

8th CHENNAI INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY AND SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2020 is jointly organised by **Marupakkam & Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Chennai** in association with educational institutions: **Ethiraj College, Loyola College** and **Women's Christian College** and other partner organisations: **Discovery Book Palace, Panuval Book Store** and **Periyar Self Respect Media**.

The film festival will take place from **19th to 23rd February** at multiple venues from 10 am to 8 pm. Entry is free. Seats will be allotted on the first-come; first-served basis.

More than 50 Indian and International documentary and short films are screened under the following sections:

1. **Indian films** curated by Amudhan R.P.
2. **International films** curated by Amudhan R.P.
3. **German documentary films**
4. **Retrospective 1:** Andres Veiel
5. **Retrospective 2:** Ranjan Palit
6. **Filmmaker in Focus:** Rajula Shah
7. **Homage:** Manjira Datta
8. **Films from Tamil Nadu** curated by Ulaga Cinema Bhaskaran
9. **Student films** from Asian College of Journalism, Chennai

Films from Germany, Sweden, France, Switzerland, Cuba, Algeria, Iran, Malta, The Democratic Arab Republic of Sahara, Thailand, Philippines, Guadeloupe, Turkey, Syria, The Netherlands and India are screened.

Ten filmmakers including Anna Bohlmarm (Sweden), Ranjan Palit (Kolkata), Rajula Shah (Bhopal), Anupama Srinivasan (New Delhi), Anirban Dutta (New Delhi), Amit Mohanti (New Delhi), Swati Dandekar (Bangalore), Hansa Thapliyal (Bangalore), Ramadas Kadavallur (Thrissur) and Sandeep Ravindranath (Trivandrum) present their films and take part in the post screening discussions.

For detailed schedule, visit our website:

www.goethe.de/chennai | www.chennaifilmfestival.blogspot.in

 Facebook.com/gi.chennai

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சென்னை இலக்கிய அகாடமி



MARUPAKKAM



8th CHENNAI INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY AND SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2020

19 – 23 February 2020

FESTIVAL BOOKLET

Sections	Page No.
1. Indian films curated by Amudhan R.P.	5
2. International films curated by Amudhan R.P.	10
3. German documentary films	15
4. Retrospective 1: Andres Veiel	17
5. Retrospective 2: Ranjan Palit	18
6. Filmmaker in Focus: Rajula Shah	20
7. Homage: Manjira Datta	22
8. Films from Tamil Nadu curated by Ulaga Cinema Bhaskaran	23
9. Student films from Asian College of Journalism, Chennai	25



Indian films curated by **Amudhan R.P.**

THE OUTSIDE IN

Dir.: Hansa Thapliyal | 25 min. | English | 2019

Francoise Bosteels has worked as a nurse. Milan Khanolkar trained as an artist. What is about making and sharing dolls that has meant so much to each? What new paths have the dolls made and cleared? What ambiguities have they been able to express?



ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL TODAY?

Dir.: Anupama Srinivasan | 60 min. | Hindi with English subtitles | 2018

The film takes us to rural schools in the predominantly tribal district of Dungarpur in Southern Rajasthan. Children come from difficult contexts with very limited material resources, absentee fathers and younger siblings to attend to. How do teachers respond to this situation? How do they bring children to school and create an environment in which they are motivated to learn?



JANANI'S JULIET

Dir.: Pankaj Rishi Kumar | 53 min. | Tamil with English subtitles | 2019

Kausalya lost her husband (Shankar), when they were attacked by their own family. They had married against their families' wishes. Deeply disturbed by a spate of honour killings in India, Indianostrum, a Pondicherry based theatre group sets out to introspect the implications of caste, class and gender. They adapt Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. What emerges in the process is a critical reflection and commentary of the contemporary Indian society where love struggles to survive.



