

“विश्वभरका कथाहरूको उत्सव”
नेपाल अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय चलचित्र महोत्सव



14-18 March

चैत्र ०९-०५

KATHMANDU 2024

क्राठमाडौं २०८०

OFFICIAL CATALOGUE

for the 7th Nepal International
Film Festival

EVENT AT



CHHAKA CENTER, CIVIL MALL
LARIH MALL, BHATSRATEN
BHAKTAPUR

TICKETS AT



www.niff.org.np





CONNECT-CREATE COLLABORATE

UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY

"Join the Cinepebble Revolution:
A Platform Where Stories Matter.
Immerse Yourself in Cinematic
Delights and Explore a Rich
Tapestry of Narratives, Right at
Your Fingertips."



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From the Festival Chair

Namaste!

It is with immense joy that I welcome you to the 7th Nepal International Film Festival (NIFF), organized by Nepal Film and Cultural Academy. Over the past 6 years, we have been working tirelessly to make NIFF a landmark event in the Nepali film industry, and it fills me with pride to say that we are well on our way to achieving this goal.

We deeply believe that the Nepali film industry has immense potential for growth and development, and to help Nepali filmmakers realise this untapped potential, our idea was to create exposure and targeted awareness in film circles around the world. Nepal International Film Festival was born out of this belief. Our festival has always aimed to bring the best of world cinema to Nepali audiences, and in turn, to provide a platform for Nepali filmmakers to showcase their work to the world. We hope that our efforts in the past and future will contribute to the exposure of Nepali films and audiences to film circles around the world, foster co-productions and joint ventures, and overall help in the prosperity of the film industry.

This year, we are thrilled to bring you 88 films and documentaries from 40 countries, carefully selected from over 500 submissions from more than 50 countries. In addition to the screenings, we have arranged several panel talks, workshops and masterclasses for all film and media enthusiasts.

We would like to thank all participating filmmakers and experts for their love and support. We hope to retain this support in the coming years.

We are also delighted to continue our partnership with QFX Cinemas for NIFF 2024, making it easier for film-lovers across



Kathmandu valley to attend the festival and watch their favorite films. We would like to express our gratitude to QFX Cinemas for their support.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our jurors, led by Prof. Xie Fei and Mimi Mg Park, and our film selection committee for their contribution towards the festival.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all the visiting filmmakers and to the Nepali film community at large. We hope this festival serves as a platform for Nepali and international filmmakers to connect, share ideas, and create a vibrant community.

Finally, I would like to thank all our promoters, sponsors, supporters, and partners for their unwavering support in making NIFF 2024 a reality. Without your support, this festival would not have been possible.

I hope you enjoy the festival and the films and sessions on offer, and I look forward to seeing you at the screenings and events.

Warm regards,

K.P Pathak
Festival Chair



Government of Nepal
FILM DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Chabahil, Kathmandu, Nepal

February 14, 2024

Nepal International Film Festival (NIFF)

Kathmandu, Nepal

On behalf of the Film Development Board, it gives me immense pleasure to extend our warmest wishes to the seventh edition of the Nepal International Film Festival. We are very grateful to your dedication and efforts in fostering the growth of the film industry and promoting cultural exchange through cinema.

It gives us an immense pleasure to know that NIFF has been actively promoting Nepali films by providing a platform for Nepali filmmakers to showcase their talent and creations while simultaneously fostering an environment to compete on the international stage. We are proud to hear that films from 88 films from more than 40 countries will be showcased at NIFF 2024.

As you embark on this year's festival, we would like to express our confidence in you, and the organizers behind you in. NIFF serves as more than just a platform for Nepali filmmakers; it's a melting pot of diverse cinematic expressions from across the globe. The board delighted to see filmmakers from different corners of the world come together to share their stories and perspectives with our audiences.

NIFF has also contributed a lot in the internationalization of Nepali cinema. With more and more Nepali films and filmmakers seeking global markets and communities, the importance of events like NIFF is even more reflect. This is an effective way of cinematic exchange with people from all around the world.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the organizers, volunteers, sponsors, and participants who contribute to the success of NIFF year after year. The board also expresses its commitment and unwavering support to NIFF today and in the years to come. May this festival continue to serve as a catalyst for creativity, fostering collaboration and understanding among filmmakers globally.

May the 7th Nepal International Film Festival be a resounding success. We offer our full support and best wishes for the event.

Sincerely,

Bhuvan K.C.

Chairperson

Film Development Board



Kathmandu Metropolitan City

Office of the Municipal Executive

Bagmati, Kathmandu, Nepal



February 13, 2024

Nepal International Film Festival (NIFF)
Kathmandu, Nepal

I extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Nepal International Film Festival (NIFF) for orchestrating the seventh edition of the prestigious Nepal International Film Festival in Kathmandu. As the Mayor of Kathmandu, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I extend my sincere congratulations to NIFF for the exemplary success achieved in the culmination of six previous editions of this cultural extravaganza.

NIFF's commendable commitment to fostering the arts and cultural landscape in our city is commendable. Through the medium of film, NIFF has adeptly transcended geographical boundaries, fostering cultural exchange, and inspiring a multitude to embrace the profound impact of storytelling. The festival has played a pivotal role in promoting Kathmandu as an emerging center for arts and culture, reflecting the city's rich diversity and creative spirit.

Over the past seven years, NIFF has significantly contributed to the growth and recognition of Kathmandu as an art and cultural hub. The festival has served as a beacon of creativity, providing an international platform for filmmakers to converge and share their distinctive narratives, perspectives, and artistic visions with a diverse and appreciative audience.

Anticipating the upcoming seventh edition, scheduled from March 14-18, 2024, I am confident that NIFF will surpass previous accomplishments, presenting an even more remarkable and enriching experience for attendees. This festival undoubtedly stands as a benchmark in the film festival landscape, shaping the trajectory of Nepal's art and cultural scene for years to come.

On behalf of the citizens of Kathmandu, I express gratitude to NIFF for its unwavering dedication to the promotion of arts and culture within our city. I extend my best wishes for the success of the seventh edition and commend the continued efforts of NIFF in contributing to the cultural enrichment of Kathmandu.

May the festival continue to thrive, fortifying Kathmandu's standing as a vibrant and culturally rich metropolis.

Balendra Shah
Mayor



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Honorable Rekha Sharma
Minister

Ref. No.: ९९ (११)



On the behalf of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, I would like to express my appreciation for the 7th edition of the Nepal International Film Festival (NIFF). It is great to see such a celebration of cinema in Nepal. The Ministry highly values the dedication to promote the art of film making and providing a platform for film makers from Nepal and around the world.

We are pleased to see the growth of film industry in Nepal and this kind of festivals add value for it. The ministry has been encouraging such festivals as NIFF through support from the Film Development Board (FDB) as well. The festival has become a bridge to connect artists and filmmakers from various countries, and has emerged as a cultural beacon in South Asia. I would like to congratulate the organizers on the success of the festival.

NIFF has also emerged as a platform to introduce Nepali cinema into international film markets and communities, and Nepali audiences to the wide varieties of world cinema. While promoting our own values, culture and society to the world as well as opening a window to various cultures and realities for our audiences. I would like to thank the organizers and all the hands behind the festival for such commendable work.

I extend my best wishes for the continued success to NIFF in the years to come and the festival continues to be source of inspiration for the film industry of Nepal.

25th February 2024


Rekha Sharma
(Minister)



Prime Minister

Message

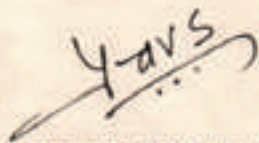
I extend my warmest congratulations to Nepal International Film Festival (NIFF) for successfully conducting the festival over the last six years. This year marks the 7th edition of the festival and I appreciate how NIFF has become a source of pride for our nation and a beacon for Nepali arts and culture globally.

NIFF has been representing the Nepali film community worldwide and has become a platform not just for cinemas from Nepal but also from all over the world. With representatives from over 40 countries participating this year, the festival's growth is commendable.

NIFF serves more than just a platform for Nepali filmmakers; it's a melting pot of diverse cinematic expressions from across the globe. I'm delighted to see filmmakers from different corners of the world come together to share their experiences and perspectives with our audiences.

I would like to extend best wishes to the organizing committee for another successful edition of NIFF. May the festival continue to inspire and unite filmmakers worldwide in their quest to tell compelling stories.

25 February 2024


Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'

NIFF 2024 Organizing Committee



K. P. Pathak
Festival Chair



Samipya Raj Timalsina
Media Coordinator



Shiva Puri
Technical/Event Coordinator



Sandhya Thapa
Public Relations Coordinator



Anup Bhattarai
Festival Manager



Rashik Pathak
Creative Manager



Ganesh Pandey
Committee Member



Sagar Pandey
Committee Member



Kapil Bhandari
Committee Member



Yadav Kumar Bhattarai
Committee Member



Aakash Paudel
Content/Research



Savyata Adhikari
Social Media

NIFF 2024 Jury

for feature films



Xie Fei

Xie Fei graduated from the Beijing Film Academy (BFA) of China and turned into a teacher and director; he was a professor in BFA from 1965 to 2012. He was vice-president of BFA from 1980–88 and has taught excellent film students like Chen Kaige, Tian Zhuangzhuang, Zhang Yimou, Jia Zhangke, etc in China. His film works have received wide acclaim, with international awards like the Golden and Silver Bear awards. Now he is still teaching and working as an art consultant for young filmmakers.



Pradeep Khadka

Nepali actor, model, scriptwriter, and filmmaker Pradeep Khadka, born on March 10, 1991, in Kusunti, Bhardev, Nepal, boasts an impressive career. Khadka marked his film debut in 2015's "Escape," gaining fame through hits like "Prem Geet" (2016) and "Prem Geet 3" (2022). Renowned for his role in the romantic drama "Prem Geet," he is the highest-paid actor in the Nepali film industry. Khadka's exceptional performance in "Prakash" (2022) earned him the Best Actor Prize at the 6th Nepal International Film Festival.



Karene Angele

German actress, model, and artist Karin Angele, born in 1965 in Ulm, Germany, is a versatile talent with a diverse background. Angele's acting journey began at Trier City Theater, leading to roles in German TV series like "Nikola" and "Wilsberg." Her international presence includes notable works such as the UK's award-winning short film "Salome" and the Turkish hit "Koyverdin Gittin Beni." Co-founding the Art Academy "Freie Kunstakademie Artefact" in Bonn in 1997, Angele continues to impart her knowledge across various art academies.

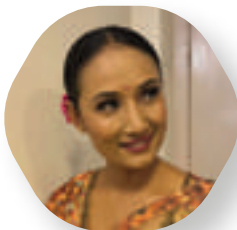
NIFF 2024 Jury

for short and documentary films



Mimi Mg Park (Head of Jury)

Mimi Mg Park is a leading figure in South Korea's cinema and cultural content landscape, currently serving as Representative, Contents Curator, and Producer at Cinemas Contents Culture Culture. Based in Seoul, she actively contributes to the industry as a film festival director, program curator, and producer. Mimi holds advisory roles at Chungnam Information Culture Technology Industry – Film Council and the CheonAn-Si Creation Studio Steering Committee. Additionally, she plays a crucial role in the Gimpo International Youth Film Festival's Executive Committee. With extensive experience directing programs for various festivals, Mimi is a respected figure in the film community.



Deeya Maskey

Deeya Maskey is a versatile force in the Nepalese entertainment industry, known for her prowess as an actress, Kathak and Bharatnatyam dancer, theatre artist, and director. Her significant impact on Nepalese art films has earned her acclaim. Maskey's directorial debut, "Charaharuko Sammelen," showcased her talents at NSD and the International Drama Festival 2019 in Delhi. As a judge on "Himalaya Roadies," she enhances her standing in the Nepalese entertainment scene. Recognized for her stellar role in "Prakash," Maskey has received accolades, including the "Best Actor (Female) at NIFF 2022" and the prestigious "NATIONAL FILM AWARD."



Safa Morad

Safa Morad, a distinguished Film Programmer and Distributor, stands out as a significant figure in the cinematic realm, harmonizing academic excellence with a profound passion for the art. Beyond her academic pursuits, Safa's impact resonates in film festivals, distribution, and artistic direction, solidifying her role in shaping the cinematic narrative in Egypt and beyond.

NIFF 2024 Jury

for the Don Quijote Award by IFFS



Maria Skeie-Chemaly

Maria Skeie-Chemaly, a Norwegian film enthusiast, spent a formative decade in Nepal before returning to Norway. Recognized as "Cinema-lover of the year" at 16, she pursued a Master's in "International Relations" at the University of Sussex and worked with the UNPO and UNHCR in the Hague, Kenya, and Switzerland. Now in France, she engages in communication and global affairs in multilateral Geneva. Passionate about hiking, cinema, reading, environmentalism, and architecture, Maria actively participates in the local film club and regional agricultural association.



Kishore Acharya

Kishore Acharya is an accomplished Sound Designer and Mixer based in Nepal, boasting a rich decade-long career in the entertainment industry. Throughout his career, Kishore has actively contributed to a diverse array of projects, including short and feature films, documentaries, corporate commercials, television, web productions, and live events. His impressive portfolio includes collaborations with internationally acclaimed networks such as ESPN, National Geographic, HBO, and D.W. TV Germany.



V.V. Maheshwar Rao

V.V. Maheshwar Rao, a versatile individual, excels as an actor, anchor, choreographer, filmmaker, and film festival director. His global cinematic influence extends as a jury member for international film festivals across 60 countries. Rao is dedicated to promoting peace through film, advocating for human rights and environmental causes. He focuses on enlightening the younger generation through films in schools, colleges, and universities. In his diverse roles, he intertwines entertainment, social impact, and education, leaving a lasting mark on both cinematic and societal landscapes.



#celebratingnarratives

NIFF FORUM

Panel talks, interactions and workshops at NIFF 2024

14-18 MARCH
चैत्र ०१-०५
Kathmandu 2024
काठमाडौं २०८०

RASTRIYA SABHA
GRIHA
NEPAL TOURISM
BOARD
BHRIKUTIMANDAP

ORGANIZED BY



NEPAL FILM AND
CULTURAL ACADEMY

DAY 2 MARCH 15 FRIDAY

RASTRIYA SABHA GRIHA

11:30 AM
onwards

सिनेमा संवाद !

पूर्व प्रधानमन्त्री के.पी ओली र
महानायक राजेश हमाल

DAY 2 MARCH 15 FRIDAY

NEPAL TOURISM BOARD

02:00 PM
onwards

सिनेमाका नयाँ बजार र अवसरहरू

बक्ताहरू: दिनेश डिसी, जितु नेपाल,
जनक तमाङ, पुष्पलता न्यौपाने
सहजकर्ता: प्रभाकर गौतम
संयोजन: चलचित्र पत्रकार संघ

DAY 3 MARCH 16 SATURDAY

NEPAL TOURISM BOARD

11:30 AM
onwards

फिल्म समीक्षा: ताली कि गाली ?

