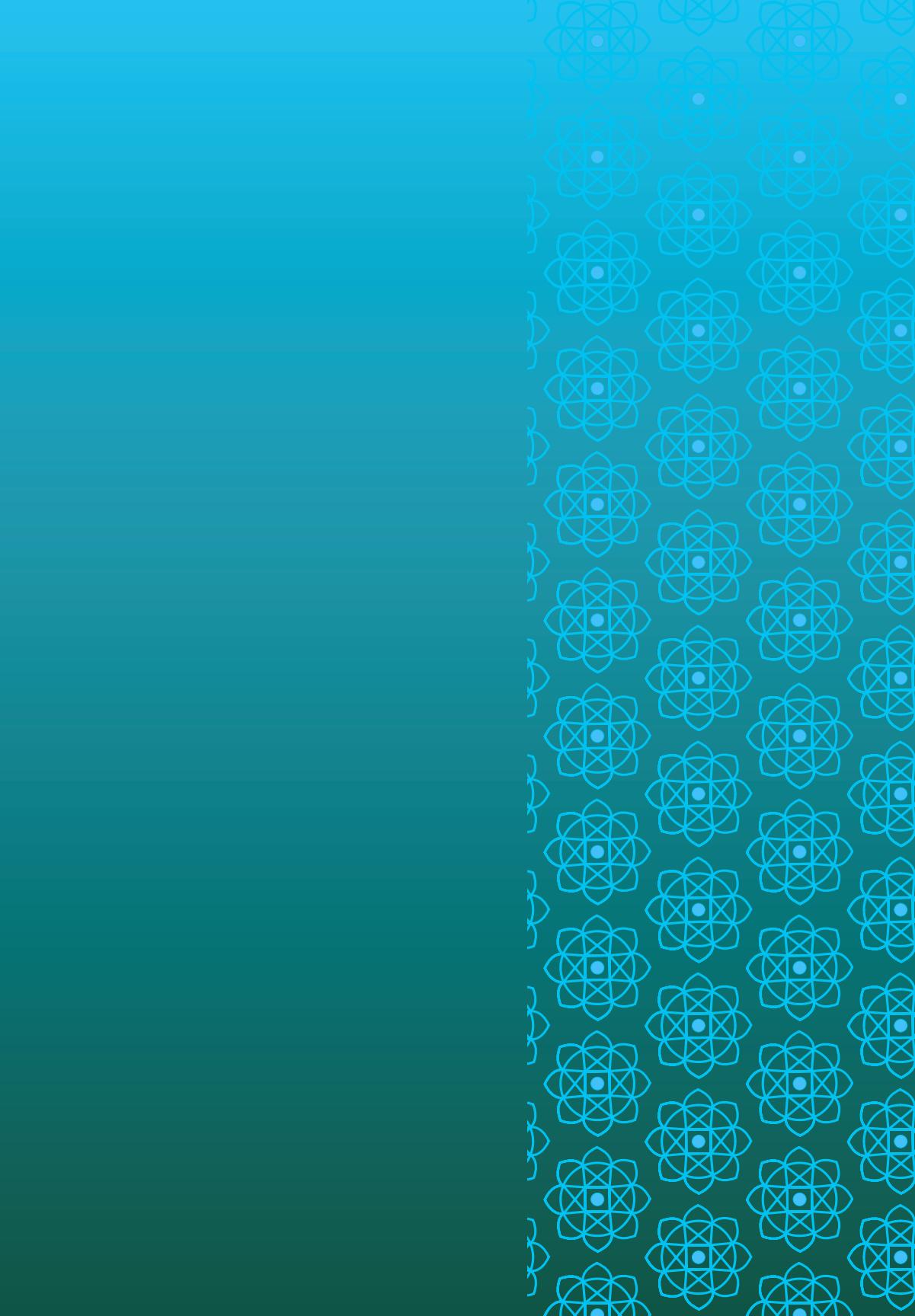
Florence wants to introduce David, the man she's madly in love with, to her father Guillaume. But David isn't attracted to Florence and wants to throw her into the arms of his friend Willy. The four of them meet in a restaurant in the middle of nowhere, where they suddenly begin to act out a scene from a third-rate movie production. Quentin Dupieux's latest film is self-referential cinema at its best, in which, much like his other films, the absurd becomes a genre unto itself.

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024

**Sales** Kinology

**Tags** Comedy, Meta-Cinema, Festival Hits

**Premiere** India Premiere



# DOCU- MONTAGE

A mosaic of compelling documentaries & docu-dramas delineating the complex structures of 'life as it is' through the politics of economics, history, society and aesthetics.

## AFTERNOONS OF SOLITUDE (TARDES DE SOLEDAD)

Spain, France, Portugal | 2024 | Spanish | 123' | Colour



This documentary captures the dazzling spectacle and brutal reality of bullfighting through the story of charismatic Peruvian *torero* Andrés Roca Rey. With a patient and poetic lens, the film balances the visceral thrill of the ring—where animal instinct meets human technique—while offering a meditative view on the emotional and physical toll that the violence inflicts on both man and beast.

**Director** Albert Serra

**Producer** Pedro Palacios, Ricard Sales, Montse Triola, Luis Ferrón, Pierre-Olivier Bardet, Albert Serra, Joaquim Sapinho

**Festivals** San Sebastián International Film Festival 2024, New York Film Festival 2024, Tokyo International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Films Boutique



*Catalan artist and filmmaker Albert Serra's films have premiered and won awards at festivals such as Cannes, Locarno, TIFF and IFFR.*

## BLACK BOX DIARIES

Japan, USA, UK | 2024 | Japanese, English | 103' | Colour



**Director** Shiori Itō

**Producer** Eric Nyari, Hanna Aqvilin, Shiori Itō

**Festivals** Sundance Film Festival 2024, SXSW Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** DogWoof



*Shiori Itō is a journalist, writer, and documentary filmmaker with a focus on gender-based human rights issues. In 2020, Time magazine listed her as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the world. Black Box Diaries is her feature documentary.*

## CINÉMA LAIKA

France, Finland | 2024 | French, English, Finnish | 81' | Colour



In a small picturesque village in Finland, filmmaker Aki Kaurismäki and his poet friend Mika Lätti are constructing their own cinema theater within an old foundry. The cinema will be called Kino Laika – named after Kaurismäki's dogs – and to help them, they have the colourful inhabitants of Karkkila, who wear leather jackets and race around in Cadillacs to the sounds of rock n' roll. Cinema Laika is a warm mix of deadpan Finnish humour and French elegance.

## DAHOMEY

Senegal, France, Benin | 2024 | French, Fon, English | 67' | Colour



The African kingdom of Dahomey saw hundreds of its splendid royal artifacts plundered by French colonial troops in its waning days. Now, 26 of these treasures are set to return to their homeland. The film takes a singular approach to contemporary questions around belonging in our postcolonial world, transforming this rich subject matter into a multifaceted examination of ownership and exhibition.

**Director** Veljko Vidak

**Producer** Veljko Vidak, Emmanuelle Felce

**Festivals** CPH:DOX 2024, Jeonju International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** The Match Factory



*Veljko Vidak is a Croatian filmmaker and artist. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts of Zagreb, and was later awarded a grant that enabled him to study at the Cité Internationale Des Arts in Paris. Cinéma Laika is his first documentary feature.*

## GAUCHO GAUCHO

Argentina, USA | 2024 | Spanish | 84' | Colour



In the endless plains and desolate mountains of Argentina live the so-called *gauchos*. Cowboys and cowgirls dress in beautiful uniforms and with an almost spiritual connection to their horses and the land they ride on. Out here among cacti and dusty cornfields, the *gauchos* keep the traditions of the past alive. *Gaucho Gaucho* is a celebration of a community suspended in time, floating between the past and present, dream and reality.

**Director** Michael Dweck,  
Gregory Kershaw

**Producer** Michael Dweck, Gregory Kershaw, Matthew Perniciaro, Christos V. Konstantakopoulos, Cameron O'Reilly

**Festivals** Sundance Film Festival 2024, Locarno International Film Festival 2024, CPH:DOX 2024, Melbourne International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Charades



*Michael Dweck & Gregory Kershaw are award-winning filmmakers. Their film The Truffle Hunters (2020) was shortlisted for the Academy Awards (Best Documentary).*

## HIGHER THAN ACIDIC CLOUDS (BALATAR AS ABRHAYE ACIDI)

Iran | 2024 | Persian | 70' | B&W



When a film on air pollution in Iran stirs trouble with the authorities, the filmmaker embarks on a turbulent journey through the realms of memory and dream. Ali Asgari's follow-up to his critically acclaimed *Terrestrial Verses* (2023) is a hybrid and boundary pushing film that utilizes both documentary and narrative elements in its quest to connect the personal with the political.

**Director** Ali Asgari

**Producer** Ali Asgari, Milad Khosravi

**Festivals** International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Seven Springs Pictures



*Ali Asgari is a prominent figure in international cinema with more than 200 awards to his name. He is an alumnus of Berlinale Talent Campus 2013 and Locarno Summer Academy 2016. His films have been screened at prestigious festivals such as Cannes Film Festival, Venice International Film Festival and IFFR.*

## MISTRESS DISPELLER

USA, China | 2024 | Mandarin | 94' | Colour



In China, a new industry has emerged devoted to helping couples stay married in the face of infidelity. Wang Zhenxi is part of this growing profession, a 'mistress dispeller' who is hired to maintain the bonds of marriage by any means necessary. Offering strikingly intimate access to private dramas usually hidden behind closed doors, the film explores ways in which emotion, pragmatism and cultural norms collide to shape romantic relationships in contemporary China.

**Director** Elizabeth Lo

**Producer** Emma D. Miller, Elizabeth Lo, Maggie Li

**Festivals** Venice Film Festival 2024, Toronto International Film Festival 2024, Zurich Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** The Party Film Sales



*Elizabeth holds a BFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts and an MFA from Stanford University. A filmmaker from Hong Kong, her films have been showcased at festivals such as Sundance, IDFA, SXSW, Tribeca, MoMA, and AFI Fest.*

## YOUTH (HARD TIMES) (QING CHUN (KU))

France, Luxembourg, Netherlands | 2024 | Chinese | 226' | Colour



*Youth (Hard Times)* is the second chapter of Wang Bing's monumental opus on the diminished youth of China, who work seemingly endless hours and have traded life for financial exploitation. Throughout, Wang Bing's impassive gaze engages us in a tactile experience of life in the workshops, delivering an epic, unsparing — yet devoid of miserabilism — portrait of the indomitable spirit of youth.

**Director** Wang Bing

**Producer** Sonia Buchman, Mao Hui, Nicolas R. De La Mothe, Vincent Wang

**Festivals** Locarno Film Festival 2024, Busan International Film Festival 2024, Toronto International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Pyramide International



*Wang Bing is a leading figure of the documentary movement that has been gathering vital momentum within Chinese cinema. His work, which spans documentary, fiction, video installation, and shorts, has premiered and won awards at festivals such as Cannes, Venice, Berlin, and Locarno.*

## YOUTH (HOMECOMING) (QING CHUN (GUI))

France, Luxembourg, Netherlands | 2024 | Chinese | 152' | Colour  
**Director** Wang Bing



Wang Bing concludes his monumental *Youth* trilogy in expansive fashion, giving ever wider scope to the lives of migrant workers in Zhiyi's textile factories. Centered around New Year's break, when the workers are planning to visit their families in remote hometowns to celebrate the festivities, the film functions as a sweeping portrait of contemporary rural China, incorporating images of tightly packed trains and buses climbing treacherous mountainside roads, and joyous interludes.

**Producer** Sonia Buchman, Mao Hui, Nicolas R. De La Mothe, Vincent Wang

**Festivals** Venice Film Festival 2024, Toronto International Film Festival 2024, BFI London Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Pyramide International



*Wang Bing is a leading figure of the documentary movement that has been gathering vital momentum within Chinese cinema. His work, which spans documentary, fiction, video installation, and shorts, has premiered and won awards at festivals such as Cannes, Venice, Berlin, and Locarno*

# EXPERIMENTAL FILMS

A careful curation of experimental films that have dared to speak in original idiosyncratic voices to push the boundaries of what we may call Cinema.

## ANIMALIA PARADOXA

Chile | 2024 | Spanish | 82' | Colour



A tale of metamorphosis of a post-apocalyptic being. Navigating a labyrinth populated by fantastical creatures, an amphibious humanoid searches for water amid the ruins of a fallen world. In this eclectic fantasy of discarded dreams, echoes of an imaginary sea guide this creature towards a new dawn. The body becomes a site of experimentation: a meeting point for the avant-garde, animation and performance art.

**Director** Niles Atallah

**Producer** Catalina Vergara

**Festivals** International Film Festival

Rotterdam, 2024

Fantasia Film Festival, 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Compañía de Cine



*Niles Atallah is a filmmaker and artist who lives and works in Santiago, Chile. His first feature *Lucia* (2010) premiered at the San Sebastián Film Festival and his second feature *Rey* (2017) won a Special Jury Award in the Tiger Competition at IFFR.*

## EIGHT POSTCARDS FROM UTOPIA (OPT ILUSTRATE DIN LUMEA IDEALĂ)

Romania | 2024 | Romanian | 71' | Colour, B&W



*Eight Postcards from Utopia* collects and reworks hundreds of promotional images produced from the end of the socialist era to the present day. Jude examines Romania's long transition period as a country newly introduced to contemporary consumer culture and the idea of endless possibilities. Wonderfully playful in form, this is a hilarious, innovative and provocative portrait of a country's recent history.

**Director** Radu Jude, Christian Ferencz-Flatz

**Producer** Alexandru Teodorescu

**Festivals** Locarno International Film Festival 2024, BFI London Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Heretic



*Radu Jude is one of the most prominent figures in contemporary Romanian cinema. His films have been selected for more than 50 international film festivals. Christian Ferencz-Flatz is a researcher at the Alexandru Dragomir Institute for Philosophy and an associated professor at the National University of Theatre and Film.*

## GODSTERMINAL

Austria | 2024 | Swedish | 90' | Colour



Edward Wek is a seventy-five-year-old Sudanese man with Parkinson's disease. Soon, Bergmanesque ghosts begin to appear at Weki's bedside: Alma, a revenant of the nurse of the same name from Ingmar Bergman's film *Persona*, along with a female version of Death from *The Seventh Seal*, helping him track down lost memories. *Godsterminal* is unpredictable in the same way memories seemingly hit us out of nowhere, leading Edward back to himself and his predicament.

## SANATORIUM UNDER THE SIGN OF THE HOURGLASS

UK, Poland, Germany | 2024 | Polish | 77' | Colour, B&W



A man travels by train to a sanatorium in Eastern Europe after being informed that his father has died. When he arrives, he finds the sanatorium in a state of decline. His father turns out to be alive, but only now and then. Jozef will come to realize that the sanatorium is a floating world halfway between sleep and wakefulness, and that time and events cannot be measured in any tangible form.

**Director** Georg Tiller

**Producer** Georg Tiller, Maéva Ranaivojaona

**Festivals** International Film Festival Rotterdam, 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Sixpackfilm



*Georg Tiller studied philosophy and theatre before he moved to the Film Academy of Vienna, where Michael Haneke was his teacher. Tiller's films have been screened and awarded at renowned film festivals such as Berlinale, Venice, and IFFR.*

## TELEPATHIC LETTERS (CARTAS TELEPÁTICAS)

Portugal | 2024 | Português, English | 70' | Colour, B&W



*Telepathic Letters* is a film with images created exclusively through AI, and in which a dialogue is established between two of the most influential writers of the 20th century, H.P. Lovecraft and Fernando Pessoa. Fusing Pessoa's sensationalism with Lovecraft's strange realism, the film concocts an imaginary correspondence between the two authors, creating a new universe of artistic and literary possibilities.

**Director** Edgar Pêra

**Producer** Rodrigo Areias

**Festivals** Locarno International Film Festival 2024, Oldenberg Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Bando à Parte



*Edgar Pêra is an experimental filmmaker from Lisbon, Portugal. He has made countless documentaries, short films, and features, and has also created Internet productions, live shows, and exhibitions. In 2019, the IFFR honored Pêra with a career-spanning retrospective at the festival.*

## THE RIM (LA PARRA)

Spain | 2024 | Spanish, Galician | 90' | Colour



Damián subsists on his meager income, existing more than living. When he receives the news that his father has died, he returns to Ferrol, his hometown, which he has stayed away from for over two decades. No sooner has he arrived than he finds himself the subject of mistaken identity and his fate is now entwined with another whose destiny is predetermined.

**Director** Alberto Gracia

**Producer** Beli Martínez, Roi Carballido, Javier Tasio

**Festivals** International Film Festival Rotterdam 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Begin Again Films



*Alberto Gracia's work spans a variety of forms including painting, drawing, performance, video and installations. His debut film *The Fifth Gospel of Kaspar Hauser* (2013) and his second feature *The Wandering Star* (2016) both had their world premiere at IFFR.*

# CINEMA OF THE WORLD

Cinema Of The World is our centerpiece of outstanding contemporary cinema from all over the globe, meticulously curated for ardent cinephiles.

## A POSTCARD FROM ROME (PASTKARTE NO ROMAS)

Latvia | 2024 | Latvian, Italian | 88' | Colour



Ernests and Alvīne are an elderly couple who work in a post office and dream of winning a trip to Rome. But, as the couple grapples with Alvīne's fast-progressing Alzheimer's, the tone shifts to a more poignant portrayal of Ernests' attempts to cope with his wife's memory loss and Alvīne's diminishing sharpness of thought.

**Director** Elza Gauja

**Producer** Elza Gauja, Andris Gauja, Ugis Riekstins, Marta Šleiere

**Festivals** Sydney International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Picture House



*Elza Gauja is a Latvian filmmaker who has directed the documentary feature *Meanwhile in Lucavsala* (2022) and the feature dramedy *Keep Smiling Mom!* (2022) — the latter of which was selected for Tallinn Black Nights FF Works In Progress section.*

## A SUDDEN GLIMPSE TO DEEPER THINGS

UK | 2024 | English | 88' | Colour



The work of the late Scottish artist Wilhelmina Barns-Graham is brought to life by this idiosyncratically persuasive Mark Cousins film. A creative biography of the Scottish artist Wilhelmina Barns-Graham, narrated by Tilda Swinton, the film is a personal journey through art and the great mystery of creativity.

**Director** Mark Cousins

**Producer** Adam Dawtrey, Mary Bell

**Festivals** Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Urban Sales



*Mark Cousins is an Irish documentary filmmaker, film critic and programmer. A prolific producer and director, he is best known for his 15-hour documentary *The Story of Film: An Odyssey* (2011)*



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## AÏCHA

Tunisia, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Qatar | 2024 | Arabic | 123' | Colour

**Director** Mehdi Barsaoui

**Producer** Mohamed Habib Attia, Flaminio Zadra, Marc Irmer

**Festivals** Venice Film Festival 2024, BFI London Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** The Party Film Sales



*Mehdi M. Barsaoui is a Tunisian filmmaker. He is best known as the director of the critically acclaimed feature film *A Son* (2019) and the shorts *Sideways* (2010) and *Bobby* (2014).*

Aya, in her late twenties, still lives with her parents in Southern Tunisia and feels trapped in a life without prospects. As the sole survivor of an accident, Aya realizes it could be her chance to start a new life. She flees to Tunis under a new identity, but now finds herself embroiled in a murder case.

## ALGIERS

Algeria, Tunisia, France, Canada | 2024 | Arabic, French | 92' | Colour

**Director** Chakib Taleb-Bendiab

**Producer** Yasmine Dhoukar, Jean-françois Catton

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** MAD Solutions



*Chakib Taleb-Bendiab is an Algerian screenwriter, filmmaker, and composer. He has worked on many feature films and is one of the screenwriters behind the British spy series *GO DARK*. Chakib Taleb-Bendiab's filmography includes several compelling short films.*

The kidnapping of a little girl creates tension and suspicion in Algiers. Only Dounia, a brilliant psychiatrist, and Sami, a police inspector, can unearth the demons of the past.

## ALL SHALL BE WELL

Hong Kong, China | 2024 | Cantonese | 93' | Colour



Angie and Pat are a couple living in Hong Kong who have been together for over four decades. After Pat's unexpected death, Angie finds herself at the mercy of her extended family as she struggles to retain both her dignity and the home that they shared for over thirty years.

**Director** Ray Yeung

**Producer** Michael J. Werner, Teresa Kwong, Sandy Yip, Chowee Leow

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024,

BFI London Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Films Boutique



*Ray Yeung is a Hong Kong screenwriter and independent film director whose films frequently center around gay narratives. He made his feature film debut with Cut Sleeve Boys (2006).*

## AMERICAN WARRIOR

USA | 2024 | English | 89' | Colour



*American Warrior* delves into the journey of an Indian-American immigrant and former amateur MMA fighter, recently released from incarceration, who seeks redemption and transformation. After intervening in a convenience store robbery, he becomes an unlikely local hero, thrust into the unforgiving spotlight of fame.

**Director** Gustavo Martin Benites

**Producer** Naveen A. Chathapuram, Cristy Coors Beasley, Rashaana Shah

**Premiere** Asia Premiere



*With over a dozen short films showcased at international festivals, Gustavo's work has earned him recognition across the globe. American Warrior is his debut feature film.*

## AS THE RIVER GOES BY

China | 2024 | Mandarin | 96' | Colour



Xiaoli is a train driver fed up with his tedious job. One afternoon, an earthquake, which is an aftershock from another earthquake 12 years ago, suddenly strikes the town. After the earthquake, Xiao Li begins to develop symptoms from an unknown illness. Ghosts of the past resurface, stirring up long-buried secrets of his father's disappearance and memories of a tragic game of hide-and-seek by the river.

**Director** Charles Hu

**Producer** Patrick Mao Huang

**Festivals** Busan International Film Festival 2024

**Cinematographer** Hark XU

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Flash Forward Entertainment



*Charles Hu studied cinema at the Communication University of Zhejiang. His works often focus on themes of loneliness and exile. His first feature film was River Straying (2019).*

## AYŞE

Turkey | 2024 | Turkish | 75' | Colour



Ayşe lives with her brother Ridvan, who has Down Syndrome, on the outer edge of the ever-growing Istanbul. Their father has been waiting to die in the hospital for a long time. When Ayşe receives a marriage proposal from an international truck driver who stops by the gas station where she works, she makes a choice between her destiny and her dreams.

**Director** Necmi Sancak

**Producer** Necmi Sancak

**Premiere** Asia Premiere



*Necmi Sancak studied film at Santa Monica College and California State Northridge in Los Angeles. After directing several short films in Los Angeles, he founded one of Turkey's most significant film festivals abroad, the Los Angeles Turkish Film Festival.*

## BARREN (BARAHOUT)

Iran | 2024 | Persian | 88' | Colour



Yahya, a man with a mysterious past, sets off into the wilderness with a car that serves as his home, and makes ends meet by cutting and selling the hair of impoverished women and girls. He comes across a clever fifteen-year-old girl whose stepfather intends to sell her, and who escapes by secretly getting into Yahya's car. With the presence of the girl, everything changes for Yahya.

**Director** Mansour Vosoughi

**Producer** Mohammad Kamalipoor

**Premiere** World Premiere



*Mansour Vosoughi studied filmmaking, and started working as an assistant director in the Iranian industry. He has also made short films and TV episodes.*

## BASSIMA'S WOMB

Canada | 2024 | Arabic, French | 96' | Colour



When her illegal husband is deported from Canada, Bassima, a young Syrian woman, finds herself in a difficult situation, both socially and financially. Desperately looking for a way to bring her husband back, she agrees to become a surrogate mother in exchange for a false passport. However, she soon finds out that she is already pregnant and must give up her own child.

**Director** Babek Aliassa

**Producer** Babek Aliassa

**Premiere** World Premiere



*Babek Aliassa studied cinema at La Fémis in Paris, France before moving to Canada. There, he produced and directed a short film, two documentaries and a feature film, Halal Butcher Shop, all of which were based on the theme of immigration, something which has been central to Babek's work.*

## BILA BURBA

Panama | 2023 | Spanish, Dulegaya | 70' | Colour



The Gunadule, the original inhabitants of northern Panama, reenact their successful uprising in 1925 against the repressive Panamanian government every year. Keeping this past alive is crucial for the preservation of collective identity, because the Gunadule's autonomy is once again under threat due to the Panamanian government's sale of parts of their territory.

**Director** Duiren Wagua

**Producer** Diego Madias, Jhojaddy Ramirez

**Festivals** International Film Festival of Panama, 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Utopic Documentaries



*Duireñ Wagua is an Indigenous cinematographer and audio-visual producer from the Gunadule nation of Panama. He has nine years of experience in Panamanian cinema. Bila Burba is his documentary feature debut.*

## BITTER GOLD

Chile, Germany, Mexico, Uruguay | 2024 | Spanish | 83' | Colour



Set in the extinct world of artisan mining in North Chile, this neo-western revolves around the struggles and gradual empowerment of a teenage girl, who is fighting to keep the family business alive against patriarchal structures and the overarching law of the land.

**Director** Juan Olea

**Producer** Felipe Egaña, Daniela Raviola, Francisco Hervé, Moisés Sepúlveda, Juan Bernardo González, Arturo Pereyra, Cristóbal Zapata, Virginia Bogliolo, Tom Schreiber

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Patra Spanou Film



*Born in Santiago, Chile, Juan Francisco Olea has directed experimental videos and short films, including The Bluff (2009). The Lamb (2014) is his feature film debut, and Bitter Gold is his second feature.*

## BORROWED TIME (REN HAI TONG YOU)

China | 2023 | Cantonese | 93' | Colour



Ting is on the brink of marriage, but still wounded by her father's departure twenty years earlier. Setting out in search of him and for a sense of resolution, she travels from Guangzhou to Hong Kong. There, she meets a childhood friend and, reconnecting over a bootleg CD, Ting delves into her family's secrets and the emotional turmoil still sharply rooted in her life.

**Director** Choy Ji

**Producer** Mo Jinjin

**Festivals** Busan International Film Festival 2023,  
International Film Festival Rotterdam 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Parallax Films



*Choy Ji is a Chinese filmmaker. His films have been selected for the Busan International Short Film Festival as well as the Tampere Film Festival. Borrowed Time is his feature film debut.*

## BRIEF HISTORY OF A FAMILY

China, France, Denmark, Qatar | 2024 | Mandarin | 99' | Colour



Fifteen-year-old Yan Shuo is injured when hit with a stray basketball by Tu Wei. Apologetic about the accident and sympathetic to the former's difficult home situation, Wei absorbs Shuo into his bougie existence. But Shuo's arrival forces everybody to evaluate their lives and reconsider the roles fate has dealt them. The spectre of the one-child policy looms over this atmospheric debut that lays bare China's widening class divide.

**Director** Jianjie Lin

**Producer** Ying Lou, Yue Zheng, Yiwen Wang, Zhou Ping

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024,  
Sundance Film Festival 2024,  
Hong Kong International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Films Boutique



*Jianjie received his MFA degree in filmmaking from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. His short films, A Visit (2015) and Gu (2017), were screened at many international film festivals. Brief History of a Family is his feature film debut.*

## BURY YOUR DEAD (ENTERRE SEUS MORTOS)

Brazil | 2024 | Portuguese, Mandarin | 128' | Colour



Edgar Wilson, a worker who earns his living by collecting roadkill in rural Brazil, dreams of escaping his drab existence accompanied by Nete, the love of his life. At the same time that Nete decides to join a dangerous apocalyptic sect, Edgar will embark on a mind-bending journey through a dystopian Brazil.

**Director** Marco Dutra

**Producer** Marcela Bittencourt, Kaoe Catão

**Festivals** BFI London Film Festival 2024, Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** M-appeal



*Brazilian filmmaker and composer Marco Dutra grew up obsessed with the horror and fantasy genres. In 2017, his genre bending feature Good Manners, won the Silver Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival.*

## THE TOWER OF STRENGTH (OBRAZ)

Montenegro | 2024 | Albanian, Montenegrin | 97' | Colour



World War II is underway in Yugoslavia. A child, fleeing from the fascist unit that killed the child's parents and burned their village, finds temporary shelter in the house of a stranger. The host of the house is confronted by a profound moral dilemma: whether to hand over the child to the persecutors, or to endanger the safety of his own family by protecting a foreigner of another religion and nation.

**Director** Noaz Deshe

**Producer** Nikola I. Vukcevic, Milorad Radenovic, Nevena Savic, Ivica Vidanovic

**Festivals** Cairo International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere



*Dr Vukčević is a prominent Montenegrin film and theatre director. He has directed three feature films, including Montenegro's official candidate for the Oscars in 2014. He has also directed one full-length documentary and over 80 advertising campaigns.*

## CROCODILE TEARS (AIR MATA BUAYA)

Indonesia, France, Singapore, Germany | 2024 | Indonesian | 98' | Colour

**Director** Tumpal Tampubolon

**Producer** Mandy Marahimin, Anthony Chen, Harry Flöter

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024,

BFI London Film Festival 2024,

Busan International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Cercamon



*Tumpal is a cinephile-turned-filmmaker, based in Jakarta, Indonesia. Since 2005, he has written and directed several short films, several of which were screened in various domestic and international film festivals. In 2009, he was selected to attend the Berlinale Talents in Berlin. Crocodile Tears is his feature film debut.*

Johan is a young man living with his Mama on their run-down, scarcely visited crocodile farm in West Java. He never asked for it, but his mother controls his every move. The farm is at the centre of their lives — the crocodiles keep them busy, and the work isolates them from the rest of the world. But the fraught balance of their day-to-day routine is turned upside down when a young woman enters Johan's life.

## DEAF LOVERS

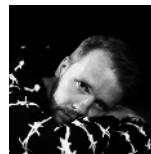
Estonia, Serbia | 2024 | Russian, Ukrainian, Russian sign language | 81' | Colour

**Director** Boris Guts

**Producer** Boris Guts, Daria Likhacheva, Maksim Podolski, Maxim Mussel, Anastasiya Gusentsova

**Premiere** International Premiere

**Sales** Antipode Sales



*Boris Guts is a Russian experimental filmmaker, and a social activist with a focus on themes like poverty, racism, homophobia, cancer, and AIDS. He is the founder of the international cinema school and film production company Move On. He has directed more than five feature length films.*

Sonya, a Ukrainian, and Danya from Russia meet in Istanbul. They have common problems: they need to find money for food, an apartment and a job. They also have the same desires: to have fun, dance, drink, and have sex. But the main questions are how to deal with the past, arrange their lives and build a joint future.

## DEAL AT THE BORDER

Kyrgyzstan | 2024 | Kyrgyz | 103' | Colour



At the Kyrgyzstan-Kazakhstan border, Aza and Samat work as members of a drug trafficking organization. One day, they run into Nazik, who has narrowly escaped from human traffickers. Aza decides to give up the drug money and save Nazik, but Nazik tragically dies while crossing a river. Aza is determined to at least return Nazik's remains to her homeland, but his decision thrusts him into greater danger.

**Director** Dastan Zhapar Ryskeldi

**Producer** Suiumkan Sulaimanova, Dastan Zhapar Ryskeldi

**Festivals** Busan International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere



*Born in 1988, Dastan Ryskeldi is a Kyrgyzstani filmmaker who studied Theater and Cinema at the Kyrgyz State University of Culture and Arts. His work includes *A Father's Will* (2016) and *The Road to Eden* (2020), both of which he co-directed with Bakyt Mukul.*

## DEAR MALOTI (PRIYO MALOTI)

Bangladesh | 2024 | Bengali | 106' | Colour



In the quiet simplicity of their lives, seven-months pregnant Maloti Rani and sanitary shop salesman Polash Das find solace and love, despite their ongoing hardship. Maloti's world shatters when a mall blast claims her husband Polash in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Unsure of her unborn child's future, she battles her in-laws and society, fighting to prove Polash's accidental death.

**Director** Shankha Das Gupta

**Producer** Adnan Al Rajeev

**Premiere** Asia Premiere



*Shankha Das Gupta is a Dhaka-based filmmaker. Since 2007, he has directed numerous fiction and drama series for local television channels and OTT platforms. Dear Maloti (2024) is Shankha's debut feature film.*

## EAT THE NIGHT

France | 2024 | French | 107' | Colour



Pablo, a small-time dealer, and his teenage sister Apolline have forged an unbreakable bond with the online video game Darknoon. When Pablo falls for the mysterious Night, he gets swept up in their liaison, abandoning his sister to deal with the impending shutdown of their digital haven alone. As Pablo's reckless choices provoke the wrath of a dangerous rival gang, the end of their virtual life draws near, upending their reality.

**Director** Caroline Poggi,  
Jonathan Vinel

**Producer** Thomas & Mathieu Verhaeghe,  
Juliette Schrameck

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024, BFI  
London Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

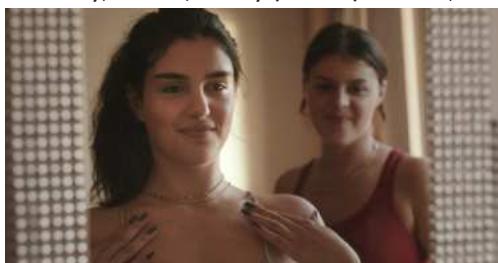
**Sales** MK2



*Caroline and Jonathan directed several films separately before starting their artistic collaboration with *As Long as Shotguns Remain* (2014), which won the Golden Bear for Best Short Film at the Berlinale. Their films have been shown in France and abroad, at festivals, museums, galleries, cinemas, on television and online.*

## ELBOW (ELLBOGEN)

Germany, France, Turkey | 2024 | German, Turkish | 86' | Colour



**Director** Aslı Özarslan

**Producer** Jamila Wenske

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** ArtHood



*Aslı Özarslan studied Theatre and Media studies as well as Philosophy and Sociology. Her documentary films *Island 36* and *Dil Leyla* have won several awards internationally and nationally.*

Hazal is stuck in a job centre training program that fails to open up any new opportunities for her. On her 18th birthday, Hazal and her friends decide to visit a club, but the bouncer refuses to let them in. Hazal's feelings of cultural deracination are compounded when they're harassed by a local student. The situation escalates, and Hazal's frustration about all the rejections erupts into a fatal act.

## ESCAPE FROM THE 21ST CENTURY (CONG 21 SHIJI ANQUAN CHELI)

China | 2024 | Chinese, Mandarin | 98' | Colour



After falling into an unknown chemical material, three teenagers discover that they can travel twenty years into the future by sneezing. There, they occupy their adult bodies and observe what has changed over two decades. What seems like a harmless way to pass the time turns out to have unforeseen consequences, which escalate the situation to apocalyptic proportions.

**Director** Yang Li

**Producer** Lizhou Hu

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Fortissimo Films



*Yang Li was born in 1959 in Xian, China. He is a writer and producer, known for Blind Shaft (2003), Mang shan (2007) and The Taking of Tiger Mountain (2014).*

## FOTOGENICO

France | 2024 | French | 94' | Colour



Raoul rushes to Marseille, where his daughter is dead, with nothing but a few names of people she hung out with and addresses of places they went to. Nothing matches, it's all bullshit. As he tries to piece everything back together, he finds out she made a music record with a girl group. He sets out to get the band back together, whatever it takes.

**Director** Marcia Romano, Benoît Sabatier

**Producer** Sarah Derny, Frédéric Dubreuil

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** MPM Premium



*Marcia Romano worked as a cashier at the Cinéma Mac-Mahon, took script writing courses, and then collaborated on the writing of numerous films. Benoît Sabatier met hairy musicians, beardless pop stars, and living legends, as he was a rock critic and published books on the subject. Romano and Sabatier decided to come together and make musical films.*

## HAPPY

Austria | 2024 | German, Hindi, Panjabi | 110' | Colour



The film revolves around the desperate pursuit of an illegal Indian immigrant in Austria to provide a happy family for his little daughter while grappling with the repercussions of a deportation notice. In the process, the film also exposes the same yearning for happiness of all those who seem to have it all.

**Director** Sandeep Kumar

**Producer** Sandeep Kumar,  
Gabriele Gruber

**Premiere** Asia Premiere



*Sandeep Kumar is an Austrian filmmaker of Indian origin. In 2010 he released the first Austro-Bollywood film Kesariya Balam which received many awards. Servus Ishq, his second film, had a nationwide release and was produced by Oscar-winning producer Josef Aichholzer.*

## HARD SHELL (BISAR-O-SEDA)

Iran | 2024 | Persian | 112' | Colour



Leila, a young talented tightrope walker, has been banned from performing due to threats from fanatics and extremists. Since then, she has become a clown in an old circus owned by her father. Samir, a teenage boy, has fallen in love with Leila and, instead of going to school, roams around the circus. During the same time, the political and economic problems in Iran are getting worse.

**Director** Majid-reza Mostafavi

**Producer** Majid-reza Mostafavi

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Iranian Independents



*Majid-Reza Mostafavi started his film career editing and making short films. His films focus on the forgotten class and the important but less seen events with a human-centric theme in his films. Hard Shell is his third feature film.*

## HOUSE

Uzbekistan | 2024 | Uzbek | 90' | Colour



A tragedy occurs in a quiet village. A widow's only son dies because of a dangerous challenge popular among young people. Devastated by the fact that her son's killer has still not been prosecuted, the mother, desirous of revenge, travels to the bustling metropolis, and, in the labyrinths of an unfamiliar city, begins her investigation. As she travels through the metropolis, the woman re-examines her values and rediscovers herself.

**Director** Jamshid Narzikulov

**Producer** Alisher Abdunazarov

**Festivals** Tashkent International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** World Premiere

**Sales** Uzbektelefilm



*Jamshid Narzikulov studied at the Uzbek State Institute of Art and Culture. House is his feature film debut.*

## I, THE SONG

Bhutan | 2024 | Tibetan | 113' | Colour



Nima, a Bhutanese school teacher, is accused of appearing in a non-consensual video, losing her job and her boyfriend. She travels to the south of Bhutan in search of her doppelganger, but as she becomes entangled in her lookalike's life, she realizes she might be the only one to solve her doppelganger's disappearance as well as recover a 'stolen' sacred song.

**Director** Dechen Wangmo Roder

**Producer** Dechen Wangmo Roder,  
Johann Chapelan

**Festivals** Tallinn Black Nights  
Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Diversion



*Dechen Roder is one of the few female filmmakers in Bhutan. She has made several short films which have participated in numerous festivals around the world, including in competition at the Berlinale Shorts in 2015. She is also the co-founder and organizer of Bhutan's first film festival Beskop Tshechu.*

## JOQTAU

Kazakhstan | 2024 | Kazakh, Russian | 70' | Colour



Darkhan, a young scientist, returns home after a seven-year absence, accompanied by his girlfriend Elena. His grandfather Sagat invites them to join him on a journey to his ancestral homeland far inland. As they embark on this transformative trip, all three must confront the challenge of acceptance and understanding, testing the bonds that connect them.