KAGGANTU

Dir.: Ujjwal Utkarsh | 20 min. | Kannada with English subtitles | 2019

The Bangalore garment industry which works as the outsourced factory for a lot of multinational brands hires around five lakh women workers. The film revolves around two such women's lives and the problems they face due to lack of adequate facilities at the factories.



SCRATCHES ON STONE

Dir.: Amit Mahanti | 62 min. | Ao, Chen, Nagamese, English | 2018

It has been cease-fire in Nagaland, Northeast India, since 1997 after an almost 50 years' war between India and militants fighting for independence. But the past lingers on, framed through photographs, casting shadows over the present.



THE LAST RUN

Dir.: Anirban Dutta | 37 min. | Bangla with English subtitles | 2019

A glorious past withering away in a fast-changing world – The film is about a Postal Runner, a person who runs or walks from one place to another carrying mail bags. The runner used to be held in high regard with tales of his valour coming to life in the myths and folk forms of the land. With improvements in modes of communication, the runner's profession has become almost redundant.



Kalipada Mura, one of the last surviving runners, lives in a small town in Purulia, West Bengal, India. Age has caught up with Kalipada, and he seems a mere spectator as the images from the past, present and future pass by. The film gently explores his metaphorical 'Last Run', imbuing it with resonances from history, myth, music and folklore.

RECASTING SELVES

Dir.: Lalit Vachani | 80 min. | English and Malayalam with English subtitles | 2019

Set at CREST (the Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation) in Kozhikode, Kerala, the film documents the 'soft skills' training of Dalit and Adivasi post-graduate students in a sensitive and nurturing campus environment as preparation for their employment in the new Indian economy.



MY CASTE

Dir.: Amudhan R.P. | 78 min. | Tamil with English subtitles | 2019

When did I hear / see / observe / experience caste for first time?

What have I gained because of my caste identity?

How do I relate with that identity?

Can I introspect?



AAYI GAYI

Dir.: Anandana Kapur | 72 min. | Hindi & English | 2019

In Bihar, where “Sarkar mera bada bhai hai...” (The Government is my older brother) is the righteous response to why one may illegally acquire electricity connections or not pay bills, a team of academics work on the ground to activate RLSS- the Revenue Linked Supply Scheme- and are met with various degrees of opposition and success.



The film explores the complex relationships people have with the State through the lens of electricity. Is it a right? Or is it a commodity? In a country with limited resources, can it be a social right if the government needs funds to keep the grid functional? And if so, can the normalization of non-payment of bills be reversed? Is it possible to create an ideal citizenry?

A PLACE TO LIVE

Dir.: Sanjiv Shah | 92 min. | 2019

Migration due to lack of opportunities, natural calamities, civil strife and forced displacement due to 'development' projects have made India a country with one of the largest homeless populations amongst all countries of the world. In spite of official estimates of 20 million in people in urban India alone not having a home and constitutional affirmation of the right to live for all, there is no legal provision for assuring that.



The film is structured around conversations with people: their idea of a home, their struggles to find for themselves a place to live - those forced to the margins of society, as well as those within the system but unable to find / afford it. Presented within the larger context of the current economic development the film argues for a multiplicity of approaches; diversity of imaginations of our villages, towns and cities; acknowledgement of the fundamental rights of people to shelter and food and a model of development that is rooted in the ecology of the land.

NEELI RAAG (TRUE BLUE)

Dir.: Swati Dandekar | 85 min. | Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, Gujarati, English with English subtitles | 2018

Indigo is not just a colour, it never was... it was wealth, it was mystique, it was colonialism, tyranny and protest. It made history, but itself fell prey to the events and processes of time, until one day it seemed to disappear.

As the world begins to demand natural dyes once again, it is back in the spot light. The stubborn dreamers who refused to forget their craft feel vindicated, but the world that once nurtured this difficult and capricious colour is no more.



Traversing the verdant monsoon of Tamil Nadu, the earthy expanses of springtime Telangana, and the wintry desert of Kachchh, Neeli Raag is an attempt to tell the story of indigo as it is practised in India today.