बक्ताहरू: केपी ढुंगाना, केकी अधिकारी,
प्रदीप भट्टराई
सहजकर्ता: प्रभाकर गौतम
संयोजन - चलचित्र समीक्षक समाज

01:30 PM
onwards

Cinematic Intelligence: Exploring the Impact of AI on the Future of Filmmaking

with Karun Thapa (Animator, lyricist,
editor)

DAY 4 MARCH 17 SUNDAY

NEPAL TOURISM BOARD

11:30 AM
onwards

निर्देशक हरायको सूचना !

बक्ताहरू: दीपकराज गिरी, करना थापा,
रामबाबु गुरुङ
सहजकर्ता: प्रकाश सुबेदी

01:30 PM
onwards

Reflection of gender stereotypes in the film industry: Changes and impacts over the years

Panelists - Ani Choying Drolma, Karin
Angele, Dilrukshi Handunnetti, Shivanee
Thapa Basnyat, Reema Bishwokarma
Moderator - Namrata Sharma

DAY 5 MARCH 18 MONDAY

NEPAL TOURISM BOARD

11:30 AM
onwards

Discourse on Chinese cinema with Prof. Xie Fei

Followed by screening of
"Song of Tibet - Yeshe Dolma"



#celebratingnarratives

SCHEDULE

NIFF 2024 FILMS

14-18 MARCH
चैत्र ०९-०५
Kathmandu 2024
क्राठमाडौं २०८०

QFX CIVIL MALL
QFX BHATBHATENI
QFX LABIM MALL
QFX CHHAYA CENTER

ORGANIZED BY



NEPAL FILM AND
CULTURAL ACADEMY

D A Y 1 MARCH 14 THURSDAY**QFX CIVIL MALL/ BHAKTAPUR**

03:30 PM Ani Bond: Choying Drolma (96 min)
Directed by Jennifer Lin, Shan Bai
DOCS@NIFF | Hong Kong SAR (China)
Showcases Ani's evolution as a nun, musician, advocate, and primarily as a human being.

05:30 PM DESAN (The Epidemic) (128 min)
Directed by Kamal Ekchal Magar
Nepal Panorama | Nepal
A social drama featuring love, trust, betrayal, and revenge.

D A Y 2 MARCH 15 FRIDAY**QFX CIVIL MALL/ BHAKTAPUR**

11:00 AM Story Tells Itself (17 min)
Directed by Sunil Pandey
National Shorts | Nepal
A study of conflict of perceptions and its consequences.

Scorching Summer (29 min)
Directed by An Jun
International Shorts | China
A father struggles relentlessly to care for his mentally handicapped daughter.

She Wins (47 min)
Directed by Zbigniew Gajzler
DOCS@NIFF | Poland
A mother battling alcoholism has to protect her daughter from the same fate.

01:30 PM Wild Swans (95 min)
Directed by Rajni Basumatary
World Panorama | India
The story explores the lives of women recovering from decades of armed conflict.

04:00 PM Yet Another Winter (22 min)
Directed by Kiran Shrestha
National Shorts | Nepal
Story of a desperate mother relentlessly searching for ways to heal her child.

No Winter Holidays (78 min)
Directed by Rajan Kathet, Sunil Pandey
National DOCS | Nepal
Explores the peculiar life and relationship of two women stationed in a snowbound empty village.

06:30 PM KOLI ESRU (CHICKEN CURRY) (90 min)
Directed by Champa Shetty
World Panorama | India
A mother goes through hardships to serve her daughter the taste of chicken curry.

D A Y 3 MARCH 16 SATURDAY**QFX CIVIL MALL/ BHAKTAPUR**

11:00 AM Ladakh 470 (38 min)
Directed by Shivam Singh Rajput
DOCS@NIFF | India
A runner pushes the limits of human endurance to complete a dare devil high-altitude run.

LYUBIMA (27 min)
Directed by Maya Ivanova Vitkova-Kosev
International Shorts | Bulgaria
A desperate woman stuck in her past relationship finally moves on.

FÁR (5 min)
Directed by Gunnur Martinsdóttir Schlüter
International Shorts | Iceland
A woman's interesting reaction in an unlikely situation.

The Poplar Trees (10 min)
Directed by Manoj Kumar Pant
National Shorts | Nepal
Simple story of a complicated emotion driven by love.

The Gorge (15 min)
Directed by Ryan Neil Butler
International Shorts | Australia
Horror in the jungle turns out to be more complicated.

01:30 PM Guras (113 min)
Directed by Saurav Rai
World Panorama | Nepal
Multiple incidents bring instability into the life of a 9-year-old in a small mountain village.

04:00 PM In Plain Sight (30 min)
Directed by Ruvin De Silva
DOCS @ NIFF | Sri Lanka
An investigative look at the existence of mass graves and their disappearances in Sri Lanka.

Mannequin Dreams (13 min)
Directed by Pradeep Bhandari
National Shorts | Nepal
A man's strange but captivating night odyssey, triggered by a simple incident.

Songs of the Sufi (53 min)
Directed by Shahrukh Waheed
DOCS @ NIFF | Pakistan
Explores the history, culture, etiquette, and the universal message of love that Qawwali embodies.

06:30 PM Buelwa- An Offering (90 min)
Directed by Charni Nemchand Chheda
World Panorama | Bhutan
A monk and several urban youths provoke transformative changes in each other.

DAY 4 MARCH 17 SUNDAY**QFX CIVIL MALL/ BHAKTAPUR****ALIGNED | Between The Sea and The Sky (34 min)**

Directed by Sandra Lahnsteiner-Wagner
DOCS @ NIFFF | Austria

A visually and emotionally charged piece of awe-inspiring ski touring adventure.

NARIA'S 20th BIRTHDAY (17 min)

Directed by Sagar Gahatraj
National Shorts | Nepal

An eventful birthday of a young girl with desperation, lies, courage and resolution.

Message from Anonymous (13 min)

Directed by Lool Galal
DOCS @ NIFFF | Egypt

Story of three HIV-infected people in Egypt, who must hide their secret.

Paper Planes, Don't Always Soar (14 min)

Directed by Diyana Amir
International Shorts | Singapore

A small girl has to come to terms with her father's tragic condition.

A Bleak Home (11 min)

Directed by Bidushi Giri
National Shorts | Nepal

A family drama revolving around a vulnerable girl.

Ek bhagavad Ek gita (100 min)

Directed by Jharana Thapa
Nepal Panorama | Nepal

Story of systematic injustice and abomination towards the trans community.

Chhaupadi - Dying In Illegal Menstrual Huts (30 min)

Directed by Hemant Bhattarai
National DOCS | Nepal

Showcases the roots and beliefs that perpetuate the Chhaupadi practice.

Sun Ra Pani (Gold and Water) (27 min)

Directed by Anna Deluche
National Shorts | Nepal

A woman in a fiery love tale gradually realizes she is the one smoldering.

I Promise You Paradise (25 min)

Directed by Morad Mostafa
International Shorts | Egypt

A subtle and meditative observation of guilt, love, redemption, and life.

Unspoken Bond (5 min)

Directed by Durga Rana Magar
National DOCS | Nepal

Story of an 84-year-old single mother nourishing her two disabled daughters.

Bhagwan Bharose (94 min)

Directed by Shiladitya Bora
World Panorama | India

Two children struggle with conflicting and complex ideas of faith and religion.

DAY 5 MARCH 18 MONDAY**QFX CIVIL MALL/ BHAKTAPUR****11:00 AM The Nature of the Region of Murcia (24 min)**

Directed by José Francisco Calvo Sendín
DOCS @ NIFFF | Spain

An elegant and affectionate elucidation of the richness of the nature of Murcia.

The Sink (17 min)

Directed by Eduardo Mattos
International Shorts | Brazil

A bathroom sink turns out to be more than just Legendary.

LEMON TREE (17 min)

Directed by Rachel Walden
International Shorts | United States

An acute observation of a complicated father-son relationship.

Xiaohui and his cows (14 min)

Directed by Xinying Lao
International Shorts | China

Xiaohui endeavors to prevent the sale of his grandpa's cows.

Arkesta (18 min)

Directed by Saraf Pandey
National Shorts | Nepal

A father gradually comes to terms with his son's femininity.

01:30 PM Bulaki (105 min)

Directed by Laxman Sunar
Nepal Panorama | Nepal

Story of a woman's suffering in a highly patriarchal and conservative society.

04:30 PM Doll Woman (20 min)

Directed by Tokio Oohara
International Shorts | Japan

A ragged doll collector meets her ideal partner.

Love & Cetamol (25 min)

Directed by Sagar Pandey
National Shorts | Nepal

A noir story shrouded by desperation, loneliness, and insanity.

The Eagle's Nest (18 min)

Directed by Milija Ščepanović
International Shorts | Montenegro

An indelible day in the life of two teenage cinephiles.

Wagol | The Ballon (15 min)

Directed by Manav Subedi
National Shorts | Nepal

Poor child's playful workday turns costly.

Survivor (13 min)

Directed by Karim Azimi
International Shorts | Iran

Young couple endures a painful sacrifice for their future.

DAY 1 MARCH 14 THURSDAY**QFX LABIM MALL/CHHAYA CENTER**

05:00 PM Remembering Every Night (106 min)
 Directed by Yui KIOHARA
World Panorama | **Nepal**
 Three women of different generations cross paths as they excavate the memories of their past.

DAY 2 MARCH 15 FRIDAY**QFX LABIM MALL/CHHAYA CENTER**

11:00 AM A Quest (5 min)
 Directed by Asoq Pathak
National Shorts | **Nepal**
 A mysterious journey of search, love and discovery.

Anta Barta (The Final Conversation) (12 min)
 Directed by Prashanna Mali
National Shorts | **Nepal**
 A surreal peek into a man's conflicted psyche.

Chairs (20 min)
 Directed by James Hughes
International Shorts | **United Kingdom**
 A humorous tale of a man with a peculiar obsession with chairs.

Dhye Dreams (26 min)
 Directed by Shanta Nepali
National DOCS | **Nepal**
 Story of resilience and determination of 3 women amidst hardship and struggle.

Entangled (19 min)
 Directed by Sainath S Uskalkar
International Shorts | **India**
 An unexpected encounter liberates an artist in his death throes.

01:30 PM Adieu Gaston (15 min)
 Directed by Victor Guillaud
International Shorts | **France**
 A stylized comedy revolving around a hitman on a bicycle.

TITS (11 min)
 Directed by Eivind Landsvik
International Shorts | **Norway**
 Circumstances drive two unlikely individuals to form a bond.

Lovebirds (22 min)
 Directed by Sara Mokhavat
International Shorts | **Iran**
 A woman visits her ex, expecting the unexpected.

The Boat (15 min)
 Directed by Luke Morgan
International Shorts | **Nepal**
 A tragedy falls upon the daughter, which compels the father to make a terrible decision.

Lăo Lao Lăo Le (14 min)
 Directed by Julie Zhu
International Shorts | **New Zealand**
 A young boy, home alone with his grandmother, finally comes to terms with her illness.

Taxi Driver (8 min)

Directed by Bigyan Thapa
National Shorts | **Nepal**
 Short thriller featuring murder, infidelity and suspense.

04:00 PM Interbellum (14 min)
 Directed by Milan Lohani
National Shorts | **Nepal**
 This short recollects the distress of civil war on ordinary families.

Requiem for a Whale (15 min)

Directed by Ido Weisman
DOCS@NIFF | **Israel**
 An encounter with a whale's corpse evokes the dialogue between death and life.

A Poet on the Cruise (13 min)

Directed by Vincent Zheng, Zencat Dong
DOCS@NIFF | **Switzerland**
 A poetic reflection of the richness and mystery of life on the planet.

KEEP (20 min)

Directed by Lewis Rose
International Shorts | **United Kingdom**
 An old-timer receives an uninvited guest with a complicated motif.

A Ride in the Rain (24 min)

Directed by Utsab Ray
International Shorts | **India**
 Different lives get entangled in a rainy night ride full of suspense.

06:30 PM Lazarus Path (90 min)
 Directed by Ivan Jovic
World Panorama | **Serbia**
 A street artist confronted with bureaucratic processes, is led to reflect on his life.

DAY 3 MARCH 16 SATURDAY**QFX LABIM MALL/CHHAYA CENTER**

08:30 AM Pakheta (113 min)
 Directed by Sanol Das
Nepal Panorama | **Nepal**
 Reflects the chaos, struggle, sacrifice, burden, and pain of an aspiring filmmaker.

11:00 AM Call of the Karakoram (23 min)
 Directed by Sébastien Carliato
International Shorts | **France**
 The story of courage and determination turns life-threatening.

NADA DE TODO ESTO (17 min)
 Directed by Patricio Martínez, Francisco Cantón
International Shorts | **Argentina**
 A thrilling mother-daughter relationship forces them to the point of no return.

A Letter Of Postmaster (29 min)
 Directed by Supin Barman
International Shorts | **Bangladesh**
 A young girl faces a dilemma in choosing between marriage and education.

Turquoise (5 min)

Directed by Nibhal Bajracharya

National Shorts | **Nepal**

A heartwarming story of an elderly couple and their captivation with color 'Turquoise'.

Toya & Her Art Spirit (17 min)

Directed by Andara Fembriarto

International Shorts | **Indonesia**

Toya finally bonds with her spiritual animal in this light-hearted comedy.

01:30 PM

Cherry Juice (88 min)

Directed by Mersiha Husagic

World Panorama | **Germany**

Two artists cross path and end up sharing an indelible New Year's Eve.

03:45 PM

On A Quest: with Jaswant (Portugal's Lisbon) (26 min)

Directed by Jaswant Dev Shrestha

DOCS@NIFF | **United States**

A filmmaker's quest to explore the culture, history, architecture, and overall beauty of Portugal.

The Rise of the Black Dragon (23 min)

Directed by Redione Stephens

International Shorts | **South Africa**

A stylized action-packed revenge drama.

Sanai (15 min)

Directed by Akanchha Karki

National Shorts | **Nepal**

Two friends separated by societal norms are brought together through music.

Letter (17 min)

Directed by Yiwei Zhao

International Shorts | **China**

Letters from the past make the daughter re-evaluate her relationship with her father.

Jama (10 min)

Directed by Enuma Rai

National DOCS | **Nepal**

Story from the floodplains features an old couple who seek survival by collecting firewood.

06:15 PM

Peafowl (114 min)

Directed by Sungbin BYUN

World Panorama | **South Korea**

A transgender's return to her hostile hometown turns surprisingly metamorphic.

DAY 4 MARCH 17 SUNDAY**QFX LABIM MALL/CHHAYA CENTER**

11:00 AM

LOVE LIGHTS (67 min)

Directed by Acácio de Almeida, Marie Carré

DOCS@NIFF | **Portugal**

A filmmaker's quest of intimately exploring the transcending mystery of light.

Can I hold your hand? (10 min)

Directed by Suraj Katuwal

National Shorts | **Nepal**

A casual hangout between two friends starts taking a curious turn.