**Director** Aruan Anartayev

**Producer** Aruzhan Dossymkhoza, Alexandra Sytnik, Aruan Anartayev

**Festivals** Locarno Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Parallax Films



*Aruan Anartayev is a film director and producer based in Central Asia, Kazakhstan. Since 2017, Aruan has worked as an executive producer at the documentary film studio Tihiy Svet in Almaty. Joqtau is his debut feature film.*

## JULIE KEEPS QUIET (JULIE ZWIJGT)

Belgium, Sweden | 2024 | Dutch, French | 100' | Colour



Julie, a highly promising teen player nervously faces changes in her tennis training program after her longtime coach is put on leave. Despite mounting pressure on Julie to share her own experience with her mentor, the taciturn teen directs her focus where she's always been conditioned to: her game. Yet, whether Julie acknowledges it or not, the unfolding crisis gradually compels her to emerge from the isolation that's been imposed on her.

**Colour**

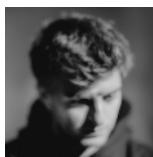
**Director** Leonardo Van Dijl

**Producer** Gilles Coulier, Gilles De Schryver, Roxanne Sarkozi, Delphine Tomson, Nima Yousefi, Anthony Muir, Kristina Börjeson

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024, Toronto International Film Festival 2024, BFI London Film Festival 2024, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** New Europe Film Sales



*Leonardo van Dijl is a writer-director based in Belgium. He's directed the short films Get Ripped (2014), Umpire (2015), and the Festival selection Stephanie (2020). Julie Keeps Quiet is his debut feature film.*

## KIX

Hungary, France | 2024 | Hungarian | 91' | Colour



Sanyi is an energetic eight-year-old boy who races around the streets of Budapest on his skateboard. The city is his playground, a haven of chaos far away from his family's cramped one-room apartment. He meets the young filmmakers Dávid and Bálint, and so begins a long friendship. Over the course of 10 years, *KIX* documents how an innocent eight-year-old boy grows up to become a persecuted enemy of the state.

**Director** Dávid Mikulán, Bálint Révész

**Producer** Viki Réka Kiss, András Pires Muhi, Victor Ede, Bálint Révész

**Festivals** CPH:DOX 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Dysfilms



Bálint Révész's first feature film *Granny Project* (2017) received the MDR prize at Dok Leipzig and the Next Generation Award at Taiwan IDFF. Dávid Mikulán (Hungary), has directed multiple short films. *KIX* (2024) is his first feature film.

## LAZARO AT NIGHT (LÁZARO DE NOCHE)

Mexico, Canada | 2024 | Spanish | 76' | Colour



Continuing his longstanding and evolving collaboration with the Mexican theatre collective Lagartijas Tiradas al Sol, the film follows a trio of forty-something friends in Mexico City enmeshed in a tepid yet tender love triangle. As Lázaro, Luisa, and Francisco undertake auditions for a coveted role in the same film, the project director's unorthodox casting methods lead the friends and lovers to question their aspirations and the roles they inhabit in their daily lives.

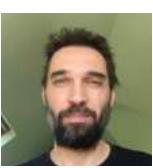
**Director** Nicolás Pereda

**Producer** Nicolás Pereda, Catalina Pereda

**Festivals** : Toronto International Film Festival 2024, New York Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Kino Rebelde



Nicolás Pereda was born in Mexico City and holds an MFA in film from York University in Toronto. His films include the features *Perpetuum Mobile* (2009), *Summer of Goliath* (2010), *Greatest Hits* (2012), *Killing Strangers* (2013), *The Absent* (2014), *Minotaur* (2015), *My Skin, Luminous* (2019), and *Fauna* (2020).

## LEFT UNSAID (LO QUE NO SE DIJO)

Chile | 2024 | Portuguese | 77' | Colour



1994, Puerto Montt. Margarita is an ambitious single mother with a rising career as a seller of mobile phones. Technology recently arrived in the southern part of the country as she travels together with Cucho, her co-worker, to different rural areas of the regional capital in search of clients. This race for connectivity exposes communication conflicts in Margarita's personal life: she now must deal with her mother, a fanatical singer of Pope John Paul II.

**Director** Ricardo Valenzuela Pinilla

**Producer** Clara Larrain & Camila Bascunan

**Premiere** World Premiere

**Sales** Media Luna



*Ricardo Valenzuela Pinilla is a Chilean filmmaker, known for Cazador (2015), and Martuca (2017). He founded Delavida films in 2013, which has since focused on supporting independent Latin American cinema.*

## LOONIES (WARIACI)

Poland | 2023 | Polish | 121' | Colour



Eryk and Karolka are a pair of dreamers. Upon their release from prison, they opt to forge a new, law-abiding life in the tranquility of nature. Eryk is determined to secure happiness for his young daughter, Dżesika, whom he retrieves from her grandfather. Together with Karolka, they embark on a daring journey across Poland. Complications arise when Karolka falls seriously ill, and the only hope for her recovery lies in expensive treatment, which they cannot afford.

**Director** Jan Jakub Kolski

**Producer** Agnieszka Janowska, Jan Jakub Kolski, Aleksandra Michael, Wytwórnia Doświadczalna

**Sales** TVP Sales

**Premiere** Asia Premiere



*Jan Jakub Kolski is a film director, cinematographer, and screenwriter from Poland. He has directed numerous short films and documentaries, and has also made a lot of nature films, most of them focusing on cave exploration and mountain climbing.*

## LOST HORSE

Republic Of Korea | 2024 | Korean, Mongolian | 131' | Colour



The 20 horses that the old man Kim cared for all his life have suddenly disappeared from his pasture on Jeju Island. Kim looks for them for more than a month, but to no avail. One day he hears that illegal immigrants are secretly butchering stolen horses and livestock in the forest to sell their meat. Kim puts together a crackdown squad to raid the forest.

**Director** Kyuhwan Jeon

**Producer** Choi Miae

**Premiere** World Premiere

**Sales** TreeFilm



*Jeon Kyu-hwan is a South Korean film director and screenwriter. His film *The Weight* was the first Korean film to win the 2012 Queer Lion at the 69th Venice International Film Festival.*

## LUNA PARK

Albania, Greece, Italy, Croatia, Kosovo | 2024 | Albanian | 101' | Colour



In Albania's post-communist landscape, a lonely mother, Mira, and her troubled teenage son, Toni, struggle through an outbreak of civil violence that threatens to tear their East European nation apart.

**Director** Florenc Papas

**Producer** Dritan Huqi, Ioanna Bolomyti, Riccardo Neri

**Premiere** World Premiere

**Sales** On Film Production



*Albanian-born filmmaker Papas completed his debut feature film *Open Door* in 2019, winning the Cineuropa Prize and Best Film in Brussels. Papas founded his production company, Tunnelfilm, in 2016 and has since produced short films and co-produced feature films. *Luna Park* is his second feature film.*

## ME, MARYAM, THE CHILDREN AND 26 OTHERS (MAN, MARYAM, BACHEHA VA 26 NAFARE DIGAR)

Germany, Iran | 2024 | Persian | 101' | Colour



Mahboube, a woman in her early thirties, enjoys a solitary existence. But her world is turned upside down when she lets a film crew into her home for a week-long shoot. She sees the objects that comprise her physical life used without thought or care. Then, the filming process affects her on a deeper level, forcing her to come to terms with the ghosts of her past and her place as a woman in Iranian society.

**Director** Farshad Hashemi

**Producer** Farzad Pak, Farshad Hashemi

**Festivals** International Film Festival of Rotterdam 2024, Göteborg Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** ArtHood Entertainment



*Iranian writer, director and actor Farshad Hashemi is considered a crucial artist in the Iranian film and theatre industry, taking up roles both in front of and behind the camera. Me, Maryam, The children and 26 others is his directorial debut film.*

## MEET THE BARBARIANS (LES BARBARES)

France | 2024 | French, English, Arabic | 101' | Colour



The town council of Paimpont, Brittany is delighted they'll soon be welcoming refugees from Ukraine. But it turns out that too many in France have already taken in Ukrainian refugees, so the van that pulls into Paimpont one day, delivers a refugee family from Syria instead. As the extended Fayad family finds its footing in a village very much set in its ways, both townspeople and newcomers must rethink their preconceptions.

**Director** Julie Delpy

**Producer** Michael Gentile

**Screenwriter** Toronto International Film Festival 2024, Festival du Film Francophone 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Charades



*Julie Delpy is a Paris-born actor, director, screenwriter, and musician. She has acted in more than 30 films, and written, directed, and starred in the features 2 Days in Paris (2007), The Countess (2009), Le Skylan (2011), 2 Days in New York (2012), and the festival selections Lolo (2015) and My Zoe (2019).*

## MEXICO 86

Belgium, France | 2024 | Spanish | 93' | Colour



Death threats force Maria, a Guatemalan rebel activist fighting against the corrupt military dictatorship, to flee to Mexico, leaving her son behind. Ten years later, when he comes to live with her, she will be forced to choose between her duties as a mother and her revolutionary ideals.

**Director** César Díaz

**Producer** Delphine Schmit, Géraldine Spirmont, Anne-Laure Guégan

**Festivals** Locarno International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** BAC Films



*César Díaz was born in Guatemala in 1978. After studying in Mexico and Belgium, he joined the screenwriting course at La FEMIS in Paris. He has been editing fiction and documentaries for over ten years.*

## MILK TEETH (MILCHZÄHNE)

Germany, Switzerland | 2024 | German | 97' | Colour



Skalde lives in a small rural community, far from a world that may no longer exist. She is an interloper in her own home, having been born to an 'outsider' mother - a social stigma she cannot easily erase. Displaying a loyalty to the codes of the community, she has earned the respect of the village elder. However, when she encounters a mysterious girl in the local woods, Skalde risks everything by befriending her.

**Director** Sophia Bösch

**Producer** Jennifer Müller Von Der Haegen, Milena Klemke, Yvonne Wellie, Jakob D. Weydemann

**Festivals** International Film Festival Rotterdam 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** LevelK



*Swiss-Swedish-German director Sophia Bösch studied Film Directing at Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts and Film University Babelsberg. Her graduation short *Rå* (2018) premiered at the 2018 Berlinale. Milk Teeth (2024) is her debut feature film.*

## MY FRIEND AN DELIE (WO DE PENG YOU AN DE LIE)

China | 2024 | Mandarin | 120' | Colour



Li Mo and An De Lie, who have very different personalities, become friends thanks to soccer. However, an accident makes An De Lie disappear from Li Mo's memory along with his youthful past. Years later, Li Mo reunites with An De Lie on the way to his father's funeral, and a dusty memory is gradually uncovered.

**Director** Dong Zijian

**Producer** Wan Juan

**Festivals** Tokyo International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Reliance



*Dong Zijian is a veteran Chinese actor, with experience of more than ten years in film and television. My Friend An Delie is Dong's feature film debut.*

## MY SUNSHINE (BOKU NO OHISAMA)

Japan, France | 2024 | Japanese | 100' | Colour



On a small Japanese island, life revolves around the changing seasons. Winter is time for ice hockey at school, but Takuya isn't too thrilled about it. His real interest lies in Sakura, a figure skating rising star from Tokyo. Coach Arakawa spots potential in Takuya, and decides to mentor him to form a duo with Sakura. As winter persists, feelings grow, and the two children form an harmonious bond. But even the first snow eventually melts away.

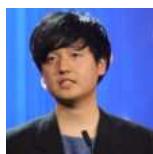
**Director** Hiroshi Okuyama

**Producer** Toshikazu Nishigaya, Masa Sawada

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024, Toronto International Film Festival 2024, San Sebastian Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Charades



*Hiroshi Okuyama is a director, screenwriter, cinematographer, and editor from Tokyo. He has directed the short films Graduationparty!!!! (2009), The Swan Smiles (2018), Tokyo 21st October (2018) and the feature film Jesus (2018).*

## NEW DAWN FADES (YENİ ŞAFAK SOLARKEN)

Turkey, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Norway | 2024 | Turkish, Bosnian | 130' | Colour



Akin has been in and out of the hospital, stuck in the system for years. He no longer leaves his family house except for occasional visits to religious monuments in Istanbul. Trying to find refuge in God, he gradually falls into a state of ecstasy. The divine structures trigger something in him, and as he loses touch with his true self, his mind shifts into another reality.

**Director** Gürçan Keltek

**Producer** Arda Çiltepe

**Festivals** Locarno International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Heretic



*Gürçan Keltek studied film at Dokuz Eylül University before directing short films. His medium-length film *Colony* (2015) was screened at FIDMarseille. His first feature film, *Meteorlar* (2017), won more than 20 awards and was screened at many international film festivals, including Rotterdam, BAFICI, Viennale, Bordeaux, Fajr, and Hong Kong.*

## OYSTERS SILENCE (O SILENCIO DAS OSTRAS)

Brazil | 2024 | Portuguese | 128' | Colour



*Oysters Silence* follows the life of a girl, born in a village of workers who work in a mining camp. After her mother disappears without explanation, she has to learn to deal with the successive losses that life has in store for her. With the end of mining in the region, the place turns into a ghost town. When loneliness seems to have reached its peak, a dam burst suddenly decimates the village.

**Director** Marcos Pimentel

**Producer** Luana Melgaço

**Festivals** Rio De Janeiro International Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere



*Marcos Pimentel is a director, screenwriter and independent producer. He has made several creative documentaries and his work has been exhibited at over 700 festivals all over the world.*

## PAPER FLOWERS

USA | 2024 | English | 100' | Colour



After graduating from USC, Shalin Shah sets off for Peru with the Peace Corps, leaving behind his tight-knit family and a high school sweetheart. But his dreams of changing the world are shattered when a routine check-up reveals a devastating diagnosis: a rare and aggressive cancer.

**Director** Mahesh Pailoor

**Producer** Asit Vyas

**Sales** AV Entertainment

**Premiere** Asia Premiere



*Mahesh Pailoor is an award winning filmmaker based in Los Angeles. Raised in a seaside town in Maine to immigrant Indian parents, Mahesh's films often grapple with divergent notions of South Asian identity. His work has been championed at festivals and institutions, including SXSW, Cannes Lions and the Smithsonian.*

## PARADISES OF DIANE (LES PARADIS DE DIANE)

Switzerland, France | 2024 | French, German, English | 98' | Colour



Diane is alone, with only a bag from the pharmacy in her arms. She has left behind Martin and her newborn baby at the women's clinic in Zurich. Diane seems like a shadow moving to the beat of the city – a Mediterranean Las Vegas in decline. In this parallel world of all-inclusive tourists, revelers and eccentrics, Diane meets Rose. These two strangers find their way to each other, a mutual adoption of two lonely souls.

**Director** Carmen Jaquier & Jan Gassmann

**Producer** Lisa Blatter, Carole Le Page, Jan Gassmann

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024, Locarno International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Cercamon



*Carmen Jaquier studied filmmaking and screenwriting at the École Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne. Her graduation film *The Girl's Grave* won the Pardino d'argento at the Locarno Film Festival. Jan Gassmann's documentary *Chris* was screened at the Berlinale Forum in 2007, while his debut feature film *Off-Beat* (2011) and his documentary *Europe, She Loves* (2016) were both selected for Panorama.*

## PORTRAIT OF A CERTAIN ORIENT (RETRATO DE UM CERTO ORIENTE)

Brazil, Italy | 2024 | Portuguese | 92' | B&W



In the late 1940s, a devastating conflict takes place in Lebanon. Catholic sister and brother Emilie and Emir decide to leave for Brazil. On board the ship to their new home, Emilie falls in love with Omar, a Muslim trader. For an angry and jealous Emir, the relationship is intolerable. The story unfolds against the backdrop of the majestic rainforest, and Emir's actions and Emilie's subsequent decision lead to disastrous consequences.

**Director** Marcelo Gomes

**Producer** Mariana Ferraz, Ernesto Soto, Fabiano Gullane, Eliane Ferreira, Guilherme Coelho, Tatiana Leite, Simone Gattoni

**Festivals** International Film Festival of Rotterdam 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Sonhador Filmes



*Marcelo Gomes studied journalism, specializing in TV. His films have screened at major international festivals including Cannes, Venice, Berlin, and Sundance.*

## POSTMARKS

Russian Federation | 2024 | Russian | 112' | Colour



Yana works at the post office, where she collects stamps and hopes for her father to come back from the sea. Despite having cerebral palsy, Yana is a strong person, and her slight limp only adds to her charm. One day the sailor Petr visits the post office, bearing news that will forever change Yana's life.

**Director** Natalia Nazarova

**Producer** Denis Kovalevskiy

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Eastwood Agency



*Natalia graduated from GITIS in an acting course, and made her directorial debut in 2012 with the film "Daughter", which won the FIPRESCI prize at the Warsaw International Film Festival. She lives and works in Moscow.*

## RABIA

France, Germany, Belgium | 2024 | French, Arabic, English | 95' | Colour



**Director** Mareike Engelhardt

**Producer** Lionel Massol, Pauline Seigland, Wasiliki Bleser, Annabella Nezri

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Kinology



*After studying literature, history of art and psychology, and training in contemporary dance, Mareike collaborated with choreographers in multimedia shows and made her short films. Rabia is her debut feature film.*

Jessica, a nineteen-year-old French girl leaves her country for Syria, thinking that the humiliations of cheap labor will give way to a life of leisure in the villa of her friend's future husband, an ISIS fighter. But what they find in Raqqa, is a locked house full of other young women. She becomes an assistant to the iron-fisted director, Madame, who exerts a powerful fascination over her. How far beyond the limits of her conviction will Rabia accept to go?

## RHYTHM OF DAMMAM

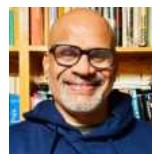
USA, India | 2024 | Konkani (Siddi Dialect), Kannada | 92' | Colour



**Director** Jayan Cherian

**Producer** Jayan Cherian

**Premiere** World Premiere

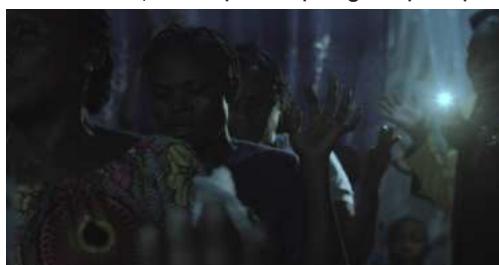


*Jayan Cherian, from Kerala, holds an MFA in filmmaking from The City College of New York as well as a BA in film and creative writing from Hunter College. His feature films include Ka Bodyscapes (2016), Papilio Buddha (2014), and The Shape of the Shapeless (2010).*

Jayaram Siddi, a twelve-year-old boy, lives in a village in Uttara Kannada, possessed by the spirit of his recently deceased grandpa, Rama Bantu Siddi. His working-class parents, Bhaskar and Yashoda, are worried and seek a solution from local black magicians and medicine men, which does not affect his condition. Caught up in the tangle of the intergenerational trauma of chattel slavery, Jayaram gradually loses his grip on reality.

## RISING UP AT NIGHT (TONGO SAA)

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium, Germany,  
Burkina Faso, Qatar | 2024 | Lingala | 95' | Colour



Darkness falls over Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and its 17 million inhabitants. Kudi is mobilizing the residents of his neighborhood to collect money for a new power cable just before Christmas. Pastor Gédéon delivers a sermon about the light of Christ as the path to life and truth. Davido is searching for a place to stay after his house was flooded by the Congo River. Together with other young men, he kills time by working out and dreams of a better future.

**Director** Nelson Makengo

**Producer** Rosa Spaliviero, Dada Kahindo Siku

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024, BFI London Film Festival 2024, Visions du Reel 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Square Eyes



*Nelson Makengo is a Congolese director, visual artist and producer whose work oscillates between contemporary art and cinema. Rising Up At Night is his first feature film.*

## SAMIA

Italy, Germany, Belgium | 2024 | Arabic, Somali, English | 102' | Colour



Despite the harassment from Somalia's local militias, saying women shouldn't be involved in sports, running is a bright spot in Samia's tumultuous life. Training in a deserted stadium, she is determined to go to the Olympics like her hero, Mo Farah. At the age of 17, she represents her country at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. She returns with a brighter flame burning to go to the 2012 Olympics in London. But the path toward fulfilling her dreams is not the one she'd anticipated.

**Director** Yasemin Şamdereli

**Producer** Simone Catania, Dietmar Güntzsche, Anja-Karina Richter, Michele Fornasero, Francesca Portalupi, Martin Rohé, Joseph Rouschop, Riccardo Russo, David Herdies, Michael Krotkiewski, Iman Ismail, Christoph Fisser

**Festivals** Tribeca Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Mk2



*Born and raised in Dortmund, Yasemin Şamdereli studied at the University of Television and Film in Munich. Her graduation film, KISMET, was shown at several major film festivals and won the Short Tiger Award at IFFR. Samia is her second feature film.*

## SLEEP STILL WITH YOUR EYES OPEN

Brazil, Argentina, Taiwan, Germany | 2024 | Mandarin, Portuguese, Spanish, English, German | 97' | Colour



A coastal city in Brazil. Kai arrives on holiday from Taiwan with a broken heart. A malfunctioning air conditioner leads her to end up in Fu Ang's umbrella shop. He could become a friend, but then the rainy season fails to arrive and the shop closes. While searching for Fu Ang, Kai comes across Xiao Xin and a group of Chinese workers in a fancy high-rise building. Kai finds herself strangely mirrored in Xiao Xin's story.

**Director** Nele Wohlatz

**Producer** Emilie Lesclaux, Kleber Mendonça Filho, Justine O., Roger Huang, Violet Bava, Rosa Martínez Rivero, Meike Martens, Nele Wohlatz

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024,  
San Sebastián International Film Festival | 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Rediance



*Nele Wohlatz is a script writer, director and visual artist from Germany. Her feature film *El Futuro Perfecto* (2016) won the Golden Leopard for the best first feature at Locarno IFF.*

## THE DOG THIEF (EL LADRÓN DE PERROS)

Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, France, Ecuador, Italy | 2024 | Spanish | 90' | Colour

**Director** Vinko Tomičić Salinas

**Producer** Alvaro Manzano Zambrana, Gabriela Maire, Edher Campos, Vinko Tomičić Salinas, Matias de Bourguignon

**Festivals** Tribeca Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Luxbox



*Vinko Tomičić Salinas is a Chilean screenwriter, director and producer. His solo feature debut, *The Dog Thief*, was developed at the Cannes Cinefondation Residency and the Venice Biennale College Cinema program.*

## THE EDITORIAL OFFICE (REDAKTSIYA)

Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia, Czech Republic | 2024 | Ukrainian | 126' | Colour



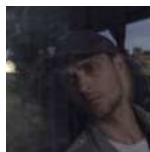
In the wild steppes of Southern Ukraine, a young nature researcher named Yura, witnesses a crime. Eager to expose the truth, Yura takes his photo evidence to the local newspaper's editorial office. However, he quickly realizes that nobody there cares about pursuing justice. While a big war is looming over the horizon, Yura's naive worldview is sundered in a storm of fake news, rigged political elections, and mysterious cult rituals.

**Director** Roman Bondarchuk

**Producer** Darya Bassel, Dar'ya Averchenko

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere



*Roman Bondarchuk is a Ukrainian director. He has directed short films, documentaries, music videos and the feature film Volcano (2018), which premiered at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.*

## THE ERL-KING (BAUK)

Serbia, Bulgaria | 2024 | Serbian | 96' | Colour



Sava, an eight-year-old boy caught in the middle of the bombing of Serbia in 1999, goes on a journey of survival with his mother, while trying to maintain his unspoiled, naive worldview.

**Director** Goran Radovanovic

**Producer** Goran Radovanovic, Milos Bikovic

**Festivals** Moscow International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere



*Goran Radovanovic is a well-known Serbian filmmaker, with a background in cinema and philosophy. His films have been screened and awarded at numerous film festivals worldwide.*

## THE FOURTH WALL (LE QUATRIÈME MUR)

France, Luxembourg, Belgium | 2024 | French | 116' | Colour



**Director** David Oelhoffen

**Producer** Christine Rouxel, Maya Hariri

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Le Pacte



*David Oelhoffen is a French filmmaker and screenwriter. His films, *The Last Men* (2023), *Close Enemies* (2018), and *Far From Men* (2014), have been screened at major festivals.*

Lebanon, 1982. Theatre director Georges travels to Beirut to stage the play Antigone on the front line, in order to steal a moment of peace from the raging civil war. Lost in a city and a conflict he knows nothing about, Georges is guided by Marwan. As fighting resumes, everything is soon called into question, and Georges, who falls in love with Imane, has to face up to the reality of war.

## THE LAST ROMANTICS (AZKEN ERROMANTIKOAK)

Spain | 2024 | Basque, Spanish | 102' | Colour



**Director** David Pérez Sañudo

**Producer** Fernando Larrondo, Olmo Figueiredo

**Festivals** San Sebastian International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Latido Films



*David P. Sañudo is a director, writer and producer based in Bilbao. In 2020, David premiered his first full-length feature *Ane* in the New Directors section of the San Sebastian International Film Festival which won the Irizar Award. He has also won three Goya Awards.*

Irune, an insecure, lonely woman with hypochondriac tendencies, works in a paper factory on the suburbs of an industrial town in Álava. Her life is limited to a small circle of acquaintances: her workmates, a neighbour and a Renfe train operator. Her fragile equilibrium will explode when she detects a lump in her breast, which coincides with a labour conflict in which she is involved. It is then that her life takes an unexpected turn.

## THE MARCHING BAND (EN FANFARE)

France | 2024 | French | 103' | Colour



Thibaut is an internationally renowned conductor who travels the world. When he learns he was adopted, he discovers the existence of a younger brother, Jimmy, who works in a school cafeteria and plays the trombone in a small marching band. Everything seems to set them apart, except their love of music. Sensing his brother's exceptional talent, Thibaut decides to remedy the injustice of fate.

**Director** Emmanuel Courcol

**Producer** Marc Bordure, Robert Guédiguian

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024,  
San Sebastian International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Playtime



*Emmanuel Courcol is a French actor, director, and screenwriter. The Marching Band is his third feature film.*

## THE SLUGGARD CLAN

Slovakia | 2024 | Slovak | 100' | Colour



Three brothers live lost in time, dreams, naïveté and folly, that blur the boundaries between the real world and that of their late ancestors. The only thing that conveys a sense to their futile lives is a cobweb of tragicomic relationships with their fateful women ready to give their lives for love. An allegorical fresco about love beyond the grave where the poetics of magical realism confronts the Nazi and Communist past of the Slovak nation.

**Director** Rastislav Boroš

**Producer** Rastislav Boroš

**Premiere** World Premiere



*Rastislav Boroš is a Slovak screenwriter, director, and producer. His feature films include Stanko (2015) and Goldilocks And The Glorious Losers (2022). The Sluggard Clan is his third feature film.*

## THE SONG SUSTXOTIN

Uzbekistan | 2024 | Uzbek | 102' | Colour



In a distant village, a merciless drought reigns. The villagers perform ancient rituals to find a way out of the scourge and misery, but to no avail. During such perilous times, Ahbor, a former official, goes to the village in search of a friend, and encounters an unexpected case: an underage girl who has been raped.

**Director** Khusnora Rozmatova

**Producer** Utkir Akhmedov, Mirlslikh Azizov

**Premiere** World Premiere

**Sales** Uzbektelefilm



*Khusnora Rozmatova is a film director from Uzbekistan. She received international recognition by winning the "For Humanism" award at the 19th Kazan International Muslim Film Festival. The Song Sustxotin is her second feature film.*

## THEY CALL ME THE PANZER (ME DICEN EL PANZER)

Panama | 2024 | Spanish | 90' | Colour



Panama, 1986. Seventeen-year-old Rommel, who everyone calls big-headed, walks through the streets kicking an empty milk carton, daydreaming about playing soccer. But Mélida, his mother, pressures him to look for work, while caring for and taking care of his sister Jackeline. The mini league is approaching, and Rommel is working tirelessly for a spot on the Pampers. A film inspired by the life of Rommel Fernández Gutiérrez, the great legend of Panamanian and Tenerife football.

**Director** Rodrigo Quintero Arauz

**Producer** Jairo Ramos Alvarado

**Premiere** World Premiere

**Sales** City Blue Films



*Rodrigo Quintero Arauz was born in David, Chiriquí, Panamá. He is a director and writer, known for Estanislao (2021), Me Dicen El Panzer (2024) and Papeles.*

## UNDER THE GREY SKY (POD SZARYM NIEBEM)

Poland | 2024 | Belarusian, Russian | 81' | Colour



Belarus, 2020. Mass protests follow the elections rigged by Lukashenko. Anti-regime journalist Lena livestreams the brutal crackdown of a peaceful demonstration and is tracked down by a police drone. Nevertheless, she continues the broadcast and is arrested. Lena and her husband Ilya must face unbearable choices in an attempt to survive and remain true to themselves, as the regime is determined to break them.

**Director** Mara Tamkovich

**Producer** Katarzyna Ocioszynska, Polish Film Institute

**Festivals** Tribeca Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Loco Films



*Mara Tamkovich is a Polish-Belarusian director and scriptwriter, who has also studied Journalism. Her short films have been shown at numerous festivals in Poland and abroad, and have also received awards.*

## UNDER THE VOLCANO (POD WULKANEM)

Poland | 2024 | Ukrainian, Spanish, English, Russian, German | 105' | Colour



Enjoying their final beach day, a Ukrainian family of four are blissfully unaware that, soon, their return flight to Kyiv will be cancelled in the wake of escalating tensions with Russia. From one day to the next, they are no longer tourists on the volcanic island but refugees trapped in paradise. *Under The Volcano* is an expertly crafted portrait of a family coping with events out of their control.

**Director** Damian Kocur

**Producer** Agnieszka Jastrzebska, Mikołaj Lizut

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024,  
BFI London Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Salaud Morisset



*Damian Kocur is a writer, director, and cinematographer who was born in Katowice, Poland. His credits as a director include the short films *Lesson* (2013), *The Return* (2016), *As It Was* (2023), and the feature *Bread and Salt* (2022). *Under the Volcano* is his second feature film.*

## VERA AND THE PLEASURE OF OTHERS (VERA Y EL PLACER DE LOS OTROS)

Argentina | 2023 | Spanish | 103' | Colour



Seventeen-year-old Vera has a secret hobby: she rents out an empty apartment to teenagers looking for a place to have sex. She steals the keys from her distracted mother, who manages different properties, and organizes everything. The teenagers come and go, using the apartment for a few uninterrupted hours. Playing invisible, Vera stays behind the closed door, her own sexual desires unfolding as she listens to other people's pleasure.

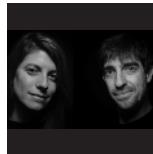
**Director** Romina Tamburello, Federico Actis

**Producer** Santiago King

**Festivals** Tallinn Nights Film Festival 2023

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** M-appeal



*Federico Actis is a director, screenwriter, and producer at Pez Cine. He directed the fiction short film 'The Cable Cars' and the documentary feature 'The Architecture of Crime'. Romina Tamburello is an actress, screenwriter, and director. Romina wrote and directed the documentary series 'Catalina, The Woman With The Flag' for Encuentro Channel.*

## WAITING FOR DON QUIXOTE

Armenia | 2023 | Armenian, English | 105' | Colour



This is a philosophical essay – a reflection on the present of post-war Armenia, where reality and imagination have blended into each other, where the people are desperately seeking 'saviors'. In this situation, the creative embodiment of Don Quixote, which appears in this film, proves that there is a thin border between reality and imagination, and all one needs to do is believe.

**Director** Nariné Mkrtchyan, Arsen Azatyan

**Producer** Narine Mkrtchyan, Arsen Azatyan

**Premiere** World Premiere

**Sales** Aysor Plus Films



*Nariné Mkrtchyan was born in Yerevan, Armenia. In 1990 she along with Arsen Azatyan established Aysor-Plus Film Productions. To-date, they have directed sixteen films, including five full-length feature films. Their films have participated in more than 70 international film festivals.*

## WHEN SANTA WAS A COMMUNIST (DJEDA MRAZ U BOSNI)

Bosnia and Herzegovina | 2024 | Bosnian, Croatian, English | 86' | Colour



An acting troupe is going on tour with a play about Santa Claus to spread holiday cheer in the small towns of post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina. While the children are delighted, the appearance of Santa reignites old conflicts between the adults.

**Director** Emir Kapetanovic

**Producer** Jasmin Durakovic

**Festivals** Sarajevo Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere



*Emir Kapetanović is a Bosnian award-winning director based in Los Angeles. He has created socially engaged films, plays, cabarets, web series, hip-hop videos, street performances and stand-up comedy shows. When Santa Was a Communist is his fourth feature film.*

## WHITE FLASH (DE WITTE FLITS)

Netherlands | 2024 | Dutch | 90' | Colour



The hardest thing for a parent is to lose a child. But what if the child is suffering a torturous history of an illness and is just granted permission for his long-desired euthanasia? *White Flash* follows the journey of Aagje and Toon in the last six weeks leading up to the death of their forty-two-year-old son Rick, in which they try to let him go as the most extreme expression of their love.

**Director** Laura Hermanides

**Producer** Chris Stenger

**Premiere** International Premiere

**Sales** Family Affair Films



*Laura Hermanides has written and directed several internationally acclaimed short films and documentaries including the Teledoc Campus, Prove me wrong, the short film Nymphet and the short film Amantea. The White Flash is her debut feature film.*

## WITH LOVE FROM BHUTAN

Bhutan | 2024 | English | 128' | Colour



Jimmy, an American Bhutanese food anthropology student, returns to Bhutan after twenty years. His mother, Jane, once ran the pioneering restaurant Pelbue before abruptly leaving Bhutan with her new husband Jimmy, but without her stepdaughter, Yangchen. Feeling abandoned, Yangchen grew up a loner, and found solace in Bhutan's landscapes. Back in Bhutan, Jimmy stays with his friend Angay and attempts to reconnect with the now distant Yangchen.

**Director** Charmi Chedda

**Producer** Tashi Yoedsel Wangchuk

**Premiere** World Premiere

**Sales** Wangchuk Studios



*Charmi Chedda is an Indian writer, filmmaker and theater director. She has conceptualized, directed and choreographed more than 35 productions in the last 10 years, and has also made 3 feature films.*

## XIBALBA MONSTER (MONSTRUO DE XIBALBA)

Mexico | 2024 | Spanish | 76' | Colour



Eight-year-old Rogelio wants to unravel the mystery of death. When his parents send him off to his nanny's hometown in Yucatán, he meets the Xibalba Monster, an old hermit who is sick but has made a deal with the Lords of the Underworld to remain amongst the living. Rogelio starts to spy on the monster and lives an adventure that will forever change his views on life and death.

**Director** Manuela Irene

**Producer** Daniel Loustaunau, Damián Aguilar, Manuela Irene

**Festivals** Edinburgh International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere



*Manuela Irene is a Mexican/Colombian filmmaker. In 2013, she participated in Cine Qua Non Lab and the Project Development Workshop at IBERMEDIA. Xibalba Monster is her debut feature film.*

## XOFTEX

Germany, France | 2024 | Arabic | 99' | Colour



Palestinian-Syrian teenager Nasser and his older brother Yassin have been living in a Greek refugee camp, awaiting a decision on their asylum application. They pass the time recording comedy sketches, fantasizing of making zombie films and moving to Sweden. Nasser, however, feels increasingly trapped in this no-man's-land. With nowhere to escape, boiling tensions in the camp push Nasser to another world.

**Director** Noaz Deshe

**Producer** Andro Steinborn, Noaz Deshe

**Festivals** Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** MAD Solutions



*Noaz Deshe works as a director, cinematographer and musician. His debut feature film White Shadow about the hunting of a young Albino won the Lion of the Future Award at Venice Film Festival and was showcased at Sundance Film Festival. XOFTEX is his second feature film.*

## ARCHITECTON

Germany, France, USA | 2024 | English, Italian | 98' | Colour



Centering on a landscape project by the Italian architect Michele De Lucchi, Kossakovsky uses the circle to reflect on the rise and fall of civilisations. Rocks and stone connect the disparate societies, from ghostly monoliths stuck in the earth to tragic heaps of concrete rubble waiting to be hauled off and repurposed anew. The film is an intimate and poetic meditation on architecture.

**Director** Victor Kossakovsky

**Producer** Heino Deckert

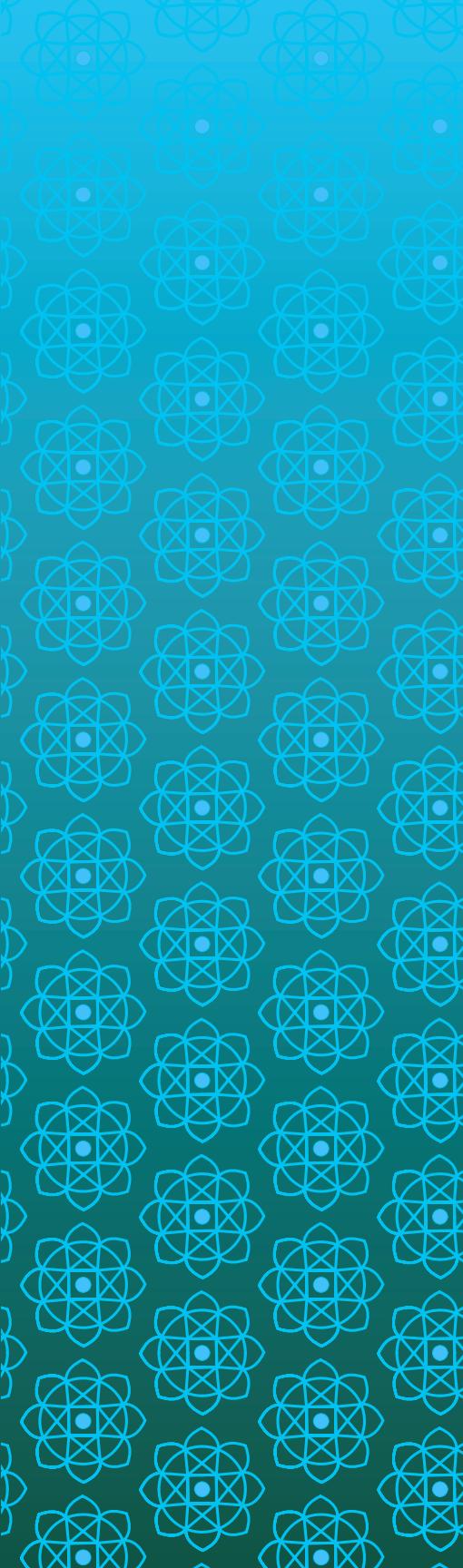
**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024, Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2024, CPH:DOX 2024, BFI London Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** The Match Factory



*Victor Kossakovsky is an innovative documentary filmmaker from Russia whose films have been honored with more than 100 awards at national and international festivals. His previous film, Gunda, premiered in the Encounters section at 2020 Berlinale.*



# MACABRE DREAMS

Experiences of the uncanny, the bizarre and the outrageous for genre enthusiasts chasing thrills.