SPROUTS OF ENDURANCE

Dir.: Ramdas Kadavallur | 113 min. | Malayalam, Tamil | 2020

The documentary narrates the saga of encroachment of vast stretches of a hilly land, the eviction of its rightful owners, the blatant exploitation of the labourers and their struggle for existence. This examines the social milieu in which these unorganised labourers are living.

It does not confine itself to narrating the evolution and impact of a labour struggle, but also focuses on another important social aspect in India, the significance of caste, the strangle hold it exerts on the psyche of the nation. The documentary holds its mirror to the dichotomy of underlying neglect and discrimination meted out to the hapless people belonging to the lower echelons of society. It explores the ruthless impact of policies on the 'land' and 'soil', its lopsided distribution, the illegal encroachments carried out by the encroachers, the resultant irreparable and long-standing damage it causes to the environment and fragile terrain, which is abound with precious flora and fauna.





International films curated by **Amudhan R.P.**

CUBAN CANVAS

Dir.: Kavery Kaul | 14 min. | Spanish with English subtitles | Cuba, United States

An intriguing intergenerational story of artists in Havana whose works hang in museums and galleries worldwide. They experiment with form, content, and bold vision. The documentary traces the enduring lines between art and life.



DEEP ROOTS

Dir.: Luc Godonou Dossou | 15 min. | Switzerland, Thailand, Phillipines, Guadeloupe

Inside the cockfighting pits in Thailand, the Philippines and the ones in Guadeloupe, Aod, Edgar and Dolores are preparing their roosters for an upcoming fight in front of a public of bettors and aficionados.



ACTUALLY SHE IS MY LITTLE BROTHER

Dir.: Lena Lobers & Carina Nickel | 39 min. | German with English subtitles | Germany

"Actually she is my little brother" tells the journey of the young film student Lena. Because of her transsexual sister she meets three young people who are already on their way into the right body. The question of how Lena is able to support her eleven-year-old sister is omnipresent.



FEBRUARY 27th

Dir.: Marie-Therese Jakoubek | 43 min. | Hassaniya
with English subtitles | Algeria | Democratic Arab
Republic of Sahara

For 42 years, around 2,10,000 Saharawi have been living in camps in the Algerian desert due to the occupation of the Western Sahara by Morocco. The film tells about their life in a temporary existence that evolved into a home against their will and to this day symbolizes their resistance and resilience.



INVISIBLE

Dir.: Shirin Barghnavard | 27 min. | English, Farsi |
Iran, Germany

The Berlin Wall is a metaphor for the concept of separation in this film. While seeing the remnants of the Berlin Wall today, surrounded by excited tourists taking photographs, we hear the voices of several artists from different backgrounds who talk about their bitter personal experiences imposed on them due to their nationalities.



THE LITTLE DEATH

Dir.: Annie Gisler | 61 min. | French, German, English |
Switzerland

The little death is a documentary about female orgasm. Women from various ages, experiences and sexual preferences talk about their orgasms in all sincerity. Poetical, abstract and metaphorical images take us into the heart of their sensations.



NEVER GIVE UP

Dir.: Jonathan Schornig | 16 min. | German, English |
Malta

Mekon had been making music as long as he could think. But in 2014, he has to flee Nigeria after his parents were murdered. He starts to work in Libya. But instead of making music, Mekon has to fight for his survival. In the summer of 2018, he decides to flee to Europe. He is saved from a rubber boat by a German NGO. Living in Malta now, he is singing again.



OWLOE AND I

Dir.: Christina Ruloff | 14 min. | Swiss German,
Yoruba, English, German | Switzerland

His first "Olowe" was a fake, but by then art dealer Jean David had already fallen in love with Yoruba artist Olowe of Ise (1875 - 1938). But how can one distinguish between „real“ and „fake“ art in African art? David takes us onto a journey into an unknown universe full of beautiful contradictions.