The Gold Teeth (15 min)

Directed by Alireza Kazempour

International Shorts | **Canada**

An uninvited guest makes a strange request to the dentist in this thriller.

01:30 PM

The Trekker, the Wolf and the Monkey King (94 min)

Directed by Zhi Zhao

World Panorama | **China**

A renowned hiker finally reconciles with himself, his past relations and experiences.

04:00 PM

Joy Bangla (21 min)

Directed by Shaila Rahman Tithi

International Shorts | **Bangladesh**

A political thriller revolving around a deceitful village leader.

YATRA (22 min)

Directed by LSM, Sahayog Raj Adhikari

National DOCS | **Nepal**

Story of a transformative journey of two individuals towards their gender identities.

Game, Interrupted (15 min)

Directed by Ilayda Iseri

International Shorts | **Turkey**

A fantastic journey into children's hyper-reality.

SAME OLD (15 min)

Directed by Lloyd Lee Choi

International Shorts | **Canada**

A bad night turns worse for a New York City delivery driver.

The Monk and The Rebel (14 min)

Directed by Prabhat Gurung

National Shorts | **Nepal**

An unlikely bond forms that challenges morality and beliefs.

Lokkhon Rekha (10 min)

Directed by Rohan Shyam Chowdhury

International Shorts | **India**

A dark humor that explores the extremes of dysfunctional relationships.

06:30 PM

Moonlight Warrior (110 min)

Directed by Ying HONG

World Panorama | **China**

Time doesn't heal a boy's painful unrequited love for his pretty nurse.

DAY 5 MARCH 18 MONDAY**QFX LABIM MALL/CHHAYA CENTER**

11:00 AM

Luto (110 min)

Directed by Andres Arochi Tinajero

World Panorama | **Mexico & Ireland**

A man mourning his lost partner, finds solace in strangers' grieving customs.

01:30 PM

Durian Trees (25 min)

Directed by Cheun Shi Chin

International Shorts | **Taiwan/China**

An old man's struggle against the establishment.

Age of Learning (25 min)

Directed by Shuvangi Khadka

National DOCS | **Nepal**

Follows two determined elderly women with the drive to get an education.

A Silent Farewell (23 min)

Directed by Shabir Shrestha

National Shorts | **Nepal**

The grief and agony of bereavement takes a turn to insanity.

Everything Is Nothing (21 min)

Directed by Arfat Mohsin

International Shorts | **Bangladesh**

A day in the life of a bored and lonely mother seeking self-discovery.

04:00 PM

Good Autumn, Mommy (107 min)

Directed by Shizhong CHEN

World Panorama | **China**

A resolute mother goes against all the odds in search of her baby.



PROGRAMS & EVENT SCHEDULE

FROM FILMS TO PANELS &
DISCOURSES (14-18 MARCH)

***Separate Schedule also available.**

#Celebrating narratives

WORLD PANORAMA

13 narrative feature films (international competition)





The Trekker, the Wolf, and the Monkey King

94 mins | China

Subtitled

Ming Lei, a hiker achieved a breakthrough in crossing Lop Nur Zero on foot and also drew a complete conclusion to his ten-year ascetic hiking journey throughout China. His parents both died when Ming Lei was very young. This tragic experience created his character of perseverance. The unexpected encounter with hiker Yu Chunshun opened up Ming Lei's dusty heart, and he longed to go out to learn about the outside world by traveling. It's an adventure for his ten-year hiking throughout China, especially the ultimate challenge crosses Lop Nur. It is also a journey of reconciliation between him, his original family, and his past experiences.

Original Language
Chinese

Director
Zhi Zhao

Editor
-

Cinematographer
Narendra Mainali

Screenwriter
Zhi Zhao

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Liyin Huang, Qin He



About the director

Zhi Zhao was born in 1989 in Karamay, Xinjiang. This multifaceted artist graduated from the Beijing Film Academy with a focus on drama, film & TV literature. Serving as the 6th director of the Beijing Film Academy TV Station (2010-2011), he also represented Chinese youth on delegations to Europe and South Korea in 2009 and 2010. With roles as director, screenwriter, and producer, his talents span across various realms of the film industry.



Wild Swans

95 mins | India

Set in the foothills of Bodoland in Northeast India, the story explores the lives of women in a patriarchal society recovering from decades of armed conflict. Their experiences of repression and fighting back are interwoven. Preeti, a doctoral student from the city comes to the village for her fieldwork. Her romantic ideas of rural life are crushed after witnessing the effects that militarization and patriarchy have on the everyday lives of these women. Mainao and Gaodaang, single mothers in Bodoland, confront the legacies of a rebel's death and a soldier's absence. Malothi, assaulted and abandoned, finds hope in impending change. But winds of change are about to blow.

Subtitled

Original Language
Bodo (India)

Director
Rajni Basumatary

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Rajni Basumatary

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Rajni Basumatary, Jani Viswanath



About the director

Rajni Basumatary, a versatile figure from Assam, India, excels as a scriptwriter, director, actor, and producer. Her film "Anuraag" (2004) earned numerous Assam State Film Awards, marking a promising start to her career. With notable works like "Raag, the Rhythm of Love" (2014) and "Jwlwi - The Seed" (2019), where she wore multiple hats, she's garnered acclaim and awards, showcasing her belief in the transformative power of culture and creativity for social change.



Bhagwan Bharose

94 mins | India

In a world blinded by faith, can innocence win over hate? Bhagwan Bharose is a story about two young, impressionable kids whose ideas about faith are constantly questioned and changed as their little world expands and takes into its fold, their country's fast-changing socio-political landscape—the story of a lost childhood. The story is set in 1980's India, where two kids, Bhola and Shambhu, struggle with their understanding of faith and religion while experiencing the everyday challenges of childhood, conservative upbringing, and communal surroundings until their idyllic world is blown apart by events that they can no longer fathom.

Subtitled

Original Language
Hindi

Director
Shiladitya Bora

Editor
Sooraj Gunjal

Cinematographer
Christopher Lane

Screenwriter
Mohit Chauhan, Sudhakar Nilmani

Sound Designer
-

Producer



About the director

An alumnus of Berlinale Talents 2015, Shiladitya has been associated with all aspects of filmmaking from the direction, production, and commissioning to marketing, distribution, and monetization of films for the past 15 years. Formerly associated with PVR Cinemas and Drishyam Films, he contributed to acclaimed projects like "Newton," "Masaan," and "Dhanak." Founding Platoon One Films in 2017, he showcased his directorial talent with the widely screened short "Aapke Aa Jane Se."



Peafowl

114 mins | South Korea

Myung is a transgender who cut ties with her family and hometown because of who she is. Now, all she needs is the surgery but the only way to earn money is by winning the Waacking dance competition, which didn't go well. One day, she receives a call that her father passed away and Myung finds out that her father left a will that he will give her the legacy if she performs Drum Dance during his 49th memorial ritual. With no choice left, Myung goes back to her hometown to perform according to her father's will.

Subtitled

Original Language

Korean

Director

Sungbin BYUN

Editor

-

Cinematographer

Sergio Silveira

Screenwriter

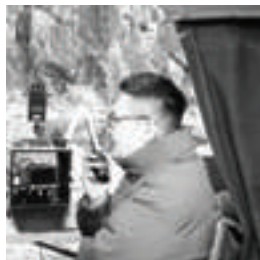
Sungbin BYUN

Sound Designer

-

Producer

Sunok BAE, Suji BONG



About the director

Byun Sung-bin studied Eastern Philosophy and Cinema at Sungkyunkwan University. He made several short films, including 'Horn(2014)', 'The Chicken of Wuzuh(2015)', and 'Hands and Wings(2019)', which were invited to numerous local and international film festivals. In 2020, he won the Audience Award at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival with 'God's Daughter Dances(2020)'. 'Peafowl(2022)' is the debut feature film.



Lazarus Path

90 mins | Serbia

After years of traveling as a street artist, and motionless sculpture, Lazar finds himself on a small Mediterranean island. He starts to miss home but his departure from the island is complicated by an inability to properly communicate with the island's administration. Meetings with administration clerks become more and more peculiar. Their questions go beyond the administrative boundaries and are stepping into the most intimate parts of Lazar's life. Lazar feels trapped in twisted Kafkaian reality while he walks from one another office of the island's administration and patiently answers their questions and meets their demands, all the while carrying a heavy black box that holds his "complete documentation". The tedious process of collecting documentation turns into a re-examination of life's meaning and deep secrets hidden from oneself.

Subtitled

Original Language
English, Serbian

Director
Ivan Jovic

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Monia Jovic

Sound Designer
T Krishnan Unni

Producer
Ivan Jovic



About the director

Ivan Jovic is known for The Healing (feature, 2014), Legacy (documentary, 2016), Lazarus Path (feature, 2023)



Luto

110 mins | Ireland & Mexico

In a desperate attempt to overcome the grief caused by his girlfriend's passing, Damian sets off on a journey across Mexico. Haunted by memories and regrets, he finds solace through conversations with strangers, witnessing the rituals they participate in to cope with death.

Subtitled

Original Language

Spanish, English, Wixarika

Director

Andres Arochi Tinajero

Editor

Didac Palou, Sergio Beltrán-García & Andres Arochi Tinajero

Cinematographer

Andrés Arochi Tinajero & Galo Olivares

Screenwriter

Andres Arochi Tinajero & Gonzalo Romero

Sound Designer

Sebastian Lechuga & Arturo Salazar

Producer

Santiago Tron & Andres Arochi Tinajero



About the director

Born in Mexico City, Arochi's artistic journey began with photography, leading him to drop out of psychology school to pursue his passion. His debut feature film "Luto" embodies his unique perspective and pace, reflecting his immersive experiences. Arochi's diverse career includes collaborations with renowned artists and acclaimed short films like "Ecos." Currently, he has showcased his cinematography skills in Osgood Perkins' upcoming film "Longlegs," starring Nicolas Cage and Mika Monroe.



KOLI ESRU (CHICKEN CURRY)

90 mins | India

Based on a short story by K.T. Chikkana, 'Chicken Curry' is the story of a poor woman who undergoes tremendous sacrifices and difficulties just to provide her beloved ten-year-old daughter with the taste of chicken curry. Deprived of motherly love at a tender age, Hucheeri is married off by her stepmother to a drunkard, separating her from her loving father and her idyllic village. The narration of events that happen in 24 hours in Hucheeri's life is a larger story of women's struggles traditional and modern who have had to fight injustices just to survive despite patriarchal and societal pressures.

Subtitled

Original Language
Kannada

Director
Champa Shetty

Editor
Harish Komme

Cinematographer
Francis Rajkumar

Screenwriter
Champa P Shetty

Sound Designer
Shreyank Nanjappa

Producer
Vanaja Vaman Rao and team



About the director

Champa Shetty's journey in Kannada theatre first began in 1991 and since then she has evolved as an actor and director under the guidance of accomplished theatre personalities. She also has a spectacular academic track record by winning a GOLD medal in MA in performing arts at Bangalore University. After the debut directed movie "Ammachi Yemba Nanpu" which was critically acclaimed and also well received by the general audience and premiered in several reputed film festivals.



Cherry Juice

88 mins | Germany

What is left when the war is over? *Cherry Juice* traces this question through a wild and unpredictable night in Sarajevo when Selma, a young Bosnian screenwriter, shares an adventurous encounter with a German actor named Niklas. *Cherry Juice*, takes the viewer from Hamburg to Sarajevo and tells the story of two people for whom cinema means everything.

Subtitled

Original Language
Bosnian, English, German

Director
Mersiha Husagic

Editor
Mersiha Husagic

Cinematographer
Oliver Nimz

Screenwriter
Mersiha Husagic

Sound Designer
Alexander Precht

Producer
Mersiha Husagic & Birgit Gernböck



About the director

Born in 1989 in former Yugoslavia, Mersiha Husagic fled the war in 1992, settling in Hamburg. Her passion for film began in childhood, leading to roles in German productions during high school. After acting school, she pursued filmmaking at The University of Art, Hamburg studying under Professor Wim Wenders. Graduating in 2020, her directorial debut, "*Cherry Juice*," marks her entry into feature films.



Remembering Every Night

106 mins | Japan

A story of three women, weaved in the "Tama New Town" suburbs of Tokyo, opened in 1971 as the country's largest-ever residential housing project. One person's precious memory resonates through one day in the life of another.

Subtitled

Original Language
Japanese

Director
KIYOHARA Yui

Editor
YAMAZAKI Azusa

Cinematographer
IIOKA Yukiko

Screenwriter
KIYOHARA Yui

Sound Designer
HWANG Young Chang

Producer
AMANO Mayumi



About the director

Yui Kiyohara, born in Tokyo in 1992, is a Japanese filmmaker. Her feature debut, 'Our House', won the Grand Prize at the Pia Film Festival in 2017 and internationally premiered at the 68th Berlin International Film Festival in the Forum section. The film also went to the 18th Curitiba International Film Festival, where it won the Grand Prix. Kiyohara won the Best Director award at the 2018 Asian New Talent Award in Shanghai. 'Remembering Every Night' is her second feature film.



Moonlight Warrior

110 mins | China

Chongqing 1976, a boy falls in love with a pretty nurse, but she is married to a gangster who beats her. He has a dream of rescuing her and becoming her Moonlight Warrior, but the couple went to Japan. 20 years later she returns, and her husband follows. It is no longer a game.

Subtitled

Original Language
Mandarin Chinese

Director
Ying HONG

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Ying HONG

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Dai SONG



About the director

Hong Ying, writer, scriptwriter, photographer, and gourmet. She is known for her literary works such as *Daughter of the River*, and *K: The Art of Love*. Six of her books have been translated into more than 30 languages and published in many countries. Her novel *Death in Shanghai* was adapted by Lou Ye as the film *Saturday Fiction* and was selected for competition at the Venice Film Festival in 2019.



Good Autumn, Mommy

107 mins | China

The story took place in a quiet southern cane village, Fong-tai's family were waiting for the birth of new family member, but an unexpected change broke the original quiet and beautiful life. In the setback and change, Fong-tai opened up the journey of awakening to find her family and find herself.

Subtitled

Original Language
Mandarin Chinese

Director
Chen Shizhong

Editor
Du Guangwei, Lan Fei

Cinematographer
Wu Qi

Screenwriter
Chen Shizhong

Sound Designer
Li Danfeng

Producer
Dun He



About the director

Chen Shizhong is a director, screenwriter, cinematographer, and a Guangdong native. He graduated from Shenzhen University in 2017. He obtained a full scholarship to attend Shanghai Vancouver Film School, majoring in cinematography. He was selected as one of the top five directors of the CFDG Young Director Support Program in 2020. GOOD AUTUMN, MOMMY is his first feature film.



Buelwa – An Offering

90 mins | Bhutan

The film is about a traditional and strict Khenpo Tempa, who is sent out of the monastery by the Head Lama (Lopen Rinpoche) to work with the youth. Khenpo Tempa's life is entangled with the life of three young people, Kelzang Drakpa, Tashi Pelzom, and Gawa Dorji. Khenpo Tempa becomes a prime witness in a case of drug overdose which becomes a catalyst of change in the lives of young people while going through a change within himself.