## FRÉWAKA

Ireland | 2024 | Irish, English | 102' | Colour



Haunted by a personal tragedy, home care worker Shoo is sent to a remote village to care for an agoraphobic woman who fears the neighbours as much as she fears the Na Sídhe – sinister entities who she believes abducted her decades before. As the two develop a strangely deep connection, Shoo is consumed by the old woman's paranoia, rituals, and superstitions, eventually confronting the horrors from her own past.

**Director** Aislinn Clarke

**Producer** Diarmuid Lavery

**Festivals** Locarno Film Festival 2024, BFI London Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** New Europe Film Sales



*Aislinn Clarke is an Irish writer and director. She holds the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Gold Fellowship for Women. She is also the first Irish woman to have made a horror feature film, *The Devil's Doorway* (2018).*

## SOFIA, THE POSSESSION

Spain | 2024 | Spanish | 81' | Colour



The film tells the story of young Sofia who embarks on a quest for answers following her mother's mysterious death, only to uncover a chilling truth that leads her to a face to face with the devil himself. Inspired by the haunting baroque atmosphere of 70s horror classics like *Suspiria* and *Carrie*, the film promises to be a thrilling journey into the depths of horror.

**Director** Guillermo Barreira

**Producer** Helion Ramalho, Raúl Cerezo, Guillermo Barreira

**Premiere** World Premiere

**Sales** Film Factory



*Guillermo Barreira is a Spanish filmmaker based in New York City. He has directed two indie feature films: *The Invisible Worm* (2017) and *Edgar* (2022).*

## THE WAILING

Spain, France | 2024 | Spanish, French, Argentina | 107' | Colour



Something is haunting Andrea, but no one, not even she herself, knows what it is. Twenty years ago, ten thousand kilometers away, the same presence terrorized Marie. Camila too experienced it, and was the only person who could understand what was happening, but no one believed her. All three encounter the same thing: a strange and terrifying wailing.

**Director** Pedro Martín Calero

**Producer** Eduardo Villanueva, Nacho Livila, Cristina Zumárraga, Fernanda del Nido, Juampa Miller, Jerôme Vidal, Pablo E. Bossi

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024, San Sebastián International Film Festival 2024, BFI London Film Festival, 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Film Factory



*Madrid-based filmmaker Pedro studied cinematography before getting into film direction. After graduating he moved towards award-winning commercials where he gained attention for his unique visual style. The Wailing is his debut feature film.*

## WORKING CLASS GOES TO HELL

Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Croatia, Romania | 2023 | Serbian | 127' | Colour



Five years after a factory fire claimed the lives of several workers and, with them, the primary livelihood of a rural Balkan town, the plant's union is met with a debilitating blow in their fight for reparations. The owners succeeded in evading legal consequences and the workers are cast as ungrateful nuisances. Stoic labour leader Ceca refuses to give up, but her position grows tenuous when the collective begins to develop a fascination with the pagan practices of its newest member, Mija.

**Director** Mladen Đorđević

**Producer** Milan Stojanovic, Mladen Đorđević

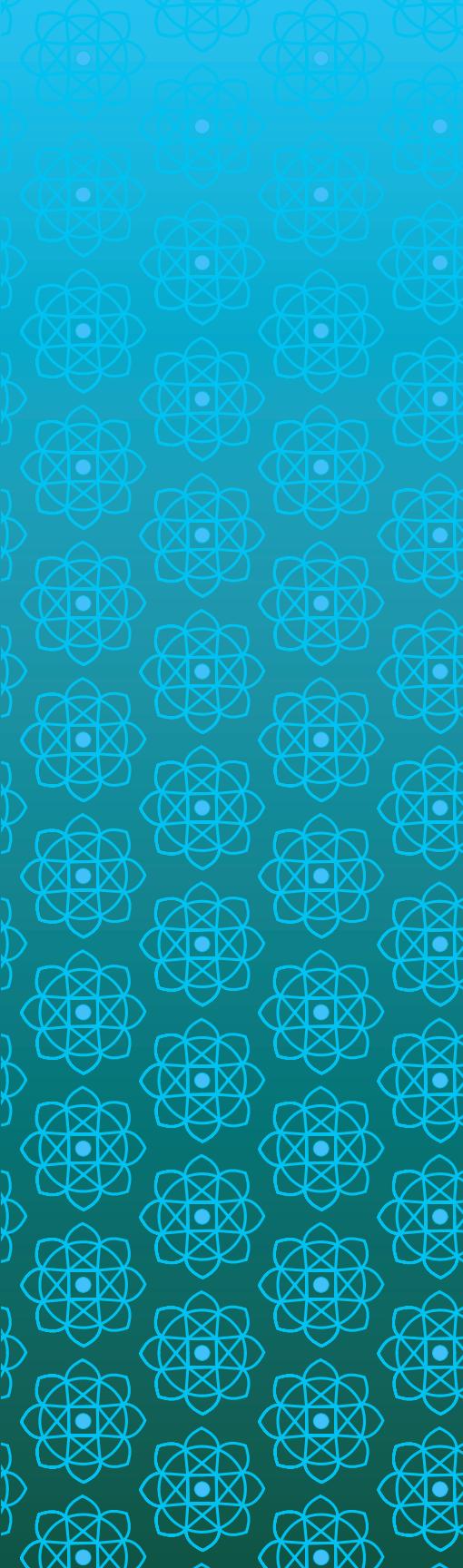
**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival, 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Patra Spanou Film



*Mladen Đorđević was born in Belgrade, Serbia. He has directed the features *Glad* (2002) and *The Life and Death of a Porno Gang* (2009), part of the omnibus film *Equals* (2014), and the documentaries *Made in Serbia* (05) and *Vienna Hallways* (2020).*



# MISSION LIFE

A collection of urgent, provocative or experiential films - from narratives to documentaries - attuned to the current geo-politics of the global biome, ecology, symbiotic relationships, and environmental impact.

## BLACK BUTTERFLIES

Spain, Panama | 2024 | Arabic, Bengali, English, French, Spanish | 83' | Colour



**Director** David Baute

**Producer** Edmon Roch, David Baute, Marc Sabe, César Zelada

**Festivals** Sitges International Film Festival 2024, Annecy International Animation Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Ikeru Films



*David Baute is currently the artistic director of the MiradasDoc Documentary Film Festival. His films, *Ella(s)* (2010), *La murga, opera popular* (2014), *Milagros* (2018), and *Climate Exodus* (2020), have been selected in various national and international festivals.*

Tanit migrates with her children from the dry, uninhabitable region of Turkana to Nairobi. In India, Shaila leaves her small island of Ghoramara, which is shrinking due to rising sea levels, to work as a housekeeper in Dubai. Valeria flies with her children to Paris after a hurricane destabilizes life on the French island of Saint Martin. All three are hoping for a better life, but new environments are forcing them to deal with various forms of exploitation.

## EASTERN ANTHEMS

Canada, USA, Ecuador | 2024 | English, French, Spanish | 78' | Colour



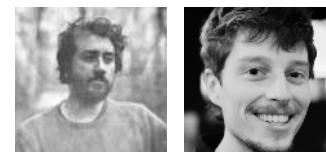
**Director** Matthew Wolkow, Jean-Jacques Martinod

**Producer** Matthew Wolkow

**Festivals** Camden International Film Festival, 2024

**Premiere** International Premiere

**Sales** Kino Rebelde



*Matthew Wolkow is a filmmaker and visual artist. His works have been screened in important festivals across the globe. Jean-Jacques Martinod is a media artist, film curator, abyssological researcher, and clandestine anarchist. Martinod's work has been showcased in leading festivals, museums and cinematheques.*

An unfinished film is passed along from one friend to another. The dialog between them is a journey crossed by the swarming of the Great Eastern Brood X of periodical cicadas that prophetically emerge every 17 years in the USA, invoking a reflection of a post-pandemic present and our shared futures. A road movie composed of a chorus of voices, the warnings of history, the power of nature and rebirth.

## KARUARA, PEOPLE OF THE RIVER

Peru | 2024 | Spanish, Kukama-Kukamiria | 77' | Colour



Marañón River in the Amazon region is home to a vast network of spirit villages ruled by the Karuara. Through enchanting hand-painted animation, we are transported inside their river world and its elaborate cosmogony. But old ways are being forgotten and the indigenous people now face cultural genocide. In a world that continuously puts a price tag on nature and humanizes the corporations responsible for the cultural genocide that is taking place, a federation of women resolutely decide to fight back.

**Director** Stephanie Boyd,  
Miguel Araoz Cartagena

**Producer** Mariluz Canaquiri Murayari,  
Stephanie Boyd, Leonardo Tello Imaina

**Festivals** Hot Docs International Documentary Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Quisca Productions



*Miguel is a visual artist from Cusco, Peru. His short animation *And That is How The Rivers Came to Be* was screened at more than 20 international film festivals. Stephanie has lived and worked in Peru for 27 years. Her documentaries have been screened at over 100 international film festivals.*

## ON MELTING SNOW

Belgium | 2024 | French | 73' | Colour



Our earth is constantly undergoing changes, with humans often accelerating and disrupting its natural progression. Each landscape reflects a memory of our planet, memories that have been cruelly divided by man-made political borders. For the past 33 years, Sophie Cauvin has been on a journey to engage with these transformed landscapes and reunite these fragmented memories through her art creations.

**Director** Mojtaba Bahadori

**Producer** Mojtaba Bahadori

**Festivals** Film Fest Tuscon 2024, United Nations Climate Change Conference 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere



*Mojtaba Bahadori is a filmmaker, photographer, and visual artist. His background in cinema and gemology informs his unique exploration of the natural world, reflecting his deep connection to both nature and the human experience.*

## THE FALLING SKY

Brazil, Italy, France | 2024 | Yanomamö, Portuguese | 110' | Colour



**Director** Eryk Rocha,  
Gabriela Carneiro Da Cunha

**Producer** Eryk Rocha,  
Gabriela Carneiro Da Cunha

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival 2024, Melbourne International Film Festival 2024, Guanajuato International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Rediance



*Brazilian filmmaker Eryk Rocha's award-winning films have screened at Cannes, Sundance, and Venice. Gabriela Carneiro da Cunha, a filmmaker and researcher, debuts her feature *The Falling Sky* after showcasing work internationally.*

Until the early 1970s, the Yanomami and Watoriki tribes lived in isolation. Brazil's military dictatorship changed that by building a highway across their territory, leading to environmental devastation and exploitation. The documentary follows the tribes' preparations for a traditional funeral rite, which not only holds cultural significance but also unites them in their fight against illegal gold mining to protect their homeland.

# RESTORED CLASSICS

A topical homage to the history of  
world cinema and its pioneers - both  
widely seen and re-discovered.

## BOBO

Armenia | 1991 | Armenian | 67' | Colour



Bobo is dedicated to the renowned film director Sergey Paradjanov, to the unfolding memory of a man who was referred to as a genius, a mime, a tradesman, and a saint. The film altogether breaks away from film genres and logical plot points, and instead becomes a psychoanalysis of the netherworld essence of the great master, a search for other dimensions about which we dare not even sometimes speculate.

**Director** Narine Mkrtchyan,  
Arsen Azatyan

**Producer** Narine Mkrtchyan,  
Arsen Azatyan

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival, 1992

**Premiere** World Premiere

**Sales** Aysor Plus Films



*Narine Mkrtchyan was born in 1960 in Yerevan, USSR [now Armenia]. She is a director and writer known for Bobo (1991), Radio Yerevan (1992), and Anarak vordu veradardz (2008). Arsen Azatyan is an Armenian filmmaker, best known for films like Radio Yerevan (1993), The Return of The Prodigal Son (2008) and The Glass Trinket (2012).*

## FOUR NIGHTS OF A DREAMER

France | 1971 | French | 83' | Colour



This film finds the ascetic master Robert Bresson, once again adapting Fyodor Dostoevsky, here transposing the short story "White Nights" to contemporary Paris. Four Nights of a Dreamer captures a series of meetings across consecutive nights between Jacques and Marthe. Surrounded by the still-smoldering remains of May '68, the two open their hearts to each other, conjuring the majesty and mystery of human connection, at once obscure and clarifying, direct and ambiguous.

**Director** Robert Bresson

**Producer** Gian Vittorio Baldi

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival, 1971, Cannes Film Festival, 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** mk2 Films



*Robert Bresson is one of the most revered and pivotal of French filmmakers. His films are infused with spiritual themes, often attempting to examine issues of redemption and salvation. While his films are undeniably serious and frequently challenging, Bresson's oeuvre is undeniably one of the most sublime in cinema history.*

## MOVING

Japan | 1993 | Japanese | 125' | Colour



Based on a novel, the film centers on precocious fifth grader Renko, who is grappling with the separation of her parents. Faced with the possibility of never seeing her father again and being subjected to a future she did not design, Renko becomes an irrepressible force, stopping at nothing to bring her parents back together.

**Director** Shinji Sōmai

**Producer** Hirohisa Mukuju

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival, 1993  
Toronto International Film Festival, 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** mk2 Films



*Widely lauded in his native Japan, director Shinji Sōmai remains largely unrecognized in the West. A pioneering filmmaker during what is sometimes referred to as the 'lost decade' of Japanese cinema, Shinji Sōmai came to prominence during the 1980s, and directed some of the era's most original and enduring works.*

## PUSHER

Denmark | 1996 | Danish | 105' | Colour



Frank, a small-time drug dealer, faces the worst week of his life when a heroin deal turns sour, leaving him indebted to Balkan drug baron, Milo. As the week progresses, Frank struggles to repay the money amidst mounting pressure from the merciless drug lord. His rising desperation spirals out of control when nothing goes as planned, forcing Frank to confront the dire consequences of his own self-inflicted plight.

**Director** Nicolas Winding Refn

**Producer** Henrik Danstrup

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival, 1993  
Venice International Film Festival, 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** TrustNordisk



*At the age of 24, Nicolas Winding Refn wrote and directed the extremely violent and uncompromising Pusher (1996), which soon became a cult phenomenon. His subsequent films include Bleeder (1999), Pusher II (2004) and Pusher III (2005), and Valhalla Rising (2009) the latter of which led the world media to define his filmic style as 'Refn-esk'.*

## THE FRIENDS

Japan | 1994 | Japanese | 113' | Colour



During the summer holidays, three young adventurous schoolboys have fun spying on an eccentric old man who lives alone in a secluded house. Gradually, they get closer and discover an extraordinary man. From the acclaimed director of *Moving* and *Typhoon Club* comes an enchanting and heartwarming coming-of-age tale.

**Director** Shinji Sōmai

**Producer** Etsuhiro Katô, Hiroyuki Fujikado

**Festivals** Hong Kong International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** mk2 Films



*Widely lauded in his native Japan, director Shinji Shinji Sōmai largely unrecognized in the West. A pioneering filmmaker during what is sometimes referred to as the 'lost decade' of Japanese cinema, Shinji Sōmai came to prominence during the 1980s, and directed some of the era's most original and enduring works.*

# COUNTRY FOCUS: AUSTRALIA

Experience contemporary Australian Cinema as IFFI's Country Focus Australia exhibits its diverse, entertaining and industrial powerhouses at the Festival.



## ADDITION

Australia | 2024 | English | 91' | Colour



Grace Lisa Vandenburg counts everything because numbers hold her world together, but when a chance encounter with Seamus turns her world upside down, Grace's meticulously ordered life starts to unravel.

**Director** Marcelle Lunam

**Producer** Bruna Papandrea, Steve Huten-sky, Jodi Matterson, Cristina Pozzan

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Screen Australia



*Marcelle Lunam is an award-winning Kiwi-Australian, multi-disciplinary and director-designer. She is listed among the Australian Masters of Motion and her awards include Best Film, Byron Bay International Film Festival 2023 for *Habana Shakes* and Rolling Stone Critics Choice Best Director. She has also taught film, animation, design, interactive media, high-end production and emerging tech at AIT, Sydney.*

## FORCE OF NATURE: THE DRY 2

Australia | 2024 | English | 120' | Colour



Five women head out into a remote wilderness on an executive retreat. Several days later, only four return. Federal Police Agent Aaron Falk has a keen interest in the whereabouts of the missing hiker. As he desperately searches for the missing woman and the truth about what happened out there, fragmented memories from his childhood in the same remote landscape fight their way to the surface.

**Director** Robert Connolly

**Producer** Bruna Papandrea, Steve Huten-sky, Jodi Matterson, Eric Bana, Robert Connolly

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Screen Australia



*Robert Connolly is one of Australia's most acclaimed filmmakers. He directed and produced *Paper Planes* (2014), *The Dry* (2020) and *Blueback* (2022) among others and has received numerous accolades. He was also one of the directors for the Emmy-nominated *The Slap* (2011) and recently completed *Deep State* (2019) for Fox Network Group. In 2001, he received a Centenary Medal for services to the Australian Film Industry.*

## IN VITRO

Australia | 2024 | English | 90' | Colour



Layla and her husband Jack live on an isolated cattle property hundreds of miles from the nearest neighbour. With their son away at boarding school, Jack spends his days tending to the livestock and experimenting with new biotechnology. Layla pines for her son and the life she once had. Everything changes when a storm knocks out power to the property and they soon discover that something unknown has been released onto the farm.

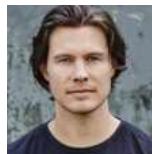
**Director** Tom McKeith,  
Will Howarth

**Producer** Lisa Shaunessey, Bec Janek,  
William Howarth, Rachael Fung

**Festivals** Sydney Film Festival, 2024 | Mel-  
bourne International Film Festival, 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Screen Australia



*Independent filmmakers Will Howarth and Tom McKeith have a longstanding partnership which began in high school. Their feature debut Beast premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2015. In Vitro is their second film together.*

## RUNT

Australia | 2024 | English | 91' | Colour



A heartfelt and hilarious tale of eleven-year-old Annie Shearer and her best friend Runt, an adopted stray dog with remarkable abilities. In a bid to save their family farm, the two aspire to compete at the prestigious Krumpets Dog Show in London, whilst overcoming hurdles, obstacles and nefarious villains.

**Director** John Sheedy

**Producer** Jamie Hilton, Jessy Rolleston Palmer

**Festivals** Melbourne International Film Festival  
2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Screen Australia



*John Sheedy is a multi-award-winning film, television and theatre director, writer, and producer. His select works includes the short Mrs McCutcheon (2017, Best Director, Australian Directors Guild Awards), the feature H Is For Happiness (2019, Special Jury Prize, Berlinale) and the series In Our Blood (2023, Nominee, Best Mini-Series, Best Actor, AACTA Awards).*

## THE MOOGAI

Australia | 2023 | English | 90' | Colour



A young mother is terrorized by an evil spirit, who is intent on taking her children, and must protect them at any cost.

**Director** Jon Bell

**Producer** Samantha Jennings, Mitchell Stanley, Kristina Ceyton

**Festivals** Sundance Film Festival, 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Screen Australia



*Jon Bell is one of the most experienced Indigenous screenwriters in Australia. His television credits include Cleverman (2017, Best Drama, Screen Producers Australia Award; Nominee, Best Television Series, AACTA), Ready For This (2015, Nominee, International Emmy Kids Award; Best Children's Television Series, AACTA). The Moogai is his first feature horror film.*

## THE ROOSTER

Australia | 2023 | English | 101' | Colour



When the body of his oldest friend is found buried in a shallow grave, Dan, a small-town cop, seeks answers from a volatile hermit who may have been the last person to see his friend alive.

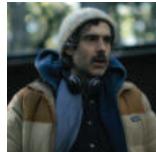
**Director** Mark Leonard Winter

**Producer** Geraldine Hakewill, MahVeen Shahrazi

**Festivals** Melbourne International Film Festival 2023, SXSW Sydney Film Festival 2023 Santa Barbara International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Screen Australia



*Mark Leonard Winter is an Australian actor, writer and filmmaker gaining recognition for his performances in film, television and on stage. The Rooster is his first feature film.*



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## THE SPEEDWAY MURDERS

Australia | 2024 | English | 101' | Colour



A true-crime docu-drama based on the unsolved murders that claimed the lives of four teens working in a burger restaurant in 1978.

**Director** Adam Kamien, Luke Rynderman

**Producer** Bonnie McBride, Anna Vincent, Louise Nathanson, Lisa Scott

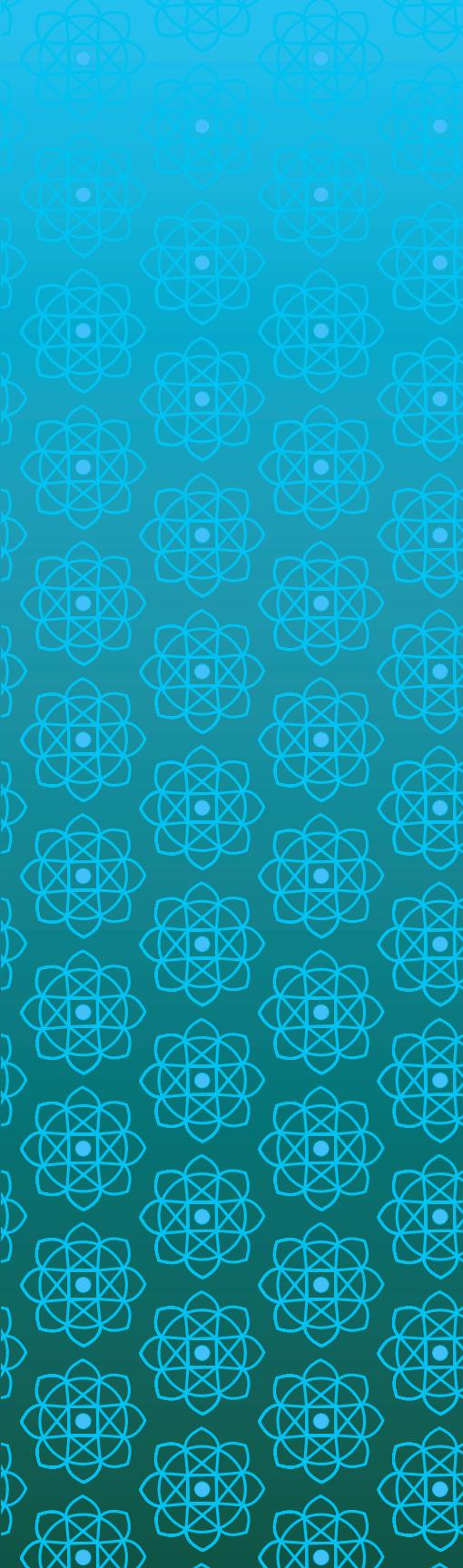
**Festivals** Adelaide Film Festival, 2023

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Screen Australia



*Adam Kamien is an Australian actor, director and writer. Luke Rynderman is an Australian screenwriter and director, with a passion for storytelling based in true events. This is the director-duo's first project.*



# BFI @ IFFI

IFFI presents 5 British films in  
collaboration with BFI. Discover UK's  
challenging and topical powerhouses  
at the festival.



## IN CAMERA

UK | 2023 | English | 96' | Color



Aden dreams of becoming a successful actor, but the grind of the auditions, with its rejections and microaggressions, is starting to take its toll. But when self-assured fashion and lifestyle guru Conrad moves in, his confidence inspires Aden to take it upon himself to find a new part to play. Khalid's debut film is about how this struggling British Asian actor confronts film industry prejudice and social hypocrisy head-on.

**Director** Naqqash Khalid

**Producer** Juliette Larthe, Mary Burke

**Festivals** British Independent Film Awards 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Together Films



*Naqqash Khalid is a writer, director and producer known for In Camera (2023).*

## LAYLA

UK | 2024 | English | 100' | Color



Layla is a struggling Arab drag queen who hides their insecurities behind a radical facade. Performing at a corporate Pride party, they catch the eye of Max, a successful white gay man whose attention sweeps Layla off their feet. The two start an intoxicating romance, but as Layla starts to alter who they are in order to keep Max's affections, they both have to face uncomfortable truths.

**Director** Amrou Al-Kadhi

**Producer** Savannah James-Bayly

**Festivals** Sundance Film Festival 2024, BFI Flare 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Independent Entertainment



*Amrou Al-Kadhi is a British-Iraqi writer, drag performer, and filmmaker whose work primarily focuses on queer identity, cultural representation and racial politics. Al-Kadhi made a cameo appearance in the 2021 Sony's Spider-Man Universe (SSU) film Venom: Let There Be Carnage as a temporary host of the title character. Layla is Al-Kadhi's debut feature film.*

## BRING THEM DOWN

Ireland, UK | 2024 | English, Irish | 106' | Colour



Michael, the last son of a shepherding family, lives with his ailing father, Ray. When a conflict with rival farmer Gary and his son Jack escalates, a devastating chain of events leaves both families permanently altered.

**Director** Christopher Andrews

**Producer** Ivana MacKinnon, Jacob Swan Hyam, Ruth Treacy, Julianne Forde, Jean-Yves Roubin, Cassandre Warnauts

**Festivals** Toronto International Film Festival 2024

BFI London Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Charades



*UK-based writer-director Christopher Andrews directed short films *Fire* (2015) and *Stalker* (2018), and scripted upcoming films *Cavendish* and a *Frankenstein in Baghdad* adaptation.*

## THE DRAUGHTSMAN'S CONTRACT

UK | 1982 | English | 107' | Colour



Set in rural Wiltshire in 1694, Greenaway's breakthrough feature has an arrogant young artist insisting on payment in sexual favours when a woman commissions him to paint a series of pictures of her family's house and grounds. But things are not as they may seem. Acerbic dialogues, flamboyant costumes, crisp compositions and, above all, Michael Nyman's Purcell-based score make for intriguingly intelligent entertainment.

**Director** Peter Greenaway

**Producer** David Payne

**Festivals** Venice Film Festival 1982, Chicago International Film Festival 1982, Berlin Film Festival 1983

**Sales** BFI



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*Peter Greenaway is a British film director, editor, screenwriter and a visual artist. He has produced a wealth of short and feature-length films, but also paintings, novels and other books. His films are characterized by an overpowering visual aspect and his recurring interest in Renaissance, Baroque and Flemish art. Some notable among them: *The Cook, the Thief, His Wife & Her Lover* (1989) and *Rembrandt's J'Accuse* (2008).*

## SKYPEALS

UK | 2023 | English | 91' | Colour



Adam works night-shifts at a motorway service station and lives a lonely life. Upon hearing that his estranged father has died, he finds himself in search of answers. Piecing together a complicated image of a man he never knew, Adam starts to become convinced he descends from an alien race.

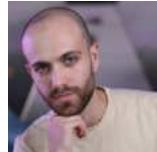
**Director** Moin Hussain

**Producer** Michelle Stein

**Festivals** Venice Film Festival 2023,  
London Film Festival 2023

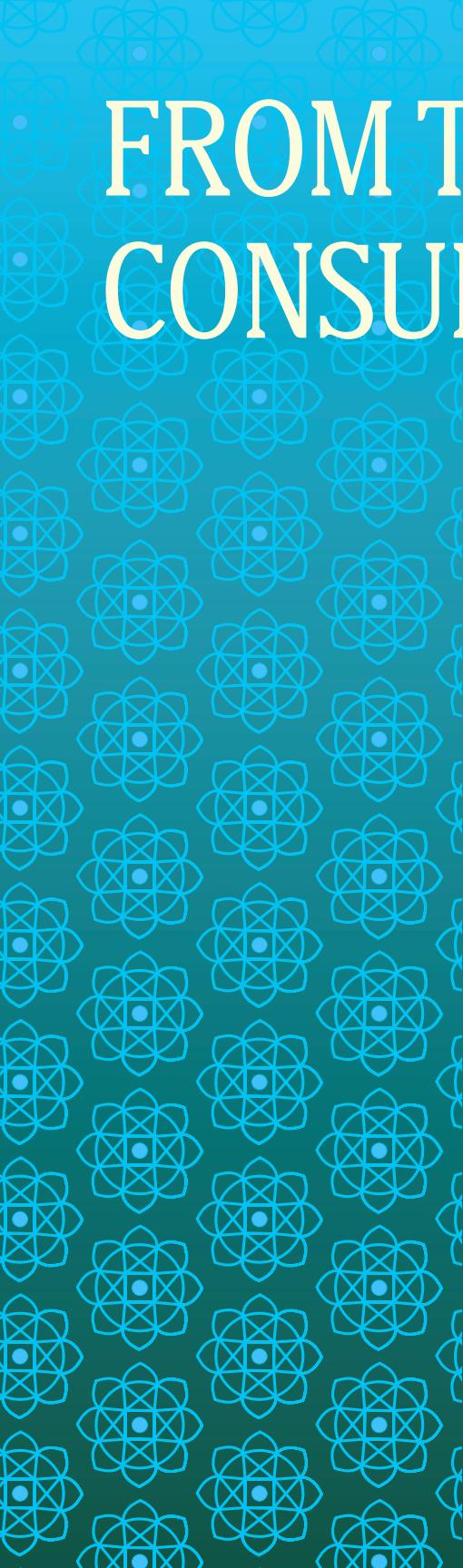
**Premiere** Asia Premiere

**Sales** Bank Side Films



*London-based writer-director Moin's short films have competed at Cannes, Sitges, BFI London, and Edinburgh festivals. Named a Screen International "Star of Tomorrow," he is represented by Casarotto Ramsay & Associates.*

# FROM THE CONSULATES



## A FRAGILE FLOWER (DOA HOA MONG MANH)

Vietnam, USA | 2024 | Vietnamese | 96' | Color



On September 5, 1971, Mexico's women's soccer team reached the World Cup final, breaking gender barriers in a male-dominated sport and inspiring respect despite societal challenges and their ultimate defeat.

**Director** Mai Thu Huyen

**Producer** Mai Thu Huyen, Jacqueline Thao Nguyen



*Mai Thu Huyen is a famous director, producer, actress and entrepreneur in Vietnam. She is the founder & CEO of Tincom Media Company. She has been working in the film industry for nearly 30 years, and is the recipient of many awards.*



CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM  
IN MUMBAI

## JÍKURI: JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF THE TARAHUMARA

Mexico, USA, France | 2023 | Spanish, French, Raramuri | 95' | Colour

**Director** Federico Cecchetti

**Producer** Edher Campos, Jana Díaz Juhl, Pau Brunet, Alejandro Mares



*Federico Cecchetti is originally from Mexico City. He graduated from the University Center for Cinematographic Studies (CUEC) at UNAM. For Transhumantes (2009), he received an Ariel Award nomination in the category of Best Fiction Short Film. His first feature film (El sueño de Mara'akame) won the Eye Award for Best First or Second Mexican Feature Film at the Morelia International Film Festival (FICM).*



**MÉXICO**

CONSULADO EN MUMBAI

## SO CLOSE TO THE CLOUDS (TAN CERCA DE LAS NUBES)

Mexico | 2023 | 95' | Color, B&W



On September 5, 1971, Mexico's women's soccer team reached the World Cup final, breaking gender barriers in a male-dominated sport and inspiring respect despite societal challenges and their ultimate defeat.

**Director** Manuel Cañibe

**Producer** Aida A. Bautista, Laura Beron, Christian Cañibe, Manuel Cañibe



*Manuel Cañibe is a Mexican graphic designer known for his bold style, influenced by the aesthetics of the past. His passion for color is one of his primary tools of expression. Manuel and his brother Christian are the founders of the visual studio ÉRAMOS TANTOS.*



## THE DARK CASTLE

Belarus, Russia | 2024 | 140' | Colour



Based on the novel "Black Castle Olshansky" by Uladzimir Karatkevich. In the center of the plot - a young professor Anton Kosmich, who studies the history of the country and is mystically transported to the Middle Ages.

**Director** Kirill Kuzin

**Producer** Yuri Alexey, Gleb Shprygov

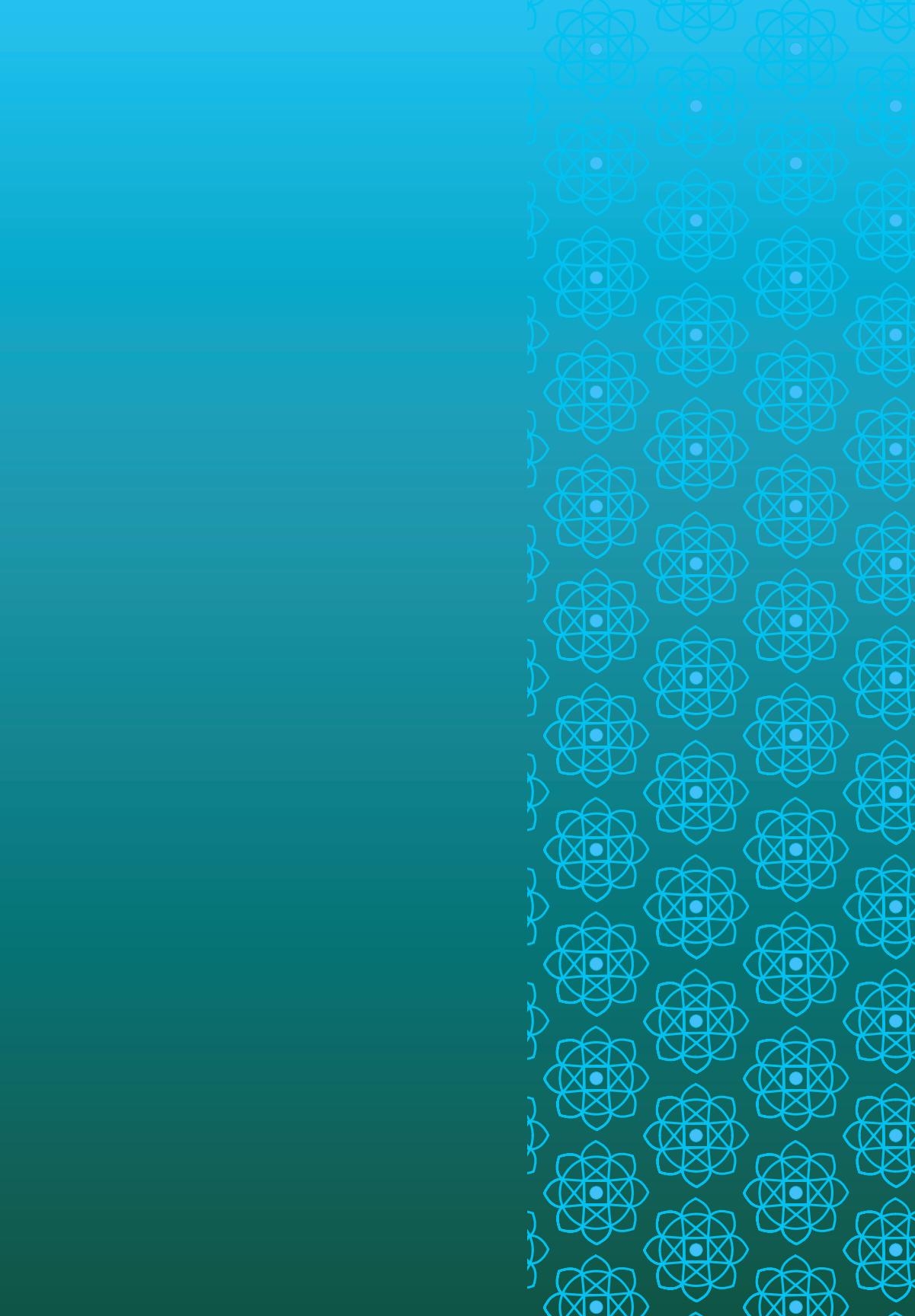
**Premiere** World Premiere



*Born March 18, 1974. He studied at the studio of advertising and cinema of Yuri Grymov. Since 1996, he has worked on television, filmed music videos and commercials.*



CONSULATE GENERAL OF  
BELARUS IN MUMBAI

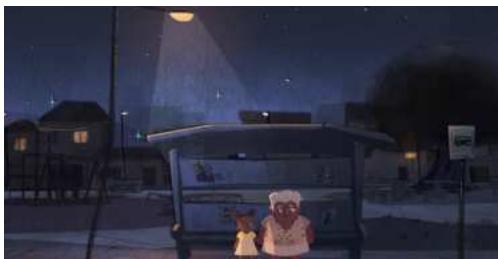


# UNICEF @ IFFI

A collection of films presented in collaboration with UNICEF, IFFI's Cause Partner that reflect on the dynamic forces which shape childhood and its socio-economic contexts.

## CLARICE'S DREAM (O SONHO DE CLARICE)

Brazil | 2024 | Portuguese | 83' | Colour



The film is a story of an extremely creative girl who goes through the process of overcoming the loss of her mother. It is a film that speaks of friendship, companionship, and the many beauties that surround us every day, often unnoticed.

**Director** Guto Bicalho, Fernando Gutierrez

**Producer** Fernando Gutierrez

**Festivals** 56º Festival de Brasília do Cinema Brasileiro 2023

VBIFF - Vancouver Black Independent Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere



*Fernando Gutiérrez, Ph.D. in Arts from UnB, specializes in voice, performance, and animation, directing short films like O Mascate and José. Guto Bicalho, director and storyboard artist, directed Sangro and Fuga Animada and supervised storyboards for Perlimp and various series on Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon, and Disney.*

## GYPSY (NOMADIC TRIBE)

India | 2024 | Marathi | 120' | Colour



The story of a family in a nomadic tribe who wander aimlessly throughout their life. Having to eat stale food after begging every day, the little boy Jotya is very much attracted to fresh-hot food. But he now has to console himself, only with its smell. Finally, the smell of a substance drives Jotya crazy, and it gives him the opportunity to change his life.

**Director** Shashi Chandrakant Khandare

**Producer** Bolpat Nirmitee, Shraddha Shashi Khandare



*Shashi Chandrakant Khandare is an Indian filmmaker. He started his film career as a clapper and then became an Associate Director. He has received many national and international awards for his short film Surma (2021). Gypsy is his debut feature film.*

## KABULIWALA

India | 1957 | Bengali | 108' | B&W



An Afghan fruit seller befriends a small Bengali girl in Calcutta because she reminds him of his daughter. He gets a letter notifying him of his daughter's illness and decides to return, but kills a man in a dispute on the eve of his journey and spends the next ten years in jail. Adapted from a story by Rabindranath Tagore.