PEOPLE OF THE WASTELAND

Dir.: Heba Khaled | 21 min. | Arabic with English
subtitles | Turkey

People of the Wasteland is an experimental Short-film from a first-person point of view depicting the clashes of Syrian fighters on the front line.



STARTING WITH FRAGMENTS

Dir.: Omar Shalash, Robert Dobe | 80 min. | Arabic,
German with English subtitles | Germany, Syria

When Tamer Alawam was killed by a grenade in 2012, he left over 300 hours of film footage of the Syrian Revolution – images which were meant to show Syria from inside. Overwhelmed by the flood of these images and driven by feelings of grief, responsibility and powerlessness, two young filmmakers and friends of Tamer in far away Germany start their own search for answers.



STEKENJOKK AND THE GUARDIANS OF THE EGGS

Dir.: Per Bifrost, Alexander Rynéus | 29 min. |
Swedish with English subtitles | Sweden

Every year during June, police officer Mimmi and nature guard Hakan patrol Sweden's windiest place, the valley of Stekenjokk. Eggs thieves ravage the area where rare bird eggs are laid during the breeding season. Thousands of eggs have been stolen over the years and sold between collectors and threatened several species to be extinct, a crime that has now been unfolded.



THE MAN WHO LOOKED BEYOND THE HORIZON

Dir.: Martijn Blekendaal | 28 min. | Dutch with English subtitles | The Netherlands

More than 40 years ago, Bas Jan Ader decided to go on an adventure. In a tiny sailing boat, the Dutchman set sail across the Ocean. Nine months later the boat was found adrift at sea. There was no sign of Ader.



THE OLDEN HERALDS

Dir.: Luis Alejandro Yero | 23 min. | Spanish with English subtitles | Cuba

Tatá and Esperanza witness the election of the first Cuban president in more than half a century without the Castro surname. At almost 90 years old, they silently observe the end of one of their many lived cycles.



THE LAST OF HIS KIND

Dir.: Jánik von Wilmsdorff | 11 min. | German with English subtitles | Germany

This is the story of Paul, a broken man. A man who has lost everything. A man whose home is now like a ghost town, attracting rubbernecks every day, from all over the world.



THE QUIET REBEL

Dir.: Carole Cassier | 48 min. | English, French and Spanish with English subtitles | France

The Quiet Rebel tells the controversial story of radical feminist artist Casey Jenkins: her rise to internet fame and shame after a performance where she knitted with wool that she inserted in her vagina.



WORLD TAXI

Dir.: Philipp Majer | 82 min. | English, German, Spanish, French, Wolof, Albanian, Thai with English subtitles | Germany

This film features five charismatic taxi drivers and their passengers from five different cities: Bangkok, Pristina, Dakar, El Paso and Berlin. For 24 hours, we follow them through their city, their daily routine, their private life and are listening to their thoughts.



BREAKING BARRIERS : THE CASTELESS COLLECTIVE

Dir.: Maja Meiners | 69 min. | English/Tamil with English subtitles | Germany, India

‘The Casteless Collective’ is a protest music band from Chennai, South India. Founded in December 2018, the 15-piece band is now playing an exciting mix of the Folk Music form of ‘Gaana’, an art coming from North Chennai’s slum areas and the modern musical styles of Rap and Rock.



The film shows the young band’s powerful attempts of breaking cultural stigmas and joins part of their journey towards an Indian future in which a free casteless mentality grows into a possibility.

BIG SOCIAL NOMAD

Dir.: Anna Bohlmark | 25 min. | English | 2019 | Sweden, India

Big Social Nomad tells us the story of the Asian Elephant. In the sub-continent where human population has grown exponentially and development is exploding, India is home to half of the World’s Asian Elephant population. Co-existing is not an easy task.