Subtitled

Original Language
Dzongkha

Director
Charmi Chheda

Editor
Kelzang Dorjee

Cinematographer
Jigme Tenzing

Screenwriter
Charmi Chheda

Sound Designer
Thukji Younten

Producer
Charmi Chheda



About the director

Charmi, a versatile film and theatre director, debuted with "Gangnam Girls," now streaming on Bhutan's Samuh platform, earning acclaim with the Best Debut Feature Film Award at the UK Asian Film Awards. Her directorial prowess was further recognized with the Best Director Feature Film accolade at the Paris Cinema Awards. Alongside filmmaking, she fosters young talent through her government-backed Black Box Theatre group and Earth Kids initiative, enriching communities with theatrical education.



Guras

113 mins | Nepal

The fall in cardamom prices in a mountain village near Darjeeling, India, brings instability to nine-year-old Guras's life. Adding to the chaos, her pet dog Tinkle goes missing. Despite the looming fear of a wild leopard, a faint dog bark from across the valley brings her some hope. She embarks on a journey that soon turns mystical as she meets unworldly beings on her way.

Subtitled

Original Language

Nepali

Director

Saurav Rai

Editor

Saurav Rai, Ankita Purkayastha

Cinematographer

Subal KR

Screenwriter

Saurav Rai

Sound Designer

Ankita Purkayastha

Producer

Ram Krishna Pokharel, Sanjay Gulati



About the director

Saurav Rai is an alumnus of the Satyajit Ray Film and TV Institute, India. His diploma film 'Gudh/Nest' was the official selection at the 69th Cannes Cinefondation (2016). 'Nimtoh's Invitation' his debut feature film had its international premiere at the Rotterdam International Film Festival, in 2020. It also won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2019 JIO MAMI Film Festival. Guras is Saurav's second Feature.

NEPAL PANORAMA

4 narrative feature films from Nepal





Bulaki

105 mins | Nepal

A story having a massive history of 100 years, based on a caste system discrimination society originated from the village of Karnali, depicts the hardships faced by a woman in the society where she cannot bear a child and all the cruelties she faced from the society and within the family. It displays the struggles and different emotional atrocities faced by her. It is a heart-wrenching drama that will surely compel the audience to view society from an outside perspective and educate them on such matters.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Laxman Sunar

Editor
Arjun GC, Laxman Sunar

Cinematographer
Shiva Dhakal

Screenwriter
Raj Bahadur Sane

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Topendra Bista



About the director

Laxman Sunar is a Nepali filmmaker, director, screenwriter, and editor who is recognized for his contributions to Nepali cinema. He has been recognized with a variety of awards, including the National Film Award 2023 (Special Film BULAKI), BDBRA International Film Festival INDIA 2022 (BEST MUSIC VIDEO DIRECTOR), and 8th National Rapti Music Award 2022 (BEST MUSIC VIDEO DIRECTOR).



DESAN (The Epidemic)

128 mins | Nepal

Desan is a Nepali feature film based on the story of a social epidemic, it portrays family love, trust, betrayal and revenge.

Subtitled

Original Language

Nepali

Director

Kamal Ekchhai Magar

Editor

Milan Shrestha

Cinematographer

Chakra Bdr. Maharjan

Screenwriter

Kamal Ekchhai Magar

Sound Designer

Mukesh Shah

Producer

Krishala Magar



About the director

Kamal Ekchhai Magar is a Nepali film maker and editor, who works in Nepalese films. He started his career as a music video editor at Surya Creation in 2009. Later on he ventured into the directorial realm as a music video director. In 2016, Kamal moved to the movie industry. His debut movie "Shirphool", released in 2018 laid the foundation to his directional success.



Ek bhagavad Ek gita

100 mins | Nepal

Ek Bhagavad Gita' circulates within the law of karma. All beings are born to fulfill their KARMA. The nature of KARMA is so powerful; what is meant to be it will be, with the articulation of choices. Whenever the law of KARMA is defied, the entire situation/life/moment becomes a battlefield. The significance of Ek Bhagavad Gita is the interconnection of wholeness forming to be "one". Witness the movie from the eyes of a child.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Jharana Thapa

Editor
Mitra D. Gurung

Cinematographer
Rajesh Shrestha, Sankalpa Bhujel

Screenwriter
Jharana Thapa

Sound Designer
Uttam Neupane, CAS

Producer
Suhana Thapa



About the director

Jharana thapa - Female Director from Nepal



Pakheta

113 mins | Nepal

This is the story of Shambhav Bhujel, a 30 year old aspiring writer who wants to get a break in films while he deals with various personal demons.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Sanol Das

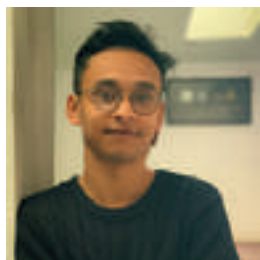
Editor
Aruna Shrestha, Yam Bahadur Moktan

Cinematographer
Lokendra Malla Thakuri

Screenwriter
Sanol Das

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Prakash Puri



About the director

Sanol Das, writer and director currently living in Kathmandu, Nepal, has directed two feature films "The Night Diaries" and "Pakheta" along with several short films including "Jhol" which won the best student film award in NAFF in 2022. He has been involved in filmmaking since 2018.

DOCS@NIFF

13 short international documentaries





Message From Anonymous

13 mins | Egypt

Three people hide a secret, if it comes out, their lives will be turned upside down. The film tells the story of three people with HIV who live in Egypt, and how they deal with a society that considers a person with a virus like that as a pervert, so they choose to go on with their lives trying to hide this secret.

Subtitled

Original Language
Arabic

Director
Loai Galal

Editor
Loai Galal

Cinematographer
Loai Galal

Screenwriter
Loai Galal

Sound Designer
Omar Mahmoud

Producer
Loai Galal



About the director

Egyptian director and filmmaker, Loai Galal graduated from the faculty of Mass Communication. He has directed several short fiction films and documentaries that won several awards at national and international film festivals. He also worked as a director and producer for many video commercials.



Love Lights

67 mins | Portugal

The evocation of light, which was the raw material with which the Man of Light worked all his life, in cinema, leads him to other reflections on the mysterious nature of light; in a pilgrimage that interweaves personal memories with metaphysical interrogations to the ends of the cosmos.

Subtitled

Original Language
Portuguese

Director
Acácio de Almeida, Marie Carré

Editor
Tomás Baltazar

Cinematographer
Acácio de Almeida

Screenwriter
Acácio de Almeida, Marie Carré, Regina Guimarães

Sound Designer
Sérgio Silva, Pedro Góis, Marcelo Tavares

Producer
Sagar Gahatraj



About the director

Acácio de Almeida studied in Paris at Centre Universitaire de Cinéma Expérimental. He worked as an assistant director(AD) in some films and immediately started his career as a DOP(Director of Photography). He worked on almost 150 films and became one of the most renowned Portuguese DOPs.

Marie Carré is a French-born actress who studied with Patrice Chérea. She has been cast in several shorts, TV series, and feature films. Acácio de Almeida and his wife Marie Carré directed their first feature film.



A Poet on the Cruise

13 mins | Switzerland

A young poet who lives in nowhere was invited by his friends to vacation on a cruise ship. He looked at the moon and wrote that he was a cloud on the moon. He looked at the night sea and realized that God lives in everyone's heart. He was like a seagull wearing a hard hat, flying in the world of inspiration in his mind, the musician he met when he was a child, wrapped the notes with leaves and went on a dream trip with him.

Subtitled

Original Language
Chinese, French

Director
Vincent Zheng, Zencat Dong

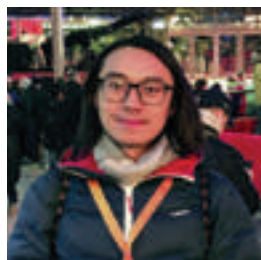
Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Shangyun Yue

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Daixiang Liao



About the director

Vincent Zheng, originally from Beijing, China, currently resides in Montreux, Switzerland. Growing up in a family who does painting, he commenced traditional Chinese painting at the tender age of 5. Vincent pursued his undergraduate studies at Beijing Arts and Crafts School, specializing in sculpture, graduating in 1984. He remained at the university for an additional five years, overseeing the ceramic art room at Shenlu Kiln in 1994. Subsequently, Vincent embarked on overseas studies in France, supported by a French national scholarship.



Requiem For a Whale

15 mins | Israel

An encounter with a whale's corpse evokes the witnesses' thoughts about the dialogue between death and life.

Subtitled

Original Language
Hebrew

Director
Ido Weisman

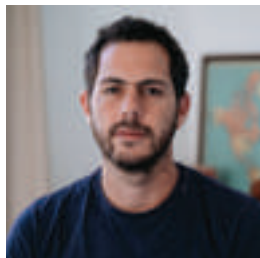
Editor
Alex Hosid

Cinematographer
Ido Weisman

Screenwriter
Ido Weisman, Alex Hosid

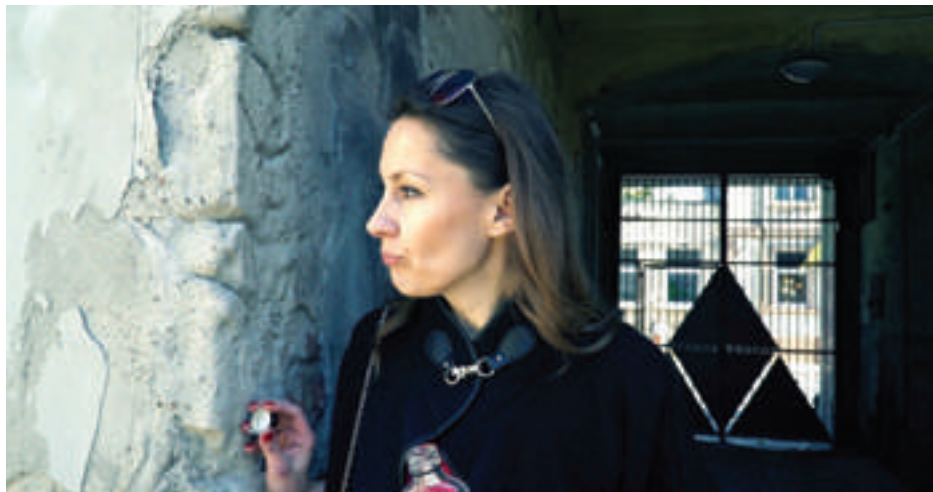
Sound Designer
-

Producer
Ido Weisman



About the director

Ido, a Tel Aviv-based director and cinematographer, was born in 1989 and raised in the northern Israeli village of Nofit. He earned a BFA from the Steve Tisch School of Film and Television at Tel Aviv University. Known for award-winning films like "Horah," "Pool," and "Uzzi," he gained acclaim for his latest documentary, "Requiem for a Whale," winning accolades at the IDA Awards 2022 and Docaviv International Documentary Film Festival 2022.



She Wins

47 mins | Poland

A small-town alcoholic battles the bottle to defeat a third-generation addiction and to save her daughter from the same fate.

Subtitled

Original Language
Polish

Director
Zbigniew Gajzler

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Zbigniew Gajzler

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Anna Bober Davis



About the director

Zbigniew Gajzler, born in 1957 in Poland, is a versatile figure in the film industry, excelling as a director, scriptwriter, producer, and cinematographer. Graduating from the National Film School in Lodz with a degree in Cinematography, he founded Microfilm, an independent production company. Gajzler's documentaries, "Maestro" and "Sarid," garnered international recognition at Cameraimage, earning accolades such as the Judaica Award in Sofia, Bulgaria, and the Red David's Star Award in Australia. He has received prestigious awards including the Medal for Merit to Culture and the Siberian Exiles Cross.



Ladakh 470

38 mins | India

LADAKH 470 is a documentary about a five times Guinness world record holder - ultrarunner Sufiya Sufi Runner who completes a daredevil high altitude run from Siachen War Memorial to Kargil War Memorial for 470kms to honor the Indian army during Kargil Vijay Diwas 2022.

Subtitled

Original Language
Hindi

Director
Shivam Singh Rajput

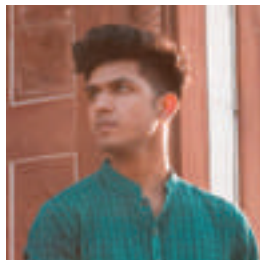
Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Roopa Barua

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Roopa Barua, Sufiya Sufi Runner



About the director

Shivam is an engineering graduate whose journey from technical equations to cinematic expressions has been an adventure. While in college, Shivam's encounter with filmmaking ignited a fiery passion within him, prompting him to dive headfirst into the world of commercials as a director, editor, and cinematographer. A thrill seeker at heart, Shivam's fascination with extreme sports found a perfect outlet when he embraced the opportunity to direct and shoot a documentary centered around an awe-inspiring ultra-runner. Crafting this documentary film was an arduous journey, pushing Shivam to his limits, but ultimately solidifying his place as a filmmaker with an unrelenting passion for his craft.



Ani Bond: Choying Drolma

94 mins | Hong Kong SAR (China)

Choying Drolma, a child of forced marriage and a victim of domestic violence, seeks refuge in a Tibetan Buddhist monastery where she learns to sing. An American musician brings her music to the United States of America, from where she starts her global music journey. However, some believe nuns should not sing, and her concert is boycotted in Hong Kong. Despite such criticism, Choying Drolma becomes a rock-star nun, fighting for girls' education with her heavenly voice on the world stage. She founds a modern school for girls, builds a hospital in Kathmandu, addresses gender equality in the United Nations, calls for educational reform in Abu Dhabi, appeals for world peace in Europe, and becomes a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. However, a dark cloud remains in her heart since she cannot free herself emotionally from the past. She decides to fulfill her late father's last wish and retrace her roots in his Tibetan hometown in Qinghai, China.

Subtitled

Original Language

English, Mandarin Chinese, Nepali, Tibetan, Yue Chinese (Cantonese)

Director

F. Jennifer Lin, Shan Bai

Editor

Yue Gu, Jeff Kwok

Cinematographer

-

Screenwriter

F. Jennifer Lin

Sound Designer

Producer

Shan Bai, F. Jennifer Lin



About the director

Dr. F. Jennifer Lin, a sociologist at the City University of Hong Kong, integrates research on media and social change with visual storytelling, being voices of underrepresented communities.

Ms. Sunshine Shan Bai, a celebrated producer-director in China, gained acclaim for directing cultural programs and documentaries spotlighting gender and cultural issues. Her work, including "Far Away from Darkness" and "New Ties Along Silk Road," has reached international audiences, demonstrating her commitment to meaningful storytelling.