**Director** Tapan Sinha

**Producer** Charuchitra

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 1957



*Tapan Sinha is one of India's most prominent filmmakers, and one of the forerunners of the 'Parallel Cinema' movement. In his six-decade long career, he made films in Bengali, Hindi and Oriya languages, straddling genres from social realism, family drama, labor rights, to children's fantasy films. This year marks the birth centenary of Tapan Sinha.*

## THROUGH ROCKS AND CLOUDS (RAIZ)

Peru, Chile | 2024 | Quechua, Spanish | 83' | Colour



Feliciano, an eight-year-old alpaca herder, feels euphoric: Peru has a chance to qualify for the World Cup. Meanwhile the pressure of a mining company puts Feliciano's village at risk and threatens his world and his dreams.

**Director** Franco García Becerra

**Producer** Diego Sarmiento, Jorge Constantino, Annemarie Gunkel, Franco García Becerra, Juan Francisco González

**Festivals** Berlin International Film Festival 2024, Locarno International Film Festival 2024, Seattle International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** LuxBox



*Franco García's short film Lima (2011) won Best Short Film and Best Screenplay from Peru's Ministry of Culture and Best Short at the Peruvian Film Festival in Paris (2013). His debut feature Southern Winds (2018), premiered at the Lima Film Festival (Peru), also was selected at several film festivals across the globe.*

## THE REBELS (MYATEZHNIKI)

Russian Federation | 2024 | Russian | 120' | Colour



An artful businessman intends to build a large commercial complex, but there is no free space for this in the city center. The businessman incites selfish city officials to demolish the building of a boarding school for disabled children, where the heroine of the film, the silent girl Nastya, ends up. But the children categorically disagree with this and defend their home.

**Director** Vladimir Alenikov

**Producer** Vladimir Alenikov, Konstantin Serebriakov, Elena Tkachuk

**Festivals** Shanghai International Film Festival 2024,

Moscow International Film Festival 2024

**Premiere** India Premiere

**Sales** Eastwood Agency



*Vladimir Alenikov is a theatre and film director, writer, and poet. His musical *The Drayman and the King* (1990) was widely praised at the Toronto International Film Festival and the Los Angeles Film Festival winning him global recognition. He is the Head of the Moscow Musical and Drama Theater 'ANTE'.*

# ACCOLADES

The most talked-about and globally feted films of the year are specially presented for cinephile audiences of the festival.

## ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT

France, India, Netherlands, Luxembourg | 2024 | Malayalam, Hindi | 118' | Colour



In Mumbai, Nurse Prabha's routine is troubled when she receives an unexpected gift from her estranged husband. Her younger roommate, Anu, tries in vain to find a spot in the city to be intimate with her boyfriend. A trip to a beach town allows them to find a space for their desires to manifest.

**Director** Payal Kapadia

**Producer** Thomas Hakim, Julien Graff

**Festivals** Cannes Film Festival, 2024

Toronto International Film Festival, 2024  
San Sebastián International Film Festival, 2024

**Sales** Spirit Media



*Payal Kapadia is a Mumbai based filmmaker. She studied Film Direction at the Film & Television Institute of India. Her short films *Afternoon Clouds* (2017) and *And What Is The Summer Saying* (2018) premiered at the Cinéfondation and the Berlinale, respectively. Her first feature film *A Night of Knowing Nothing* (2021) premiered at Cannes, Director's Fortnight, where it won the Golden Eye for Best Documentary.*

## THE ROOM NEXT DOOR

Spain | 2024 | English | 107' | Colour



Ingrid and Martha were close friends in their youth, when they worked together at the same magazine. Ingrid went on to become an autofiction novelist while Martha became a war reporter. Eventually, they were separated by the circumstances of life. After years of being out of touch, they meet again in an extreme but strangely sweet situation.

**Director** Pedro Almodóvar

**Producer** Agustín Almodóvar, Esther García

**Festivals** Venice Film Festival, 2024

Toronto International Film Festival, 2024  
San Sebastián International Film Festival, 2024

BFI London Film Festival, 2024

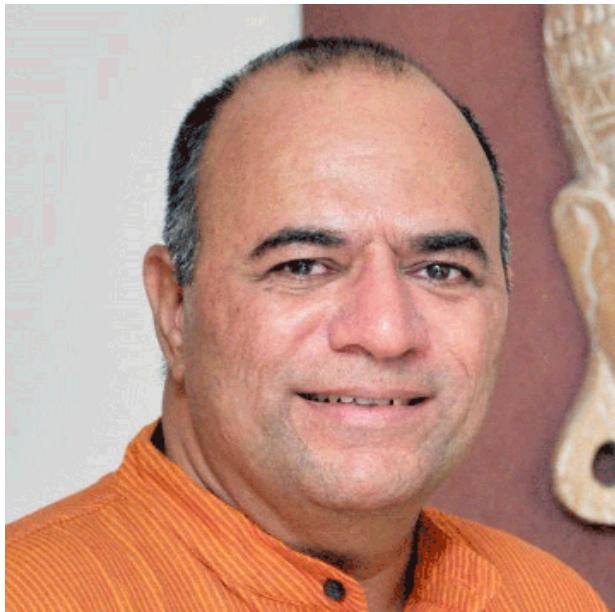
**Sales** Sony Pictures India



*Pedro Almodóvar is one of the most celebrated Spanish filmmakers internationally. His many directorial credits include *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (1988), *Talk to Her* (2002), *Bad Education* (2004), *Volver* (2006), *Broken Embraces* (2009) and *Julieta* (2016). His many accolades include Academy Awards, BAFTA Awards, Emmy Awards, and Golden Globes. *The Room Next Door* (2024) is his first English language film.*

# MEET OUR INDIAN PANORAMA FEATURE JURY

Consisting of eminent film personalities as the Jury Chairman and 13 jury members, the Feature Film Jury selects 20 films above 70 minutes duration made in any Indian language for the Indian Panorama section.



# DR. CHANDRAPRAKASH DWIVEDI

CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Chandraprakash Dwivedi's early exposure to ancient Indian scriptures, literature, and history fuelled his passion. During college, he wrote and directed short plays inspired by Puranic literature, winning awards for his work. His notable plays include *Vetal Uvach*, *Eklavya*, and *Khagras*. Pursuing his passion, he transitioned to television, creating the epic series *Chanakya* in 1991, which became a landmark for its research and authenticity. *Chanakya* depicted Indian Nationalism and sparked debate. He followed it with *Mrityunjay* and other acclaimed series like *Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj*, *Upanishad Ganga*, and *Surajya Sanhita*. Dr. Dwivedi's first film, *Pinjar*, won a National Film Award. Subsequent films include *Mohalla Assi*, *Zed Plus*, and *Samrat Prithviraj*. He was the creative producer for *Ramsetu* and *Oh My God 2*. Honoured with one of the highest civilian recognitions, the Padmashri in 2022, he also received various other accolades. He was a member of the Central Advisory Board on culture and CBFC and other institutes of National importance. Presently, he is on board of advisors for Rishihood University, Sonipat, Chanakya University at Bangalaru and Deccan Education Society, Pune.

# MANOJ JOSHI



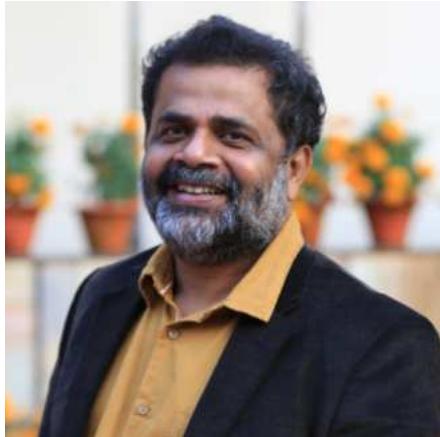
Manoj N. Joshi is an Indian actor in film, stage, and television. Known for his comic roles, he has acted in over 70 films. A recipient of the National Film Award and Padma Shri, he began his career in Marathi theatre and has performed in Gujarati and Hindi theatre. Joshi is the vice-president of the Bombay Art Society. Notable works include TV series like *Chanakya* and films like *Sarfarosh*, *Hungama*, and *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*. He's popularly known for his role as Kachra Seth in *Phir Hera Pheri*.

# SUSHMITA MUKHERJEE



Sushmita Mukherjee, an actor and English Literature post-graduate from Delhi University, has starred in over 100 films and worked with Oscar-winning director Jeffrey D. Brown in *Sold*. Known for her role in Doordarshan's *Karamchand*, she founded the theatre group Naatak Company in 1988. She co-produces TV shows and films with her husband Raja Bundela and founded Rudraani Kalgram Eevam Shodh Sansthan to support marginalized women and children. She has penned four books and is a Professor of Practice at a premier Indian university.

# HIMANSU SEKHAR KHATUA



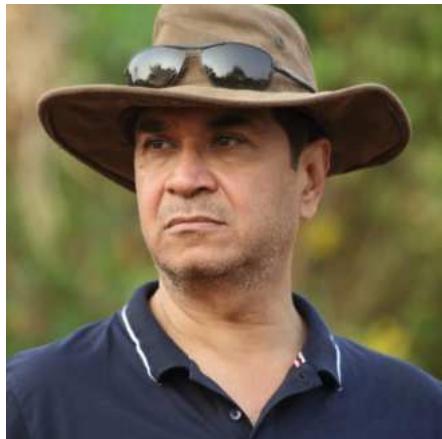
Himansu Sekhar Khatua is an accomplished Indian film director, educationalist, and journalist. Renowned for National Award-winning films like *Shunya Swaroopa*, *Kathantara*, *Krantidhara*, and *Matira Bandhan*, he significantly influenced Odia cinema. As a distinguished figure in film education, he was the director of Satyajit Ray Film and TV Institute, Kolkata and established key schools at KIIT University. His work continues to impact Indian cinema, highlighting cultural authenticity and social consciousness.

# OINAM GAUTAM



Oinam Gautam is an editor and director, who initially began working with photography and multimedia before transitioning to films. He worked with a few directorial stalwarts of Manipuri cinema, such as Aribam Syam Sharma and served as General Secretary of Film Forum, Manipur. His film *Phijigee Mani* was selected to the Indian Panorama in 2011, screened at IFFI and then awarded Best Manipuri Feature Film in the 59th Film Awards.

# ASHUU TRIKHA



Ashuu Trikha's passion for films led him to join the industry right after his tenth standard in 1978. Despite this, he graduated as an Electronics Engineer from Bombay University. He ventured into educational films, using animation to simplify engineering concepts, and then moved into corporate films and TV commercials, directing almost 350 ads. His return to Bollywood was marked by a successful promotional campaign for *Ziddi*, leading to over 90 film promotions. He directed feature films like *Deewaanapan*, *Baabarr*, and *Alag*, and produced *Koyelaanchal*. Trikha also writes scripts and has a blog, Film Curry.

# S.M. PATIL



S.M. Patil is an acclaimed Indian filmmaker in Kannada cinema, recognized for films like *Ninagoskara*, *Nammoora Mandaara Hoove*, and *Beladingala Baale*. He wrote and directed *Nanna Kanasina Hoove* and contributed to films like *Sangharsha*, *Nishkarsha*, and *Prathyartha* as Associate Director and script assistant. As a lyricist, he wrote songs for *Beladingala Baale* and *Nammoora Mandaara Hoove*. Patil scripted TV serials for ETV, Udaya TV, Suvarna TV, Doordarshan, and Suprabhaata TV. He served in CBFC, Bangalore, has written articles for notable magazines, and was a jury member at the National Film Awards Committee and IFFI, Goa.

# NEELABH KAUL



Neelaabh Kaul, an alumnus of the Film & Television Institute of India, Pune, is a cinematographer by specialization and a Filmmaker by passion. He has worked on award-winning short films and documentaries such as *Kashmir Files* and *Turning Point*. His feature films span from Parallel Cinema, like *Tara* and *Abhaas*, to commercial hits like *Chhal*, *Janasheen*, and the acclaimed *Lahore*. With a wide range of experience and accolades, Neelaabh Kaul is a distinguished figure in both independent and mainstream cinema.

# SUSANT MISRA



Susant Misra, a graduate from FTII, has made notable films like *Nischal Badal*, *Indradhanura Chhai*, *Biswaprakash*, *Dharini*, *Samarpanam*, *Josef-Born in Grace*, *Murchhana* etc. Susant's films have received many National and International awards and have been feted at Cannes (Un Certain Regard) Sochi (Grand Pearl), Montreal, Rotterdam, Shanghai, Cairo, Brussels, Madrid, Singapore, MAMI, MIFF, IFFI etc. Susant teaches cinema at various institutes and has served as a jury member at various awards and festivals.

# ARUN KUMAR BOSE



A graduate in sound recording and engineering from Film & Television Institute of India, Pune, he started at Doordarshan New Delhi in prototype production and TV research, funded by UNESCO and Ford Foundation. He joined Prasad Film Laboratories, Chennai in 1981 and worked on over 400 films across languages and won many regional awards. Notably, he mixed *Rangeela* with A.R. Rahman in Dolby Stereo. He served on panels of FTII, SRFTI, IGNOU, and regional film schools. His notable works include *Razia Sultana*, *Karma*, *Kuruthipunal*, *Maachis*, *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, and many Tamil films by Balu Mahendra.

# RATNOTTAMA SENGUPTA



Ratnottama Sengupta, an Indian journalist and award-winning director, debuted with *And They Made Classics....* She has written for the Encyclopaedia Britannica, served on the CBFC and NFDC Script Committee, and won a National Award. Formerly the Arts Editor of The Times of India, she writes columns for Borderless Journal, Silhouette, and Kanjik. She's authored several volumes and edited works on Indian cinema. Currently, she teaches film appreciation and mass communication, programmes film festivals, and curates art exhibitions.

# SAMEER HANCHATE



Sameer Hanchate is an award winning filmmaker from Mumbai known for his Hindi feature film 'Gafla', inspired by the 1992 stock market scam that rocked the Indian economy. Premiering at London Film Festival, it ranked there among the Top 10 films by Peter Bradshaw of 'The Guardian', was in IFFI's 'Indian Panorama', and received the 'V Shantaram Best Debut Director' award and 'Best Script' award at the Cyprus International Film Festival. Sameer trained at the New York Film Academy and Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in New York. And he's a Visiting Faculty at IIM Bangalore for their Management Programme in Media & Entertainment.

# PRIYA KRISHNASWAMY



Priya Krishnaswamy, based in Mumbai, is a two-time National Award-winning film producer, screenwriter, director, and editor. A graduate of FTII, Pune, she has edited numerous award-winning films, TV serials, and ads. Her documentary *The Eye of the Fish*, won the National Award for Best Arts/Cultural Film in 2003. *A Presence in My Dream* and *Brickmaster* are archived in the U.S. Library of Congress. Her feature film *Gangoobai* was selected for NFDC's Screenwriters' Lab and produced by NFDC. Her *Baaram* won the National Award for Best Tamil Feature Film in 2019.

# INDIAN PANORAMA FEATURE

The Indian Panorama feature film section at the 55th IFFI showcases a curated selection of contemporary Indian films, representing the country's diverse cinematic landscape. This prestigious section highlights exceptional storytelling, cinematic excellence, and cultural diversity, offering a window into India's vibrant film-making traditions.

Feature films selected for Indian Panorama by an eminent jury, demonstrate artistic merit, technical excellence and social relevance, reflecting the complexity and richness of Indian society. This platform provides global exposure to Indian filmmakers and offers international audiences a glimpse into the nation's dynamic film industry.

By celebrating Indian cinema's pluralism and creativity, Indian Panorama strengthens cultural exchange, fosters collaboration, and inspires cross-cultural dialogue.

## SWATANTRYA VEER SAVARKAR

Colour | 178' | 2024 | Hindi



**Director** Randeep Hooda

**Producer** Randeep Hooda Films

**Cinematographer** Arvind Krishna

**Editor** Kamesh Karna, Rajesh Pandey

**Screenwriter** Utkarsh Naithani, Randeep Hooda

**Cast** Randeep Hooda Ankita Lokhande Amit Sial Rajesh Khera Mark Bennington Russel Bank



Randeep Hooda is an Indian actor, writer, producer, director, and equestrian, known for his versatility and physical transformations. He gained acclaim for roles in Monsoon Wedding, Once Upon a Time in Mumbai, Highway, Sarbjit, and made his Hollywood debut in Extraction. He also appeared in the series CAT on television.



Randeep Hooda Films LLP is a dynamic production company dedicated to telling stories that resonate with authenticity, depth, and cultural significance.

This film explores an untold story of India's independence, diverging from the well-known narrative of non-violence. British Prime Minister Clement Attlee acknowledged that India's freedom was granted not solely because of Gandhi, but due to the nation's armed and trained populace. Unlike Gandhi's non-violent approach, Savarkar justified using violence for independence. The story spans 53 years of Savarkar's life, portraying him as one of India's most controversial, unsung, and misunderstood freedom fighters. It highlights his love for the motherland and the dire consequences faced by him and his followers. Savarkar's relentless pursuit of freedom was marked by fierce ideological battles and unwavering conviction. Ironically, while Gandhi, the apostle of non-violence, died of a bullet, Savarkar, an advocate of armed struggle, fasted unto death. The film captures Savarkar's complex legacy and the price he paid for his beliefs.

**OPENING FEATURE FILM**



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## 12TH FAIL

Colour | 147' | 2023 | Hindi



**Director** Vidhu Vinod Chopra

**Producer** V C Films

**Cinematographer** Rangarajan Ramabadran

**Editor** Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Jaskunwar Kohli

**Screenwriter** Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Jaskunwar Kohli, Anurag Pathak, Aayush Saxena, Vikas Divyakirtii

**Cast** Vikrant Massey, Medha Shankar, Anant V Joshi, Anshumaan Pushkar



*A Graduate from FTII Pune, Vidhu Vinod Chopra directed many hits like Khamosh, Parinda, 1942 - A Love Story, Mission Kashmir and Eklavya. His documentary, An Encounter with Faces, Parinda, and Eklavya were India's official entries to the Oscars. He produced Munna Bhai MBBS, Lage Raho MunnaBhai, 3 idiots*



*Vinod Chopra Films, founded by Vinod Chopra, produced notable films like Sanju and 12th Fail.*

Inspiring story of the young protagonist's journey from failure in the 12th grade to the Indian Civil Service. Inspired from a real-life incident, it depicts the hardships and challenges that Manoj Sharma, a village lad from the hinterlands notorious for dacoits, has to encounter to fulfil his dream. His father loses job being a whistle blower. The local politician makes sure Manoj cannot find work in the village. His family survives through the gradual selling of its meagre livestock. Manoj harbors an impossible dream – to pass UPSC, the world's toughest entrance exam. His competitors are over a million candidates from the finest educational institutes across India. For a poor village lad, with poor English and less resources, this is an impossible dream. In his quest he is aided by Shraddha, whose friendship, and later love, keeps him motivated.



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## 35 CHINNA KATHA KAADU

COLOUR | 143' | Telegu | 2024



**Director** Nanda Kishore Emani

**Producer** Waltair Productions Pvt.Ltd., Srujan Yarabolu

**Cinematographer** Niketh Bommi

**Editor** T. C. Prasanna

**Screenwriter** Nanda Kishore Emani

**Cast** Nivetha Thomas, Priyadarshi Pulikonda, Vishwadev Rachakonda, Gautami, Arun Dev Pothula



*Nanda Kishore Emani, a chartered-accountant-turned-filmmaker from Vishakhapatnam, works in Telugu cinema in Hyderabad. He is known for directing 35-Chinna Katha Kaadu, Pitta Kathalu and Stand-Up Rahul.*

In a modest home near the Tirupathi temple, 28-year-old homemaker Saraswathi and her husband Prasad live with their sons Arun and Varun. At 16, Saraswathi chose marriage over education. Her lack of schooling becomes a challenge when Arun struggles with math, leading to poor grades and suspension. Overwhelmed, Arun tries to run away but is found by Sarada, an acquaintance of Saraswathi. Determined to help, Saraswathi learns math herself and teaches Arun with Sarada's guidance. This leads to personal growth and academic improvement. Arun passes his exam, and Saraswathi completes her 10th-grade education with distinction. Their journey underscores perseverance, family support, and community intervention.



*Waltair Productions transforms ordinary stories into cinematic spectacles, known for films like Pareshan and Double Engine.*

## AADUJEEVITHAM

COLOUR | 172' | Malayalam | 2023



**Director** Blessy

**Producer** Visual Romance

**Cinematographer** Sunil K S

**Editor** Sreekar Prasad

**Screenplay** Blessy

**Cast** Prithviraj Sukumaran, K. R. Gokul, Amala Paul, Jimmy Jean-Louis, Shobha Mohan, Talib Al Balushi, Rik Aby.



Blessy Ipe Thomas, known as Blessy, is an acclaimed Indian film director and screenwriter in Malayalam cinema. He has won a National Film Award and six Kerala State Film Awards.

*Aadujeevitham*, based on Benyamin's novel by the same name, follows Najib, who leaves his family in Kerala for a better life in the Middle East. Instead, he's forced into hard labor on a goat farm, losing hope and identity. This heart-wrenching story depicts his survival in harsh conditions, cut off from his family and language. Through a unique bond with goats and camels, Najib keeps his spirit alive. After three years, he escapes his dire situation with unexpected help, highlighting one man's plight that mirrors the struggles of many.



Visual Romance, a Kerala-based film production house, was founded by award-winning filmmaker Blessy Ipe Thomas.

## AAMAR BOSS

Colour | 139' | Bengali | 2024



<b>Director</b>	Nandita Roy, Shiboprosad Mukherjee
<b>Producer</b>	Windows Production House
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Indranath Marick
<b>Editor</b>	Moloy Laha
<b>Screenwriter</b>	Nandita Roy, Shiboprosad Mukherjee
<b>Cast</b>	Rakhee Gulzar, Srabanti Chatterjee, Sauraseni Maitra, Shruti Das, and Gourab Chatterjee



*Shiboprosad Mukherjee and Nandita Roy are acclaimed Indian filmmakers known for socially relevant films like *Icche*, *Praktan*, *Bela Seshe*, and *Haami*. Frequently collaborating, Shiboprosad is also a writer and actor, while Nandita debuted as co-director with *Icche*.*

*Amar Boss* centers on Animesh, a 40-year-old publishing house owner estranged from his wife, who is focused on her career in Mumbai. His mother, Shubhra Goswami, recovering from a heart operation, decides to work as an intern at his office, to his dismay. Shubhra's decision to allow employees to bring their parents/in-laws to work, setting up a daycare for the elderly, creates tension between her and Animesh. When Animesh rushes to Mumbai after his father-in-law's death, Shubhra's initiative becomes a contentious issue. Animesh wants to shut it down, while Shubhra aims to make it a profitable venture. The story unfolds around this conflict and its impact on the company and its employees.

### WORLD PREMIERE



*Windows Production House, established in 2002 by Nandita Roy and Shiboprosad Mukherjee, produces Bengali films.*

# ARTICLE 370

COLOUR | 160' | Hindi | 2024



**Director** Aditya Suhas Jambhale

**Producer** B 62 Films, Jio Studios

**Cinematographer** Siddharth Vasani

**Editor** Shivkumar V. Panicker

**Screenwriter** Aditya Dhar, Aditya Suhas Jambhale, Arjun Dhawan, Monal Thakar

**Cast** Yami Gautam Dhar, Priyamani, Raj Arjun, Shivam Khajuria, Vaibhav Tatwawadi, Arun Govil, Raj Zutshi, Divya Seth, Kiran Karmarkar, Sumit Kaul, Iravati Harshe, Mohan Agashe.



*Aditya Suhas Jambhale, a two-time National Award-winning Goan filmmaker and engineer, founded Shree Mahalasa Productions. His films Aaba Aiktaay Naa? and Kharvas received National Awards, showcasing his theatre involvement.*



*B62 Studios, co-founded by Lokesh and Aditya Dhar, and Jio Studios, produce quality Indian cinema.*

Following the 2016 Kashmir unrest, young local field agent Zooni Haksar is picked by Rajeshwari Swaminathan from the Prime Minister's Office for a top-secret mission. Their goal is to crack down on terrorism and end the billion-dollar conflict economy in the valley by abrogating the notorious Article 370, all without spilling innocent blood. Rajeshwari meets former Governor Jagmohan Patil to discuss the plan and brings the NIA to Kashmir to stabilize the situation. NIA agent Zooni, demoted after her team's neutralization of terrorist Burhan Wani, is tasked with guarding Salahuddin Jalal in Delhi. Parveena Andrahi criticizes the Centre's operations, leading to tensions. Zooni, motivated by her father's unjust death, reluctantly agrees to return to Kashmir. She assembles a team in Srinagar to investigate funding for stone-pelting incidents. They uncover a network using code names of Islamic archangels. The mission turns into a complex battle against corruption and terrorism.



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**BHOOTPORI**

COLOUR | 110' | Bengali | 2024



**Director** Soukarya Ghosal

**Producer** Surinder Films Pvt. Ltd

**Cinematographer** Aalok Maiti

**Editor** Argha Kamal Mitra

**Screenwriter** Soukarya Ghosal

**Cast** Jaya Ahsan, Ritwick Chakraborty, Sudipta Chakraborty, Abhijit Guha, Chattopadhyay Madhab, Bishantak Mukherjee, Santilal Mukherjee.



*Soukarya Ghosal is an Indian filmmaker, director, screenwriter, illustrator, and music composer. He is acclaimed for Rainbow Jelly, a food fantasy film, and Bhootpori, which won the Best Screenplay award at the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival.*

In this horror genre film, a woman passes away, leaving her restless soul to encounter a young boy. She seeks his assistance to unravel the mystery behind her death. Despite their differences, the boy and the ghost form a unique bond. As they navigate this emotional journey, the film delves into themes of life, death, and the afterlife, blending heartwarming moments with thrilling twists. The narrative captivates audiences with its exploration of the living and the departed, providing a unique cinematic experience that is both touching and suspenseful.



*Surinder Films, founded by Surinder Singh, produces Bengali films, TV shows, and web series since 1970.*

# BRAMAYUGAM

B&W | 139' | Malayalam | 2024



**Director** Rahul Sadasivan

**Producer** Night Shift Studios

**Cinematographer** Shehnad Jalal

**Editor** Shafique Mohamed Ali

**Screenplay** Rahul Sadasivan, T D Ramakrishnan

**Cast** Mammootty, Arjun Ashokan, Sidharth Bharathan, Manikantan Achari, Amanda Liz



Rahul Sadasivan, a Kerala-based filmmaker and London Film Academy graduate, is known for unconventional horror. He debuted with *Red Rain* (2013) and created acclaimed films like *Bhoothakaalam* (2022) and *Bramayugam* (2024).

Set in the 17th Century, where Tantra/Maya was an everyday reality, a courtly singer who sings hymns of praises about gods and rulers, loses his way after narrowly escaping from a slave market. His life takes an unexpected turn when he accidentally stumbles upon a mysterious mansion within deep forest. A language period folk horror film inspired from the elements of sacred mystery, myth and folklore of Kerala, *Bramayugam* is a story with bits of class politics and religious philosophy.



Night Shift Studios excels in innovative content, known for *Brahmayugam*, blending traditional narratives with contemporary techniques.

## GHARAT GANPATI

Colour | 139' | Marathi | 2024



<b>Director</b>	Navjyot Narendra Bandiwadekar
<b>Producer</b>	Navigns Studio Pvt. Ltd.
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Shelly Sharma, Prasad Bhende
<b>Editor</b>	Ashish Mhatre
<b>Screenwriter</b>	Vaibhav Chinchalkar, Navjyot Bandiwadekar, Alok Sutar
<b>Cast</b>	Nikita Dutta, Bhushan Pradhan, Ajinkya Deo, Ashwini Bhave, Sanjay Mone, Shubhangi Latkar, Shubhangi Gokhale



*Navjyot Bandiwadekar, a Mumbai-based filmmaker, started at the San Francisco School of Filmmaking. He has won numerous awards, showcased films at Cannes, and created campaigns for top brands, including Gharat Ganpati.*

In *Gharat Ganpati*, a riotous family drama unfolds during the Ganpati festival in the Konkan region. Ketan brings his Delhi girlfriend, Kriti, to meet his eccentric family, leading to cultural clashes and misunderstandings. As Kriti navigates joint family dynamics, the festival backdrop highlights the family's joys and sorrows. The film explores acceptance, evolving traditions, and the intricate bonds of an Indian family. Amidst the laughter and tears, *Gharat Ganpati* delves into love, identity, and cultural spirit during the vibrant festival.



*Navigns Studio, founded by Navjyot and Namrata Bandiwadekar, creates award-winning films with innovative storytelling.*



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# GYPSY

Colour | 105' | Marathi | 2024



**Director** Shashi Chandrakant Khandare

**Producer** Bolpat Nirmitee, Shraddha Shashi Khandare

**Cinematographer** Pravin Jalindar Sonavane

**Editor** Akshay Shinde

**Screenwriter** Shashi Chandrakant Khandare

**Cast** Kabir

Gypsy follows a nomadic family wandering aimlessly, surviving on bad, stale food from begging. Young Jotya longs for fresh-hot food but can only savor its smell, which he gets used to. His mother struggles to settle down despite being pregnant. A particular smell soon drives Jotya crazy. Finally, that same smell offers him a chance to change his life.



*Shashi Khandare, a Pune-based Writer and Director, started as a clapper, later becoming an Associate Director. His award-winning short film Surma and Gypsy received accolades at international film festivals, including Cannes.*



*Bolpat Nirmitee, established in 2010 in Aplavadhi, produced Gypsy, marking Shraddha Shashi Khandare's debut.*



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## JIGARTHANDA DOUBLE X

Colour | 172' | Tamil | 2023



**Director** Karthik Subbaraj

**Producer** Stone Bench Pvt. Ltd.

**Cinematographer** S Thirunavukkarasu

**Editor** Shafique Mohamed Ali

**Screenwriter** Karthik Subbaraj

**Cast** Raghava Lawrence, Ganesh, S. J. Suryah, Nimisha Sajayan, Ilavarasu, Naveen Chandra, Sathyan, Sanchana Natarajan, Shine Tom Chacko, Aravind Akash



Karthik Subbaraj is an Indian film director, producer, and screenwriter in Tamil cinema. Known for directing *Pizza*, *Jigarthanda*, *Iraivi*, and *Petta*, his movies were well received commercially and critically. His father, Gajaraj, is also an actor in Tamil films.



Kaarthekeyen Santanam, engineer-turned-producer, co-founded Stone Bench, producing 23 films in Tamil and Malayalam.

*Jigarthanda Double X* is a Tamil action thriller and spiritual prequel to the 2014 film *Jigarthanda*, directed by Karthik Subbaraj. The plot follows aspiring police officer Kirubai Aroiyaraj, who is forced to do an unlawful act to secure his job. Disguising himself as a film director, he infiltrates the den of gangster Allius Caesar. After many assassination attempts, Kirubai devises a plan to pit Caesar against the notorious outlaw Shettani. In the process, Caesar experiences a change of heart and aids the people by defeating Shettani. The plot thickens as the head of state is revealed to be involved in a scam. Caesar makes the ultimate sacrifice, and Kirubai completes his film, exposing the truth. As a gripping narrative, the film explores ambition, morality, and survival, blending sharp storytelling with high-octane action, making it a compelling continuation of the original film's legacy.

## JUI PHOOL

Colour | 100' | Assamese | 2024



**Director** Jadumoni Dutta

**Producer** Jadumoni Dutta, Rita Dutta, Nandini Sharma Dutta

**Cinematographer** Jiten Boro

**Editor** Sibajit Sharma

**Screenplay** Nizara Rajkumari

**Cast** Shibrani Kalita, Tridip Gogoi, Rituparna Phukan



*Jadumoni Dutta, an award-winning actor and film-theater personality from Assam, starred in Agnisakshi, Paani, and Jetuka Pator Dare, and received a National Award for the series Kuwoli.*

*Juiphool (Orange and Purple)* tells the story of two mothers from a conflict-ridden area on the Assam-Nagaland border, where villagers live in fear. Lakhimi, a pregnant Assamese widow, forms a secret bond with Rengma, a Naga woman facing miscarriages. As suspicion grows around Lakhimi, an Assamese folk tale echoes their experiences amid the turmoil of border violence.

**WORLD PREMIERE**



*Nandini Sharma Dutta is a Singer and Music Director from Assam. Rita Dutta is known as a story writer, poet and Screen Writer from Assam.*

## KALKI 2898 AD

Colour | 181' | 2024 | Telugu



**Director** Nag Ashwin

**Producer** Vyjayanthi Movies

**Cinematographer** Djordje Stojiljkovic

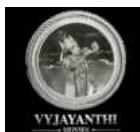
**Editor** Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao

**Screenwriter** Nag Ashwin

**Cast** Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Prabhas, Brahmanandam, Rajendra Prasad, Deepika Padukone, Disha Patani, Shobhana



*Nag Ashwin is an Indian film director and screenwriter who works in Telugu cinema. Yevade Subramanyam, his debut film, was shot on Mt. Everest. Mahanati, his second film, on legendary Indian actress Savitri fetched several awards and accolades. He is the recipient of the National Film Award, Nandi and Filmfare Awards.*



*Vyjayanthi Movies, founded by C. Aswani Dutt in 1974, is a leading Telugu film production company.*

A Dystopian Science Fiction adventure woven against the mythical background of Mahabharatha. The story begins 6000 years ago where Ashwatthama is cursed by Lord Krishna after the epic war. Centuries after, Ashwatthama aged and immortal, gets his yuga-long awaited sign and sets out to find the prophetic mother. Without knowing anything about this, the rebels rescue a pregnant woman escaping the complex and suddenly find that the whole complex army is chasing them. She watches people die while protecting her. Her womb carries the savior that the world was after. Bhairava an ex-soldier, now a bounty hunter, aspiring to find his way into Complex, the only surviving world, is assigned to capture the pregnant lady. Bhairava and Ashwatthama come face to face and in the most epic faceoff between past and present, between Mythology and Science, between good and evil and the final battle begins to decide the future of mankind.

## KARKEN

Colour | 92' | Galo | 2024



**Director** Nending Loder

**Producer** National Film Development Corporation Ltd.

**Cinematographer** Nyago Ete

**Editor** Lodam Gongo

**Screenwriter** Nending Loder

**Cast** Nending Loder



*Hailing from Ziro valley in Arunachal Pradesh, North-Eastern India, Nending has acted in three feature films and short films. After graduating, he took a few acting classes in Mumbai. His dream is to preserve his native language which faces extinction through movies. Karken is his directorial debut.*

A medical officer, once passionate about acting but forced to abandon his dreams, resurfaces to take an audition. This decision could jeopardize his job that supports his family's debt, risk his engagement, and endanger the life of a pregnant woman in labor.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**NFDC**  
cinemas of india

*Founded in 1975, NFDC supports quality Indian cinema, financing, producing, and distributing over 300 films.*

## KARKHANU

COLOUR | 122' | GUJARATI | 2024



**Director** Rushabh Thanki

**Producer** Marrkat Bros, Poojan Parikh

**Cinematographer** Parth Savaliya

**Editor** Pratik Bhanushali

**Screenwriter** Parth Madhukrushna, Poojan Parikh, Rushabh Thanki

**Cast** Archan Trivedi, Parth Madhukrushna, Hardik Shastri

*Karkhanu* unfolds as Gujarat's first Smart Horror Comedy, bringing the "Haunted Factory" legend to life. On Kali Chaudas night, three carpenters get trapped in a ghostly workshop. Bizarre and humorous events scare them as they race against time to unravel the factory's mystery or face deadly consequences. Will they escape or become folklore? Or is it all just a theatrical production? The film is a thrilling blend of humor and horror.



*Rushabh Thanki is a writer-director from Ahmedabad, India, previously working as a copywriter in advertising. Known for the 2024 film Karkhanu, he blends creativity and storytelling in his projects.*



*Marrkat Bros, an Ahmedabad-based production house, creates impactful short films and debuted in Gujarati cinema with Karkhanu.*

## KEREBETE

Colour | 151' | Kannada | 2024



**Director** Gururaj B

**Producer** Janamana Cinemas

**Cinematographer** Keerthan Poojary

**Editor** Jnanesh B Matad

**Screenwriter** Rajaguru B, Gowrishankar S R

**Cast** Gowrishankar S R, Shivaram, Gopalkrishna Deshpande, Harini Shreekanth, Sampath Maitreya, Vardhan Thirthahalli, Shekar Kardimane, Raghu Rajananda



*Studied at MES's M. M. College of Arts and Science, Sirsi, Rajguru B is an artist and filmmaker from Sirsi Karnataka, India. He lives in Bengaluru and works with Kannada movies. He has worked as Assistant Director in movies like Golisoda, Jessie and Govindaya Nama.*

Hulimane Naga (Gowri Shankar), a Kerebete (Fish-hunter) from the Malnad region, is a tough guy frequently landing in jail for smuggling wood. Kerebete begins with his release from jail, followed by his participation in the local fishing sport near his village. During this time, Naga and his mother are denied their share of his father's ancestral property due to his mother's lower caste background. Naga is in love with Meena and works hard to buy land for the future with his mother and Meena. However, Meena's parents discover their romance, leading to her father insulting Naga and his mother. Soon after, Meena goes missing and returns eight months later, pregnant, with no sign of Naga.



*Janamana Cinemas is owned by Jai Shankar Patel*

## LEVEL CROSS

COLOUR | 116' | Malayalam | 2024



**Director** Arfaz Ayub

**Producer** Abhishek Films Ramesh P. Pillai

**Cinematographer** Appu Prabhakar

**Editor** Deepu Joseph

**Screenplay** Arfaz Ayub

**Cast** Asif Ali, Amala Paul, Sharaf U Dheen



*Arfaz, an emerging Indian filmmaker with "experience of" over a decade as Co-Director in various languages, makes his directorial debut with Level Cross, scripted by his father, Adam Ayub, a Malayalam TV pioneer.*



*Abhishek Films was established and owned by Ramesh P. Pillai who had ventured Ram, a movie in the making. Level Cross is his second film.*

Raghu, a railway Gatekeeper, guards a remote Level Cross in a barren desert. One day, a modern girl enters his life, and two contrasting worlds collide. Despite cultural and mental differences, they discover similarities in their views on life and emotions. As they try to fit into each other's lives, new discoveries and mysteries unfold. Set in an imaginary land beyond time and space, the film beautifully explores feelings, thoughts, and beliefs. It subtly reveals that the present is the remnant of the past, hidden in the narrative. This story of survival is layered with human emotions from conflicting perspectives and subtle metaphors. It offers a unique cinematic experience with stunning visuals and captivating sound design.