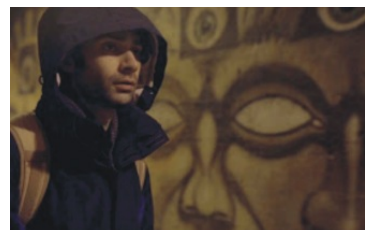
Due to the British colonisation vast tracks of land were converted into tea plantations. Today in these regions human-elephant conflict is severe. Due to encroachment on forest lands, elephants are being forced to survive in shrinking habitats.

Due to their size and their life patterns as Big Social Nomads, they eat and then move to let the forest regenerate. When passing from one forest to another they follow certain paths which they have used for many millenia. These narrow strips, called corridors, are vital for elephants to pass from one forest to another. The same corridors are now occupied by people living in them.

DIARY OF AN OUTSIDER

Dir.: Sandeep Ravindranath | 14 min | Hindi, English | USA, India | Short fiction

Contemplating issues of alienation and crisis of identity faced by immigrants in a milieu that is foreign to them, Diary of an Outsider is the story of an Indian immigrant student in the U.S., set against the backdrop of contemporary political narratives in those two countries.



German documentary films: SHORT EXPORT 2019 - 14th Edition

Already in its 14th edition **SHORT EXPORT 2019 - MADE IN GERMANY** travels the world with a selection of current German short films. The cooperation between AG Kurzfilm, German Films, Goethe-Institut Lyon, Kurz Film Agentur Hamburg and the International Short Film Festival Clermont-Ferrand resulted in yet another wonderfully colorful short film programme.

SHORT EXPORT 2019 - MADE IN GERMANY presents seven entertaining films that illustrate the German short film scene's vast artistic and stylistic variety. The films selected for this edition wittily tell about identity, searching and finding.



FILMS

BIOTOPE

Dir.: Paul Scholten | 12 min.

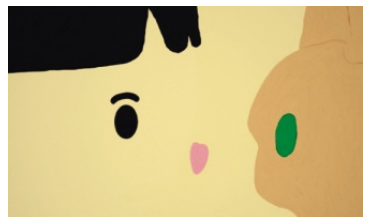
Life in Neuperlach, a Munich suburb, is tranquil. It is a safe neighbourhood where people know and greet each other. Everybody has their own backyard; single car garages line the narrow footpaths and everything is nicely groomed. However, this peaceful existence has been troubled for some time now: refugees are set to move in next door. Some of the residents are worried that their peace will be disturbed, so they are putting up a noise protection wall.



NEKO NO HI (CAT DAYS)

Dir.: Jon Frickey | animation | 11 min.

Little Jiro feels sick. His father takes him to see the Doctor. She diagnoses a harmless condition, but it shakes the boy's identity to its core.



TRACING ADDAI

Dir.: Esther Niemeier | Animation | 30 min.

A true story about a war and the tragic impact it has on the lives of three people.

The story of a young man who leaves his life behind in Germany and sets off to help people. In 2013, Addai joins a Salafist group in Syria. A few years later his mother meets Ilias, a returnee from Syria. Their personal stories paint a clearer picture of Addai's story.



AM CU CE - MEIN GANZER STOLZ

Dir.: Hannah Weissenborn | Fiction | 19 min.

Romanian trucker Stancu has given his nephew Dragan a second driver card which enables him to stretch his legal driving time. But when Dragan falls into microsleep at the wheel and almost causes an accident, Stancu suddenly feels responsible.



HALMASPIEL (CHINESE CHECKERS)

Dir.: Betina Kuntzsch | Animation | 15 min.

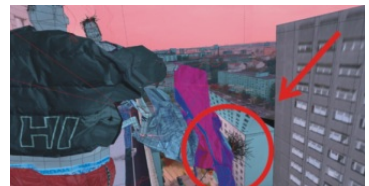
The film uses animated objects discovered in the family archives to recount the life of a mother. It is a 20th century biography: growing up in the Nazi era, teenage years in post-war Germany, the building of the wall and life in the GDR and then reunified Germany. It is a story of escaping and adapting, challenging and conforming.