Songs of the Sufi

53 mins | Pakistan

Spanning 800 years, "Songs of the Sufi" unveils the enduring magic of Qawwali, a mystical musical tradition originating from 13th-century Sufi seminaries in the Indian Subcontinent. The documentary, through the narratives of a Qawwali enthusiast and a family of Qawwali singers spanning 25 generations, delves into the genre's global resonance. Viewers embark on a journey blending traditional and contemporary Qawwalis, exploring the profound cultural and spiritual impact. Live performances, ancient verses, and insights from musicologist Dr. Katherine Schofield create a meditative experience, unraveling the rich history, cultural significance, and universal message of love that defines the soul-stirring essence of Qawwali.

Subtitled

Original Language
English, Urdu

Director
Shahrukh Waheed

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Kamran Moin Anwar

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Kamran Moin Anwar



About the director

Shahrukh Waheed is a producer and filmmaker currently based in Karachi, Pakistan. His work explores the human condition through the intricacies of transference and tools of visual storytelling. He holds a BSc in Media Studies and an M.A. in Digital Film Production from the University of Bedfordshire. His work has been featured at NYFF, and TIFF & nominated at the Daytime Emmy Awards.



On the Quest: With Jaswant

26 mins | United States

ON A QUEST with Jaswant is told from a filmmaker's perspective. He travels to Portugal, from the cities, small towns, and villages, to remote areas, on a quest to learn and document untold stories, history, hidden wonders, arts, culture, food, people, and places. He thinks the images and stories of our fascinating world are worth preserving, documenting, and sharing. Shrestha holds a deep connection with his camera and the natural world around him. He thinks it's the filmmaker's responsibility to capture every story around them so it can be preserved for future generations.

Original Language
English

Director
Jaswant Dev Shrestha

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Jaswant Dev Shrestha

Sound Designer
Andre Traveras

Producer
Carlos Sargedas



About the director

Jaswant, the pioneering Nepali American filmmaker, has been honored with 1 Emmy award and has garnered 9 Emmy nominations across diverse categories by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in the United States. His remarkable achievements mark him as a trailblazer in his community. Moreover, Jaswant has secured numerous accolades within the film festival circuit, showcasing his talent both in front of and behind the camera.



Aligned | Between the Sea and the Sky

23 mins | Austria

ALIGNED, Between The Sea And The Sky is a visually stunning and emotionally charged documentary that takes the audience on an awe-inspiring ski touring adventure in the majestic Lyngen Alps, high above the Arctic Circle. The film beautifully captures the raw and authentic journey of the two friends and ski guides, navigating the challenges and unpredictability of the Arctic weather in this remote and untouched landscape. Facing moments of failure, their resilience is put to the test, transforming ALIGNED into a heartfelt homage to the unwavering human spirit and the relentless pursuit of dreams.

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
Sandra Lahnsteiner-Wagner

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
-

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Sandra Lahnsteiner-Wagner



About the director

Sandra Lahnsteiner is a pioneering freeskiier from Austria who has seamlessly blended her talents as an athlete and filmmaker. She made history in 2010 with the first 'all-girls ski movie' and has since garnered global acclaim for her skiing prowess and filmmaking skills. Her 'Shades of Winter' films, featuring top female freeski and surf athletes, have set a new standard in the industry. With a passion for storytelling and a keen eye for breathtaking visuals, Sandra's work continues to inspire audiences worldwide.



In Plain Sight

30 mins | Sri Lanka

'In Plain Sight' is a glimpse into Sri Lanka's complicated socio-political history that led to strategic disappearances and the existence of mass graves in the country. The documentary features seven mass grave locations and focuses on the different oral histories and narratives that have been affected by these sites: from families and loved ones, to activists, researchers, actual histories, and unanswered questions that continue to haunt Sri Lanka's past, present, and future.

Subtitled

Original Language
English, Sinhala, Tamil

Director
Ruvín De Silva

Editor
-

Cinematographer
Ruvín De Silva

Screenwriter
Sakina Aliakbar

Sound Designer
-

Producer



About the director

Ruvín is a multidisciplinary artist based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He's played lead roles in several plays and has acted in both international and local films and television. He's also a photographer, a visual artist, a sound designer, and a filmmaker currently focusing on making documentaries.



The Nature of the Region of The Murcia

24 mins | Spain

The natural spaces of the Region of Murcia are surprising for their variety and richness, home of both African and European species which coexist in a really small area of land in constant struggle with the human footprint. Characterized by its absence of water, it is one of the spaces on the European continent that is more clearly affected by climate change.

Subtitled

Original Language
Spanish

Director
José Francisco, Calvo Sendín

Editor
Antonio José, Martínez Bermejo

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
José Francisco, Calvo Sendín

Sound Designer
Sonidovisual

Producer
Antonio José, Martínez Bermejo



About the director

José Francisco Calvo Sendín, born in Salamanca in 1964, is a distinguished Professor of Ecology at the University of Murcia. He adeptly combines his roles in teaching, research, and scientific outreach. With a focus on nature and biodiversity, he has authored several books and directed numerous documentaries showcasing the natural wonders of the Region of Murcia. Notably, he leads the Knowledge Transfer Group for Audiovisual Ecological Dissemination, furthering the understanding and appreciation of ecological concepts through innovative means.

NATIONAL DOCS

7 national documentaries





Unspoken Bond

5 mins | Nepal

Unspoken Bond is a heartwarming true story that follows the daily life and struggles of an elderly mother and her two disabled daughters as they strive to live a normal life.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Durga Rana Magar

Editor
-

Cinematographer
Durga Rana Magar

Screenwriter
Durga Rana Magar

Sound Designer

Producer
Durga Rana Magar



About the director

Based in Nepal, journalist and aspiring filmmaker 'Durga Rana Magar delves into topics such as women's issues, children's rights, disability, climate change, and human stories. Her debut short documentary film, "Unspoken Bond," intimately portrays the daily lives and challenges of an elderly mother and her two disabled daughters.



No Winter Holidays

78 mins | Nepal

Ratima and Kalima were once married to the same man. Now they must forget the past and keep each other alive as they take care of an empty, snow-bound village.

Subtitled

Original Language

Nepali

Director

Rajan Kathet, Sunir Pandey

Editor

Kiran Shrestha

Cinematographer

Babin Dulal

Screenwriter

-

Sound Designer

Cyrus Tang, Dikesh Khadgi Dhahi, Kishore Acharya

Producer

Gary Byung-seok Kam, Rajan Kathet, Sunir Pandey



About the director

Kathmandu-based filmmaker Rajan Kathet, a graduate of the European Masters DOCNOMADS program, has excelled in both fiction and documentary films. His short fiction film, "Bare Trees In The Mist (2019)," premiered at renowned festivals like Toronoto International Film Festival and Hong Kong International Film Festival.

Sunir Pandey is a debutant filmmaker based in Kathmandu. In the past, he has worked as a journalist in Nepal, and as a writer, translator, and editor for national and international organizations.



Age of Learning

25 mins | Nepal

This film follows two women in rural Nepal, Bishnumaya Gurung, 48, and Palhamu Sherpa, 66. After struggling all their lives due to illiteracy, these women are now making their way back to primary school along with their grandchildren. The film explores what drives these women and what they hope to accomplish in the future.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Shuvangi Khadka

Editor
Prakash Chandra Jimba

Cinematographer
Prakash Chandra Jimba

Screenwriter
Shuvangi Khadka

Sound Designer
-

Producer
The Third Eye, Prabin Khadka, Prakash Chandra Jimba and Shuvangi Khadka



About the director

Shuvangi Khadka is a writer and documentary filmmaker based in Kathmandu, Nepal.



Yatra

22 mins | Nepal

Yatra is a captivating documentary that takes viewers on a transformative journey alongside Rekha and Jyoti as they navigate the intricate paths of self-discovery, identity, and gender transition. Born in Nepal, both Rekha and Jyoti embark on separate yet parallel quests to embrace their true selves and live as women. While their shared desire to find their purpose and authentic identities unites them, their journeys unfold with distinct challenges and triumphs. Yatra sensitively explores the unique experiences, struggles, and triumphs faced by Rekha and Jyoti as they navigate the complexities of gender transition within the cultural and societal context of Nepal.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Sahayog Raj Adhikari, LSM

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Abhimanyu Dixit, Sahayog Raj Adhikari,
Sahara Sharma

Sound Designer

Producer
Abhimanyu Dixit, Blue Diamond Society,
Gauthali Entertainment, Sahara Sharma,
Pretti Petter



About the director

Nepal-based filmmaker Sahayog Raj Adhikari, skilled in acting, casting, and producing, has contributed to TV films, theater, and documentaries. His directorial debut documentary, "Yatra," reflects his diverse talents and experiences.

LSM is an Independent Filmmaker from Western Nepal. Sailesh directs short films and documentaries from Gauthali Entertainment. He is a Media Studies Graduate from Kathmandu University School of Arts.



Jarna

8 mins | Nepal

Before the floods, Sonia Sada (57) used to work at the landlord's farm. Since the floods, she has been collecting firewood swept by the river for livelihood. For 15 years now, she and her family's lives have depended on the river.

Subtitled

Original Language

Nepali

Director

Enuma Rai

Editor

-

Cinematographer

-

Screenwriter

Enuma Rai

Sound Designer

-

Producer

Enuma Rai



About the director

She is a freelance photographer, writer, and storyteller. She has accumulated 3 years of experience working as a content researcher and producer in 'Harne Katha' since 2019. She also has worked as a scriptwriter and sound recordist. She always prefers to tell the stories of ordinary people. Although she has directed a Fictional short film, the non-fiction documentary 'Jarna' is her first film.



Chhaupadi – Dying In Illegal Menstrual Huts

5 mins | Nepal

"Chhaupadi" is a traditional practice in far western regions of Nepal that banishes menstruating women from their homes, forcing them to live in isolated and unsanitary conditions like cowsheds and mud huts. This documentary aims to shed light on the deep-rooted cultural beliefs surrounding chhaupadi, its impact on the lives of women and young girls, and the efforts being made to be free from this superstitious belief. The heart of the documentary will focus on the lived experiences of women who have endured chhaupadi. Through compelling interviews, we will highlight the physical and emotional hardships they face while living in remote and primitive sheds during their menstrual cycles.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Hemant Bhattarai

Editor
Hemant Bhattarai

Cinematographer
Hemant Bhattarai

Screenwriter
Hemant Bhattarai

Sound Designer
P. Soorya

Producer
Pratap Bhattarai



About the director

Nepalese photographer and artist Hemant, based in India, harnesses natural light to capture poignant moments. His passion for storytelling led him to film studies at Reliance Big Aims, Bangalore. Transitioning from assistant director roles in Indian soap operas, such as "Parvaarish," he now thrives in documentaries, notably with his debut, "Chhaupadi" - Dying in Illegal Menstrual Huts. Beyond filmmaking, Hemant advocates for social causes and plans collaborations with non-profits to drive positive change.



Dhye Dreams

27 mins | Nepal

In the remote Tibetan villages of Upper Mustang Nepal, climate change has desiccated the landscape. The water table has dropped drastically, forcing the abandonment of the ancient village of Dhye. Dhye Dreams is a 30-minute documentary that intimately explores the lives of three women fighting against their fate: Sonam Sangmo, Kunchok Dolkar, and Lhakpa Choezon. Most of the villagers have moved down to a river-fed valley and the new frontier town of Chambaleh, where they hope to grow a commercial apple crop. But Kunchok and Lhakpa are staying with their beloved livestock and fields, up in the mountains. Their stories highlight the resilience and struggle for the survival of isolated Himalayan villages battling against dramatic climate change.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Shanta Nepali

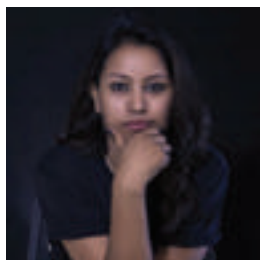
Editor
Sanjeev Ratna Shakya

Cinematographer
Shishir Bishankhe & Shanta Nepali

Screenwriter
Andej Adhikari

Sound Designer
Dikesh Khadgi Shahi

Producer
Andrew Tkach



About the director

Shanta Nepali is a Nepalese filmmaker and mountaineer. She has produced documentaries and worked for international clients including "The Story of God" with Morgan Freeman, Expedition Unknown, Dual Survival, and MTV franchise TV show Himalaya Roadies season 1. She is also the founder of Nepali Female Filmmakers, which facilitates collaborations, workshops, and training for female filmmakers.

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

32 narrative short films





Durian Trees

25 mins | Taiwan / China

This is a story about an old farmer constantly fighting against the government, to defend his durian orchard.

Subtitled

Original Language
Malay, Mandarin Chinese

Director
Cheun Shi Chin

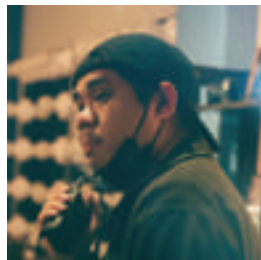
Editor
Zhao-Hui Weng

Cinematographer
Amson Wong Yong How

Screenwriter
Cheun Shi Chin

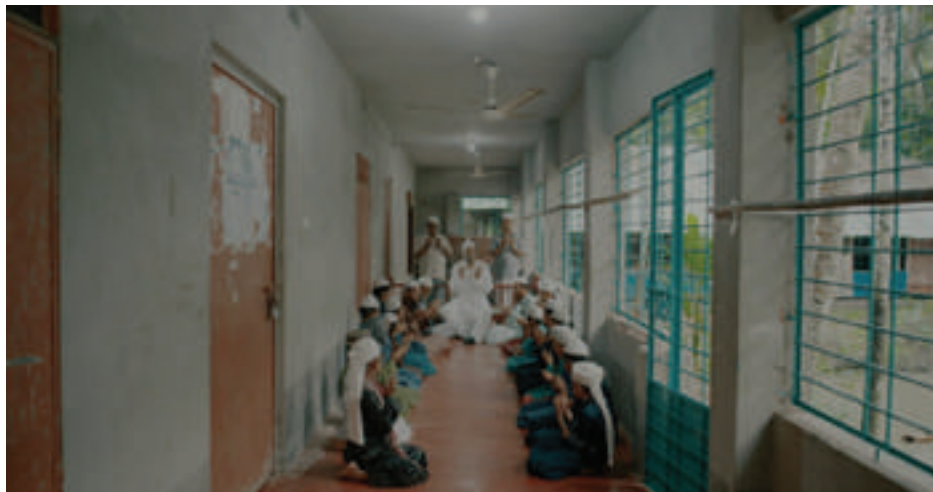
Sound Designer
Tan Earn Liang

Producer
Choy Qian Xin



About the director

Cheun Shi Chin is a Malaysian student who is majoring in the Department of Film & TV at Taiwan I-SHOU University. He has participated in many student film productions, mostly taking the role of a position director and screenwriter.



Joy Bangla

21 mins | Bangladesh

Even if all the people of this Bengal are killed, 'Joy Bangla' can never be extinguished. Bengal's sky and air, animals and plants will chant 'Joy Bangla' in unison.