# MAHAVATAR NARSIMHA

Colour | 141' | Hindi | 2024



**Director** Ashwin Kumar

**Producer** Kleem Ahobal LLP, Hombale Films Ltd. (Presenter)

**Cinematographer** Ashwin Kumar

**Editor** Ajay Varma

**Screenwriter** Jaypurna Das, Ashwin Kumar



*Ashwin, a prominent Creative Visualizer with 20 years of experience, excels in ads and films, earning accolades. His passion and creativity showcase the limitless possibilities in contemporary cinema.*

The animated movie *Mahavatar Narsimha*, vividly portrays the powerful tales of Lord Vishnu's third and fourth avatars, Varaha and Narsimha. Set in the realm of Demigods and Demons, the story follows Demon Hiranyakashap avenging his brother Hiranyaksha's death by Vishnu's Varaha Avatar. Through intense penance, he gains immense power to rule the three worlds, declaring himself a god. His five-year-old son Prahlad, embodying virtue, stands against him. Despite the demon king's attempts to kill his son, Prahlad's unwavering faith prompts Vishnu to incarnate as Narsimha Avatar, defeating the tyrant and restoring balance. The film displays a gripping narrative of courage, resilience, and the eternal battle between good and evil.

**WORLD PREMIERE**



*Mahavatara Narsimha is produced By Shilpaa Dhawan (Kleem Productions) and Mr. Kushal & Chaitanya Desai together as Kleem AHOBAL LLP. Hombale Films LLP has produced notable blockbuster films like KGF Chapter 1, KGF Chapter 2 and Kantara.*



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## MANJUMMEL BOYS

Colour | 136' | 2024 | Malayalam



<b>Director</b>	Chidambaram
<b>Producer</b>	Parava Films, Soubin Shahir
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Shaiju Khalid
<b>Editor</b>	Vivek Harshan
<b>Screenwriter</b>	Chidambaram
<b>Cast</b>	Soubin Shahir, Sreenath Bhasi, Balu Varghese, Ganapathi, Jean Paul Lal, Chandu Salimkumar



*Chidambaram is the elder son of filmmaker Satheesh Pothuval. His first feature film Jan-E-Man received both critical acclaim and box office success. Manjummel Boys, his second film went on to become one of the biggest hits in south Indian film Industry. Actor Ganapathy is his younger brother.*

A breath-taking rescue drama based on the real-life incident that occurred to a 11-member team of Malayali youth, from a local club at Manjummel, a village hamlet at Kochi, Kerala, who visited Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu. One of the team members, Subhash accidentally falls deep into a pit within the Guna Caves, famous after the Kamal Hassan movie *Guna*. Where forces including the local Police and Fire brigade fail, Siju David dares to rescue his friend from the cave quite adventurously. The Presidential Award for Bravery came in search of Siju David. Eleven young men, who lived unnoticed in a small village called Manjummel, shows the world the value of friendship through their selfless deeds.



*Parava Films, founded by actor-director Soubin Shahir and his father Babu Shahir, produces Malayalam cinema.*

# ONKO KI KOTHIN

Colour | 117' | Bengal | 2024



**Director** Saurav Palodhi

**Producer** DCM Film and Entertainment

**Cinematographer** Ankit Senguta

**Editor** Pranay Dasgupta

**Screenwriter** Soumit Deb, Saurav Palodhi

**Cast** Riddhiman, Tapamoy, Gitashree, Parno Mittra, Prosun Shom, Shankar Debnath, Ushashi Chakraborty, Sanjita, Dipanwita, Krishnendu, Buddhadeb



*Saurav Palodhi, a prominent writer-director from Bengal, is known for Kholam Kuchi and Colkatay Columbus. A former stand-up comedian, his theatre work Ghoom Nei won a META award.*

In a slum in the city, three children—Babin, Dolly, and Tyre—dream big. Babin wants to be a doctor, Dolly a nurse, and Tyre an engineer. Despite their harsh realities and their parents' struggles, they build a makeshift hospital from scraps. When Babin's father falls seriously ill, they embark on a quest to find an oxygen cylinder, facing various challenges and unlikely allies along the way—Shah Rukh and Kajol, whose own story of love and defiance intersects with the children's mission. Through a series of events, including an encounter with the cylinder company, the children's determination shines. With the help of their community, including their estranged parents, they manage to save Babin's father and gain the attention of a doctor who promises to support their education. The story ends with hope, questioning whether these three kids will achieve their dreams against all odds.



*Dag Creative Media (DCM Film and Entertainment) was built up primarily to dream big, work hard and enjoy the rewards, which was created by Rana Sarkar. The production house had its inception in the year 2010.*

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**RAAVSAAHEB**

Colour | 138' | Marathi | 2024



<b>Director</b>	Nikhil Mahajan
<b>Producer</b>	Planet Marathi Seller Services Pvt Ltd, Blue Drop Films, Nikhil Mahajan, Swapnil Bhangale, Prasanna Ajarekar
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Amey Chavan
<b>Editor</b>	Hrishikesh Petwe
<b>Screenwriter</b>	Nikhil Mahajan, Prajakt Deshmukh, Shripad Deshpande, Jeejivisha Kale
<b>Cast</b>	Jitendra Joshi, Mukta Barve, Mohit Takalkar, Sonalee Kulkarni, Priyadarshan Jadhav, Sagar Deshmukh, Mrunmayee Deshpande, Rashmi Agdekar



*Nikhil, a National Award-winning filmmaker and IFS Sydney graduate, debuted with Pune 52. His film \*Godavari won two awards at IFFI, premiered in Vancouver, and received Best Direction in 2022.*

In the deep forest, a battle unfolds between greed and preservation, capitalism, and conservation. Brave officers clash with a cunning mafia, fighting to protect the delicate harmony between humanity and wildlife. *Raavsaheb* explores the man-animal conflict from the perspectives of various uniformed and non-uniformed civilians battling a system designed to harm the environment. It is also a revenge tale, where multiple protagonists seek justice for a tribal girl, uncovering a much darker truth in the process.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

*Planet Marathi and Blue Drop Films produce acclaimed Marathi films including Goshta Eka Paithanichi and Godavari. Josh Media is a production house based in mumbai.*



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# RADOR PAKHI

COLOUR | 129' | Assamese | 2024



**Director** Dr. Bobby Sarma Baruah

**Producer** Imaging Media

**Cinematographer** Sumon Dowerah

**Editor** Ratul Deka

**Screenplay** Bobby Sarma Baruah

**Cast** Sulakhyana Baruah, Bina Patangia, Kamal Lochan Deka, Arun Nath



*Dr. Bobby Sarma Baruah, an award-winning filmmaker and screenwriter, is known for her socio-cultural narratives on Assam. Her films Sonar Baran Pakhi, Mishing, and Adomya have received multiple accolades.*



*Imaging Media, founded by Dr. Bobby Sarma Baruah, promotes Northeast India's diverse cultures through acclaimed films like Sikaisal and Rador Pakhi, earning national recognition.*

Jyoti, an aspiring writer from Assam, was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy at a young age, confining her to bed for life. Despite these hardships, she refuses to let her suffering define her. Balancing family obligations and personal aspirations, she fights against all odds to lead an independent life and become an acclaimed author. Jyoti's resilience shines as she faces life's worst challenges, where many would lose hope. She accepts her life as a challenge, embracing it with open arms to become her ideal self. Her journey not only highlights her courage but also serves as an inspiration to many. Through her determination and strength, Jyoti defies expectations and achieves her dreams, proving that with perseverance. Her story is a testament to the power of hope and the indomitable human spirit.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**SRIKANTH**

Colour | 134 Mins | Hindi | 2024

**Director** Tushar Hiranandani**Producer** Super Cassettes Industries Pvt Ltd (T-Series)**Cinematographer** Pratham Mehta**Editor** Debasmita Mitra, Sanjay Sankla**Screenplay** Jagdeep Siddhu, Sumit Purohit**Cast** Rajkummar Rao, Jyothika, Alaya F, Sharad Kelkar

*Tushar Hiranandani, an Indian director and screenwriter, debuted with *Saand Ki Aankh* and directed the series *Scam 2003*. He hails from a family of film distributors, including his grandfather and father.*

Blind from birth, Srikanth overcomes immense challenges to become MIT's first visually impaired student and the founder of Bollant Industries. Facing legal battles, personal sacrifices, and entrepreneurial hurdles, he transforms setbacks into opportunities. Supported by figures like his teacher Devika, Srikanth returns to India to empower the disabled, showcasing resilience and a relentless pursuit of self-discovery and impact.



*Bhushan Kumar leads T-Series, Asia's largest music label and top YouTube channel, producing 100+ films.*



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# SWARGARATH

Colour | 95' | Assamese | 2024



**Director** Rajesh Bhuyan

**Producer** AM Television, Akshata Narain

**Cinematographer** Pradip Daimary

**Editor** Protim Khaound

**Screenwriter** Rajesh Bhuyan Santanu Rowmuria

**Cast** Kenny Basumatary, Siddhartha Sharma, Kamal Lochan, Rintu Bora, Bonny Deori Udvawan Saikia, Rimjhim Deka, Panchi Patowary, Alice Sheikh (Rew), Madhurima Choudhury, Akid Zaman, Pankaj Mahanta



Rajesh Bhuyan, an accomplished Assamese filmmaker with a B.A. from Gauhati University, has directed TV serials and films, winning multiple awards like the Prag Cine and Chitralekha Awards.

The film portrays the life of Baikuntha, a mortuary van driver, alongside three college students and two policemen who stumble upon a bag full of money. Set in black comedy, it explores the concept that regardless of the path taken to achieve desires, fate prevails. Despite facing difficult situations or failures, some individuals persistently seek easy money, never learning their lesson until death, when a Swargarath carries their mortal remains.



AM Television, established in 2005 in Guwahati, produces notable films like Dwaar and Shiyor.

## VENKYA

Colour | 127' | Kannada | 2024



<b>Director</b>	Sagar Puranik
<b>Producer</b>	Wadeeyar Movies LLP, Apeksha A Purohit
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Pranav Mulay
<b>Editor</b>	Shashank Narayana
<b>Screenwriter</b>	Srinidhi D S
<b>Cast</b>	Sagar Puranik, Pavan Wadeyar, Khushi Belagavi, Anant Deshpande, Rupali Sood



*Sagar Puranik, a two-time National Award-winning Kannada director and writer, founded Puranik Productions and directed acclaimed works like *Dollu* and *Mahaan Hutatma*. He also serves on the CBFC advisory panel.*

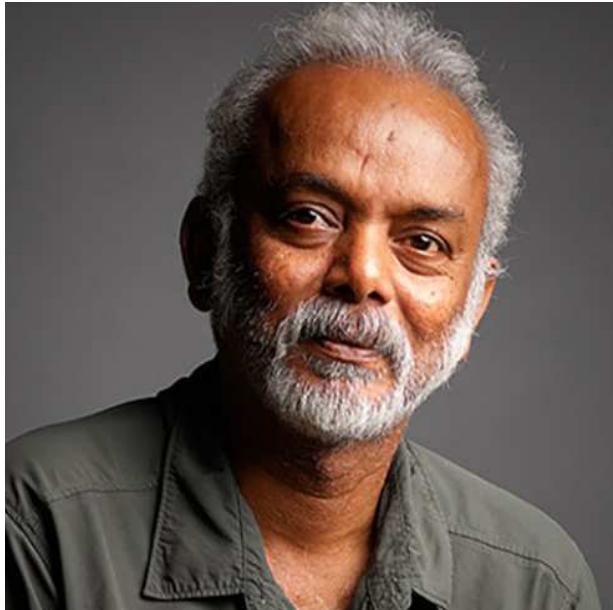


*Wadeeyar Movies LLP was Founded in 2020 by acclaimed filmmaker Pavan Wadeyar and actress-producer Apeksha Purohit, Wadeeyar Movies LLP is the realization of their shared vision to produce high-quality, impactful cinema.*

### WORLD PREMIERE

# MEET OUR INDIAN PANORAMA NON-FEATURE JURY

Consisting of Subbiah Nallamuthu as the Jury Chairperson and six Jury Members, the Non-Feature Films Jury selects documentaries/newsreels/non-fiction/short fiction made in any Indian language for the Indian Panorama section.



# SUBBIAH NALLAMUTHU

## Jury Chairperson

Subbiah Nallamuthu is an acclaimed director, producer, and cinematographer with over 16 years of experience documenting India's Royal Bengal Tigers. A Chennai Film and Television Institute graduate, he began his career at ISRO and later joined the Films Division. Nallamuthu has collaborated with leading international networks like National Geographic, BBC, Animal Planet, Channel 4, and Star Network. He introduced several groundbreaking concepts to Indian television, including the first environment-focused series and travel shows. Nallamuthu's dedication to wildlife led him to produce five self-funded tiger-focused films, all of which won the prestigious President's National Award. His body of work includes 55 television programs, 11 non-fiction series, and 23 documentary features, earning him over 25 international awards and nominations. His conservation campaign film, *Tiger Anthem*, garnered over 100 million views and was showcased at the G20 Summit. He recently received the Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award and serves on various film juries, including the Indian Panorama and National Film Awards. This year, he is a jury member to select India's Academy Awards entry films.

# RAJNI ACHARYA



Rajni Acharya, a distinguished filmmaker from Karachi, is celebrated for his biographical documentaries, earning the title Lifeographer. Notably, he spearheaded the Gujarati film *Kadu Makarani* and contributed to iconic TV serials like *Ramayan* and *Nukkad*. As Executive Producer for films like *Apmaan* and *P se PM Tak*, he also directs Takshila Multimedia, creating over 400 short films. His acclaimed *Dastaan-e-Rafi* won 12 international awards. Rajni serves as Ex-President of IDPA and is a trustee of the Halvad Education Society.

# RONEL HAOBAM



Ronel Haobam, a National Film Award-winning director and producer, began his career in 1995 as a TV Correspondent for ANI. He worked with renowned filmmaker Aribam Syam Sharma on various productions and has directed 18 documentaries and 3 short features. Ronel has served on several film juries, including IFFI, and won numerous awards, such as Best Film at the Manipur State Film Festival and a National Film Award for *The Zeliangrongs*. He continues to contribute to Indian cinema with his impactful work.

# USHA DESHPANDE



Usha Deshpande is an independent filmmaker with over 30 years of experience. A graduate of FTII in Film Direction and Screenplay Writing, she holds degrees in Arts and Journalism. She has produced numerous documentaries and TV programs, worked as a producer for E-TV Marathi, and served as a guest lecturer at FTII. She has been a media consultant, CBFC panelist, and President of IDPA. Usha continues to produce and direct films.

# VANDANA KOHLI



Vandana Kohli, an award-winning filmmaker, writer, and entrepreneur, has an interest in human behavior and efficiency. A top graduate from Delhi University, she majored in Film Editing at FTII and attended UCLA. Her acclaimed documentary, *The Subtext Of Anger*, and her Indian National Anthem production have garnered significant acclaim. Author of HINGE, she has served on the National Film Awards jury and is the Founder-Director of Tulip Comfort Wear. Vandana's articles have appeared in The Week, Deccan Herald, and more.

# MITHUNCHANDRA CHAUDHARI



Mithunchandra Chaudhari is an award-winning filmmaker, poet, and academic. His short film *Paywat* won the Silver Lotus at the 2015 National Film Awards and is streaming on ZEE5. His work, both fiction and documentary, has been showcased and awarded at renowned film festivals worldwide. He served on the IFFI Jury in 2017. A USIEF research scholar, he leads the Audio-Visual program at Symbiosis Institute and is pursuing a PhD. His first poetry collection *Aatli Kawada* will be published this year.

# SHALINI SHAH



Shalini Shah, an acclaimed filmmaker, received a National Award for her documentary *From the Land of Buddhism to the Land of Buddha*. She has served as a jury member for the National Film Awards and the International Film Festival of India. Shalini founded Akriti Productions and is the artistic director of Kautik International Film Festival. She has also held faculty positions at Kumaun University and lectured extensively. Her impactful work spans documentaries, television, and ad films, contributing significantly to Indian cinema.



# INDIAN PANORAMA NON - FEATURE

A programme of carefully selected documentary/newsreel/non-fiction/ short fiction produced in any Indian language selected by an eminent jury is presented in the Indian Panorama Non-Feature Film Section.

## GHAR JAISA KUCH

Colour | 14' | Ladakhi | 2024



Thinlas returns to his remote village with his father's ashes, intending to honor his father's wish to be laid to rest in the city. Upon arrival, he encounters his parents' spirits, urging him to bury them in the village. As he reconnects with his past, Thinlas faces a choice between his heritage and his future.

**Director** Harsh Sangani

**Producer** Harsh Sangani

**Screenwriter** Harsh Sangani

**Cinematographer** Kabir Naik

**Editor** Harsh Sangani



**OPENING NON-FEATURE FILM**

*Harsh Sangani is an independent filmmaker based in Mumbai, India. He Started his career as an Assistant Director in Bollywood. As a certificate holder in Documentary Film Making from the Auroville Film Institute, he is passionate of creating films that not only reflect the realities of today's world but also deeply touch the hearts of viewers.*

## 6-A AKASH GANGA

Colour | 80' | Hindi | 2023



Can a musician exist without an audience? To find an answer, the film enters 6-A Akash Ganga, the residence of renowned classical musician-Annapurna Devi. In the 1950s, she vowed never to perform to save her marriage to the Sitar Maestro, Pandit Ravi Shankar, who became uncomfortable with her popularity. Her disciple, Nityanand Haldipur, cuts through the myths to tell her story.

**Director** Nirmal Chander

**Producer** Annapurna Devi Foundation

**Screenwriter** Nirmal Chander

**Cinematographer** Ck Muraleedharan, Ranjan Palit, Nirmal Chander

**Editor** Reena Mohan, Nirmal Chander



*Nirmal Chander, a National Award-winning Filmmaker, editor, and producer, has directed over 10 documentaries and edited 30 films. His acclaimed works have been telecast on BBC Online, NDTV, and Doordarshan. His documentary Moti Bagh was India's Academy Award entry in 2019.*

## AMAR AAJ MAREGA

Colour | 26' | Hindi | 2024



Amar Singh Bapat, a 62-year-old widower, believes his life is perfect and plans to end it to preserve its perfection. He tells his bewildered friend Jogi, who invites over a friend. What begins as Amar's quiet exit turns into a debate among the town's neighbors on whether he has the right to kill himself.

**Director** Rajat Kariya

**Producer** Monasfilm LLP.

**Screenwriter** : Rajat Kariya

**Cinematographer** Yohan Fernandes

**Editor** Jayant Verma

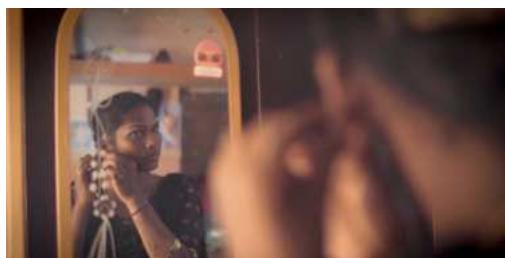
**Cast** Prakash Jha Saurabh Sachdeva



*Rajat is a Mumbai-based writer-director. He studied Film and TV in the UK and New York. Formerly an in-house writer and producer at a leading studio, he became an independent screenwriter in 2019. In 2024, he debuted with the short film Amar Aaj Marega, written, directed, and produced by him.*

## AMMA'S PRIDE

Colour | 21' | Tamil | 2024



The film chronicles Valli's trials and tribulations in watching her trans- daughter, Srija, fall in love, marry, and fight for legal recognition of her marriage in Thoothukudi, a town in Tamil Nadu. When societal pressures push Srija's marriage to the edge, Valli clings to the hope of a miracle.

**Director** Shiva Krish

**Producer** Chithra Jeyaram, Shiva Krish, D'Lo

**Screenwriter** : Shiva Krish

**Cinematographer** Naveen Kumar, M.S Venkat Ramanan, C.S Kishore Ramachandran

**Editor** Venkat Ramanan C.S., Shiva Krish

**Cast** Arun Kumar, Srija



*Shiva Krish began as an Assistant Director for Oru Naal Iravil. Inspired by the 2015 Chennai floods, he created documentaries on demonetization and schizophrenia. He was first assistant director for Harmony with A.R. Rahman and made his independent debut with Amma's Pride.*

## BAHI - TRACING MY ANCESTORS

Colour | 9' | Hindi | 2024



For centuries, in the inner worlds of Haridwar, thumbprints, signatures and handwritten notes have allowed families to map their ancestral origins. Known as Bahis, these records are maintained exclusively by a generation of pandits known as Teerth Purohits. In a tiny room on the banks of the Ganga, wave upon wave of humanity is captured in tightly wound scrolls.

**Director** Rachita Gorowala

**Producer** BBP Studio Virtual Bharat

**Screenwriter** Rachita Górowała

**Cinematographer** Sudeep Elamon

**Editor** Sayan Debnath, Christy Sebastian



*Rachita Gorowala, a Bhopal-based filmmaker, has over 10 years of experience in documentary filmmaking. She has created films for the Films Division of India, Virtual Bharat, Google, Amazon, and Tanishq, among others. She's also directed government projects and mentored documentaries at DocuBay.*

## BALLAD OF THE MOUNTAIN

Colour | 17' | Hindi | 2024



An outcast must fight the class bullies to overcome her fears and pursue her ambition to fly to the other side of the mountain.

**Director** Tarun Jain

**Producer** Tarun Jain

**Screenwriter** : Tarun Jain

**Cinematographer** Karan Thapliyal

**Editor** Naveen Chandra

**Cast** Diya Bisht, Kabyanjali Bisht, Dhruv Kumar Tamta



*Tarun Jain, an acclaimed filmmaker, is known for critical storytelling and diverse projects. His short film *Mother (Amma Meri)* about Haryana's agrarian crisis earned six awards and screened at IFFI and Tampere. His film *Kaala* on Delhi's racial tensions won Cinequest's Best Narrative Short and qualified for the 2020 Oscars. He was the 2nd unit director for Netflix's *Kohrra* in 2023. His latest film, *Ballad of the Mountain*, follows a mountain girl's dream of becoming an astronaut.*

## BATTO KA BULBULA

Colour | 35' | Hariyanvi | 2024



In a rustic Haryana village, elderly Batto spends his days with estranged friend Sultan, often drinking. Having sold most of his land, Batto plans to sell the last piece to leave the village. Manipulative adopted son Bittu pressures him for the land, sparking emotional turmoil. Sultan persistently seeks the truth, leading to a tense showdown. Ultimately, Batto realizes the strength of true friendship and the importance of resilience amidst betrayal.

**Director** Akshay Bhardwaj

**Producer** Dada Lakhmi Chand State University of Performing and Visual Arts (DLC Supva).

**Screenwriter** : Akshay Bhardwaj

**Cinematographer** : Aryan Singh

**Editor** Saksham Yadav

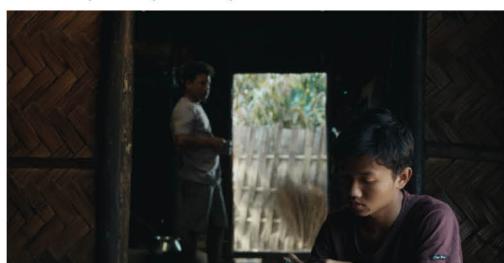
**Cast** Krishan Natak, Mohit Sangwan, Gulaab Singh



*Born in a small Haryana village, Akshay Bharadwaj was captivated by films at a rental CD store. He spent his childhood watching movies and later joined film school to master filmmaking. For him, storytelling is about empathy and emotion, showcasing his land, people, and dreams to the world.*

## CHANCHISOA

Colour | 29' | Garo | 2024



In the matrilineal Garo Hills of northeast India, a struggling family faces financial woes. The hardworking mother is dissatisfied, and the father's efforts fail, leading to family tension and criticism from the wife's relatives. Their son dreams of studying elsewhere. Overwhelmed, the father makes a life-changing decision, highlighting the balance between societal expectations, personal dreams, and sacrifices.

**Director** Elvachisa Ch Sangma, Dipankar Das

**Producer** Dr Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film and Television Institute

**Screenwriter** : Elvachisa Ch Sangma, Damebanri Mylliem, Dipankar Das, Saptarshi Das, Ramjyoti Krishnacharan

**Cinematographer** Ramjyoti Krishnacharan, Elvachisa Ch Sangma, Ajjul Islam

**Editor** Dipankar Das, Damebanri Mylliem, Priyanuj Barman, Doyel Roy

**Cast** Balsrame A Sangma, Rakran T Sangma, Chee Achuo K Marak



*Elvachisa Ch Sangma from Tura, Meghalaya, and Dipankar Das from North Lakhimpur, Assam, are passionate filmmakers specializing in cinematography and editing, respectively, with a focus on showcasing unique cultural stories and visual narratives.*

## FLANDERS DI ZAMEEN VICH

Colour | 16' | Punjabi | 2024



While visiting Ypres, Sachin learns that 1.4 million Indians were conscripted by the British to fight on the Flanders Fields during the First World War. Using audio recordings, letters, songs and archives, he brings his anonymous ancestors back to life, like ghosts inlaid in an immovable winter landscape.

**Director** Sachin

**Producer** Sachin

**Screenwriter** Sachin

**Cinematographer** Sachin

**Editor** Sachin



*Sachin, a Rajasthan-based filmmaker, explores agricultural practices, oral histories, and indigenous knowledge through lens-based art. He focuses on socio-ecological factors in rural communities, notably in the Oran project. Co-founder of Docustan Cinema Association, he nurtures documentary filmmaking. His films examine evolving rural landscapes, beliefs, and knowledge systems.*

## GHODE KI SAWARI

Colour | 26 | | Hindi | 2023



Bhuri Bai Bhil's *Ghode Ki Sawari* narrates the inspiring journey of Bhuri Bai, an indigenous Bhil artist, from a child laborer to a Padma Shri awardee. The film explores her struggle to reconcile community beliefs with her artistic identity, highlighting the taboo against women painting the ritualistic Pithora horse. Through critical self-dialogue, Bhuri Bai's story unfolds, capturing her artistic evolution and cultural impact. The narrative interweaves her past and present, illustrated in the vibrant Bhil art style.

**Director** Debjani Mukherjee

**Producer** National Film Development Corporation Ltd.(NFDC)

**Screenwriter** : Debjani Mukherjee

**Cinematographer** Varun Kumar

**Editor** Akshay Bapat

**Cast** Diya Bisht, Kabyanjali Bisht, Dhruv Kumar Tamta



*Debjani Mukherjee, HOD and Assistant Professor at UID Karnavati University, is an award-winning animation filmmaker, writer, illustrator, and researcher. Pursuing a PhD at the IDC, IIT Mumbai on Indigenous Art Pedagogy, she co-founded the non-profit BolChild and has research interests in animated documentaries and indigenous art.*

## GOOGLE MATRIMONY

Colour | 18 Mins | English | 2024



Blind Ananthu lives a lonely, monotonous life, with only his Google Glass for company, serving as both his eyesight and voice assistant. Desperate for love, he faces constant rejection on matrimony sites, with potential partners fearing he'd be a burden. One day, his Google Glass identifies a charming young woman smiling and waving at him, sparking the possibility of romance. But as feelings develop, he wonders if he's found true love or is headed for heartbreak.

## MAIN NIDA

Colour | 60' | Hindi | 2024



*Main Nida* is an audio-visual biography showcasing the legendary journey of modern Indian poet Nida Fazli. It features rare video footage, audio clips, and stills, interspersed with tributes from respected poets, authors, filmmakers, and family members. Shot across Madhya Pradesh, Mumbai, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh, it also includes Fazli's poignant poetry.

**Director** Abhinav Athrey

**Producer** Dev Ramnath

**Screenwriter** : Abhinav Athrey

**Cinematographer** Arun Vijayakumar

**Editor** Abhinav Athrey

**Cast** Aravinth Sundar



*Abhinav G Athrey is an engineer turned filmmaker from Chennai, India. He has been Assistant Director of advertisements and short films. Google Matrimony is his debut short film.*

**Director** Atul Pandey

**Producer** Atul Gangwar

**Screenwriter** : Atul Gangwar

**Cinematographer** Amit Jolly

**Editor** CPS Tomar



*Since 1988, Atul specializes in feature films, web series, documentaries etc., in 10 languages. Notable works include Summer 2007 and Bombairiya. He has been in the jury for various film festivals, including the 67th National Film Awards in 2021 and IFFI International Jury in 2023.*

## MO BOU, MO GAAN

Colour | 62' | Oriya | 2024



In a simple village, Seba Bou, the revered custodian of traditions, guides young women in essential skills and the art of "Kandana." Over 18 years, the film captures her influence amidst eroding traditions in a globalized world, as her son reflects on their heritage and changing times.

**Director** Subash Sahoo

**Producer** Kicksy Wicksy Films

**Screenwriter** Subash Sahoo

**Cinematographer** Subash Sahoo, Saroj Kar, Sushil Acharya, Pareshwar Sahoo, Jyotiranjan Kanungo

**Editor** Suvir Nath



*Subash Sahoo, an alumnus from the FTII, Pune, has worked as a sound recordist and designer for 30 years on 170 films. He has directed short films and documentaries including The Sound Man Mangesh Desai which was selected in various national & international film festivals.*

## MONIHARA

Colour | 33' | Bengali | 2024



Bhushan Saha's business struggles and debt woes are alleviated only by his wife Moni's presence. However, Moni's love for jewelry exceeds her love for him, and she's possessive about it. When Bhushan's financial crisis worsens, Moni fears losing her jewelry and suspects everyone, including him, when an ornament goes missing. Is her suspicion merited or a delusion?

**Director** Subhadeep Biswas

**Producer** Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute

**Screenwriter** Subhadeep Biswas

**Cinematographer** Anvesh Varala

**Editor** Arya Ganguli

**Cast** Kenny Basumatary, Siddhartha, Kamal Lochan, Rintu Bora, Bonny Deori, Udvawan Saikia, Rimjhim Deka, Panchi Patowary, Alice Sheikh, Madhurima, Akid Zaman, Pankaj



*The director, Subhadeep Biswas, is an SRFTI graduate who has directed films like Baazigar, 10%, and Monihara, along with his first documentary film, Nawabi Shaikh. He has also directed and edited few independent music videos.*

## P FOR PAPARAZZI

Colour | 26' | Hindi | 2024



Amidst the chaos of flashing lights and crazy crowds, Manoj, an established Paparazzi from Nepal, faces off against fellow photographers in a high-stakes race to capture the most sensational photos. Despite his years of experience and connections with celebrities ranging from Boney Kapoor to Alia Bhatt, Manoj finds himself confronting the harsh reality of his brother's deteriorating health.

**Director** Divya Kharnare

**Producer** Rajiv Mehrotra

**Screenwriter** : Divya Kharnare

**Cinematographer** Divya Kharnare,  
Pushkar Sarnaik

**Editor** Pranav Patil



*Divya Kharnare, a mass communication graduate, has 6 years of experience in documentary filmmaking. He won the '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' award and directed '15 Seconds A Lifetime', which premiered at NYIFF 2022 and screened at 10 other festivals. He is studying at FTII Pune.*

## PILLARS OF PROGRESS

Colour | 30' | English | 2023



In the heart of India, *Pillars Of Progress* tells the inspiring story of the Delhi Metro's creation, a testament to determination and innovation. From the late 1980s, the film follows the team's journey, overcoming numerous challenges that reflect Delhi's diverse fabric. Against all odds, the metro system rises, symbolizing human tenacity and progress. This epic tale is a beacon of hope, celebrating the power of unity and vision in shaping a brighter future.

**Director** Satish Pande

**Producer** Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.

**Screenwriter** : Ahad Umar Khan

**Cinematographer** Rakesh Kumar Singh,  
Rajan Srivastav

**Editor** Pawan Kumar



*Two time National Award winner Satish Pande started as Chief Cinematographer of India's first mega TV serial Hum Log. His technological suavity led to his decade long carrier as Chief Cameraman cum Lecturer with MCRC, JMI. He has more than 500 documentaries, corporate films and other AV works to his credits for the leading national and international institutions.*

## PRAAN PRATISHTHA

Colour | 15' | Marathi | 2023



In rural Maharashtra, the Praan Pratishtha ritual breathes life into a stone idol, symbolizing divinity. Yet, beneath the celebration lies harsh reality: the artisan who carves the idol, a lower-caste man, faces humiliation and oppression. This story of an old man and a young boy reveals the stark contrast between society's reverence for a stone and its dehumanization of marginalized people.

**Director** Pankaj Sonawane

**Producer** Abhay Latish Balkawade, Priyanka P More

**Screenwriter** Pankaj Sonawane

**Cinematographer** Abhay Balkawade

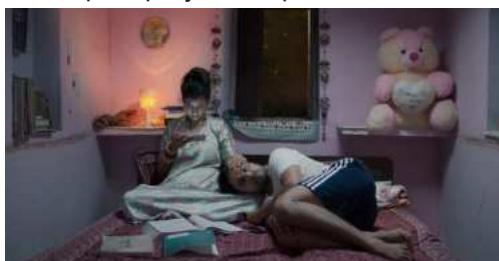
**Editor** Shrikant Chaudhari



*Pankaj Sonawane, a seasoned VFX producer, has evolved from an artist to a producer over 14 years, collaborating with SM Rolling FX and other production houses. He has worked on various projects, from independent films to studio productions, fostering a passion for filmmaking*

## ROTI KOON BANASI?

Colour | 25' | Rajasthani | 2023



*Roti Koon Banasi?* tells the story of Santosh, a husband and son, torn between traditional patriarchal expectations and his own aspirations. He must choose between supporting his wife's career and proving himself to his father, navigating a delicate balance between family obligations and personal goals, highlighting the perpetuation of patriarchy through generational relationships.

**Director** Chandan Singh

**Producer** Ford Foundation, National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad

**Screenwriter** : Chandan Singh

**Cinematographer** Ajay KTV

**Editor** Chandan Singh

**Cast** Neeraj Saidawat, Dinesh Pradhan, Riya Rathor, JD



*Chandan, from Bikaner, Rajasthan, India, discovered photography through his father. He studied multimedia and animation, creating the award-winning film Albelo Jaipur. After completing his post-graduation from National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, he is now exploring new projects.*

## **SAAVAT**

B&W | 32' | Konkani | 2024



In the film *Saavat*, Shankar and Paro, a devoted couple, strive to support their daughter Priya's education, their only hope for a brighter future. However, their dreams are threatened by financial struggles and the sinister demands of their landlord, Bhatkar, who offers help in exchange for a morally compromising condition, testing the limits of human endurance.

**Director** Shivam Harmalkar,  
Santosh Rajaram Shetkar

**Producer** Mark Miranda, Nikhil Gupta,  
Shivam Harmalkar

**Screenwriter** : Shivam Harmalkar

**Cinematographer** Divya Kharnare,  
Pushkar Sarnaik

**Editor** Shivam Harmalkar



*Shivam Harmalkar, an 22 year old independent filmmaker Photographer based in Goa, has spent a decade honing his craft as a visual storyteller. Santosh Rajaram Shetkar have been working in the field of theatre as actor, director, technician and Film editor for the last 25 years.*

## **SIVANTHA MANN**

Colour | 50' | Tamil | 2023



In the southern regions of Tamil Nadu, a village grapples with the slow demise of its farming traditions. Ranjitham, an industrious landless laborer, toils alongside her companions Raani and Sevuthi, diligently uprooting alien plants. Amidst their labor, they engage in a discussion about their way of life and the formidable challenge of securing employment in their current circumstances.

**Director** Infant

**Producer** K. Bagavathi Perumal

**Screenwriter** : Infant

**Cinematographer** Easwaren Karthikeyan

**Editor** Suvish K

**Cast** Bagavathi Perumal, Nirosha, Deepikka Anand, Dhanalakshmi Panjavarnam



*Infant is a student at Madras Christian College, Chennai. Originally from Thirukkanurpatti, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.*



# MEET OUR BEST INDIAN DEBUT JURY

For the first time in IFFI, an eminent Jury, consisting of four film personalities as its members, chaired by a versatile filmmaker selects the movie for this award, from five films made by debutant directors in different Indian languages.



# SANTHOSH SIVAN

CHAIRPERSON

Santosh Sivan is a renowned Indian cinematographer, director, producer, and actor from Kerala, known for his contributions to Malayalam, Tamil, and Hindi cinema. A graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India Pune, he is regarded as one of India's finest cinematographers. Santosh has received numerous accolades, including the Pierre Angénieux Excellens in Cinematography, twelve National Film Awards, six Filmfare Awards, four Kerala State Film Awards, and three Tamil Nadu State Film Awards. Santosh is a founding member of the Indian Society of Cinematographers and the most awarded Director of Photography in India. His directorial debut, *Story of Tiblu*, followed by his film *Halo* won the National Awards. He made history as the first cinematographer in the Asia-Pacific region to join the American Society of Cinematographers. Honoured with the Padma Shri in 2014, his achievement includes 21 international awards, highlighting his immense contribution to Indian cinema.

# M.V. RAGHU



M.V. Raghu is an Indian film cinematographer turned director, screenwriter, and producer who works predominantly in Telugu cinema. In 1988, he directed the neo-realistic film *Kallu*, which received numerous awards. He served as a Jury Member for the Nandi Film Awards. He graduated with a Diploma in Photography from the Govt. College of Fine Arts and starting his career as a Camera Assistant at Vijaya-Vauhini Studios, Chennai. in 1975, Raghu worked with renowned cinematographers like Marcus Bartley, P.L. Rai, A. Vincent, P. N. Sundaram, Ramachandra Babu, Ashok Kumar and Balu Mahendra.

# SUNEEL PURANIK



Suneel Puranik is an Indian film and television actor, director, and producer, primarily works in the Kannada Film and Television Industry. Born and raised in Dharwad, he holds a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering and professional training in filmmaking. Suneel began his career with the tele-serial *Venkataswami Pranaya Prasangagalu*, later assisting in films like *Ranaranga* and *Parashuram*. He directed the award-winning TV serial *Chirasmarane* and the film *Gurukula*. Suneel has served on various industry committees and juries, including the National Film Awards and IFFI. He was the President of the Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy.

# SEKHAR DAS



Sekhar Das is a Bengali film and theatre director, scriptwriter, playwright, actor, and producer. Known for his award-winning feature films, he also directed *Jogajog* based on Rabindranath Tagore's novel. Das has produced over 20 short films, documentaries, and travelogues. Transitioning from a successful corporate career in 1997, he excelled as an actor, scriptwriter, and director. Notably, he adapted Anton Chekov's classics for Bengali TV. A globe-trotter, Das has presented travelogues covering Europe and Asia. He has served on numerous international film festival juries, including the National Film Awards and IFFI.

# VINIT KANOJIA



Vinit Kanojia is an accomplished editor, director, writer, and producer, known for films like *Vickida No Varghodo*, *Reva* and *Chor Bani Thangaat Kare*. He wrote, directed, and edited the National Award-winning Gujarati movie *Reva*. With a strong background in animation, Vinit is skilled in Maya, Computer Animation, he previously served as the academic head at Arena Sayajigunj and director of Arena Animation Rajkot. Currently, he's preparing to direct and write another Gujarati movie *December*.