FEST

Dir.: Nikita Diakur | Experimental Animation | 3 min.

Footage from a suburban block party. Rave, drone, BBQ and ice cream. Then a stunt. YouTube-inspired and simulated.



CARLOTTA'S FACE

Dir.: Frédéric Schuld, Valentin Riedl | Animation | 5 min.

As a child, Carlotta didn't expect the people around her to have faces. She doesn't even recognize her own face. Years later, she learns about a rare, untreatable deficiency in her brain. In the end, it is art that gives her the chance to finally recognize herself.



Retrospective # 1: Andres Veiel



Andres Veiel was born in Stuttgart, Germany, 1959. In addition to his psychology studies, he completed directorial and dramaturgy training at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien under the Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski at the end of the 1980s. His play *Der Kick* was shown at the Maxim Gorki Theater in Berlin and at the Theater Basel.

FILMS

BLACK BOX BRD

Dir.: Andres Veiel | colour | 100 min. | 2000

An exploration of two contrarian, but equally radical lives that both found violent endings: Alfred Herrhausen, CEO of Deutsche Bank, died in 1989 in a bomb attack apparently carried out by the RAF (Rote Armee Fraktion). Four years later, the presumed RAF terrorist Wolfgang Grams was supposed to be arrested on the Bad Kleinen train station; he died after a shoot-out under circumstances that have never been finally ascertained.



THE KICK

Dir.: Andres Veiel | colour | 82 min. | 2006

On the night of 13 July 2000, brothers Marco and Marcel Schönfeld, together with their friend Sebastian Fink, violently attacked and killed 16-year-old Marinus Schöberl. Documentary maker Andres Veiel carried out extensive research for the play he wrote about the case which took place in Uckermark, a district of Berlin. The film is based on and takes its name from the play.



BEUYS

Dir.: Andres Veiel | 107 min. | 2015-17

Few 20th century German creative artists were as controversial as performance artist, sculptor, graphic artist, art theorist and occasional Professor Joseph Beuys (1921-1986). His work addressed a new, expanded concept of art, including the political shaping of society. Andres Veiel's documentary embarks upon an extensive hunt for clues, bringing to light a host of unknown archive material and allowing contemporary witnesses like Klaus Staeck the opportunity to talk. What emerges is a collage of visual and audio documents providing viewers with access to Beuys' complex work.



Retrospective # 2: Ranjan Palit, Cinematographer / Filmmaker



Ranjan Palit finished his PG Diploma in Cinema with specialization in Cinematography from the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, in 1982. His diploma film, a 30-minute documentary on the power loom workers of Bhiwandi, was selected for the Bombay International Film Festival 1983. He started specializing as a documentary cameraperson, shooting a major portion of Bombay, Our City for Anand Patwardhan. He has subsequently shot more than 50 documentaries, including: A Lightning Prophecy, Red Ant Dreams, Kamlabai and Way Back Home. He has won many Indian and International awards. He is currently working with Vishal Bharatwaj in a Hindi feature film.

FILMS

IN CAMERA

Dir.: Ranjan Palit | 77 min. | 2009

A long documentary where the director and cameraman Ranjan Palit reflects on the ethics of shooting the documentary, after 25 years of shooting and directing the same.

Main award at Kerala 3rd International Docu Fest, best experimental film award in Vibgyor, two national awards.

VOICES FROM BALIAPAL

Dir.: Vasudha Joshi and Ranjan Palit | 40 min. | 1988

The film is about the non-violent protest of 70000 farmers and fisher folk against the setting up of a missile base in Baliapal, the most fertile part of coastal Orissa.

Won the Golden Conch at Bombay International Film Festival, 1990, The Audience Award at Freiburg International Film Festival and The National Award for best film on social issues.



A NIGHT OF PROPHECY

Dir.: Amar Kanwar | Camera: Ranjan Palit | 77 min. | 2002

A documentary on protest songs and poetry across the Indian subcontinent.