Subtitled

Original Language
Bengali

Director
Shaila Rahman Tithi

Editor
Linkon Islam

Cinematographer
Bishwajit Datta

Screenwriter
Shaila Rahman Tithi

Sound Designer
Jabed

Producer
Mohammed Jashim Uddin Chowdhury



About the director

Shaila Rahman Tithi holds a master's in Political Science, worked in private sectors, and now edits 'Zhumzhumi' children's magazine and publishes 'Zhumzhumi Prokashon'. Engaged in youth filmmaking for societal betterment, she's associated with Khelaghar and Zahir Raihan Film Institute. Born in Dhaka, with roots in Munshiganj, Bangladesh, she's the daughter of Anisur Rahman, a sports icon. Pioneering various literary magazines in Bangladesh, her expertise drives efficient operations at "Zhum Zhumi Prokashon".



The Sink

17 mins | Brazil

Neusa Sueli is a trans actress who finds wonder in Vado's bathroom a wonder that could lead them to finally produce their play. As they expose their discovery, other writers confront Neusa and Vado about the authenticity of their story.

Subtitled

Original Language
Portuguese

Director
Eduardo Mattos

Editor
Eduardo Mattos

Cinematographer
Luiz Egídio

Screenwriter
Valdir Medori

Sound Designer
Athanasios 'Nasos' Pechlivanidis

Producer
Ivan 13P



About the director

Brazilian artist and filmmaker Eduardo Mattos, based in Berlin since 2015, holds a Cinema degree from FAAP and a Master's in film direction from Met Film School Berlin. Renowned as a director of photography and visual artist, he blends various media in conversation with film language. His short film "Noturno" (2016) earned accolades in 49 festivals globally. In 2020, he directed and produced "Do You Like Poetry?" receiving special mentions and awards at Corti in Cortile and Mikro FAF.



Scorching Summer

29 mins | China

The middle-aged father Zhao Liang wanted to take care of the mentally handicapped eldest daughter for a lifetime. Still, family pressure and life accidents forced him to make a difficult and extreme decision i.e., to take the eldest daughter to die together, so that his wife and youngest daughter could live without burden. But on the day when everything was ready, he suddenly found something unexpected.

Subtitled

Original Language
Chinese

Director
An Jun

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
An Jun

Sound Designer
-

Producer
An Jun



About the director

An Jun is a director from China.



Letter

17 mins | China

Amidst her life's struggles, a middle-aged daughter grapples with her father's worsening Alzheimer's. Frustration turns to understanding when she discovers unsent letters from him, unveiling his lifelong care. Immersed in his world, the letters rekindle their emotional bond, transcending time and space. The film intricately portrays the father-daughter relationship, evoking memories of cherished moments. Through this narrative, it mirrors contemporary life and advocates for traditional Chinese virtues of filial piety and love for the elderly, emphasizing the enduring importance of family bonds in the face of life's challenges.

Subtitled

Original Language
Chinese

Director
Zhao Yiwei

Editor
Li Qiang, Qin Xin

Cinematographer
Sun Di

Screenwriter
Xing Tingjin

Sound Designer
Liang Xiaolong

Producer
Yao Lidan, Qiao Yawei



About the director

Born on October 29, 1987, Zhao Yiwei is a graduate of Shaanxi Provincial Art School. He served as an executive director for the online drama "My Veneer Girl" and TV drama "The Happy Life of the Police Old Forest." Additionally, he took on roles as an actor and deputy director in the TV drama "Mountain and Sea Situation." His movie credits include executive director roles for "Because of Love" and "Modern Bath House," the latter selected for prestigious film exhibitions and festivals.



I Promise You Paradise

25 mins | Egypt

Following a violent incident; Eissa a 17-year-old African migrant in Egypt is in a quest against time to save his loved ones whatever it takes.

Subtitled

Original Language

Arabic

Director

Morad Mostafa

Editor

-

Cinematographer

-

Screenwriter

Morad Mostafa, Sawsan Yusuf

Sound Designer

-

Producer

Sawsan Yusuf



About the director

Morad, a Cairo-born Egyptian filmmaker (b. 1988), gained acclaim as Executive Director of "SQUAD," featured at the 2020 Cannes Film Festival. An alumnus of Berlinale Talents Campus and Locarno Academy, Morad's three consecutive short films at Clermont-Ferrand, including "I Promise You Paradise" (Cannes 2023), earned over 300 global festival screenings and numerous awards. Currently developing his debut feature, "Aisha Can't Fly Away Anymore," Morad thrives in the Cannes Film Festival's Cinéfondation residency, Torino Film Lab, and Rotterdam Lab IFFR.



The Eagle's Nest

18 mins | Montenegro

As the VHS era draws to a close, two teenage cinephiles find themselves falling in love and facing the harsh realities of a Yugoslavia on the brink of collapse. In their budding romance, they become entangled in far darker circumstances than they ever imagined.

Subtitled

Original Language
Serbian

Director
Milija Šćepanović

Editor
Nataša Pantić

Cinematographer
Dragan Vildović

Screenwriter
Ratko Radunović

Sound Designer
Aleksandar Saša Brajović

Producer
Biljana Vušović, Ilija Brkanović



About the director

Born in 1986 in Bar, Montenegro, Milija Šćepanović graduated in film and TV directing from Belgrade, Serbia, mentored by Prof. Slobodan Sijan. With a diverse portfolio including short films, documentaries, and TV shows, he collaborated with National Geographic Channel. Milija, influenced by prominent Yugoslav auteurs, readies his debut feature based on "Redemption" by Branimir Šćepanović. His film "The Eagle's Nest" captures the poignant moments of young film enthusiasts on the eve of NATO's 1999 bombing of Yugoslavia, offering a glimpse into the region's tumultuous end to the 20th century.



Paper Planes, Don't Always Soar

14 mins | Singapore

Inspired by a true story of an aviation disaster in Singapore, a daughter tries to bridge the bond she lost after her father returns home from a plane crash, where he struggles to remember his life before that fateful catastrophe.

Subtitled

Original Language
English, Malay

Director
Diyana Amir

Editor
Lee Jing Wei

Cinematographer
Kester Kiew Kai Jie

Screenwriter
Diyana Amir

Sound Designer
Vanessa Chiu

Producer
Terry Tan De Hao



About the director

Diyana Amir, a Singaporean filmmaker, has always been drawn to storytelling's power, honing her craft in a country where filmmaking is not widely embraced. She holds a Diploma in Digital Film and Television from Temasek Polytechnic and a Bachelor's degree in film from Nanyang Technological University. With a passion for amplifying underrepresented voices, her recent short film, 'Paper Planes, Don't Always Soar,' explores family trauma inspired by her father's near-death airplane crash. Diyana aims to tell human stories that connect people and push industry boundaries with emotional depth and raw honesty.



Call of the Karakoram

23 mins | France

James is one of a small group of climbers to practice solo climbing in the gigantic mountains of Pakistan. Like an artist, he weaves his line on the high peaks, working with nature to find new routes and climb where no one has climbed before.

In March 2020, amidst a global pandemic, James finds himself stranded in the village of Ganish (Northern Pakistan). Working in the fields and helping the local community he forms special ties with the local community

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
Sébastien Carniato

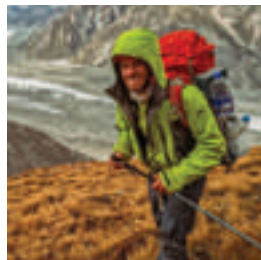
Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Sébastien Carniato

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Sébastien Carniato



About the director

Born and raised in the suburbs of Paris, Sébastien Carniato, leaves the big city at 18 to live in the mountains. He quickly becomes fascinated by the people who live, work, and play in this beautiful but hostile environment. A competent alpinist and paraglider Seb has followed the adventures of mountain athletes and documented the traditions of those that live in the world's most remote mountain valleys.



Lǎo Lao Lǎo Le

14 mins | New Zealand

A short film looking at responsibility, innocence, and love, centred on the relationship between a young boy William, and his grandma Lǎo Lao, when they are left home alone together. William is more mature than most boys. Due to Lǎo Lao's unpredictable behaviour, a very frustrated William is forced to take on the role of caregiver, a role he performs with equal amounts of affection and cruelty. As Lǎo Lao's dementia worsens, Will struggles to reconcile his love for her with his unpreparedness for grown-up responsibilities.

Subtitled

Original Language
English, Mandarin Chinese

Director
Julie Zhu

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Julie Zhu

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Jazz dos Santos, Puteri Raja Ariff



About the director

Julie Zhu, a filmmaker and storyteller, was born in Xi'an, China, and raised in Tāmaki Makaurau, Aotearoa New Zealand. Committed to addressing marginalized voices, she has produced scripted and documentary content for various NZ platforms including Whakaata Māori, The Spinoff, TVNZ OnDemand, and RNZ. Julie co-directs and co-hosts the podcast and docu-series "Conversations With My Immigrant Parents" for RNZ, and directed the observational documentary series "Takeout Kids" for The Spinoff. She was also one of the directors of the anthology feature film "Kāinga," which premiered at NZIFF and MIFF.



The Rise of the Black Dragon

23 mins | South Africa

DIE SWART DRAAK ONTWAAK(The Rise of the Black Dragon) is an origin story set in contemporary Cape Flats gangland, a town contaminated with crime and corruption and controlled by its feared ruler and Muay Thai warrior, The Kingpin. It centers on the character of Clifford Smit, a disciplined traditional Martial Arts teacher set on rehabilitating the youth seduced by gangsterism in his town by teaching them the morals and disciplines of Martial arts.

Subtitled

Original Language
Afrikaans

Director
Redione Stephens

Editor
Johannes Pieter Nel

Cinematographer
Johannes Pieter Nel

Screenwriter
Lee Roodt

Sound Designer
Emily von Lemm

Producer
Annemarie Du Plessis



About the director

Redione is an actor and director from Paarl, a small town in South Africa. He currently works at Overklank in Cape Town as a director. Redione also has a background in clowning and other physical forms of performance, which gave him a specific lens through which he could guide the actors.



Entangled

19 mins | India

A successful artist counting his last breaths is entangled in his past life, full of music. In this conundrum, an unexpected solution arises to give the artist a safe passage to the next world.

Subtitled

Original Language
Marathi

Director
Sainath S. Uskaikar

Editor
Nilesh Meena Rasal

Cinematographer
Suraj Thakur

Screenwriter
Milind Damle

Sound Designer
Sanil Levi

Producer
Prajakta Damle, Milind Damle



About the director

Sainath S. Uskaikar, an engineer from Goa, graduated from the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, specializing in TV Direction. His debut short film, "Wagro - Place of Sacrifice," premiered globally, including at the 53rd IFFI 2022. His filmography includes "Posko - The Adopted," "Gotho - A Shelter," and "Konso - Our Corner." His work often explores Indian classical music's connection to nature and its reflection of family values and human emotions.



Toya & Her Art Spirit

17 mins | Indonesia

Toya wants a Batik Art Spirit to make great batik cloth, but she can only bond with a Martial Arts Spirit. So, will Toya resist or embrace her newfound partner?

Original Language
No Dialogue

Director
Andara Fembriarto

Editor
Annas Arraisy

Cinematographer
Yopi Gunawan

Screenwriter
Andara Fembriarto

Sound Designer
Reyner Ferdinand

Producer
Alifia Cinte



About the director

Andara Fembriarto (born 1986) is a director, videographer, and writer based in Jakarta, Indonesia. Best known for his acclaimed short films *Pohon Penghujan* (The Raining Tree), *Cipuk Cipuk* (Splish Splash), *Utan the Rambutan*, and the Indonesian travel web series *Jalan-Jalan Men* and *Jurnal Indonesia Kaya*, Andra's passion is to celebrate Indonesian cultural heritage through moving pictures for a global audience. Based on his experience in travel and cultural works, Andra dreams of producing Indonesian-inspired fantasy films and fictional novels by collaborating with many talented artists and studios.



The Gorge

15 mins | Australia

A grieving woman and her friends must survive a night in the woods when an unseen force begins to hunt them. But it is not as it seems.

Original Language
English

Director
Ryan Neil Butler

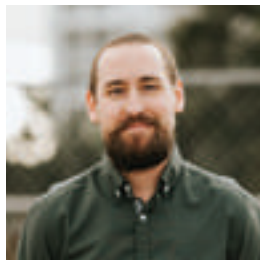
Editor
Terrance M. Young

Cinematographer
Terrance M. Young

Screenwriter
Terrance M. Young

Sound Designer
Seth Jackson

Producer
Terrance M. Young



About the director

Ryan Neil Butler, a filmmaker, won Best Director at The Brazil International Film Festival in 2018. After some breaks he is now back with a new script, "Bin Day," which won the Sunny Coast Showdown competition, he seamlessly blends his editing skills with directing. Collaborating with producer Terrance M Young for 15 years, they've tackled various projects. Inspired by directors Edgar Wright and Robert Rodriguez, Ryan aims to excel in storytelling with each project.



Adieu Gaston

15 mins | France

Emile is a contract killer. A hired killer who travels by bicycle and who kills in exchange for a few tickets hidden in a small mailbox in the middle of the fields. This time, the person to be slaughtered is a man named Gaston Pouget who lives at 7 rue des Peupliers: a shed on the edge of a highway. Emile was not invited. However, upon arriving at the scene, Emile is surprised to find himself at a birthday party in honor of Gaston, who is expected to arrive shortly. Emile realizes he wasn't invited.

Subtitled

Original Language
French

Director
Victor Guilbaud

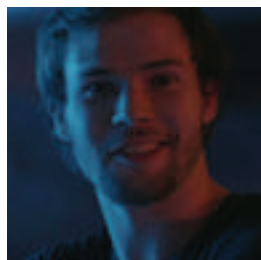
Editor
Maxime Sebeo

Cinematographer
Aurèle Mazi

Screenwriter
Victor Guilbaud

Sound Designer
Clara Lemièrre

Producer
Thibault Bilién



About the director

After studying at ESRA, Victor Guilbaud has worked as a cameraman and chief operator on short films and music videos. His directorial debut, "Adieu Gaston," was his graduation film. Currently, he seeks intermittent work on film crews while also writing screenplays.



Lovebirds

22 mins | Iran

"Lovebirds" is a short film that explores the aftermath of a collapsed relationship between Masoud and his beloved fiancée Maniya. Their love affair was based on sadomasochistic tendencies and childish mischiefs that kept the flame of their love burning. But when the girl unexpectedly ends the relationship and leaves without a word, Masoud is left in a state of mourning, struggling to accept the end of their love and move on.

Subtitled

Original Language
Persian

Director
Sara Mokhvat

Editor
Mahdi Iravani

Cinematographer
Majid Gorjan

Screenwriter
Sara Mokhvat

Sound Designer
Zohreh Aliakbari

Producer
-



About the director

Iranian writer and filmmaker Sara Mokhvat, immersed in screenwriting and play-directing since 2004, boasts a versatile career in cinema and theatre. Her academic background and experimental ventures fuel her creative pursuits. With two feature screenplays and a published novel, "A Woman Who Was Found Among Lost Objects," Sara's works showcase her vision. Having directed plays like "Farewell My Cherry Orchard," she gained international recognition with her short film "Private" at the Chicago International Film Festival in 2021. Her latest project, "Lovebirds," delves into the complexities of post-breakup struggles.