# BEST DEBUT INDIAN FILM

This year, IFFI will spotlight Indian debut films, showcasing diverse narratives and styles from emerging filmmakers nationwide. New and young talent will be identified and honoured. Up to five debut feature films will be included in this section. Best Debut Director in this category will be awarded a cash prize of Rs. 500000 and certificate for his/her creative vision, artistic merit, storytelling and overall impact. If there are more than one director, the cash prize will be equally distributed to them.

# BOONG

COLOUR | 122' | MANIPURI | 2024



**Director** Lakshmipriya Devi

**Producer** Suitable Pictures, Chalkboard Entertainment,  
Excel Entertainment

**Cinematographer** Tanay Satam

**Editor** Shreyas Beltangdy

**Screenwriter** Lakshmipriya Devi

**Cast** Gugun Kipgen, Bala Hijam Ningthoujam, Angom  
Sanamatum, Vikram Kochhar, Modhubala Thoudam, Jenny  
Khurai, Nemetia Ngangbam, Edhou



*Lakshmipriya Devi, an Economics graduate from Miranda House and Mass Communications post-grad from Jamia, found her story in the memories of her Manipur childhood. As a First Assistant Director for Lakshya and PK, she now makes her directorial debut with Boong.*

In the valley of Manipur, Boong (a little boy) plans to surprise his mother with a gift. In his innocence, he believes that bringing his father back home would be the most special gift. His search for his father culminates into an unexpected gift - a new beginning...

# GHARAT GANPATI

Colour | 139' | Marathi | 2024



**Director** Navjyot Bandiwadekar

**Producer** Navigns Studio Pvt., Ltd.

**Cinematographer** Shelly Sharma, Prasad Bhende

**Editor** Ashish Mhatre

**Screenwriter** Vaibhav Chinchalkar, Navjyot Bandiwadekar Alok Sutar

**Cast** Nikita Dutta, Bhushan Pradhan, Ajinkya Deo, Ashwini Bhave, Sanjay Mone, Shubhangi Latkar, Shubhangi Gokhale



*Navjyot Bandiwadekar, a Mumbai-based filmmaker, started at the San Francisco School of Filmmaking. He has won numerous awards, showcased films at Cannes, and created campaigns for top brands, including Gharat Ganpati.*

In *Gharat Ganpati*, a riotous family drama unfolds during the Ganpati festival in the Konkan region. Ketan brings his Delhi girlfriend, Kriti, to meet his eccentric family, leading to cultural clashes and misunderstandings. As Kriti navigates joint family dynamics, the festival backdrop highlights the family's joys and sorrows. The film explores acceptance, evolving traditions, and the intricate bonds of an Indian family. Amidst the laughter and tears, *Gharat Ganpati* delves into love, identity, and cultural spirit during the vibrant festival.



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## MIKKA BANNADA HAKKI

Colour | 90 Mins | Kannada | 2024



**Director** Manohara K

**Producer** Konanur Productions

**Cinematographer** Sanjay Channappa

**Editor** Shivakumara Swamy

**Screenwriter** Manohara K, Sonia S

**Cast** Jayashree, Rekha Kudligi



*Manohara is an Indian actor, music director and filmmaker from Karnataka. He has been associated with the films Railway Children and Hadinelantu. Mikka Bannada Hakki is his directorial debut.*

Mikka Bannada Hakki (Bird of a Different Feather) is a coming-of-age story based on the autobiography of Sonia S. It follows 12-year-old Sonia, a girl with albinism from a poor village near Bengaluru. Facing disdain from her alcoholic father and apathy from her class teacher, she encounters hostility and discrimination at a new city school. This story depicts Sonia's transformation from a shy, hopeless teenager to a mature young woman who learns to live in peace with herself and her surroundings.

## RAZAKAR

Colour | 165 Mins | Telugu | 2024



**Director** Yata Satyanarayana

**Producer** Samarveer Creations LLP. Gudur Narayan Reddy

**Cinematographer** Kushendar Ramesh Reddy

**Editor** Thammiraju

**Screenwriter** Yata Satyanarayana

**Cast** Bobby Simha, Anasuya Bharadwaj, Indraja, Makarand Deshpande, Tej Sapru, Vedhika, Raj Arjun, Prema



*Yata Satyanarayana, known as Yata, is a director, producer, and writer from Telangana. Holding a B.Sc. degree, with a background in journalism, he has directed award-winning TV serials like Neelambari and Manoyagnam. He started his career under the guidance of director K. Raghavendra Rao, producing many successful TV serials. He founded the production company, Yata's Media, in 2011.*

India became independent on August 15, 1947. But Hyderabad was not free yet. It took another year, until September 17, 1948, for Hyderabad to become part of India. Many people fought for this to happen. They wanted Hyderabad to be part of India. The Nizam and his army, the razakars, did not want this. But finally, with the help of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Hyderabad became part of India. The film *Razakar* is based on these true events.

## THANUPP

Colour | 109 Mins | Malayalam | 2023



**Director** Ragesh Narayanan

**Producer** Kashi Cinemas

**Cinematographer** Manikandan P S

**Editor** Safdar Merva

**Screenwriter** Ragesh Narayanan

**Cast** Nidheesh, Jibiya



Ragesh Narayanan is an Indian cinematographer, writer, editor, director and percussionist from Kerala. He has done cinematography for movies like Neeraja, White Boys and Halleluya. As editor, he has worked for movies like aquarium and Halleluya.

In *Thanupp*, young couple Pradheesh and Treesa settle in a scenic village and quickly raise suspicions with their frequent inquiries about the river. Pradheesh's secretive nocturnal activities and intimate moments with Treesa are captured by mischief-making villagers. The leaked video forces them to leave, leading their friend Prakasan to call in Santhosh for help. Santhosh uncovers a shocking truth about the couple, stunning everyone. The film addresses social issues with unwavering commitment, exploring the consequences of privacy invasion and societal judgments.

# MEET OUR WEB SERIES (OTT) JURY

The Best Web Series (OTT) award Jury for IFFI 2024, led by a Chairperson and 3 members, selects the Best Web Series (OTT) Award to honour the impact and diversity of OTT content.



# MADHUR BHANDARKAR

## CHAIRPERSON

Madhur Bhandarkar is an Indian film director, scriptwriter, and producer. Known for his critically acclaimed work, Bhandarkar directed *Chandni Bar*, winning the National Film Award for Best Film on Social Issues. His films *Page 3* and *Traffic Signal* also earned National Film Awards, and *Fashion* received both a National Film Award for Best Direction and Filmfare Award nominations for Best Director and Best Screenplay. Bhandarkar co-produced the Bengali film *Avijatrik*, which won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Bengali. He has been nominated as a society member of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. In 2016, he was honored with the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award.

# KRISHNA HEBBALE



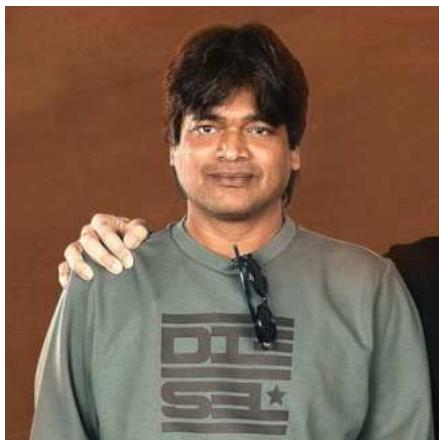
Krishna Hebbale is an Indian actor primarily recognized for his work in the Kannada films. He has garnered acclaim for performances in films like *U Turn* (2016), *6ne Maili*, *The Terrorist*, *Thayige Thakka Maga*, *ACT 1978*, *Saddu Vicharane Nadeyuttide*, *Sakutumba Sametha*. An accomplished theatre artist since 1995, Hebbale has participated in over 30 plays, documentaries, and short films, working with renowned theatre groups in Bangalore such as Sanchaya, Ranga Shankara, and Aneka. As a director, he has helmed numerous proscenium and street plays, including *Yugapurush*. He has made significant contributions to Kannada theatre as a writer, adapting and translating well-known plays.

# RUPALI GANGULY



Rupali Ganguly is an Indian television actress, known for her roles in *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai* and *Anupamaa*. She began her acting career as a child in her father's film *Saabeb*. After a breakthrough role in *Sanjivani*, she starred in numerous successful series. She took a sabbatical but returned to fame with *Anupamaa*. Ganguly has also participated in reality shows like *Bigg Boss* and *Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi*. A recipient of two Indian Telly Awards, she is celebrated for her contributions to Hindi television.

# HARISH SHANKAR



Sanganabhatla Harish Shankar, noted Indian film director and screenwriter known for his work in Telugu cinema and theatre, made his directorial debut with *Shock*, produced by Ram Gopal Varma. He directed *Mirapakay* and *Gabbar Singh*, winning SIIMA and CineMAA awards for Best Director. *Gabbar Singh* became one of the highest-grossing Telugu films. Other notable works include *Ramayya Vasthavayya* and *DJ: Duvvada Jagannadham*. Born in Dharmapuri, Telangana, he studied at Osmania University and started his career in stage acting and screenwriting.

# BEST WEB SERIES (OTT) AWARD

Acknowledging the vast changes in entertainment with the rise of Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms, the Best Web Series (OTT) Award was launched at IFFI 2023. The award celebrates and encourages thriving OTT content and its creators, fostering growth and innovation. It promotes regional diversity in Indian web series, recognizes outstanding talent benefiting from the OTT space, and incentivizes investments in India's OTT sector through showcases and international exchanges at IFFI.

## JAMNAPAAR

Colour | 323' | 2023 | Hindi



*Jamnapaar* follows Shantanu Bansal, a 23-year-old CA aspirant from East Delhi, struggling with an inferiority complex due to the class divide between South and East Delhi. As his father's coaching institute declines, Shanky must choose between reviving the family business or pursuing his corporate dreams. The story chronicles his journey of self-discovery, acceptance, and embracing his roots in Jamnapaar, overcoming his complexes and finding pride in his identity.

## AYALI

Colour | 2023 | 275' | Tamil



*Ayali*, a gripping web series, unfolds in 1990s Veerappanai, where a 500-year-old tradition forces girls to marry at puberty, stifling their dreams and education. Thamizh Selvi, a determined young woman, defies this custom with her mother's support, sparking a fierce conflict that challenges the village's patriarchal norms. The series explores the fates of other women entangled in this tradition, ultimately reexamining the legacy of the goddess Ayali, symbolizing hope and reclamation for future generations.

sunshine  
PRODUCTIONS

amazon  
miniTV

**Director** Gaurav Arora

**Creator** Prashant Bhagia

**Producer** Sunshine Productions. Sudhir Sharma, Seema Sawhney Sharma

**Screenwriter** Subash Sahoo

**Cinematographer** Hanoz Kerawala

**Editor** Sandip Singh

**Cast** Ritvik Sahore, Varun Badola, Shristi Rindani, Anubha Fatehpuria, Ankita Saihgal, Tanvi Gadkari, Inder Sahani Raghu Ram



ESTRELLA  
STORIES



**Director** Muthukumar R

**Creator** Muthukumar

**Producer** Estrella Stories LLP

**Screenwriter** Muthukumar R, Veenai Maindhan

**Cinematographer** Ramji

**Editor** Ganesh Siva

**Cast** Abi Nakshathra, Anumol, Madhan, Linga, Singampuli

## JUBILEE

Colour | 531' | 2023 | Hindi



*Jubilee* is a 10-part series set in the Golden Era of Hindi Cinema, exploring the lives of a studio boss, his movie-star wife, and others as they gamble on their dreams, passion, and ambition. Set in 1940s Bollywood, it explores the dark side of fame, ambition, and love through the intertwined lives of a studio boss, stars, and strugglers.



**Director** Vikramaditya Motwane

**Creator** Vikramaditya Motwane

**Producer** Prime Video, Andolan Films Private Ltd.

**Screenwriter** Atul Sabharwal

**Cinematographer** Pratik Shah

**Editor** Aarti Bajaj

**Cast** Aparshakti Khurana, Sidhant Gupta, Aditi Rao Hydari, Wamiqa Gabbi, Prosenjit Chatterjee, Ram Kapoor

## THE RAILWAY MEN

Colour | 2023 | 235' | Hindi



*The Railway Men* is a tribute to the unsung heroes of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy, who risked their lives to save thousands. This gripping series celebrates the courage, humanity, and sense of duty of the railway workers who rose to the occasion on that fateful night, making it one of the most inspiring true stories in modern history.



**Director** Shiv Rawail

**Creator** Shiv Rawail

**Producer** YRF Entertainment

**Screenwriter** Aayush Gupta

**Cinematographer** Rubais

**Editor** Yasha Jaidev Ramchandani

**Cast** R. Madhavan, Kay Kay Menon, Divyendu, Babil Khan

## LAMPAN

Colour | 214' | 2024 | Marathi



*Lampan* is a heartwarming show based on Prakash Narayan Sant's stories, narrated by Lampan, an 8-year-old boy living with his grandparents in 1950s Belgaum. The series follows his journey from childhood to adolescence, exploring themes of loneliness, love, and self-discovery. With a cast of vibrant characters, the show takes us on an emotional journey of growth, sensitivity, and intelligence, set against the stunning backdrop of Belgaum's serene landscapes.

**Director** Chinamay Kelkar,  
Nipun Dhrmadhikari

**Creator** Nipun Dhrmadhikari

**Producer** Indian Magic Eye Pvt.Ltd

**Screenwriter** Chinamay Kelkar,  
Nipun Dhrmadhikari

**Cinematographer** Ameya Chavan

**Editor** Suchitra Sathe

**Cast** Mihir Godbole, Avani Bhave, Geetanjali Kulkarni, Chandrakant Kulkarni, Kadambhari Kadam, Pushkraj Chirputkar

## KOHRRA

Colour | 288' | 2023 | Punjabi



In the Punjab winter, a young college couple's romantic encounter turns into a gruesome discovery of a naked male corpse. Inspector Balbir Singh and Sub-Inspector Garundi investigate the murder of Tejinder "Paul" Dhillon, a British-Asian groom. As they dig deeper, they uncover a complex web of family disputes, attempted homicide, and suspects, including Paul's fiancé and her college boyfriend. Personal lives of the investigators also get entangled in the case.

**Director** Gunjit Chopra, Diggi Sisodia, Sudip Sharma

**Creator** Randeep Jha

**Producer** Sudip Sharma

**Screenwriter** Gunjit Chopra, Diggi Sisodia

**Cinematographer** Saurabh Monga

**Editor** Sanyukta Kaza

**Cast** Suvinder Vicky, Barun Sobti, Rachel Shelley, Harleen Sethi, Manish Chaudhari, Saurav Khurana, Vishal Handa.

## DAHAAD

Colour | 437' | 2023 | Hindi



NETFLIX

In the quaint town of Mandawa, crime drama *Dahaad* follows Sub-inspector Anjali Bhaati and her colleagues at the police station as they investigate a series of suspicious women's deaths in public bathrooms. Initially deemed suicides, Anjali soon suspects a serial killer. It becomes a race against time to piece together evidence and stop the killer before another woman falls victim.

**Director** Reema Kagti, Zoya Akhtar

**Creator** Reema Kagti, Ruchika Oberoi

**Producer** Tiger Baby Digital LLP, Zoya Akhtar, Reema Kagti, Farhan Akhtar, Ritesh Sidhwani

**Screenwriter** Reema Kagti, Zoya Akhtar, Mansi Jain, Karan Shah, Ritesh Shah, Chaitanya Chopra, Sunayana Kumari

**Cinematographer** Tanay Satam

**Editor** Anand Subaya, Nitin Baid

**Cast** Sonakshi Sinha, Vijay Varma, Gulshan Devaiah, Sohum Shah

## KAALA PAANI

Colour | 431' | 2023 | Hindi



POSHAM PA  
PICTURES

NETFLIX

**Director** Amit Golani, Biswapati Sarkar, Saurabh Khanna, Sameer Saxena

**Creator** Sameer Saxena, Amit Golani

**Producer** Posham Pa Pictures

**Screenwriter** ABiswapati Sarkar, Amit Golani, Nimisha Mishra, Sandeep Saket

**Cinematographer** Dhananjay Navagrah, Barny Crocker, Ewan Mulligan

**Editor** Dev Rao Jadhav

**Cast** Sukant Goel, Amey Wagh, Arushi Sharma, Radhika Mehrotra, Vikas Kumar, Ashutosh Gowariker, Mona Singh

## SCAM 2003 - THE TELGI STORY

Colour | 439' | 2023 | Hindi



Born in Khanapur in Karnataka, Telgi became the mastermind behind one of the most ingenious financial scams in Indian history that spread across multiple states and shook the entire country.

**APPLAUSE ENTERTAINMENT**



**Director** Tushar Hiranandani

**Creator** Hansal Mehta

**Producer** Applause Entertainment

**Screenwriter** Kedar Patankar, Kiran Yadnyopavit, Karan Vyas

**Cinematographer** Stanley Mudda

**Editor** Kunal Walve

**Cast** Gagan Dev Riar, Mukesh Tiwari, Dinesh Lal Yadav (Nirahua), Talat Aziz, Sana Amin Sheikh

## KOTA FACTORY – 3

B&W | 247' | 2024 | Hindi



In *Kota Factory* Season 3, Jeetu Bhaiya faces a crisis after Vernali's suicide, leading to his depression and temporary isolation. Therapy and duty bring him back to teaching. Vaibhav, Meena, and Uday tackle personal challenges. Vaibhav envies cousin Minku's cricket success, Meena struggles with finances, and Uday's gaming addiction leads to an accident. With JEE Advanced looming, Jeetu motivates them. Vaibhav fails JEE Advanced but resolves to retry. Jeetu leaves Kota, marking an emotional farewell.



**NETFLIX**

**Director** Raghav Subbu, Arunabh Kumar

**Creator** Pratish Mehta

**Producer** Contagious Online Media Network

**Screenwriter** Puneet Batra, Pravin Yadav, Manish Chandwani, Nikita Lalwani

**Cinematographer** Shreedutta Namjoshi

**Editor** Prashanth Ramachandran

**Cast** Ankita Purkayastha, Sudeeptha Sadhukhan, Jitendra Kumar, Mayur More, Ranjan Raj, Ahsaas Channa, Alam Khan, Revathi Pillai, Tillotama Shome

# NFDC SHOWCASE & PREMIERES

This package features the films produced and co-produced by National Film Development Corporation Ltd in recent times.

**CHHAAD**

Colour | 96' | 2021 | Bengali

**Director** Indrani Chakrabarti**Producer** National Film Development Corporation Limited**Cinematographer** Subhadeep Dey**Editor** Amitava Dasgupta**Screenwriter** Indrani Chakrabarti**Cast** Paoli Dam, Arunoday, Rahul Banerjee, Rajnandani Paul

*Kolkata-based filmmaker Indrani, known for Ladaakh Chale Rickshawala and Ekti Choto Chobi, creates award-winning documentaries on social issues, with screenings at MIFF, Kolkata, Dhaka, Melbourne, and Hamburg film festivals.*

**NFDC**  
cinemas of india

*Incorporated in 1975 by India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, NFDC supports independent cinema by financing, distributing, and promoting quality films across various Indian languages.*

*The Terrace* is the absolute place in the life of a young school teacher Mitra, who sketches & writes with passion. Mitra is offered to write for a prestigious local magazine for a special edition which is a dreamcome true for her. Her communication and relationships with the sky, birds, clouds and the neighbours come to a halt when the common terrace is locked up by the occupants. This further blocks her mind to conclude her story. Life becomes unbearable when Mitra's school closes for summer vacations and she is confined to the stuffy overbearing house with an uncompassionate husband. With the film Chhaad the writer & debutante director Indrani Chakrabarty explores the protagonist's relationship with the terrace and eventually her disillusionment attached to it. The terrace is reflective of Mitra's emotional reasoning and so when the terrace is taken away she suffers from an existential crisis. The story writing process makes the woman lead realize that her inability to rescue her own-self was a crisis deeper than her need for the open space of the terrace-Is there an escape from reality?

## TARA & AKASH - LOVE BEYOND REALMS

Colour | 124' | 2024 | Hindi



**Director** Srinivas Abrol

**Producer** Whispers from Eternity Films,  
National Film Development Corporation Limited

**Cinematographer** Ateet Singh

**Editor** Rameez Dalal

**Screenwriter** Srinivas Abrol

**Cast** Deepti Nawal, Amol Palekar, Jitesh Naresh Thakur,  
Alankrita Bora, Brijendra Kala



*Screenwriter Srinivas Abrol, previously a first AD and director, is known for Guthlee Laddoo, Abhay, and Battle of OP Hill. Current projects include Shubh Murder Savdhaan, Jhooth, and a Disney Hotstar thriller.*

Tara defies her parents to travel solo to Switzerland, retracing a beloved romance novel's story. There, she meets Akash, a mysterious stranger who turns out to be a celestial being on an unknown mission. Drawn together, they embark on a journey of love and self-discovery to find the novel's author, who is revealed as God, holding answers to their intertwined fates and Akash's purpose on Earth.



*Whispers From Eternity Films creates "mindful" media inspired by classical cinema and Indian philosophy, while NFDC, established in 1975 by India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, supports independent cinema nationwide.*

## BIBO BINANAO

Colour | 108' | 2024 | Boro



**Director** Kenny Basumatary

**Producer** National Film Development Corporation Limited

**Cinematographer** Suruj Deka

**Editor** Raktim Ranjan Basumatary

**Screenwriter** Kenny Basumatary

**Cast** Helina Dwimary, Pansy Brahma, Mithinga Narzary, Sangeena Brahma



Kenny's debut film *Local Kung Fu* became a pop culture hit in Assam. He has directed six more films, several series, and acted in *Jawaan*, *Mary Kom*, *Shanghai*, *Raag Desh*, and *Yaara*.



Incorporated in 1975 by India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, NFDC supports independent cinema by financing, distributing, and promoting quality films across various Indian languages.

*Bibo Binanao - My Three Sisters* is a dramedy-semi-biography about 21-year-old Donna, the youngest of four sisters in rural Assam, as she navigates the challenges of life with her family. While not destitute, they face hardships, and Donna's steadfast support is crucial when her eldest sister, Anima, is left widowed with two children, and when her second sister, Yoko, endures an abusive marriage. Donna's resourcefulness is tested as she helps her sisters cope with various struggles, including a failed chicken farm, and a dangerous malaria scare. Alongside these, Donna takes on the role of caregiver for her cousin's injured husband, Bolen, even as she faces personal challenges, including a dead-end boyfriend and limited job prospects. Through it all, Donna's determination and resilience hold the family together, illustrating the power of love and grit in the face of adversity.

# PANORAMA FEATURE JURY SPECIAL RECOMMENDS

## HANU-MAN

Colour | 158' | 2023 | Telugu



**Director** Prasanth Varma

**Producer** Primeshow Entertainment Pvt Ltd

**Screenwriter** Prasanth Varma

**Editor** Sai Babu Talari

**Cinematographer** Sivendra Dasaradhi

Set in Anjanadri, *Hanu-Man* follows Hanumanthu, a petty thief who gains Lord Hanuman's powers through a fossilized blood drop, leading to a battle against a wannabe superhero for divine strength.

## PADATIK

Colour | 126' | 2023 | Bengali



**Director** Srijit Mukherji

**Producer** Firdausal Hasan, Prabal Halder

**Screenwriter** Srijit Mukherji

**Editor** Srijit Mukherji

**Cinematographer** Indernath Marick

*Padatik* explores Mrinal Sen's life, revealing his political ideologies and personal relationships, celebrating his journey from humble beginnings to greatness while highlighting the complexities of his character.

## SAM BAHADUR

Colour | 150' | 2023 | Hindi



AVAILABLE WITH  
AUDIO DESCRIPTION  
ON MOVIEBUFF ACCESS

**Director** Meghna Gulzar

**Producer** RSVP

**Screenwriter** Bhavani Iyer, Shantanu Srivastava, Meghna Gulzar

**Editor** Nitin Baid

**Cinematographer** Jay I Patel

*Sam Bahadur* honors Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, India's first Field Marshal, whose career spanned World War II and the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war, shaping India's geopolitical landscape and history.

# SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

**27 DOWN**

B&amp;W | 118' | 1974 | Hindi

**Director** Awtar Krishna Kaul**Producer** NFDC**Screen Writer** Ramesh Bakshi**Editor** Ravi Patnaik**Cinematographer** Apurba  
Kishore Bir

*27 Down* follows Sanjay, whose dreams and choices are stifled by his domineering father, missing his one chance to break free and choose his path.

**AASAN**

Color | 8' | 2024 | Tamil

**Director** EV Ganeshbabu**Producer** G. Vanitha**Screen Writer** EV Ganeshbabu**Editor** Surajkavee**Cinematographer** NK Rajarajan

*AASAAN* aims to illustrate the vital role teachers play in instilling good morals in school students and shaping their bright futures. This story emphasizes that there are more effective methods than punishment for guiding and correcting wayward students.

**BE QAYAAM**

Colour | 76' | 2024 | Ladakhi

**Director** Maisam Ali**Producer** Saroj Kherotia**Screen Writer** Maisam Ali,  
Raghvender Vippuganti**Editor** Maisam Ali**Cinematographer** Ashok Meena

In late autumn, a man returns to his mountain town, lingering at his old home's threshold, haunted by his absence and his brother's missed funeral.

## DESPATCH

Colour | 153' | 2024 | Hindi



Crime editor Joy faces a career-defining investigation, a crumbling marriage, and betrayal, as he unearths corruption linked to gang wars, ultimately paying with his life.



**Director** Kanu Behl

**Producer** RSVP , ZEE 5

**Screen Writer** Ishani Banerjee, Kanu Behl

**Editor** Samarth Dixit

**Cinematographer** Siddhartha Diwan

## KASHMIR - FIGHTING FOR PEACE

Colour | 55' | 2024 | Hindi



This film uncovers personal stories from both sides of the Kashmir conflict, revealing the human cost of violence and the shared tragedy of loss.



**Director** Rohit Gandhi

**Producer** RIG 360 Media and News Pvt. Ltd.

**Screen Writer** Rohit Gandhi

**Editor** Parth Vyas, Akshay Nalwade, Rhunal Rane

**Cinematographer** Ambrish A. Joshi, Rajveer Shikhawat

## MASOOM

Colour | 165' | 1983 | Hindi



Indu and DK's peaceful life in Delhi is disrupted when DK's illegitimate son, Rahul, joins their family. Despite initial resentment, Indu ultimately accepts Rahul, forgives DK, and the family reconciles, embracing a new beginning together.



**Director** Shekhar Kapur

**Producer** Chanda Dutt, Devi Dutt

**Screen Writer** Gulzar

**Editor** Aruna Raje, Vikas Desai

**Cinematographer** Pravin Bhatt

## SUNFLOWERS WERE THE FIRST ONES TO KNOW...

Colour | 16' | 2023 | Kannada



**Director** Chidananda S Naik

**Producer** FTII, Pune

**Screen Writer** Chidananda S Naik

**Editor** Manoj V.

**Cinematographer** Suraj Thakur

After an elderly woman steals the village rooster, darkness ensues, chaos erupts, and her family is exiled, following an invoked prophecy in Sunflowers Were the First to Know.

## TAAL

Colour | 179' | 1999 | Hindi



**Director** Subhash Ghai

**Producer** Mukta Arts, Subhash Ghai

**Screen Writer** Sachin Bhownick, Subhash Ghai

**Editor** Subhash Ghai

**Cinematographer** Kabir Lal

Tycoon Jagmohan opposes his son Manav's love for Mansi, a singer's daughter, but after struggles and success, true love prevails, leading to their marriage.

# RESTORED CLASSICS OF NFDC-NFAI

The section of Restored Classics presented by the NFDC-National Film Archive of India at the International Film Festival of India 2024 showcases the digital restoration of films carried out by the NFDC-NFAI under the National Film Heritage Mission, an initiative of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The section highlights NFDC-NFAI's ongoing work in the preservation of Indian cinema, specifically its digitisation and restoration activities. This programme of restored films underscores the objective of the National Film Heritage Mission to digitally restore and provide access to widely loved classics and hidden gems from India's cinematic heritage to cinema lovers around the globe.

## AWARA

B&W | 1951 | Hindi



## RAJ KAPOOR CENTENARY CELEBRATION

To celebrate the birth centenary of one of the most important figures of Indian cinema, Raj Kapoor, we showcase the sprawling modern epic of *Awara*, in which the archetypal figure of Raj (Kapoor) explores questions about wealth, power and destiny.



**Director** Raj Kapoor

**Producer** Raj Kapoor

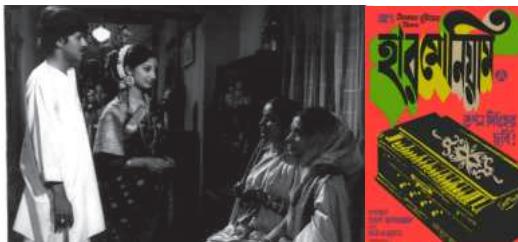
**Screen Writer** K.A. Abbas

**Editor** G.G. Mayekar

**Cinematographer** Radhu Karmakar

## HARMONIUM

B&W | 1975 | Bengali



## TAPAN SINHA CENTENARY CELEBRATION

A harmonium becomes the cause of mishap and tragedy as it changes hands from its original owner, a down-and-out princess (Arundhati Devi). The film is being showcased to mark the centenary celebrations of the filmmaker extraordinaire, Tapan Sinha, who also composed the music of the film.



**Director** Tapan Sinha

**Producer** Pratap Agarwal, R.A. Jalan

**Screen Writer** Tapan Sinha

**Editor** Subodh Roy

**Cinematographer** Bimal Mukherjee

## DEVADASU

B&W | 1953 | Telugu



## ANR CENTENARY CELEBRATION

In this adaptation of the Bengali classic, Akkineni Nageswara Rao takes on the role of the doomed hero Devdas accompanied by Savitri and Lalitha as Paro and Chandramukhi. The film marks the centenary celebrations of the matinee idol ANR, whose influence on Indian cinema resounds to the day.



**Director** Vedantam Raghavaiah

**Producer** D. L. Narayana

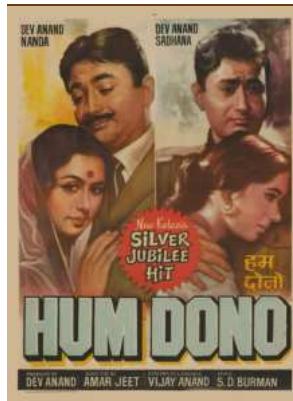
**Screen Writer** Samudrala Raghavacharya

**Editor** P.V. Narayana

**Cinematographer** B.S. Ranga

## HUM DONO

B&W | 1961 | Hindi



## MOHAMMED RAFI CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Set against the backdrop of the second World War, the film features Dev Anand in a double role as a soldier who takes on the identity of a fellow army mate. Featuring a soundtrack by Jiadev, the film is being screened to honour the birth centenary of one of the most important voices of Indian cinema, Mohammed Rafi.



**Director** Amar Jeet

**Producer** Dev Anand

**Screen Writer** Vijay Anand

**Editor** Dharamvir

**Cinematographer** V. Ratra

## KALIYA MARDAN

B&W | 1919 | Silent



Featuring adventurous and comic episodes from the life of Krishna, played by Mandakini Phalke, the film features the famed special effects skills of the pioneering figure, Dadasaheb Phalke. The screening of the surviving fragments of the film will be accompanied by live music by the ensemble, Borno Anonyo.



**Director** D. G. Phalke

**Producer** Hindustan Cinema Film Company

**Screen Writer** D. G. Phalke

**Editor** D. G. Phalke

**Cinematographer** D.G Phalke

## SEEMABADDHA

B&W | 1971 | Bengali



By exploring the dizzying success of an ambitious sales manager (Barun Chanda) and his interactions with his principled sister-in-law (Sharmila Tagore), Ray's film, part of his Calcutta trilogy, presents a strong indictment of corporate ruthlessness.



**Director** Satyajit Ray

**Producer** Jung Bahadur Rana

**Screen Writer** Satyajit Ray

**Editor** Dulal Dutta

**Cinematographer** Soumendu Roy

## SAAT HINDUSTANI

B&W | 1969 | Hindi



**Director** K.A. Abbas

**Producer** K.A. Abbas

**Screen Writer** K.A. Abbas

**Editor** Mohan Rathod

**Cinematographer** Ram-chandra

In this rousing account, a dying woman (Shahnaz) assembles a group of individuals from different communities and parts of the country to raise resistance against the Portuguese rule of Goa. The film featured Madhu, Utpal Dutt, Amitabh Bachchan, Jalal Agha, Anwar Ali and Madhukar in the roles of the brave ensemble.

# ACCESSIBLE INDIA - ACCESSIBLE FILMS

IFFI presents a section for specially-abled cinema enthusiasts, continuing the momentum of our mission to provide Sabka Manoranjan (Entertainment for All). The section aims at fostering inclusivity, ensuring the festival and cinema are inclusive and accessible cinematic avenues. These films will be equipped with audio-visual aids, including embedded audio descriptions and sign language, designed to meet diverse accessibility needs. Additionally, select films from the lineup will be available with Audio Descriptions that will be accessible through a technical partner app, enhancing a truly inclusive cinematic experience.

## 12TH FAIL

Colour | 147' | Hindi + Accessibility Feature(s) | 2023



<b>Director</b>	Vidhu Vinod Chopra
<b>Producer</b>	VC Films LLP
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Rangarajan Ramabadran
<b>Editor</b>	Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Jaskunwar Kohli
<b>Screenwriter</b>	Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Jaskunwar Kohli, Anurag Pathak, Aayush Saxena, Vikas Divyakirti
<b>Cast</b>	Vikrant Massey, Medha Shankar
<b>Courtesy</b>	India Signing Hands



*A Graduate from FTII Pune, Vidhu Vinod Chopra directed many hits like Khamosh, Parinda, 1942 - A Love Story, Mission Kashmir and Eklavya. His documentary, An Encounter with Faces, Parinda and Eklavya were India's official entries to the Oscars. He produced Munna Bhai MBBS, Lage Raho Munabbhai, 3 idiots and Parineeta.*



*Vidhu Vinod Chopra, founded by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, produced notable films like Sanju and 12th Fail.*

Inspiring story of the young protagonist's journey from failure in the 12th grade to the Indian Civil Service. Inspired from a real life incident, it depicts the hardships and challenges that Manoj Sharma, a village lad from the hinterlands notorious for dacoits, has to encounter to fulfil his dream..His father loses job being a whistle blower. The local politician makes sure Manoj cannot find work in the village. His family survives through the gradual selling of its meagre livestock.Manoj harbours an impossible dream – to pass UPSC, the world's toughest entrance exam. His competitors are over a million candidates from the finest educational institutes across India.For a poor village lad, with poor English and less resources, this is an impossible dream. In his quest he is aided by Shraddha, whose friendship, and later love, keeps him motivated.

### ACCESSIBILITY PARTNER



AVAILABLE WITH  
AUDIO DESCRIPTION  
INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE



## BARTALI'S BICYCLE

Colour | 85' | English + Accessibility Feature(s) | 2023



**Director** Enrico Paolantonio

**Producer** Toonz Media Group, Lynx Multimedia Factory, Rai Ragazzi

**Screenwriter** Enrico Paolantonio, Francesca Frig

**Courtesy** Billion Readers



*Born in Rome 1969, Enrico is an Arts graduate & a qualified Animation technician. In 1996 he directed the teaser of Gibi & Doppiat, a series hired and co-produced by RAI. He directed the TV series "Egyxos" a Musiccartoon-De Agostini coproduction in 2014.*

A young Jewish athlete passionate with cycling befriends an Arab boy who's a member of the opponent team. Following the footsteps of Gino Bartali, a champion and a hero, David and Ibra overcome the hostilities of their respective teams, breaking the prejudices that weigh the communities in the Jerusalem of our times. A story of friendship and sports solidarity which brings us through two distinctive timelines: the risky missions of Gino Bartali in the Florence of World War II, trying to save the lives of many Jews, and the story of two modern teenagers who challenge centuries of prejudice in the name of their friendship and passion for cycling.



*Toonz Media Group is a 360-degree media powerhouse and one of the world's leading animation production company. Lynx Multimedia Factory is a kids' entertainment company, based in Rome and Milan. Rai Kids is an Italian production company based in Turin.*

## ACCESSIBILITY PARTNER



# BEYOND THE COURT: THE INDIAN WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL JOURNEY

Colour | 26' | English + Accessibility Feature(s) | 2024



**Director** Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu, D Krishna Satyam

**Producer** Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu

**Cinematographer** D Krishna Satyam

**Editor** D Krishna Satyam

**Screenwriter** Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu

**Courtesy** Yes We Too Can Charitable Trust



D Krishna Satyam is a skilled Video Editor and Content Creator with over three years of experience in music videos and prewedding content. He excels in cinematography, direction, Colour correction, and sound design. With a Mechanical Engineering background, he seamlessly blends technical expertise with creative storytelling.



Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu, a former Para Swimming Champion, promotes inclusivity in sports, arts, and filmmaking for persons with disabilities.

*Beyond the Court: The Indian Wheelchair Basketball Journey* is a documentary highlighting the vibrant world of wheelchair basketball in India. It explores how sport boosts confidence and exposure for persons with disabilities, the challenges faced by the National Federation and State Associations, and the support needed for the sport's development. Featuring the personal stories of one female and one male player, the film offers heartfelt perspectives on their journeys. One of the directors is a wheelchair user/player and sports administrator, adding authenticity to the narrative.