FOR MAYA

Dir.: Vasudha Joshi | Camera: Ranjan Palit | 1997 | 40 min.

A film where Vasudha Joshi turns the camera on four generations of her family.

Anandalok Award 1998.

THE LORD OF THE ORPHANS

Dir.: Ranjan Palit | 150 min. | 2019

My debut fiction feature film is a kind of autobiopic where in the first half, I follow the story of a family (mine) reeling under a 100-year-old curse, and in the Second half, tell the story of my own life as a loser in love, being healed by the documentary.

Filmmaker in Focus - Rajula Shah



Rajula Shah is a visual artist, poet and filmmaker.

She grew up listening to stories and working with tribal and folk artisans from all over the subcontinent and considers it her first school.

A sustained dialogue with the ancient knowledge systems and the changing practices thereof form the core of her study and her practice thus emerges from a close collaboration with people, their histories and environments.

For two decades, she has been producing and directing films exploring boundaries of fiction and documentary, experimental digital art, new media et al. She is enriched through her close collaboration with fellow practitioners and artists in various capacities as researcher, scriptwriter, production designer, cinematographer and editor.

The need to develop film teaching methodologies in the Asian/Indian context is a serious concern with her. She designs and directs innovative short courses at various institutes including the Film & TV Institute of India (FTII).

FILMS

SABAD NIRANTAR

Dir : Rajula Shah | 74 min. | Malwi, Hindi |
2008 | India

Word within the word: a film on resonances of mystic poet Kabir in contemporary Malwa, India.



KATHA LOKNATH

Dir.: Rajula Shah | 43 min. | Oriya, Hindi, Bhili
2013 | India

reTold by Loknath: Experimental fiction with potter Loknath Rana and city Kid Tana growing up listening to his stories.



AISA NAHIN HUA THA TAHERA/ JUMBLED CANS

Dir.: Rajula Shah | 23 min. | Hindi, Urdu, English | 2014 | India

NEEND SE LAMBI RAAT/ NIGHT LONGER THAN SLEEP (poetry video)

Dir.: Arghya Basu | 6 min. | Hindi | 2013 | India

Production design and poetry recitation by Rajula

OF EXILES AND KINGDOM: TIBETAN OPERA

Dir.: Arghya Basu | 26 min. | English, Tibetan | 2016 | India

Cinematography, Co-script & Narration by Rajula

Homage: Manjira Datta



Manjira Datta, an independent documentary filmmaker from Delhi, passed away on 26 August, 2019.

Manjira's award-winning films focus on environment, rural and industrial labour, labour in the entertainment sector, politics, agrarian technology and discrimination against women, among others. She also conceptualized and was a line producer for a twenty-six-part drama serial on adult education for UNICEF and Directorate of Adult Education. She was a director and producer for BBC2, Channel 4 (UK), ARD Germany, One World Broadcasting Group, UNDP & TVE, Mayavision (London), MacArthur Foundation (Chicago), Commonwealth of Learning (Canada), UNIFEM, Tata Steel and other State Government departments in India.

FILMS

Sacrifice of Babulal Bhuiya

Dir.: Manjira Datta | 64 min. | 1988

A thousand Indians drag a meager living from the black swamp where ash and fumes from the power station corrupt the air as surely as the coal dirt blights the land. Nothing grows in Mailagora, which means the place of dirt.



Manjira Datta's painful and poetic film is a portrait of the undead and an investigation of the murder of local martyr. Babulal, who was shot dead by industrial security guards employed by owners of the coal washery. The guards are accused of running a protection racket among the slurry-sifters, of harassing the women and attacking the men. Explanations of the incident differ....Babulal was killed.

So, Babulal becomes a hero, his ashes scattered on the coal-black river. His concrete monument painted a blood red...