Survivor

13 mins | Iran

Some immigrants by the sea are waiting for them to cross the sea. A young couple with other immigrants are going to the light of the world, but they have problems when their baby is born.

Subtitled

Original Language
Persian

Director
Karim Azimi

Editor
Bahram Fayaz

Cinematographer
Farshid Alizadeh

Screenwriter
Karim Azimi, Farnaz Tarighnavardi, Rojin Azimi

Sound Designer
Amin Mousavi, Bahram Fayaz

Producer
Karim Azimi, Farshid Alizadeh



About the director

Karim Azimi, born in Iran, is a prolific filmmaker known for his work as a director and writer of short films over the past 30 years. Some of his notable films include "My House in Cloudy," "999999999," and "Butterflies Die in Snow," among others. His films have achieved great acclaim, winning over fifty national and international awards.



The Gold Teeth

15 mins | Canada

SAHRA, an Afghan refugee girl in Canada asks an Iranian ex-dentist HAMED to extract her father's gold teeth before they bury him so that she may use that money to smuggle her queer brother from Afghanistan.

Subtitled

Original Language
English, Persian

Director
Alireza Kazempour

Editor
Bruno Trivelli

Cinematographer
Jay Kamal

Screenwriter
Alireza Kazempour

Sound Designer
Todd LeBlanc

Producer
Alireza Kazempour, Matisse Weyler Hubert



About the director

Alireza Kazempour is an Iranian-Canadian filmmaker with a master's degree in Film directing from the University of Tehran. His career began with the short film "Slowness" and continued with "The Blue Bed" in 2020, which has been screened at over 60 film festivals worldwide, winning 12 awards and receiving 14 nominations. Notably, he was honored with the Best Director Award at the Vancouver Short Film Festival. Alireza's recent works include the documentary feature "Margin vs. Center" (2021) and the upcoming short film "Split Ends" (2021). His films often highlight social justice, women's rights, and immigrant issues.



Xiaohui and His Cows

14 mins | China

Except for mountain landscapes, magical rocks, and a few other kids, the village where Xiaohui lives with his grandfather and two cows has nothing to offer. The nine-year-old sorely misses his parents who work in the city. When Grandpa has to sell a calf, the clever grandson tries everything to prevent the separation of mother and child. A soulful cry for love in times of capitalism.

Subtitled

Original Language
Mandarin Chinese

Director
Xinying Lao

Editor
Youmin Kang, Xinying Lao

Cinematographer
Hark Xu

Screenwriter
Xinying Lao

Sound Designer
Bobo Lau

Producer
Haozheng Li, Xianglian Wei



About the director

Xinying Lao was born in Guangxi, China in 1997. Xinying Lao is a Chinese filmmaker and a third-year Graduate Film student at New York University. She is a director, writer, and editor. She has made several doc shorts and narrative shorts. She studied journalism as an undergraduate, which brought her into contact with people from different classes in society. In her films, she is dedicated to conveying the vulnerability that people are afraid to express in reality.



The Boat

15 mins | Nepal

When Dhuckia grows up, she wants to be a boat-maker like her Dad. But when he finds out that she is showing the early symptoms of Leprosy, he must make a terrible choice.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Luke Morgan

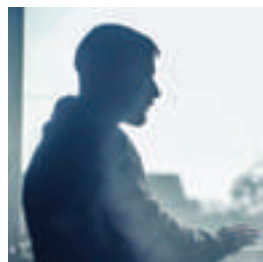
Editor
Ryan Keane

Cinematographer
Lakshika Serasinhe

Screenwriter
Luke Morgan

Sound Designer
Paul Rowland, Noelle Browne

Producer
Jake Morgan, Dinesh Deokota



About the director

Luke Morgan, residing in Galway, Ireland, is a filmmaker and published poet. His recent work, "The Butterfly Love Song," has been showcased at over 40 film festivals worldwide, including prestigious events in New York, Belfast, and Japan. The film has garnered several accolades, including Best Film at OFFline 2020, Best Director at Worcester 2021, and Best International Short at Garden Route South Africa 2020. Luke's talents have been recognized with a nomination for the Discovery Award at the Dublin International Film Festival 2020 and a Pitching Award at Galway Film Fleadh 2015.



LEMON TREE

17 mins | United States

At a Halloween carnival, a young father steals a magician's rabbit to impress his ten-year-old son. The thrill of the petty theft quickly dissolves into reality when the young boy is tasked with getting himself, his father, and his new pet home safe.

Original Language
English

Director
Rachel Walden

Editor
Luca Balser

Cinematographer
Hunter Zimny

Screenwriter
Rachel Walden

Sound Designer
Ian Berman and Marcus Dembinski

Producer
Luca Balser and Pauline Chalamet



About the director

Rachel Walden is a director/producer from Atlanta, Georgia, recently named by Filmmaker Magazine as one of 2023's 25 New Faces of Independent Film. She currently lives in Brooklyn, New York where she runs the independent production company GUMMY Films with co-founders Pauline Chalamet and Luca Balser. Her most recent short film LEMON TREE premiered at Cannes Directors' Fortnight.



NADA DE TODO ESTO

17 mins | Argentina

Whilst a mother drives with her daughter through the wealthy suburbs of her home city, eyeing the houses of the rich, she accidentally drives her car into a beautiful flower patch inside the front yard of a mansion, bogging their car down. The daughter tries to find a way out before her mother's visceral fascination with the house and its owner drives them both to a point of no return.

Subtitled

Original Language
Spanish

Director
Patricio Martínez, Francisco Cantón

Editor
Andrés Pepe Estrada

Cinematographer
Matthew Ballard

Screenwriter
Patricio Martínez, Francisco Cantón

Sound Designer
Martin Grignaschi

Producer
Zico Judge, Agustina Costa, Malena Kremenchukzy



About the director

Francisco Cantón and Patricio Martínez were born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in the years 1992 and 1985. They have been working together for almost ten years, making short documentaries, music videos and tv commercials. Their first short film 'Loose Fish' was completed in 2020 and shown at TIFF, BFI London, and Camerimage Festival. They are currently developing two feature film projects and editing a documentary film about Argentinian musician and actor Juana Molina.



KEEP

20 mins | United Kingdom

In a lighthouse now turned into a museum, Gordon, the former keeper, is confronted with loneliness and pines for days gone by. When Musa, an Afghan refugee, knocks on his door, Gordon finally finds the support he has been waiting for. The two men become friends, confronting their respective cultures and pasts with humour and kindness. But when Gordon discovers the true intentions of Musa's visit, he is faced with a moral dilemma that will throw his long held convictions into question.

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
Lewis Rose

Editor
Michele Chiappa

Cinematographer
Emma Langguth

Screenwriter
Lewis Rose

Sound Designer
Jake Fielding

Producer
Chris Hees, Laura Jumel



About the director

Lewis Rose is a versatile artist known for his work as a writer, director, and occasional actor. He has a passion for creating comedy, editing music, and capturing powerful close-ups of human faces. Lewis's fiction films have been celebrated worldwide, with his short film "The Chop" winning an impressive 50 awards and being screened at nearly 200 festivals. Currently, he is developing his first feature film with Bridge Way Films. Apart from his film work, Lewis also excels in making commercials and music videos, earning him a UKMVA award. Off-screen, he enjoys the color purple, has a distinctive penguin-like walk, and is renowned for his delicious sour pickles.



FÁR

5 mins | Iceland

At a busy downtown café, a woman zones out during a business meeting. A drifting seagull hits the window. The customers notice the incident but shortly stop paying attention. The woman tries to ignore the event too but is unable to shake it off as she notices the seagull is still alive but greatly suffering. She heads outside to euthanize the bird. Some children watch and yell at her for trying to kill the seagull. She eventually twists the bird's neck and the children move on back to their games. While she buries the bird in a nearby flower bed, her colleagues and the customers stare at her.

Subtitled

Original Language
Icelandic

Director
Gunnur Martindóttir Schlüter

Editor
Brúsi Ólason, Guðlaugur Andri Eypórsson

Cinematographer
Eli Arenson

Screenwriter
Gunnur Martindóttir Schlüter, Anní Ólafsdóttir

Sound Designer
Björn Víktorsson & Haraldur Þrastarson

Producer
Rúnar Ingi Einarsson, Sara Nassim



About the director

Gunnur is an Icelandic / German actress and director, currently based in Reykjavik. Through stories she aims to mirror and dissect human actions and desires in daily life, using both the tools of theatre and film. Born in Reykjavik and living over a decade in Germany where she gained a B.A. in theatre directing at the University of Music and Theatre in Hamburg, Gunnur is currently studying acting at the University of Arts in Iceland. Gunnur has created, acted in and been part of the creative process of numerous projects, she is an EDDA AWARD nominee and has received other recognition.



TITS

12 mins | Norway

After an argument, best friends Jasmine and Iben lose the sight of each other at the beach. Jasmine meets up with the girls. Iben hooks up with Jonas, the boy she is crazy about. Later on, the seemingly shy boy Oscar has an unpleasant run in with Iben. When both of them are left behind by their friends, one of them makes a friendly gesture and they soon realise that they are dealing with similar issues. The summer night doesn't turn out like they had expected but leads to an experience that might be the beginning of an unexpected relationship.

Subtitled

Original Language
Norwegian

Director
Eivind Landsvik

Editor
Erik Treimann

Cinematographer
Andreas Bjørseth

Screenwriter
Eivind Landsvik

Sound Designer
Boris Parunov

Producer
Lars Ulrik Wold



About the director

Eivind Landsvik is a filmmaker from the suburbs outside of Oslo, Norway. Growing up he was a loved watching film and became a true cinephile early on. He started his career making music videos for local acts, with a focus on storytelling combined with a sensitive visual language. He soon made his way into fiction, making short films. Landsvik has developed a personal take on coming-of-age stories that often revolves around themes such as identity and loneliness. His short film "Sofia, Last Summer" (2021) won the film critics award at the Norwegian Short Film Festival. Eivind is currently developing his first feature film.



SAME OLD

15 mins | Canada

Lu is a Chinese immigrant living day to day on tips from his job as a delivery worker. He supports his wife and ailing mother as they desperately try to make ends meet in the unforgiving city. One night, his bicycle, and in essence his livelihood, are stolen from him. He's forced to embark on a desperate journey to reclaim his bike or shatter the fragile life in America he's built.

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
Lloyd Lee Choi

Editor
Lloyd Lee Choi

Cinematographer
Norm Li, Lloyd Lee Choi

Screenwriter
Lloyd Lee Choi

Sound Designer
Tom Bjelic

Producer
Tony Yang, Lloyd Lee Choi



About the director

Lloyd is a Korean-Canadian New York based director who found a magical escape with cinema early on. As he honed his craft, he discovered storytelling through creative collaboration as the soul of filmmaking and found directing to be his passion. With a number of awards including a Silver Cannes Lion for his Cornetto campaign, "40 Love" featuring Lily Allen, Lloyd has gone on to create global campaigns for Google, Chevrolet, Sony, Peloton; just to name a few. Lloyd also released his first original scripted 30-minute short film, "Before Mars", for National Geographic which is streaming on Hulu, iTunes, and Amazon.



Doll Woman

20 mins | Japan

Toki is a homeless woman always looking for dolls. One day she meets a mute man who is also looking for dolls.

Subtitled

Original Language
Japanese

Director
Tokio Oohara

Editor
Tokio Oohara

Cinematographer
Kenji Takama

Screenwriter
Gertjan Zuilhof

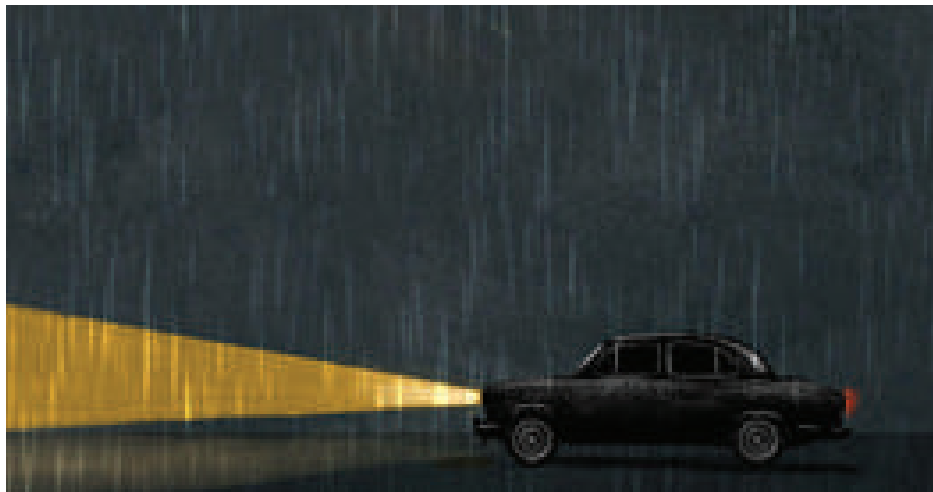
Sound Designer
Junji Yoshikata

Producer
Tokio Oohara



About the director

Tokio Oohara, based in Tokyo, is a self-taught filmmaker with a focus on women's social narratives. She has crafted shorts and an experimental feature, delving into the intricate cinematic world of French master Jacques Rivette. Tokio stands out among filmmakers by also acting in her movies, a practice embraced by a select few in cinema. Her film "Bird Woman" (2022) was featured at the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival 2022 and "NAGOSHI~Summer purification" (2014) garnered attention at the Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival 2023.



A Ride in the Rain

24 mins | India

Three strangers happen to take a taxi ride together through the streets of Kolkata on a dark, rainy night. What follows is a little beyond suspenseful and dramatic.

Subtitled

Original Language
Bengali, Hindi

Director
Utsab Ray

Editor
Rohit Gharami

Cinematographer
Debraj Naiya

Screenwriter
Utsab Ray

Sound Designer
Anindit Roy

Producer
Utsab Ray



About the director

Utsab Ray is an Assistant Professor of English Literature by profession. He also works as a language teacher, translator, writer, and a filmmaker.



Lokkhon Rekha

10 mins | India

Suman is a young man living with his family of five in a cramped, middle-class house. Troubled by frequent taunts from his unsupportive parents, he attempts to take his own life. Lokkhon Rekha is a film that exposes the vein of generational trauma that has shaped their lives.

Subtitled

Original Language
Bengali

Director
Rohan Shyam Chowdhury

Editor
Sharmistha Chakrabarty

Cinematographer
Manas Bhattacharyya

Screenwriter
Rohan Shyam Chowdhury

Sound Designer
Shreejit Gupta

Producer
Tanvi Ajinkya



About the director

Rohan Shyam Chowdhury is a writer and filmmaker based in Calcutta and Mumbai. He holds a degree in Engineering and the Young India Fellowship in Liberal Arts from Ashoka University. His first stint as a filmmaker was in collaboration with a Delhi-based NGO for whom he directed short films and multimedia campaigns around gender, sexuality, and body positivity. In 2022, Rohan was one of the 10 filmmakers chosen for the TakeTen Short Film Competition, a pilot initiative by Film Companion in partnership with Netflix. Written and directed by him, his short titled 'Lokkhon Rekha' is currently available on Netflix India's YouTube channel.