## ACCESSIBILITY PARTNER

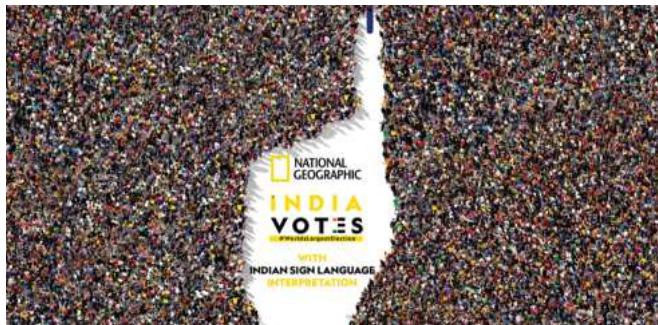


AVAILABLE WITH  
AUDIO DESCRIPTION  
INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE



# INDIA VOTES #WORLDSLARGESTELECTION

Colour | 45' | Hindi, English + Accessibility Feature(s) | 2024



**Director** ABP Studio

**Producer** National Geographic

**Cinematographer** Devendra Kumar Dev, Naresh Gurung

**Editor** Abu Liyakat, Abhishek Bhat, Akash Panwar, Ravi Verma, Nishank, Chandan, Jagdish

**Screenwriter** Samridhi Thapliyal, Akshit Mathur

**Cast** Cyrus Sahukar

**Courtesy** India Signing Hands



*National Geographic is a popular television channel and one of the most iconic brands in the world. National Geographic believes in the power of science, exploration and storytelling to inspire, illuminate and change the world through entertainment. The stories we tell on National*

With nearly 97 crore registered voters in 2024, the Indian General Election is a true modern marvel. To celebrate this symbol of the Indian democracy, National Geographic India launched a special feature called 'India Votes #WorldsLargestElection'. Hosted by Cyrus Sahukar, this film decodes the Indian General Election and embodies the National Geographic ethos that when people understand the world, they care deeply and take responsibility for it. From saluting the foot soldiers of the Election Commission, to giving exclusive access to the Chief Election Commissioner of India, the film unravels the mammoth planning and execution that goes into conducting the General Election. Shot across India, a swift post-production ensured the film launched right in the thick of the elections to excite and encourage people to participate. In the spirit of inclusivity, National Geographic partnered with India Signing Hands (ISH) to launch 'India Votes #WorldsLargestElection' in Indian sign language.

## ACCESSIBILITY PARTNER



AVAILABLE WITH  
INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE



**STRIDE**

Colour | 37' | Tamil + Accessibility Feature(s) | 2024



<b>Director</b>	G Bhargava Rao
<b>Producer</b>	Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Devaraj Pugazhenthi
<b>Editor</b>	K Vivek
<b>Screenwriter</b>	SS Umapathy
<b>Courtesy</b>	Yes We Too Can Charitable Trust



*G. Bhargava Rao, founder of Final Draft, is an Indian filmmaker with over 20 years in media. He has directed films, created ads, produced documentaries, and held leadership roles at B Group-AMSC and Big 92.7fm.*



*Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu, a former Para Swimming Champion, promotes inclusivity in sports, arts, and filmmaking for persons with disabilities.*

*Stride* follows the journey of Vijay, a young, unmarried individual living with his ailing mother. Vijay, a locomotor user, grapples with his identity while transitioning into a transgender person. Fear of societal and workplace discrimination holds him back from fully embracing his true self. As Vijay navigates personal and professional complexities, he realizes the necessity of living authentically for his happiness and fulfillment. With support from friends and allies, Vijay courageously comes out to his community and workplace. The film highlights the challenges faced by transgender individuals, particularly those with disabilities, through authentic representation and powerful storytelling, shedding light on acceptance, inclusion, and the pursuit of dreams despite adversity.

**ACCESSIBILITY PARTNER**

## WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS THE RECRUITER'S DOOR

Colour | 6' | English + Accessibility Feature(s) | 2024



<b>Director</b>	G Bhargava Rao
<b>Producer</b>	Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Hindu Lal
<b>Editor</b>	G Bhargava Rao
<b>Screenwriter</b>	G Bhargava Rao & Madhavi Latha P
<b>Courtesy</b>	Yes We Too Can Charitable Trust



*G. Bhargava Rao, founder of Final Draft, is an Indian filmmaker with over 20 years in media. He has directed films, created ads, produced documentaries, and held leadership roles at B Group-AMSC and Big 92.7fm.*

When Opportunity Knocks the Recruiter's Door follows Rekha, a highly skilled professional and wheelchair user, who faces discrimination during her recruitment. Despite her exceptional qualifications, officials hesitate to hire her. However, their boss intervenes, advocating for inclusion. With his support, Rekha is recruited and eventually rises to a senior position abroad. The film highlights the importance of embracing diversity and creating an inclusive workplace where everyone can thrive. Notably, Rekha is portrayed by an actor who is also a wheelchair user.



*Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu, a former Para Swimming Champion, promotes inclusivity in sports, arts, and filmmaking for persons with disabilities.*

### ACCESSIBILITY PARTNER



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***EMBRACE ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY.***

# GALA PREMIERES

The Gala Premieres segment, introduced during the 53rd edition of IFFI, was conceived to enhance the festival's allure and provide public access to their favorite stars. It succeeded in attracting large audiences, bridging international cinema with India, offering a platform for filmmakers and delegates to interact and fostering global collaborations. It also integrated indie art with glamour and diverse talents with the industry, featuring directors and stars supporting the auteur.

## SNOW FLOWER

Colour | 112' | Marathi | 2024



In Konkan, India, Bablya dreams of joining a Dashavtaar theater group bound for Russia, straining ties with his parents, Digya and Nanda. In Russia, he marries, has a daughter, Pari, but tragically dies in a pub altercation. Digya and Nanda rush to bring orphaned Pari home. Despite their love, they realize she can thrive only in Russia. Nanda returns her, acknowledging Pari's true place for a fulfilling life.

**Director** Gajendra Vitthal Ahire

**Producer** Deepak Kumar Bhagat, Rekha Bhagat

**Screenwriter** Gajendra Vitthal Ahire

**Cinematographer** Krishna Kumar Soren

**Editor** Anant Kamath

**Cast** Chhaya Kadam, Vaibhav Mangle, Sarfaraz Alam Safu, Manawa Devendra Bhagwat



*Gajendra Vitthal Ahire, an acclaimed Indian filmmaker, has directed over 65 films, contributing as writer, lyricist, and composer, earning numerous awards, including National and Indian Panorama recognitions.*

## Mrs.

Colour | 111' | Hindi | 2024



Richa, a passionate dancer, marries a shy, hardworking doctor but soon feels stifled by endless domestic chores and unappreciated efforts. Despite her dedication, she struggles to meet family expectations while her peers advance. Determined to forge her own identity, Richa channels her love into cooking and resists male dominance. "Mrs." is her journey of self-discovery, blossoming as she redefines herself beyond traditional expectations.

**Director** Arati Kadav

**Producer** Jyoti Deshpande, Pammi Baweja, Harman Baweja

**Screenwriter**: Anu Singh Chaudhary, Harman Baweja, Arati Kadav

**Cinematographer** Pratham Mehta

**Editor** Prerna Saigal

**Cast** Sanya Malhotra, Nishant Dahiya, Kanwaljit Singh



*Arati Kadav, an award-winning Mumbai-based writer-director, transitioned from software development to filmmaking. Her sci-fi debut Cargo (2019) won international awards, screening at 27 festivals, including SXSW and Shanghai.*

## JAB KHULI KITAAB

121' | Hindi | 2024 | India



When Anusuya confesses to a decades-old affair, her husband Gopal's world shatters. Hurt and angry, he decides to divorce her, concealing their explosive secret from the family. What ensues is a rollercoaster journey as Gopal and Anusuya confront their past, navigating the complexities of love, forgiveness, and togetherness with surprising humor and heart, rediscovering what binds them after fifty years.

**Director** Saurabh Shukla

**Producer** Sameer Nair, Deepak Segal, Nar-en Kumar, Saurabh Shukla, Mahesh Korade

**Screenwriter** : Saurabh Shukla

**Cinematographer** Adri Thakur

**Editor** Kunal Walve

**Cast** Pankaj Kapur, Dimple Kapadia, Aparshakti Khurana



*Saurabh Shukla, a National Award-winning actor, screenwriter, and director, is renowned for roles in Satya, Jolly LLB, and Drishyam 2, and has directed films like Pappu Can't Dance Saala.*

## HAZAR VELA SHOLAY PAHILELA MANUS

111' | Marathi with English Subtitles | 2024 | India



In A Man Who Has Seen Sholay a Thousand Times, Bapu Deshmukh, a village cinema owner in 1970s Maharashtra, passionately brings Sholay to his coastal town for Dutta Jayanti. Despite challenges, including financial struggles and family tensions, he unites the villagers through a jubilant screening. However, Bapu's projectionist, Khandu, becomes dangerously obsessed with the film, embodying its characters. The story explores cinema's power to inspire, transform, and sometimes consume.

**Director** Rushikesh Kamalkant Gupte

**Producer** Rajesh S.Dempo & Bhakti Dempo,Sa-goon Wagh & Sridevi Shetty Wagh

**Screenwriter** : Rushikesh Kamalkant Gupte

**Cinematographer** Amol Gole

**Cast** Dilip Prabhavalkar, Sonali Kulkarni, Siddharth Jadhav



*Rushikesh Gupte, acclaimed author and director, is celebrated for his authentic portrayals of Indian life, known for Hazaar Vela Sholay Pahilela Manus and Dil Dimag Aur Batti (2022).*

## THE MEHTA BOYS

119' | Hindi | 2024 | India



The passing of the family matriarch, a promise made to her years ago, and a lost passport force father Shiv and son Amay to spend time together—something they've avoided for years. Their time together leads to a series of mishaps, including a disastrous dinner with Amay's girlfriend, a caved ceiling, and two accidents, resulting in an even bigger, quirkier mess. While one is trying to regain his manhood, the other is watching his fade away.

**Director** Boman Irani

**Producer** Shujaat Saudagar, Vikesh Bhutani, Boman Irani, Danesh Irani

**Screenwriter** Alex Dinelaris Jr, Boman Irani

**Cinematographer** Krish Makhija

**Editor** Charu Shree Roy

**Cast** Boman Irani, Avinash Tiwary, Shreya Chaudhry, Puja Sarup



*Boman Irani, an acclaimed Indian actor and filmmaker, has starred in over 100 films. His debut directorial project, "The Mehta Boys," reflects eight years of storytelling development, influenced by mentorship and a lifelong passion for cinema and photography.*

## HISAAB BARABAR

111' | Hindi | 2024 | India



Radhe Mohan Sharma, a diligent ticket checker for the Indian Railways and a human calculator, discovers a small discrepancy in his bank account that unravels his orderly life. Investigating further, he uncovers a massive scam draining the savings of ordinary people. As he confronts the ruthless CEO Mickey Mehta, Radhe loses his job and home but finds unexpected support among defrauded slum dwellers. Ultimately, he learns that love and relationships can't be quantified like numbers.

**Director** Ashwni Dhir

**Producer** Sharad Patel, Shreyanshi Patel

**Screenwriter** : Ashwni Dhir, Purva Naresh

**Cinematographer** Santosh Thundiyal

**Editor** Manan Sagar

**Cast** R. Madhavan, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Kirti Kulhari



*Ashwni Dhir is an Indian film director and scriptwriter known for directing films like One Two Three, Atithi Tum Kab Jaoge?, and Son of Sardaar, and producing popular TV shows and a Marathi film.*

## ZERO SE RESTART

Colour | 90' | Hindi & English | 2024



*Zero Se Restart* is an endearing, entertaining and exhilarating story of an eccentric filmmaker as he discards all preconceived notions to make one of India's most loved films of all time... 12th Fail – a film that no one wanted to make.

**Director** Jaskunwar Kohli

**Producer** Vidhu Vinod Chopra

**Screenwriter** : Jaskunwar Kohli

**Cinematographer** Adri Thakur

**Editor** Jaskunwar Kohli & Vidhu Vinod Chopra

**Cast** Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Vikrant Massey



*Jaskunwar Kohli started as a drone operator and BTS director on Shikara. Subsequently, he assisted Vidhu Vinod Chopra on 12th Fail and was credited as the Co-Writer, Associate Director and Editor of the film. 12th Fail earned him several laurels for Editing and Screenplay. Currently he is directing and editing 'Zero Se Restart'.*

## PUNE HIGHWAY

Colour | 121' | Hindi | 2024



Khandu, Vishnu, Nicky, Natasha and Babu grow up together in 'Shantibhavan'; a building in Mumbai. Even though an incident on the Pune Highway makes Babu a paraplegic, life in 'Shantibhavan' continues to be great. Until one day a body is found floating in a lake 200 kilometers away. It takes time to identify the body. But when they do, it tears the friends apart in more ways than one. Hurtling their story to an impossible, shocking ending.

**Director** Bugs Bhargava Krishna and Rahul daCunha

**Producer** Rahul daCunha, Seema Mohapatra and Jahanara Bhargava

**Screenwriter** : Bugs Bhargava Krishna and Rahul daCunha

**Cinematographer** Deep Metkar

**Editor** Abhishek Gupta

**Cast** Amit Sadh, Anuvab Pal



*Bugs Bhargava Krishna is a creative professional. 'Pune Highway' is his fourth film as director. 'Barot House', 'Nail Polish' and 'Pigeon' (in post) are the other three. He has also helped write the hit Amazon prime show 'Dil, Dosti, Dilemma'. Bugs and Rahul's next is 'Old Cypress'.*

## HEADHUNTING TO BEATBOXING

Colour | 62' | ENGLISH | 2024



*Headhunting to Beatboxing* the documentary follows the Naga tribe in the northeastern Indian state of Nagaland, once engulfed in the depths of violence and bloodshed, that resurrects itself through the healing power of music and emerges through a musical renaissance. Tracing 'the evolution of music across cultures, tribes and generations', from the ancient traditions of headhunting tribes to the musical renaissance in the state.

**Director** Rohit Gupta

**Producer** AR Rahman

**Screenwriter** Alex Dinelaris Jr, Boman Irani

**Cinematographer** Rohit Gupta

**Editor** Amit Malik, Riyas Hassan, Rohit Gupta, Rohit Daas



*Rohit Gupta is a filmmaker and artist. Known for having created the Creative Indians which was presented on Netflix, Gupta has also helmed the documentary Headhunting to Beatboxing for AR Rahman. Residing in Goa, Gupta is among the frontrunners of using interesting narrative tools to tell his stories.*

## THE PIANO LESSON

Colour | 125' | English | 2024



A household clash centers on an heirloom piano. A brother plans to sell it to build the family fortune, but his sister refuses to give up the last link to their heritage. Their battle unleashes haunting truths about how the past is perceived and who gets to define a family legacy.

**Director** Malcolm Washington

**Producer** Denzel Washington, p.g.a., Todd Black, p.g.a.

**Screenwriter** Virgil Williams & Malcolm Washington

**Cinematographer** Michael Gioulakis, ASC

**Editor** Leslie Jones, ACE

**Cast** Samuel L. Jackson, John David Washington, Danielle Deadwyler



*Malcolm Washington, a Los Angeles based filmmaker, directed The Piano Lesson for Netflix. An AFI graduate, he's known for Benny Got Shot, which earned him ATLFF's Filmmaker to Watch Award, and other acclaimed shorts.*



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AUDIO DESCRIPTION  
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## SCREW LOVE! (SAALI MOHABBAT)

Colour | 125' | English | 2024



Kavita discovers her husband's infidelity during a luncheon in Delhi, prompting her to recount the tale of Smita from Fursatgadh. Smita's idyllic life shatters with the arrival of her cousin Shalu, leading to betrayal from her husband Pankaj. As Smita seeks revenge, she faces blackmail from a determined police officer, Ratan. Kavita's storytelling intertwines her reality with Smita's struggles, raising questions about her own past and intentions amidst the unfolding drama.

## KANNAPPA

Colour | 122' | Telugu | 2024



The film revisits the legendary folk tale of Bhakta Kannappa, an atheist hunter who became a revered devotee of Lord Shiva and plucked out his eyes in an act of extreme devotion. The story revolves around the ultimate sacrifice the titular hero makes for Lord Shiva. The mythological epic blends spiritual themes with cinematic grandeur.

**Director** Tisca Chopra

**Producer** Jyoti Despande, Dinesh Malhotra, Manish Malhotra

**Screenwriter** : Tisca and Sanjay Chopra

**Cinematographer** Vidushi Tiwari

**Editor** Sanyukta Kaza

**Cast** Radhika Apte, Divyenndu, Anurag Kashyap, Anshumaan Pushkar, Sauraseni Maitra, Sharat Saxena



*Tisca Chopra is a celebrated Indian actress known for her roles in films like *Taare Zameen Par*, *Good Newwz*, and *Murder Mubarak*. A passionate storyteller, she wrote and starred in the world's most-watched short film, *Chutney*. Her directorial feature debut, *Saalil Mohabbat*, is eagerly anticipated*

**Director** Mukesh Kumar Singh

**Producer** Mohan Babu

**Screenwriter** : Vishnu Manchu

**Cinematographer** Sheldon Chau

**Editor** Anthony Gonsalves

**Cast** Vishnu Manchu, Mohanlal, Akshay Kumar, Prabhudeva, Kajal Agarwal, Prabhas



*A post graduate in Dramatic Arts, and a drama lecturer, Mukesh Kumar Singh has directed three short films namely *Bruno*, *Teacher* and *Home Sweet Home*, which have officially been selected at various national and international festivals, winning 16 awards in different categories, including Best Short Film and Best Director. A seasoned director in Indian television, Singh's recent focus has been towards historical and mythological shows, including the highly acclaimed *Mahabharat*.*

## MOANA 2

Colour | 100' | English & Hindi | 2024



After receiving an unexpected call from her wayfinding ancestors, Moana journeys alongside Maui and a new crew to the far seas of Oceania and into dangerous, long-lost waters for an adventure unlike anything she's ever faced.

**Director** David Derrick Jr., Jason Hand, Dana Ledoux Miller

**Producer** Christina Chen, Yvett Merino

**Screenwriter** : Virgil Williams & Malcolm Washington

**Voice Cast** Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson, Rachel House, Temuera Morrison

## THE RANA DAGGUBATI SHOW

Colour | 40' | Telugu and English | 2024

An exciting and curiosity-piquing talk show hosted by celebrated actor Rana Daggubati, featuring his friends and contemporaries from Indian cinema.



# MASTERCLASSES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Masterclasses, In Conversation sessions, Panel Discussions offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to delve into the minds of cinematic giants. By inviting renowned filmmakers and industry experts, these events provide an unparalleled platform for aspiring filmmakers and cinephiles to learn, grow, and connect.

## MASTERCLASSES

**Topic** Living Movies: Filmmaking and the Creative Life

**Speakers** Vidhu Vinod Chopra (Writer, Director, Producer)

**About the Topic** Ace filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra delves into his creative pursuit, sharing insights on Cinema's power to reflect life, his storytelling philosophy, and how films evolve into living entities, inspiring generations.



**Vidhu Vinod Chopra**

**Topic** Power of Failure

**Speakers** Anupam Kher (Actor, Author & Motivational Speaker)

**About the Topic** Legendary actor Anupam Kher explores how failure became a catalyst for his growth and success, sharing candid reflections on resilience, reinvention, and triumph from his professional journey over the years in the Movie Industry.



**Anupam Kher**



AVAILABLE WITH  
LIVE SIGN LANGUAGE

**Topic** Laser for Post Production and Evolution to HDR

**Speakers** Anthon Muller (Global Director Strategic Marketing at Barco)

**About the Topic** Anton Muller, Strategic Director at Barco Cinema, takes us through the cutting-edge advancements in Laser projections and HDR advancements, showing how these technologies enhance immersive cinematic image quality, reshape post-production, and the way how films are mastered and presented.



**Anthon Muller**



AVAILABLE WITH  
LIVE SIGN LANGUAGE

**Topic** Art of Cinematography

**Speakers** John Seale (Australian Cinematographer)

**About the Topic** With a career spanning decades, Australian Cinematographer John Seale will share his invaluable insights and techniques giving the audience a great learning process for the elevation of Filmmaking.



**John Seale**



AVAILABLE WITH  
LIVE SIGN LANGUAGE

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**Topic** How to succeed in new Hollywood ?

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**Speakers** Philip Noyce (Director, Writer)

**About the Topic** This session will explore essential strategies and potential skills needed to acquire and develop in the dynamic world of filmmaking, providing insights and guidance for aspiring filmmakers to navigate their creative journeys successfully.

**Philip Noyce**AVAILABLE WITH  
LIVE SIGN LANGUAGE

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**Topic** The Thrill of Victory

---

**Speakers** Chris Kirshbaum (Animator, teacher, Entrepreneur)

**About the Topic** The session will analyze how sports can help animators get better performances. The discussion will also have insights into the "world famous Avengers."

**Chris Kirshbaum**AVAILABLE WITH  
LIVE SIGN LANGUAGE

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**Topic** Exhibition of Feature Films in Cinema Theatres : The Question of Accessibility

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**Speakers** Senthil Kumar ( Qube Cinema Technologies )

**About the Topic** Mr. Senthil Kumar addresses cinema accessibility, exploring challenges and solutions for reaching diverse audiences. He highlights advancements and infrastructure needed to bridge gaps, ensuring everyone experiences the magic of cinema in theaters.

**Senthil Kumar**AVAILABLE WITH  
LIVE SIGN LANGUAGE

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**Topic** Who is a Film Producer? Five Important Stages of Production !

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**Speakers** Stephen Woolley (Film maker & Actor)

**About the Topic** Stephen Woolley will delve into the intricate process of filmmaking. He breaks down the filmmaking process into five key stages: development, pre-production, production, post-production, and release and marketing.

**Stephen Woolley**AVAILABLE WITH  
LIVE SIGN LANGUAGE

## IN CONVERSATIONS

### **Topic** From Big Screen to Streaming

**Speakers** Manisha Koirala ( Actor), Vikramaditya Motwane (director, producer and screenwriter)

**About the Topic** Renowned actress Manisha Koirala and director-producer Vikramaditya Motwane discuss commercial success in film and streaming, their journeys, adapting stories for various platforms, and captivating audiences through powerful performances and direction.



**Manisha Koirala**  
(SPEAKER)

**Vikramaditya Motwane**  
(SPEAKER)

### **Topic** Centenary Special ANR: Celebrating the Life and Works of Akkineni Nageswara Rao

**Speakers** Nagarjuna (Actor, Producer), Kushboo Sundar (Actor)

**About the Topic** This centenary special honors legendary actor Akkineni Nageswara Rao, featuring his son Nagarjuna and actress Khushboo Sundar, who discuss ANR's profound influence as a father, his iconic roles, and his lasting impact on Indian cinema.



**Nagarjuna**  
(SPEAKER)

**Kushboo Sundar**  
(SPEAKER)

### **Topic** Sound Design : The Aural Universe of Cinematic Storytelling

**Speakers** Nakul Kamte (Sound Engineer) and Eric Hoehn (Sound Engineer)

**About the Topic** This session features renowned sound designers Nakul Kamte and Eric Hoehn, exploring sound design's impact on emotional and narrative depth in films, from subtle ambient layers to impactful soundscapes that enrich the cinematic experience.



**Nakul Kamte**  
(SPEAKER)

**Eric Hoehn**  
(SPEAKER)

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**Topic** Transforming Literary Masterpieces into Engaging Films

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**Speakers** Mani Ratnam (Director, Writer, Producer)Gautham Vasudev Menon (Director, Writer, Producer)

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**About the Topic** Master Filmmaker Mani Ratnam in his dialogue with noted director Gautham Vasudev Menon, will discuss the challenges in adapting Literary Classics into films, focusing on his approach to "Ponniyin Selvan". He will reveal the challenges of preserving the essence of the original work while making complex historical characters resonate with contemporary audiences.**Mani Ratnam  
(SPEAKER)****Gautham Vasudev  
Menon  
(SPEAKER)**

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**Topic** From Small Screen to Big Dreams: the Inspiring Journey of Sivakarthikeyan

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**Speakers** Sivakarthikeyan (Actor, Producer, Playback Singer) and Kushboo Sundar (Actor)

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**About the Topic** Noted Tamil actor Sivakarthikeyan will discuss with actress Kushboo Sundar, his cinematic journey from TV presenter to mainstream actor, highlighting his perseverance, resilience, and passion, which transformed setbacks into blockbuster hits and inspired aspiring actors in Tamil cinema.**Sivakarthikeyan  
(SPEAKER)****Kushboo Sundar  
(SPEAKER)**

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**Topic** Centenary Special: Celebrating the Life and Works of Raj Kapoor - 'The Greatest Showman'

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**Speakers** Ranbir Kapoor (Actor) and Rahul Rawail (Director, Writer)

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**About the Topic** In a Centenary tribute, actor and grandson Ranbir Kapoor talks with ace director Rahul Rawail, about the legacy of one and only Raj Kapoor, discussing his artistic brilliance, pioneering contributions, and the enduring appeal of his films that continue to inspire filmmakers and audiences alike.**Ranbir Kapoor  
(Speakers)****Rahul Rawail  
(SPEAKER)**

### **Topic** Lata Mangeshkar Memorial Talk: Musical Theatre in India

**Speakers** A R Rahman (Composer, Singer) and Naman Ramachandran ( Indian critic and journalist)

**About the Topic** At IFFI 2024, Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman will pay tribute to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar. He will explore the evolving landscape of Indian musical theatre, highlighting its vibrant blend of traditional and contemporary influences.



**A R Rahman**  
**(SPEAKER)**

**Naman Ramachandran**  
**(SPEAKER)**

### **Topic** Character and Actor : The Power of Nuance

**Speakers** Nithya Menen (Actor), Dhanya Varma (Show Host & Program Producer)

**About the Topic** Celebrated actress Nithya Menen explores how subtlety and nuance in acting enable seamless transitions into characters' worlds. She discusses how letting go of personal identity creates authentic, relatable performances, where small gestures reveal complex, layered stories, forging a deep connection with the audience.



**Nithya Menen**  
**(SPEAKER)**

**Dhanya Varma**  
**(SPEAKER)**

### **Topic** Mastering the Unseen

**Speakers** Manoj Bajpayee (Actor) and Sudhir Srinivasan (Executive Editor (Entertainment) of The New Indian Express)

**About the Topic** Manoj Bajpayee unveils the art of portraying the unspoken and unseen on screen. Known for his subtle, powerful performances, he will share insights into bringing depth and realism to every role, unfolding the shades that make his characters unforgettable.



**Manoj Bajpayee**  
**(SPEAKER)**

**Sudhir Srinivasan**  
**(SPEAKER)**

## **Topic** The Journey from Script to Screen: Writing for Film and Beyond

**Speakers** Prasoon Joshi (Writer, Lyricist, Screenwriter) and Anant Vijay (Author)

**About the Topic** Embark on an illuminating journey through the mind of a creative force screenwriter, poet, advertiser, dialogue writer, lyricist, and now, an acclaimed stage play writer. In our exclusive masterclass, "Concept to Content," discover how raw ideas are transformed into impactful narratives across diverse formats and genres that captivate and inspire. Join this masterclass to uncover the multifaceted process behind taking a concept from inception to the screen, stage, or page. Learn to harness your own creative potential and master the art of storytelling across various mediums.



**Prasoon Joshi**  
**(SPEAKER)**

**Anant Vijay**  
**(SPEAKER)**

## PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### **Topic** Women Safety and Cinema

**Speakers** Imtiaz Ali (Director), Suhasini Maniratnam (Actor), Kushboo Sundar (Actor), Vani Tripathi Tikoo (Actor)

**About the Topic** This panel will examine the evolution of female characters in Cinema, the portrayal of violence against women, and the impact on societal attitudes towards women's safety, along with policies promoting a safe, inclusive workspace for women.



**Imtiaz Ali**  
**(SPEAKER)**

**Suhasini Maniratnam**  
**(SPEAKER)**

**Kushboo Sundar**  
**(SPEAKER)**

**Vani Tripathi Tikoo**  
**(MODERATOR)**

## Topic Stories that Travel

**Speakers** Farrukh Dhondy (Writer and Playwright), Anna Saura (Producer), Tannishtha Chatterjee (Actor, Director), Vani Tripathi Tikoo, Lucy (Actor), Bobby Bedi (Producer)

**About the Topic** In this session, an esteemed panel will delve into the evolution of the art of storytelling, themes, techniques, and emotional core that allow films to resonate globally. Their stories transcend borders, languages, and cultures, impacting diverse audiences worldwide.



**Farrukh Dhondy**  
(SPEAKER)



**Anna Saura**  
(SPEAKER)



**Tannishtha Chatterjee**  
(SPEAKER)



**Vani Tripathi Tikoo**  
(SPEAKER)



**Lucy Walker**  
(SPEAKER)



**Bobby Bedi**  
(MODERATOR)

## Topic Culture As Context for Cinematic Storytelling

**Speakers** Dr. Sacchidanand Joshi (Writer), Amish Tripathi (Author) , Bharat Bala (Director and Screenwriter) Dr. Makrand Paranjapae (Novelist and Poet)

**About the Topic** This session explores how cultural contexts shape storytelling in films. Renowned writers will discuss how cultural influences, traditions, and values are reflected on screen, impacting the storytelling process.



**Dr. Sacchidanand Joshi**  
(SPEAKER)



**Amish Tripathi**  
(SPEAKER)



**Bharat Bala**  
(SPEAKER)



**Dr. Makrand Paranjapae**  
(MODERATOR)

**Topic** Centenary Session : 'Aasmaan se aaya farishta' - Mohammad Rafi - The king of Melody

**Speakers** Sonu Nigam (Playback Singer and Music Director), Shahid Rafi (Author), Subhash Ghai (Director), Anuradha Paudwal (Playback Singer), Yatindra Mishra (Poet)

**About the Topic** A Centenary Special Session paying tribute to the king of melody, Mr. Mohammad Rafi. This panel will also have a medley session with Rafi Saab's songs.



**Sonu Nigam  
(SPEAKER)**



**Shahid Rafi  
(SPEAKER)**



**Subhash Ghai  
(SPEAKER)**



**Anuradha Paudwal  
(SPEAKER)**



**Yatindra Mishra  
(MODERATOR)**

**Topic** Tapan Sinha Centenary Session - The Spectrum and the Soul

**Speakers** Arjun Chakraborty (Actor), N Manu Chakravarthy (Writer), Ratnottama Sengupta (Author), Sharmila Tagore (Actor)

**About the Topic** This session honours Tapan Sinha's centenary, exploring his diverse filmography, unique storytelling approach, and significant contributions to Indian cinema.



**Arjun  
Chakraborty  
(SPEAKER)**



**N Manu  
Chakravarthy  
(SPEAKER)**



**Sharmila  
Tagore  
(SPEAKER)**



**Ratnottama  
Sengupta  
(MODERATOR)**

**Topic** Will Artificial Intelligence Alter Filmmaking Forever?

**Speakers** Pragya Mishra (Lead Policy Maker, Open AI), Anand Gandhi (Director and Producer), Shekhar Kapur (Film Maker and Actor)

**About the Topic** This session examines the potential impact of artificial intelligence on the future of filmmaking. It will discuss the ways in which AI can be used in various aspects of the filmmaking process.



**Pragya Mishra  
(SPEAKER)**



**Anand Gandhi  
(SPEAKER)**



**Shekhar Kapur  
(MODERATOR)**

## ROUND TABLE

**Topic** 360° Cinema: Film Festival Directors' Round Table

**Speakers** Cameron Bailey (CEO, Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)), Shekhar Kapur (Festival Director, 55th IFFI), Giona Nazzaro (Artistic Director, Locarno Film Festival), Christian Jeune (Cannes Film Festival),

**About the Topic** This roundtable brings together legendary film festival directors to discuss promoting global cinema and ensuring its future. Highlighting meaningful cinema's importance, they explore festivals' vital role in this endeavor.



**Cameron Bailey  
(SPEAKER)**



**Giona Nazzaro  
(SPEAKER)**



**Christian Jeune  
(SPEAKER)**



**Shekhar Kapur  
(MODERATOR)**

# IFFIESTA

## A Grand Celebration of Cinema at IFFI 2024

The 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India is set to host the inaugural IFFIES-TA, an entertainment extravaganza designed to bring communities together through the magic of film, music, dance, food, art, and interactive experiences. IFFIESTA promises to be a grand celebration, merging the love for cinema with vibrant cultural elements to create a unique and engaging atmosphere for attendees.

Scheduled to take place at the Kala Academy, Goa, the Entertainment Arena will be the heart of IFFIESTA, offering a myriad of activities and performances tailored to captivate the youth. The event will feature a wide array of attractions, including live musical performances, dance shows, culinary delights, and art exhibits, ensuring there's something for everyone to enjoy.

One of the highlights of IFFIESTA will be the Carnival Parade, set to take place on November 22nd. This parade will celebrate the rich journey of Indian cinema, showcasing iconic moments and characters from beloved films. Participants can look forward to a visual feast as the parade weaves through the festival grounds, bringing the magic of cinema to life.

In addition to the Carnival Parade, the Cinemela pavilions from previous years will make a return, providing an engaging space for attendees to explore and interact with various aspects of filmmaking. These pavilions will offer workshops, panel discussions, and hands-on activities, allowing aspiring filmmakers and cinema enthusiasts to gain valuable insights and experience.

The crown engagement of IFFIESTA will undoubtedly be the large-scale performances, featuring renowned artists and performers who will take the stage to deliver unforgettable shows. These performances will not only entertain but also inspire and leave a lasting impression on the audience.

IFFIESTA at IFFI 2024 is poised to be an unforgettable celebration of cinema, culture, and community. With a diverse range of activities and experiences, it promises to create lasting memories for all who attend, fostering a deeper appreciation for the art of filmmaking and the rich cultural tapestry of India.



# ALUMNI MEET

## Honoring Legacy: A Tribute to FTII and SRFTI Alumni at the 55th IFFI

The path breaking contributions of the Film and Television Institute of India and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute will be acknowledged and honored at the 55th IFFI by felicitating the alumni of the two institutions - First 5 batches (1960-65) of FTII and first 2 batches (1965-67) of SRFTI. The occasion will also see the meeting of the FTII Society and SRFTI's Governing and Academic Councils. As members of the Alumni, Society and Councils, several industry stalwarts will be among nearly 80 invitees who will come from all over India to join this pioneering initiative.



# OPEN AIR SCREENINGS



An annual sidebar of IFFI's city-wide film festival programme, Open Air Screenings return to the 55th Edition with a slate of entertaining, inspirational and audience friendly films.

These special screenings for the citizens of Goa as well as the visitors to the scenic state will be organized at the following popular destination

**1. Miramar Beach (7.00 PM to 10.00 PM)**

**2. Adjacent open Space at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao (7.00 PM to 10.00 PM)**

**3. Vagator Beach (Helipad) ( 7.00 PM to 10.00 PM)**



# FILM BAZAAR

Step into the vibrant world of South Asian cinema with Film Bazaar, the largest global film market. Held annually at the picturesque Marriott Resort in Goa, this prestigious event is hosted by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) in collaboration with the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

## FILM BAZAAR

Film Bazaar is where creativity meets opportunity, as it shines a spotlight on South Asia's rich filmmaking talent and diverse content in production and distribution. Each year, more than 200 remarkable films from across South Asia are introduced to an eager audience of sales agents, buyers, festival programmers, and financiers from around the world.

Film Bazaar is more than just a market, it's a launchpad and a business hub for films destined to leave a mark on the international stage. Gems that debuted here, are The Lunchbox, All India Rank, Dilli Dark, Joram, Gidh: The Scavenger, Agra, Aattam (The Play), In the Belly of a Tiger, Bahadur The Brave, Dum Lagake Haisha, Shanghai, Killa, Highway, Bombay Rose, Fire in the mountains, The Distant Near and many more which have gained recognition and achieved success at prominent international film festivals. This year's 18th edition will be taking place from November 20-24, 2024. It promises to continue its legacy of championing bold, visionary cinema that transcends borders.

## CO-PRODUCTION MARKET

Film Bazaar's flagship Co-Production Market serves as a premier platform for Indian and international producers to connect with potential co-producers. Offering comprehensive support - from

financial assistance to location and post-production resources, this initiative fosters cross-border collaborations and drives growth within the South Asian film industry.



Over the years, the Market has showcased acclaimed projects such as Heirloom, Arms of a Man, Rapture, The Distant Near, Newton, Bhonsle, Aamis, The Knot, Raavaheb, In the Belly of a Tiger, Kuch Sapney Apne, Tribhanga, and Bend in the Coffin, which have captivated global audiences and garnered critical acclaim.

For this edition Market has received 180 feature film submissions from 23 countries across 30 languages. Selected projects will be pitched to a curated audience of producers, financiers, festival programmers, and sales agents, facilitating one-on-one meetings that may lead to valuable partnerships.

This year, the Co-Production Market introduces web series to its lineup. With the growing popularity of this format, creators will have the opportunity to pitch their work to industry leaders, pursue commissioning deals, and expand their reach.

For its inaugural web series edition, the Market attracted submissions from eight countries in 14 languages. After a rigorous selection process, eight projects across genres such as romance, drama, action, and comedy were chosen.

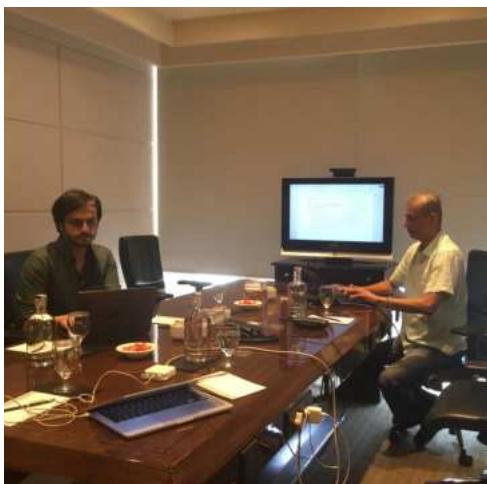
This edition will also feature high-profile projects from industry veterans, including Baahubali producer Shobu Yarlagadda. Notable highlights include Abhishek Chaubey's *Absent*, a psychological drama about two schoolboys with a dark twist, and Alan McAlex's *Aadu Ki Kasam*, which follows two friends on a quest for Bollywood fame. The new streaming section has received diverse submissions, including Yarlagadda's *Age of Deccan – The Legend* and Krish Jagarlamudi's *The Legend of Malik Ambar*, a historical epic.

Additional standout series include *Pondi-Cherie*, a culinary romance set in Pondicherry by Karwaan director Akarsh Khurana; *Reset*, a supernatural thriller by Pushkar-Gayatri (*Vikram Vedha*); *Independent*, a UK co-production about a bisexual musician's comeback; and *Just Like Her Mother*, directed by Venice Film Festival winner Ruchika Oberoi, which explores a mysterious disappearance.

Taking place from November 20-24 in Goa, the Co-Production Market at Film Bazaar is an essential gateway for creators seeking both creative and financial partnerships with top professionals from India and around the world.

## SCREENWRITERS' LAB

NFDC Screenwriters' Lab helps screenwriters with guidance and mentorship on their screenplays from acclaimed international industry experts. The lab consists of three sessions spanning a duration of five months where the participants are mentored from developing their script to pitching their project during the time of Film Bazaar in Goa.



These remarkable films have been an integral part of Film Bazaar's journey, standing as true success stories that reflect our commitment to nurturing impactful storytelling: *Titli*, *Dum Laga Ke Haisha*, *Bombay*

Rose, The Good Road, Lipstick Under My Burkha, Island City, All India Rank, Gos Kota Manuh (The Woodcutter), Sharmaji Namkeen, Ullozhukku, A Death in the Gunj and many more..