Rishte

Dir.: Manjira Datta | 25 min. | 1994

In India the fate of a woman is often determined by the size of the dowry she brings to her marital home. A woman is considered worthless if she does not bear a male child. Female foeticide is a common practice in India. A daughter is viewed as a socio-economic burden as she leaves her parental home with capital (dowry). She seldom has the option to return to her parental home if she is tortured in her marital home. Society prefers a woman's death to her divorce.

The film unpeels layers of the many-headed evil patriarchy in Indian society as it explores the factors that lead to the death of Lali Devi, an educated and capable woman, and her two girls.



Tamil Films curated by **Ulaga Cinema Bhaskaran**

LEGALLY RAPED

Dir.: Charulatha B Rangarajan | 14.56 min.

Legally Raped revolves around a woman getting out of an abusive marriage and how she deals with it emotionally!



CHINNANCHIRU KILIYE

Dir.: Na Ram | 6.48 min.

The story revolves around an actress 'Renu' who is trying to make it big as a character artist and the struggle she faces to get roles due to her dark complexion.



THEDAL

Dir.: Vignesh Paramasivam | 14.28 min.

The journey of a photographer searching for water, who ends up finding the meaning of life.



PESAATHA PEHELLAM

Dir.: Jai Lakshmi | 7.38 min.

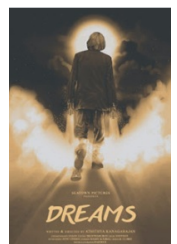
Not every topic can be openly discussed. The film is about one of such stories.



DREAMS

Dir.: Athithya Kanagarajan | 10 min.

Dilip, a paper boy of twelve, wants to invite Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam to his school annual day celebration. Kalam Sir accepts his invitation. What happens then is the rest of the story.



NAANDUDAMI

Dir.: SPP Bhaskaran | 27 min.

The 2000 year old “Thirukkural” framed to structure the moral of the society is also taught at these schools. Yet, why is this peculiar boy’s moral compass broken? This short film travels by sowing this question.



ORUVANUKKU ORUTHI

Dir.: Vimal Santiago | 17:37 min.

A young man and woman, who are uninterested in the idea of arranged marriage, are forced to meet each other by their parents. They succumb to the pressure and meet hesitantly. While they are both eagerly waiting to reject the other person, they surprisingly strike up an engaging conversation about life, love and themselves.



SINAM

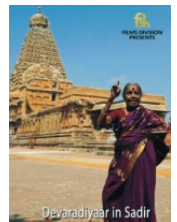
Dir.: Ananthamoorthy | 20 min.

The call is unsuspecting and it piques the interest of a documentary film maker when the caller identifies her as a prostitute.



DEVARADIYAR IN SADIR : THE LIFE AND ART OF MUTHUKANNAMMAL

Dir.: S Shanmuganathan | 66:44 min.



Student films from Asian College of Journalism, Chennai

WOMAN DESCENDING A STAIRCASE

Dir.: Greeshma Rai | 1 min. | 2018

Access for the disabled doesn't exist in India. Able-bodied people don't even realize this disparity in everyday life.

POSTER BOYS

Dir.: Cibe Chakravarthy.T.S. | 1 min. | 2019

Poster boys work in the dead of night with blazing speed, gluing together lifesize portraits with home-made porridge gruel.

THAAYI (THE MOTHER)

Dir.: Nitin Krishna Padindala | 1 min. | 2017

Even in her somnambulant state, the mother shields her child during a rickety ride on the night bus.



PHOTOGRAPHERS

Dir.: Jacob B Jacob, Jasmin Jose | 1 min. | 2019

The moment is what it is all about and the movement within the moment describes what happens.



FOOTBOARD

Dir.: Srijith R | 1 min. | 2019

Footboard travel, in overcrowded trains and buses in India, is not just a matter of grabbing a foothold to get somewhere on time - it's also a form of high-adrenaline adventure-seeking for the young who battle high winds, obstacles and extreme motion along the way.

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