In 2024, NFDC Screenwriters' Lab: Features have received a total of 154 projects. After a careful and extensive evaluation process from various industry experts acting as external evaluators, a total of six projects were selected for the Lab. The projects fall under a wide spectrum of genres from Romance, Historical Fantasy, Supernatural to Comedy and Drama.

This year, the first edition of Screenwriters' Lab: Web Series will be introduced for projects of all genres marking a new milestone in the already established journey. For the very first edition, Screenwriters' Lab: Web Series we received a total of 47 projects for the lab sessions. After the process of evaluation by industry experts, final two projects were selected falling under the genres of Horror Comedy and Historical, Fantasy Fiction.

All 8 projects will be mentored by acclaimed homegrown and international industry experts like Marten Rabarts, Claire Dobbin, Ritesh Shah and Bijesh Jayarajan to help them develop their screenplays from the inception to help them pitch their project to industry professionals during the Film Bazaar in Goa.

## WORK IN PROGRESS LAB

The Work-in-Progress (WIP) Lab offers selected filmmakers the unique opportunity to screen the rough cut of their films to a distinguished panel of international advisors. This panel includes renowned film festival directors, critics, producers, and editors, who provide invaluable feedback aimed at helping filmmakers refine their films into polished final cuts.

In 2023, the WIP Lab accepted Fiction-Feature, Documentary (Non-Fiction), and Animation films, with a total of 5 Fiction and 5 Documentary films selected. This year, the WIP Lab will accept up to 8 Feature Fiction and Animation Fiction films. The directors and editors of the selected films will present their rough cuts to a panel of advisors, receiving in-depth, personalized feedback. We are also excited to report that in addition we have 58 entries from 7 countries reflecting the growing international recognition of this initiative. Moreover, the number of entries has surpassed last year's, marking a significant increase in global participation.

## VIEWING ROOM

The Viewing Room is an exclusive platform designed to bring together filmmakers, investors, distributors, and festival programmers from

India, South Asia, and beyond. This curated space is not just a showcase - it's a bridge between creative visions and the international film industry, where



completed films and those still in post-production find the attention they deserve.

Filmmakers are given the opportunity to present their projects to a handpicked audience of industry insiders, ensuring that every film gets the right kind of exposure. Each title is carefully cataloged, allowing filmmakers to connect with the global film community in a setting that values both creativity and security. With measures in place to protect content and uphold the integrity of creative expression, The Viewing Room stands as a beacon for cinematic talent.

This year, the platform will feature an exceptional roster of 208 films, presenting a rare chance for filmmakers to network, collaborate, and position their

work on the global stage. More than just a showcase, The Viewing Room is a crucial stepping stone for contemporary cinema.

## MARKET SCREENINGS

Market Screenings at Film Bazaar serve as a critical launchpad for filmmakers aiming to break into the international film circuit. Designed to connect filmmakers with key industry professionals that



include sales agents, distributors, producers, and festival programmers - these screenings offer an unparalleled opportunity to introduce films to a global audience and facilitate pivotal deals for distribution and co-production. Over the years, Market Screenings have been instrumental in promoting a diverse range of films. Past editions have showcased remarkable titles such as Skater Girl, Axone, Super Deluxe, Mulshi Pattern, Angrezi Mein Kehte Hain, and Kuthiravaal, among others.

These films have gone on to secure international acclaim, underlining the importance of Film Bazaar as a platform that fosters cinematic talent and helps filmmakers achieve global recognition.

Last year's selection featured submissions from across the globe, including countries such as Russia, Canada, Germany, Taiwan, and India. With such a dynamic lineup, the bar has been raised. The 2024 Market Screenings promise to offer fresh perspectives and innovative storytelling, making it a highly anticipated event for both established and emerging industry professionals.

Film Bazaar's Market Screenings not only showcase films but also cultivate an ecosystem where filmmakers can engage in meaningful collaborations, drive distribution strategies, and expand their creative visions across borders.

## FILM OFFICES



This platform for the local film industry serves as a crucial moment to engage

directly with state and country representatives, raising awareness about the practical challenges of filming—from logistical hurdles to regulatory concerns—and emphasizing the significant economic boost that film productions bring to local communities. The exchange fosters a collaborative environment where both sides can discuss how to create a more film-friendly landscape, one that benefits both creative projects and regional economies alike.

At last year's event, international and regional film offices took center stage to present the benefits of filming within their borders. Countries like the UK, Russia, and Kazakhstan, alongside Indian states such as Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Bihar, have showcased not only their scenic locations but also their



streamlined film policies designed to attract global productions. From tax rebates to shooting subsidies, these regions are rolling out incentives to make filming more accessible and cost-effective for filmmakers.

## TECH PAVILION

Returning for only the second time, the VFX and Tech Pavilion is back at Film Bazaar - bigger, bolder, and more immersive. This year's pavilion highlights breakthroughs in animation, visual effects, virtual reality, and CGI, showcasing the future of cinema. Step into virtual worlds, see intelligent characters come to life, and experience personalized storytelling, with top creative and AI experts revealing new filmmaking possibilities. Featuring brands like Google, Sony, Innovative, and Netflix, the VFX and Tech Pavilion is your gateway to the future of film. Don't miss this cutting-edge experience.

## PRODUCERS' WORKSHOP

The Producers' Workshop is a five-day intensive program for filmmakers,



producers, and entrepreneurs, offering direct access to industry leaders. Covering key areas like

development, pitching, budgeting, and distribution, the workshop equips participants with practical knowledge to advance their projects. With sessions on navigating film markets, managing rights, and real-world case studies, it provides actionable strategies. This year, it also fosters collaboration across Film Bazaar verticals for a comprehensive production perspective.

## KNOWLEDGE SERIES

The Knowledge Series at Film Bazaar is a thoughtfully designed platform that



delves into the ever-evolving dynamics of the global film industry, with a focus on contemporary developments and emerging trends. This year's program presents an engaging lineup of curated panel discussions & masterclasses, bringing together influential decision-makers, visionary thought leaders, and industry innovators

to explore the latest advancements shaping the future of cinema.

Few of the most prominent panels this year at the bazaar are: "Unlocking Global Funds for Aspiring Filmmakers", "Micro to Millions: Low Budget Films becoming blockbusters", "Sales vs Distribution: Key Differences", along with "Filming in India: A Land of Cinematic Opportunities" and state focus session on Madhya Pradesh also been exclusively curated highlighting how government initiatives & policies has helped enable filmmaking productions of various capacities in that state leading to diverse range of content pieces.

## COLLABORATIONS

This year, Film Bazaar partners



with industry leaders like Film Independent, Netflix, Sony, and Google to advance filmmaking technology and improve production processes.

These collaborations provide creators with innovative tools to enhance storytelling and explore emerging technologies, from virtual production to AI editing, for more sustainable practices. Additionally, the new Market Area for Film Offices introduces dedicated Pavilions for countries, states, and private organizations, promoting unique filming destinations and fostering local and international collaborations that celebrate diverse storytelling.



# CREATIVE MINDS OF TOMORROW

Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT) is an annual talent initiative held at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) that aims to nurture and empower young artists. It provides a platform for aspiring filmmakers and artists to enhance their skills, gain valuable industry insights, and access mentorship, guiding them on their journey to becoming future leaders in the creative arts.

## 4th EDITION OF CREATIVE MINDS OF TOMORROW (18TH TO 26TH NOVEMBER, 2024)

The Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT) was launched in 2021, as part of the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” celebrations, by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MoIB). The initiative was conceived as a unique platform recognising the young artists, filmmakers and creators to allow them to learn from and network with the who's who of the Indian Film Industry.

It provides a unique platform, recognizing the young creators who will be the focal point of achieving the vision of establishing India as one of the top creative economies in the world. In the last three editions, 225 young creative talents from the length and breadth of India, including the Northeast Indian States and Jammu & Kashmir have participated. CMOT is the largest fully supported platform of its kind in the world, where young creators from all over India interact, engage and learn from stalwarts of national and international cinema at one of the biggest film festivals in Asia, The International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

The alumni of CMOT activity have achieved remarkable success across various creative industries. Many have secured prominent positions with leading organizations, while others have launched their own ventures, making a significant impact in film, television, digital media, and beyond. Several esteemed alumni have seen their projects recognized and celebrated at some of the world's most prestigious film festivals in Cannes, Toronto, Berlin, Annecy and the International Emmy Awards. Their exceptional talent has also led them to work on major multi-million-dollar productions such as *Dune*, *Nimona*, and *Meg 2*, further estab-

lishing their mark on the global stage.

### Rechristened Creative Minds of Tomorrow at IFFI 2024

In line with the focus on “Young Film makers” for IFFI 2024, the scale and scope of CMOT activity has been expanded, to include 100 young talents in 13 filmmaking trades, up from 75 talents in 10 crafts in the previous editions.

This time, the participants will be selected from Direction, Acting, Cinematography, Editing and Subtitling, Scriptwriting, Playback Singing, Music Composition, Sound Recording, Costume Design, Hair & Makeup, Art Direction, Animation, Visual Effects (VFX), Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual reality (VR), and Voice Over/Dubbing.

The participants will attend specially curated masterclasses, take part in the 48 Hour Filmmaking Challenge, and avail the opportunity to get recruited by participating in the “Talent Camp”, organized with the best of production houses, media and entertainment companies.

The 100 CMOT participants will also receive a 1-year IMDbPro membership, brought up through NFDC's partnership with IMDb, world's leading online database of information related to films, television series, podcasts, home videos, video games, and streaming content online.

### Selecting the 100 Creative Minds

This year, CMOT received around 1070 entries across 13 different film crafts, from all around the country, including States such Orissa,

Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Union Territories, including Pondicherry, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This is the highest participation since the initiative's inception in 2021. The maximum entries were received from the Direction category with around 340, followed by Hair & Make-Up and Cinematography. From these, 100 Creative Minds have been chosen through a two-step process:

**The Selection Jury**, featuring award winning film industry professionals, evaluated all the entries, including their short films and show reels/ portfolios/ music files) and selected the top 310 entries, for consideration of the final evaluation. The jury panels were:

**Direction**

Manish Saini  
Manish Sharma

**Scriptwriting**

Utkarshini Vashishtha  
Charudutt Acharya

**Playback Singing**

Savani Ravindra

**Music Composition (Incl. Sound Design)**

Shashwat Sachdev

**Acting**

Girija Oak

**Hair and Make-Up**

Ranjith Ambady

**Hair and Make-Up & Costume Design**

Nachiket Barve

**Costume Design**

Archana Rao

**Editing & Subtitling**

Nagendra K. Ujjani

**Animation, VFX, AR & VR**

Joshy Benedict  
Bimal Poddar

**Cinematography**

Sudeep Chatterjee  
Amol Gole

**Art Direction**

Subrata Chakraborty  
Nilesh Wagh

**Sound Recording**

Ajay Bedi

**Voice Over and Dubbing**

Sonal Kaushal  
Vijay Vikram Singh

**The Grand Jury**, which featured film industry stalwarts and veterans went through the applications as shortlisted by the Selection Jury panel, and selected the final 100 participants across all the trades of application. The jury panels were:

**Direction**

Nikhil Mahajan

**Scriptwriting**

Samrat Chakraborty

**Playback Singing**

Shreya Ghoshal

**Music Composition (Incl. Sound Design)**

Shankar Mahadevan

**Acting**

Manoj Joshi

**Hair and Make-Up & Costume Design**

Shrikant Desai

**Costume Design**

Sheetal Sharma

### **Editing & Subtitling**

A. Sreekar Prasad

### **Animation, VFX, AR & VR**

Charuvi Agrawal

### **Cinematography**

Ravi Varman

### **Art Direction**

Shashank Tere

### **Sound Recording**

Subhash Sahoo

### **Voice Over and Dubbing**

Mona Shetty

Like every year, the 100 CMOT participants are passionate artists from varying backgrounds and profiles. They bring a unique perspective and creative voice to the table, showcasing a blend of technical expertise and artistic vision. United by their love for storytelling and the art of filmmaking, they have demonstrated exceptional talent in their respective crafts, making them the next generation of filmmakers poised to shape the future of cinema.

### **CMOT participants at IFFI55**

The 100 CMOT participants will arrive in Goa on 18th November 2024, and stay at IFFI until 26th November 2024, taking part in an elaborate program, including specially curated masterclasses, a short filmmaking competition, and the Talent Camp recruitment drive. They will also get an opportunity to attend the IFFI festivities, and take part in Film Bazaar, India's premiere cine marketplace.

**Masterclasses:** The programme features a series of specially curated masterclasses led by globally renowned

luminaries from both Indian and world cinema. These distinguished industry stalwarts offer invaluable



insights and inspiration, empowering attendees to refine their craft, deepen their understanding of the ever-evolving film landscape, and expand their professional networks. Through these exclusive sessions, participants will gain unparalleled access to the knowledge and expertise that have shaped some of the most acclaimed works in contemporary cinema. At the end of every masterclass, the Q/A sessions would not only allow the CMOT participants to interact with these industry stalwarts but also seek first-hand guidance.

### **48-Hour Filmmaking Challenge:**

At IFFI, the 100 participants will be divided into five teams of 20 members each, and take part in a group competition to produce short films. On the morning of 21st November 2024, the CMOTs will start their race against time, to shoot, edit and produce films on the theme of "Relationships in the Age of Technology" in 48 hours, by the morning of 23rd November, 2024. They will be shot across 12 locations within a 4-metre perimeter of Panjim. The five films will be screened at the festival venue, and judged by

S.No.	Masterclass by	Topic
1.	Mukesh Chhabra (Founder, Mukesh Chhabra Casting Company)	Mastering the Art of Acting: A Guide to Crafting Authentic Performances
2.	Siddharth Jain (Founder, The Story Ink)	The Art of Pitching: Crafting the Perfect Pitch for Producers, Distributors, and Investors.
3.	Guneet Monga (Founder and CEO, Sikhya Entertainment)	From Indie to International Success: Strategies for Gaining Global Recognition in Filmmaking
4.	Siddharth Meer (Director, Bridge PostWorks)	“Colour Me Well” (On the role of color and composition in viewer experience)
5.	Shashwat Badoni (Apple Music India Lead)	The Heartbeat of Indian Cinema: Music’s Timeless Role and the Future of Sound Design and Film Music.
6.	Saif Akhtar (Filmmaker, YRF Studios)	Real to Reel: The Craft and Scope of Documentary Filmmaking
7.	Umesh Bansal (Chief Business Officer, Zee Studios)	Film Distribution for Indie Filmmakers: Pathways to Global Audiences.
8.	Koval Bhatia (Founder, A Little Anarky Films)	Pathways to Global Recognition: Navigating International Markets and Labs for Independent Filmmakers

#### Masterclass schedule for CMOT participants

the Great Grand jury panel, featuring leaders of the film industry. Following the screening, an award ceremony will be organised, where the best film will be announced, apart from giving recognitions in various other categories. This will be the third edition of the filmmaking challenge. Last year, the participants produced films on “Mission Life”, conceptualised by Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi, a global campaign to encourage people to take action to protect the environment.

For the first year of the competition in 2022, the participants produced short films to showcase their vision of India@2047, at our 100th year of independence. The 48-Hour Filmmaking Challenge is brought by NFDC in partnership with UK based company Shorts International as the production partners. It is a popular worldwide channel and network dedicated to short films, which has over 13,000 titles. ShortsTV has the world's largest catalogue of quality short film offer-



ings, and has been a presenter of Oscar Nominated Short Film releases since

tion of the film challenge  
as the Knowledge Partners.



2006, including star-studded live action, animated and documentary shorts. UNICEF India will join the 2024 edi-

### **CMOT Hub:**

As an important part of the activity, a CMOT Hub is set up, which becomes a hub of the entire program. The teams congregate there for the preparation of films, coordination and post-production. Five editing suites will also be set up (in partnership with Aptech Limited), one for every team, where the teams will edit their shot footage and complete the final cut. The participants will also interact with media, film industry professionals and registered delegates at the hub. In the last two years, the notable celebrity presence at the CMOT Hub has included Kabir Khan (Filmmaker),

Pankaj Tripathi (Actor), Nawazuddin Siddiqui (Actor), Shweta Basu Prasad (Actor), and Kartiki Gonsalves (Filmmaker).

### Talent Camp:



As part of the CMOT activity, the participants experience the complete value chain. To give a first hand exposure to the film and media & entertainment industry the participants of CMOT 2024 activity will take part in a flagship event, the Talent Camp. As its part, the 100 par-

in addition to the 100 Creative Minds, our esteemed network of 225 talented alumni artists and filmmakers will have the opportunity to network with the esteemed Talent partners from the industry. This unique platform allows for direct interaction and learning from top industry executives. This endeavor is a pivotal step toward India's goal of becoming a global content powerhouse, accelerating the growth of our film industry

### Tours of IFFI and Film Bazaar:

The CMOT participants will get the opportunity to be a part of the inaugural ceremony of 55th IFFI and Film Bazaar. Apart from this, on 24th November 2024, a guided tour of Film Bazaar will be organised for the participants to see the business of cinema, as it happens. The 100 CMOT will get to visit IFFI, and attend various film screenings at the festival..

We are delighted to invite you all to the Creative Minds of Tomorrow 2024, at the 55th International Film Festival of India in Goa!



ticipants will get to pitch their skills and connect with the representatives of 15 leading Media and Entertainment companies of the Indian market, from broadcasting, film production, and Animation & VFX sectors. It will provide an exciting avenue for the participants to facilitate connections with the industry and have meaningful conversations.. Notably,

# 55 YEARS OF CELEBRATING THE JOY OF CINEMA

## IFFI

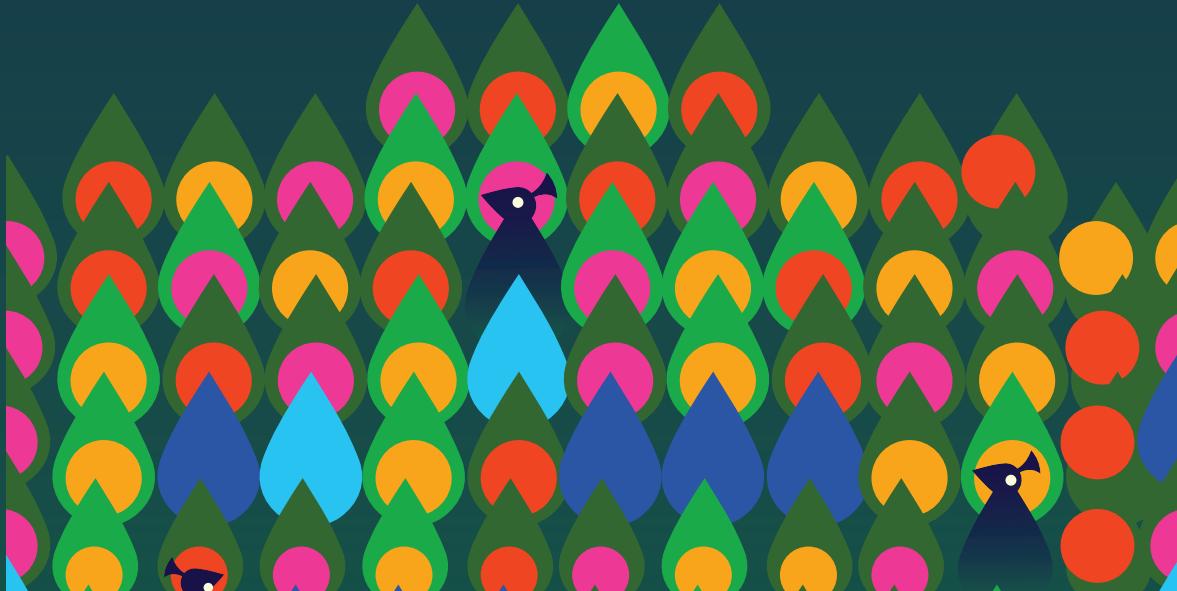
The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is one of the largest Film Festivals accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers' Association (FIAPF) in the Competitive Feature Films Category.

Since its inception in 1952, IFFI has been providing a platform for filmmakers, cineastes, and industry professionals to have access to excellent cinema from across the globe.

IFFI's International Cinema section is an assortment of culturally and aesthetically remarkable films from around the world. It has kept its stature high by committing to promote art by showcasing the international films of the year handpicked by eminent members associated with the Film Industry. Since 2004, IFFI has moved to its permanent venue at Goa, where it is organised each year by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India alongside the State Government of Goa.

## NFDC

The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) was established in the year 1975 under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India. It is now the central agency to promote and organize an integrated development of the film industry in India and to foster excellence in Cinema.



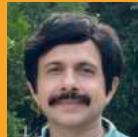
## OUR PREVIEW COMMITTEES INTERNATIONAL SECTION



**Jugal Debata**  
(Convener)



**Gadadhar Puty**  
(Convener)



**Yogesh Kulkarni**  
(Convener)



**Prashant Naik**  
(Convener)



**Niraj Kumar  
Mishra**



**Praveen  
Saripalli**



**Ashok  
Purang**



**Ashima  
Singh**



**Jalapathi  
Gudeli**



**Shyam  
Malick**



**Muskan  
Asthana**



**S Vijay  
Krishna Nair**



**Kiran  
Raj**



**Borun  
Thokchom**



**Jishnu V  
Nair**

## BEST WEB SERIES (OTT) AWARD



**A Chandra  
Sekhar**



**Ashok Kumar  
Palit**



**Atul  
Pandey**



**Dr. Pradeep  
Kenchanuru**



**Haobam  
Paban Kumar**



**Haril  
Shukla**



**Kedar  
Gaekwad**



**Mahesh  
Digrajkar**



Mandar  
Bam



Murtaza Ali  
Khan



Rekha  
Gupta



Satish  
Pandey



Saurabh Kanti  
Dutta



Shivam  
Chabria



Sriprakash  
Menon



Sulakhyana  
Baruah



Supratim  
Bhol



U Radha  
Krishnan

## BEST DEBUT DIRECTOR OF INDIAN FEATURE FILM AWARD



Chirantana  
Bhatt



Dev Kanya  
Thakur



Devendra  
Badiger



Jyotsana  
Garg



Kamlesh  
Mishra



Kamlesh  
Udasi



Tripti Sundar  
Abhikar



Vijay Pande

## SCREENING COMMITTEE



Arun  
Shekhar



Vinod  
Ganatra

## **STEERING COMMITTEE**

### **OFFICIAL MEMBERS**

**Shri. Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Hon. Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & IT (Chairman)

**Dr. Pramod Sawant**, Hon. Chief Minister of Goa & Chairman, ESG (Co-chairman)

**Dr. L Murugan**, Hon. Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting

**Shri. Dipak Bandekar**, CEO, ESG

**Shri. Sanjay Jaju**, Secretary, Ministry of I&B

**Shri. Shekhar Kapur**, Festival Director of 55th IFFI 2024

**Dr. V. Candavelou**, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Goa

**Ms. Neerja Sekhar**, Special Secretary, Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting

**Shri. Deepak Narain**, Additional Secretary & FA, Ministry of I&B

**Shri. Prithul Kumar**, Managing Director, NFDC

**Ms. Vrunda Manohar Desai**, Joint Secretary (Films), Ministry of I&B

**Shri. A.K. Bir, Chairman**, Technical Committee IFFI

**Ms. Delilah Lobo**, Vice Chairman, ESG

### **NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS**

**Shri. Prasoon Joshi**

**Ms. Khushboo Sundar**

**Ms. Vani Tripathi Tikoo**

**Shri. Ravi Kottarakara**

**Ms. Aimee Baruah**

**Shri. Bobby Bedi**

**Shri. Priyadarshan**

**Shri. Manoj Bajpayee**

**Ms. Jyoti Deshpande**

**Ms. Kala Master**

**Shri. G. Suresh Kumar**

**Shri. Vijay Kirangandur**

**Shri. Jerome Paillard**

**Shri. Ashish Hemrajani**

**Shri. Namit Malhotra**

**Ms. Guneet Monga Kapoor**

### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**Shri A.K. Bir**, Eminent Film Maker

**Shri B. Diwakar**, Professor in Cinematography

**Shri Shekhar Kapur**, Festival Director, 55th IFFI

**Shri. Prithul Kumar**, Managing Director, NFDC

**Shri. Dipak Bandekar**, CEO, ESG

**Shri. Clen Madeira**, Commissioner, Panaji Municipality, Govt. of Goa

**Shri. Stephen Fernandes**, Chief Engineer (Elect.), Govt. of Goa

**Dr. Vandana Dhume**, Health Officer, Panaji, Govt. of Goa

**Shri. Nitin V. Raiker**, Chief Fire Officer, Panaji, Govt. of Goa

**Shri. Prabodh Shirvoikar**, Traffic Commissioner, Panaji, Govt. of Goa

**Shri. Vinayak Gavane**, In-charge, INOX Theatre, Goa

**Shri. Govind Gaude**, Chairman, Kala Academy, Goa

**Shri Anirvan Ghosh**, M/s Pulz Electronics

**Shri Ketan Mehta**, M/s Real Image/Qube

**Shri K.J. Madhusudan**, M/s Barco

**Shri Ujwal Nirgudka**, Chairman, SMPTE

**Shri D. Ramakrishnan**, General Manager, IFFI, NFDC

**Shri Ram Sahay Yadav**, SSE (Formerly Films Division), NFDC, Mumbai

## MOHAMMED RAFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Shri Shahid Rafi  
Ms. Firdaus Rafi  
Shri Pyarelal Sharma  
Shri Sonu Nigam  
Shri Nitin Mukesh  
Shri Yatindra Mishra  
Ms. Leena Jaisani

## ANR IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Shri Singeetham Srinivas Rao  
Shri Raghavendra Rao  
Shri Gunnam Ganga Raju  
Shri Satyanand  
Shri Nagarjuna Akkineni  
Smt. Supriya Yarlagadda

## TAPAN SINHA IMPLEMENTATION

Shri Rahul Rawail  
Shri Firdausul Hasan  
Shri Atanu Ghosh  
Shri Premendra Mazumder  
Shri Himansu Sekhar Khatua

## RAJ KAPOOR IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Shri Ranbir Kapoor  
Shri Rahul Rawail  
Shri Sumant Batra  
Shri Shivendra Singh Dungarpur

## TEAM IFFI



FESTIVAL DIRECTOR  
Shekhar Kapur

MANAGING DIRECTOR ( NFDC )  
Prithul Kumar

COORDINATION UNIT  
D. Ramakrishnan, (GM, P&A & CEO, IFFI&FB)  
Sreerag Mukundhan OSD(Films)

FUNCTION UNIT  
Mr. Ajay Dhoke, GM ( North )  
assisted by  
Rohini Gauthaman Head-RO, Chennai  
Balaji Mani Khumaran M, DGM (Kolkata)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
Pankaj Saxena

INTERNATIONAL CINEMA  
**Prateek Rawat** ( Head Film Programmer )  
**Aditi Bhutda** ( Associate Film Programmer )  
**Antony Sebastian Francis** ( Associate Film Programmer )  
**Kanika Katyal** ( Associate Film Programmer )  
**Sahil Bhardwaj** ( Associate Film Programmer )  
**Tanmoy Dutta** ( Associate Film Programmer )  
**Vedant Srinivas** ( Associate Film Programmer )  
**Kritika Khurana** ( Associate Coordinator )  
**Aastha Nandwani** ( Festival Coordinator )  
**Bobin V K** ( Festival Coordinator )  
**Gowri Bhardwaj** ( Festival Coordinator )  
**Gowreesh VS** ( Festival Coordinator )

## INDIAN PANORAMA

**A. K. Maharaja** ( Sr. Branch Manager, SSE and Head, Indian Panorama )  
**Tanu Rai** ( Deputy Director )  
**Sandeep Palkar** ( Superintendent, SSE ), IP Team  
**Amey M Kalmiskar** ( Assistant, SSE ), IP Team  
**Jagannath V. Naik** ( Jr. Booker, SSE ), IP Team  
**Surbaji D. Naik** ( Jr. Booker, SSE ), IP Team  
**Vishal Kumar**, ( UDC, SSE ), IP Team  
**Abhinav Kshirsagar** ( Associate Film Programmer, NFDC )  
**Suhas S R**, ( Associate Film Programmer, NFDC )  
**Aditi Chhetri** ( Festival Coordinator, NFDC )  
**Akilesh Kumar Bhandari** ( Festival Coordinator, NFDC )  
**Debipriya Garai** ( Festival Coordinator, NFDC )

## YOUNG FILMMAKERS PROGRAMME

**P. P. Math** ( DGM, Film Production )

assisted by

**Harshal Alurkar** ( Deputy Manager, Film Production, NFDC )

## ACCESSIBILITY @ IFFI

**Aditi Bhutda** ( Associate Film Programmer, F&E - NFDC )

## MASTERCLASSES

**Gouri Nair** ( Head, MasterClass, NFDC )

**Ashwani Anilkumar** ( Dy Programmer, MasterClass, NFDC )

**Krishna Kumar** ( Video Editor )

**Ankita Bipinraj** ( Hospitality )

**Raja Selvanathan** ( Maint. Engineer, SSE- F D )

**Tridib Poddar** ( SRFTI )

**Hitesh Liya** ( SRFTI )

**Jishnu Sen** ( SRFTI )

**Sidhanth Sadhukan** ( SRFTI )

**Samarth Bhosale** ( SRFTI )

**Ravish Pathan** ( SRFTI )

**Pritam Digga** ( SRFTI )

## EMA - IFFI & FB COORDINATION

**Ajay Dhoke** ( GM North )

**Mahesh Yadav** ( DGM, P&A, NFDC )

**Anubhav Khanduri** ( Head, Business Development & Media Planning, NFDC )

**Rajiv Kumar Sharma** ( Head of Commissioned Productions, NFDC )

**Abhiruchi Anand** ( Sr. Supervising Producer, NFDC )

**Divya** ( Supervising Producer, NFDC )

**Keshav** ( Supervising Producer, NFDC )

## MEDIA & PUBLICITY UNIT

**Vidushi** ( GM, Media & Communication, NFDC )

**Vaishali Raj** ( Manager, Social Media )

**Deepa Mishra** ( Graphic Designer )

**Prishta Tiwar** ( Social Media Cordinator )

## IFFI WEBSITE & CONTENT MANAGEMENT

**Tanmay Shankar** ( Head,Digital Growth, NFDC )

## FILM BAZAAR

**Jerome Paillard** ( Advisor )

**Vineeta Mishra** (Head of Programming)

**Mayur Patel** (Assistant Manager )

**Rohit Chauhan** (Assistant Manager)

**Leenali Khairnar** ( Manager, Restoration, NFDC-NFAI )

## PAVILIONS

**Leena Narzary** ( AVP, FFO )

**Ramkumar Vijayan** ( AVP, FFO )

## FESTIVAL COORDINATION

**Malyaban Ash** ( Sr. Coordinator, F&E, NFDC )

**Nisha Thakkar** ( Manager (Programming) )

**Aman Gangrade** ( Festival Coordinator )

**Ayush Awasthi** ( Festival Coordinator )

**Nilakshi Goswami** ( Festival Coordinator )

## PUBLICATION UNIT ( OFFICIAL IFFI CATALOGUE & SCHEDULE )

**Shivaram Mony** ( Head, Publications & Deputy Manager, Film Production, NFDC )

**Sanjay Wadhwa** ( Editor, International Cinema )

**A Chandrasekhar** ( Editor, Indian Cinema )

**Iyesha Geeth Abbas** ( Sub Editor & Proof Reader )

**Abhishek Jaiswal** ( Chief Designer )

**Krishn Sagar** ( Copywriter )

**Sheikh Mukhtar** ( Asst. Designer )

## DESIGN PARTNER

**National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad**

**Tanishka Kachru** (lead)

**Shemal Pandya**

**Savyasachi Anju Prabir**

## RED CARPET AND GALA

**Tarun Talreja** ( GM, Production & Distribution, NFDC )

**Irfan Faras** ( Deputy Manager, Film Distribution, NFDC )

**Monika Rawal** ( Sr. Executive )

**Jayati Bhatt** ( Sr. Executive )

**Anjana Yadav** (Asst. Distribution, NFDC )

**Ganesh Pawar** (Asst. Distribution, NFDC )

## CREATIVE MINDS OF TOMORROW ( CMOT )

**Achal Malhotra** ( GM, Waves & Head, CMOT )

**Sonal Mathur** ( Head, SD/IP/SP, NFDC )

**Nachiket Shirodkar**

**Tanvi Jain**

**Ishika Bansal**

**Neelabh Parashar**

**Adil Ahmed**

**Praveen Nagar**

**Ankit Kumar Singh**

**Gurpreet Kaur**

**Lalit Prasad Nauni**

**Suraj Singh Sugra**

## BUDGETING AND FINANCE

**Vivek Toshniwal** ( DGM,F&A, NFDC )

**Kanti Jogadia** ( Manager F & A )

#### CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

**Jayita Ghosh** ( Manager, NFDC-NMIC )

**Sandesh Malap** ( Sr. Technician )

**Nisha Syed** ( Educator and Speaker, NFDC-NMIC )

**Anuja Chaulkar** ( Researcher and Educator, NFDC-NMIC )

**Yash Mahadev Khadye** ( Clerk, NFDC-NMIC )

#### HARDWARE MANAGEMENT ( IFFI & FB )

**NV Sai Bharath Singamsetty** ( Head- IT, NFDC )

**Girish Mukkirwar** ( Consultant - IT, NFDC )

#### JURY SECRETARY (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION)

**Ajita Nair** ( Superintendent, SSE,FD )

#### MD SECRETARIAT

**Ram Kumar** ( OSD to MD, NFDC & AVP, FFO )

**Sneha Ramchalam** ( Sr.EA to MD )

#### HOSPITALITY

**Harsha Prajapati**, ( Asst Manager, FFO )

**Sukanya Pednekar** ( Executive, Corporate Communication )

#### DESIGN & BRANDING COORDINATION

**Ritesh Taksande** ( Sr. Manager Film Production, NFDC )

#### SPONSORSHIPS & PARTNERSHIPS

**Shruti Rajkumar** ( VP, FFO )

**Ardra Swaroop** ( Manager, FFO )

#### INTERN VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

**Sandesh Shinde** ( AAO, SSE )

**Shardul Naik** ( Jr. Executive,P&A )

#### DCP PRINT UNIT COORDINATION

**Jasbir Singh**, ( Manager, NFDC-NFAI )

**P. Ellappan**, ( Chief Editor, SSE )

**Bhavesh Singh**, ( Dy. Manager NFAI )

**Surbhi Kulkarni**, ( Manager, Mktg. NFAI )

**Iyesha Geeth Abbas**, ( Curaror, NFAI )

**P.A. Salam**, ( Sr. Projectionist, NFAI )

**Rakesh Garud**, ( Film Checker )

**Biswaranjan** Pradhan, Editor, FD

**Manoj Dubey**, AM (Editor), NFDC

**Nitesh Bhosle**, assitant editor

**Arun Sangelkar**, Editor

**Harsh Sakpal**, Data operator

**Randir Singh**, Data operator

**Chandrakant Mayekar**, Data operator

#### ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY OF GOA (ESG) TEAM

**Dipak Bandekar**, ( CEO, ESG )

**Mrunal Walke** ( General Manager, ESG )

**Milan Vaigankar** ( Jt. Dir, Accounts / ESG )

**Siddhesh Sane** ( Manager, Admin & Hospitality )

**Arjun Narvekar** ( Manager, IT )

**Pravin Prabhu** ( Manager, Events )

PEACOCK  
PROUD,  
CINEMA  
BOUND!



International Film Festival of India



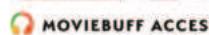
#### COUNTRY OF FOCUS



#### CONTENT PARTNERS



#### TECHNICAL PARTNERS



#### ENTERTAINMENT PARTNER



#### DESIGN PARTNER



राष्ट्रीय डिजाइन संस्थान  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN  
AHMEDABAD

#### INDUSTRY PARTNERS



#### INCLUSION PARTNER



#### ACCESSIBILITY PARTNER



#### SCREENING PARTNER



#### LOUNGE PARTNERS



#### POPCORN PARTNER



#### BEVERAGE PARTNER



#### NETWORKING PARTNER



#### RECOMMENDATION PARTNER



#### SURVEILLANCE PARTNER



#### SMART MOBILITY PARTNER



#### CAUSE PARTNER



#### PRODUCTION PARTNER



#### KNOWLEDGE PARTNER

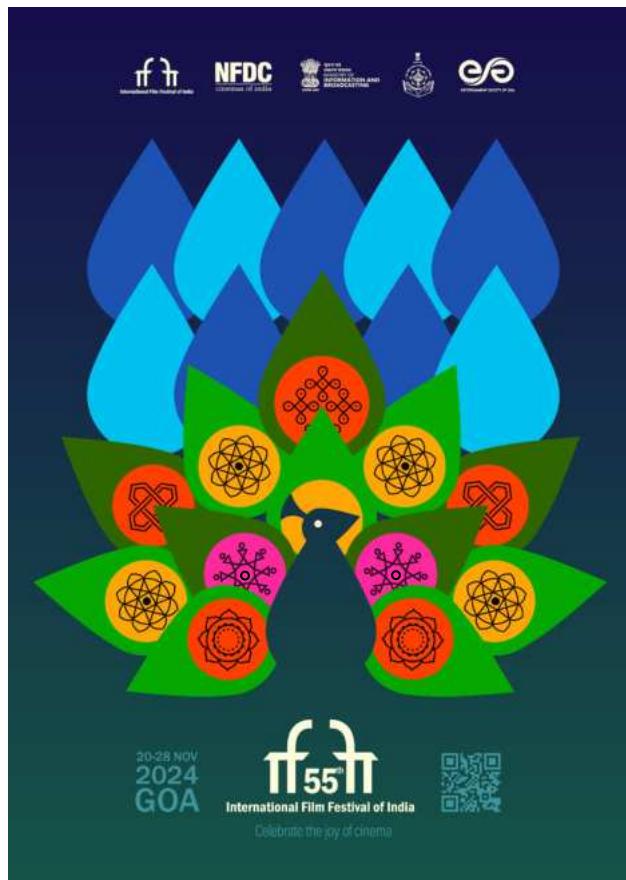


#### TECHNOLOGY PARTNER



#### OTHER PARTNERS





## DESIGN CONCEPT

The poster concept is inspired by the peacock's dance, which in Indian lore foretells the arrival of monsoon rains, symbolizing joy and celebration. This connection draws a parallel between cinema and the rain, both seen as welcome sources of happiness that bring people together. The design merges this idea with traditional floor arts like kolam, rangoli, and arpana, which are crafted to welcome guests during festivals.

The peacock's feathers, adorned with motifs from across India's diverse regions, symbolize unity in diversity, with cinema acting as a shared experience that mirrors the fleeting beauty of these art forms, and India's soft power through culture.

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