LYUBIMA

27 mins | Bulgaria

Lyubima, an artist in her 30s, is left by her partner. She needs to start anew, but the grief is there, as big as an African elephant. Lyubima does not see the Elephant that leaves a mess on her carpet, when she is back from stalking her ex and his new girlfriend. She does not understand that the Elephant drinks water from her fish tank and turns her place upside down overnight. Lyubima does not see it, while the Elephant eats from her plate over breakfast, she does not have a clue, that the Elephant takes most of her bedroom, while she is asleep, but in her dream she calls the Elephant for help. Her way to finally move on is by giving the love memories, along with the grief, back to her ex.

Subtitled

Original Language
Bulgarian

Director
Maya Vitkova-Kosev

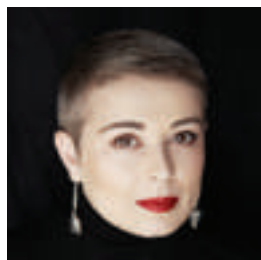
Editor
Kristina Spasovska

Cinematographer
Krum Rodriguez

Screenwriter
Maya Vitkova-Kosev

Sound Designer
Svetlozar Georgiev

Producer
Maya Vitkova-Kosev



About the director

Maya Vitkova-Kosev, a lauded writer-director and producer, gained acclaim for her impactful contributions to film. She executive produced "Eastern Plays" (2008), premiered at Cannes Directors' Fortnight. Maya directed and produced Radu Jude's shorts, "Stanka Goes Home" (2010) and "My Tired Father" (2011). Her debut feature, "Viktoria" (2014), the first Bulgarian film at Sundance, received 70+ international selections and 10 awards. Recognized by The New Yorker as a top-five director globally, Maya is an EAVE 2017 producer, and her project "Afrika" won the Krzysztof Kieslowski ScriptTeast Award for Best Eastern European Script in Cannes. She received a TIFF Canada Goose Fellowship.



Chairs

20 mins | United Kingdom

A man regales his peculiar obsession with chairs to his new psychiatrist.

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
James Hughes

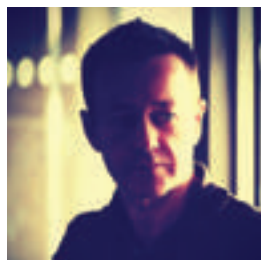
Editor
Chiara Armentano

Cinematographer
Richard Bell

Screenwriter
James Hughes

Sound Designer
Greg Claridge

Producer
James Hughes



About the director

James Hughes is a renowned director, having worked with numerous actors, including Emmy® and BAFTA winners. His short films have been featured in over 300 film festivals, including prestigious Oscar and BAFTA-qualifying events. A respected speaker, James has presented at the BAFTA, the Screenwriting Expo in Los Angeles, and various film festivals. He has been selected by BAFTA for their new membership program. As the CEO of Sunset Aperture, an award-winning production company, James oversees projects shot internationally, with teams on six continents, including Oscar nominees. The company is currently developing several feature films from their project slate.



Everything Is Nothing

21 mins | Bangladesh

'Everything is Nothing' follows the journey of Apon, an empty-nester mother adjusting to life after her children have flown the nest. Determined to make her days productive, Apon fills her schedule with various activities. However, as she immerses herself in tasks, she begins to question the true meaning and fulfillment of her efforts. Throughout the short film, Apon grapples with the realization that despite her busy routine, she is left feeling a sense of emptiness by day's end. The story explores the profound impact of self-discovery and the quest for purpose in the midst of an empty nest.

Subtitled

Original Language
Bengali

Director
Arafat Mohsin

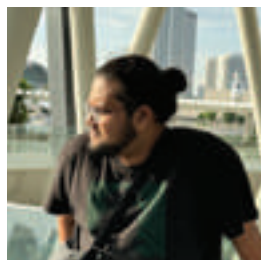
Editor
Arafat Mohsin, Adnan Zulqar Nahiyon

Cinematographer
Arafat Mohsin

Screenwriter
Arafat Mohsin

Sound Designer
Rajesh Saha

Producer
Arafat Kirty



About the director

Arafat Mohsin, also known as Mohsin Mohammad Arafat, stands out as a visionary filmmaker driven by a passion for transcendent storytelling. Raised in Dhaka, Bangladesh, his early fascination with cinema laid the foundation for a creative journey. Founder of Studio58 and Director of Scenecut Pictures, Arafat, after 13 years in the industry, now expands his horizons into directing. With a keen eye for emotions and narrative craftsmanship, he promises to leave an indelible mark on the cinematic landscape.



Game, Interrupted

15 mins | Turkey

1979, Turkey: While the mood on the streets of capital Ankara is charged with tension shortly before the military coup, a young sister and brother find their way out of boredom by switching from one game to another during their winter break. Their mother is at work all day and their grandmother is sleeping on the couch as usual. However, something goes wrong that day. While trying to figure out what happened, they notice a strange intruder at the door, who resembles Khomeini or Darth Vader. They must fix the course of events before their mother returns home.

Supported by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and TRT (Turkish Radio and Television Corporation).

Subtitled

Original Language
Turkish

Director
Ilayda Iseri

Editor
Firat Terzioğlu

Cinematographer
Bunyamin Karair

Screenwriter
Ilayda Iseri

Sound Designer
Tugrul Gultepe

Producer
Tolga Karacelik, Fehmi Ozturk, Nefes Polat



About the director

Ilayda Iseri is a 20-year-old director and composer from Turkey. Her short documentaries *Kozan* (2020) and *The Fountain* (2021) were screened at distinguished festivals, including the San Francisco Film Festival, and received international recognition with several awards. With her first fiction short film "Game, Interrupted", she became the youngest director in Turkey to receive funding from the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Turkish Radio and Television Corporation. The film also won the best screenplay award at the Akbank Film Forum, an honorable mention in STFF, and screened at the Tampere Film Festival for the world premiere.



A Letter of Postmaster

29 mins | Bangladesh

Thirteen-year-old orphan Ratan spends her days gathering flowers and temple offerings, often exploring with her friend Opu. Her simple life takes a dramatic turn when villagers arrange her marriage to an old man. On the morning of the wedding, a letter arrives from the well-known postmaster in Kolkata, offering to take Ratan to school. Conflicted, Ratan must decide between her arranged marriage and a chance at education. "A Letter of Postmaster" is inspired by Rabindranath Tagore's short story "Postmaster."

Subtitled

Original Language
Bengali

Director
Arunjit Borah

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Supin Barman

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Supin Barman



About the director

Supin Barman is an independent film maker in Bangladesh. This is his 5th short films. He is a festival director at Bogura international film festival & general secretary of Pundranagar film society in Bangladesh. Already he received three international awards from India & Turkey. He is also a founder at Bogura film and acting school in Bangladesh. He loves film & wants to become a film maker.

NATIONAL SHORTS

19 of the most stunning shorts films
made in Nepal in recent years





Sanai

15 mins | Nepal

Two teenage girls separated by caste system fight against their society to play their favorite instrument SANAI forbidden to be played by women while also keeping their friendship alive.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Akanchha Karki

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Sudam CK

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Bibhu Poudel



About the director

Akanchha Karki, a theatre and film director/actor, ventures into filmmaking, leading Katha Ghera, a Kathmandu-based theatre collective. Renowned for directing plays like The Vagina Monologues, she received the British Council Gender Film Grant, creating her debut short film 'Sanai'. Attending a Nepali Female Filmmakers script writing workshop in 2021 and the Gograha Film Residency in 2022, she's developing a feature. Karki's work is Mental Health-informed, Gender-sensitive, and Social Justice-oriented, aiming to challenge structures and foster empathetic conversations.



Interbellum

14 mins | Nepal

Mohan, a 12-year-old boy, is on vacation at his maternal uncle's house in a far-flung part of the country. A Maoist rebel Saane arrives at the house seeking shelter for the night. Mohan's perplexity grows as he realizes Saane is the one among the wanted insurgents. As he tries to make sense of the situation, Mohan is faced with difficult choices and must grapple with his moral compass.

Subtitled

Original Language

Nepali

Director

Milan Lohani

Editor

-

Cinematographer

-

Screenwriter

Milan Lohani

Sound Designer

-

Producer

Prem Prasad Adhikary



About the director

Milan Lohani is a Nepal-based Independent director, who earned a Bachelor's degree in screenplay writing and direction. Interbellum is his directorial debut short film him. His works explore family drama with the emotional complexities of human relationships. His upcoming short, 'Road to My Home', is currently in post-production.



Story Tells Itself

17 mins | Nepal

Perception beyond nature creates delusion. It penetrates into and controls the human mind. Such irrational circumstance converting into fear ultimately results in terrible consequences. The present scenery exemplifies that ghost is created, and do not exist.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Sunil Pandey

Editor
Nimesh Shrestha

Cinematographer
Hari Humagain

Screenwriter
Dr. Kamal Raj Sharma

Sound Designer
Shaswat Shrestha

Producer
Tara K.C.



About the director

Sunil Pandey, a Nepali filmmaker born on September 13, 1965, in Nawalparasi, Nepal, boasts a diverse background. Alongside directing Nepalese commercial feature films like "Shadayantra" and "Ye Pandit Baahe," he has also contributed to non-commercial cinema with works like "Sani." His career extends beyond filmmaking; from 2013 to 2018, Sunil served as Senior Programme Producer/Director at Compassionate Hands for Nepal in Kathmandu. He is also a tour guide with a keen interest in humanitarian and medical work. Fluent in Nepalese, Hindi, English, and Sign Language, Sunil is a versatile artist and professional.



Arkesta

18 mins | Nepal

Gokul is a single father who is raising his son, a well-regarded and actively involved member of their community. On a specific occasion, Gokul feels a sense of embarrassment as he watches his son's public dance performance, which displays feminine mannerisms. Determined to bring about a change in his son's lifestyle and regain their esteemed standing in society, Gokul wholeheartedly commits himself to putting in considerable effort and taking the required actions. Over time, Gokul gradually becomes aware of his son's inherent feminine side.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Safal Pandey

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Safal Pandey

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Tika Bahadur Pandey



About the director

Since his childhood, the filmmaker was deeply captivated by stories. The profound impact of witnessing, listening, and weaving his imaginative narratives within his mind propelled him toward the path of becoming a filmmaker. Currently, he is a filmmaker and a film student.



A Silent Farewell

23 mins | Nepal

Depicts the agony of a poverty-stricken father who lost his young son due to Covid-19.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Shabir Shrestha

Editor
Bhupendra Adhikari

Cinematographer
Ishwor Lal Sinkemana

Screenwriter
Nitin Mishra

Sound Designer
Matup Dangol

Producer
Prabha Joshi



About the director

Shabir Shrestha is one of the new pool of talented directors emerging from the heart of Kathmandu City, Nepal. He has directed some major Nepalese and International movies/documentaries.



The Monk and The Rebel

14 mins | Nepal

The Monk and The Rebel, set in rural Nepal during the Nepalese Civil War, is the story of a Buddhist monk who survives a deadly shootout that destroys his temple. He sets out on a journey to find another monastery, but his morality is challenged when he encounters an injured Maoist rebel on his way.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Prabhat Gurung

Editor
Juan Blanco Garcia

Cinematographer
Nemo Allen

Screenwriter
Prabhat Gurung

Sound Designer
Julie Neira Campoverde

Producer
Prabhat Gurung



About the director

Prabhat Gurung is a filmmaker and an MFA Film student at the City College of New York from Pokhara, Nepal. His thesis script, *The Monk and The Rebel*, is the recipient of the Chantal Akerman Student Award 2021. He also received the David M. Milch Scholarship. Prabhat's rural upbringing in Nepal inspires his meditative filmmaking style, with a focus on mankind's relationship to nature. He graduated magna cum laude from Caldwell University with a B.A. in Communications and Media.



A Quest

5 mins | Nepal

Biru, a young man who has been living in India with his father for almost 20 years, travels to Nepal in search of his long-lost mother after his father's death. While on his journey, Biru has a chance encounter with a woman, which leads to a passionate night of lovemaking. However, as he gets closer to finding his mother, he discovers that the woman he slept with is his mother. Biru is consumed with guilt and remorse as he grapples with the consequences of his actions. In this emotional journey of redemption, Biru must come to terms with his past and make amends for his mistakes.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Asoq Pathak

Editor
Anoj Sunar

Cinematographer
Rojan Thapa

Screenwriter
Asoq Pathak

Sound Designer
Maneesh Roka

Producer
Asoq Pathak



About the director

Asoq Pathak (Born; Ashok Pathak, 1998) is a Nepali filmmaker based in Kathmandu. He has studied Computer Science Engineering and is currently studying Bachelor in Film Studies in Film Direction and Screenwriting. ASoq Pathak is presently working as a freelancing Director/Assistant Director/Editor at different national and internationally renowned film production companies. He has contributed to many short films, music videos, and commercials for national and multinational brands.



Turquoise

5 mins | Nepal

Upon hearing the name of the color 'Turquoise' for the first time, an elderly couple has a captivating conversation about colors, reflecting upon their lifetime perceptions and interpretations of various colors.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Nibhal Bajracharya

Editor
Nagesh Kandel

Cinematographer
Ujjwal Joshi

Screenwriter
Nibhal Bajracharya

Sound Designer
Kobid Bazra

Producer
Envelope Collectives



About the director

Nibhal Bajracharya is an accomplished filmmaker known for his versatile storytelling skills. Originally trained as a physiotherapist, he made a bold career shift to follow his passion for filmmaking. With a portfolio that includes captivating short films, music videos, TV commercials, and feature film writing, Nibhal has quickly become a rising star in the industry. His latest music video, "Yestai Nai Hola," boasts over 3 million views, a testament to his ability to engage audiences. Nibhal's dedication to the art of storytelling continues to shape his impressive career.



Sun Ra Pani (Gold and Water)

27 mins | Nepal

Imagine a world where women can exchange their blood for gold. In this place, Sita decides to donate her blood so that her boyfriend Kumar, a struggling artist, can afford to live his dream of becoming a painter. This short movie explores the toxicity of romantic relationships and how much you should suffer in the name of "love".

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Anna Deluche

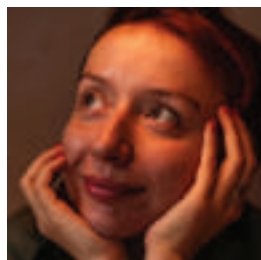
Editor
Artemis Anastasiadou

Cinematographer
Chintan Rajbhandari

Screenwriter
Anna Deluche, Pavitra Paudyal, Florine Dubourg

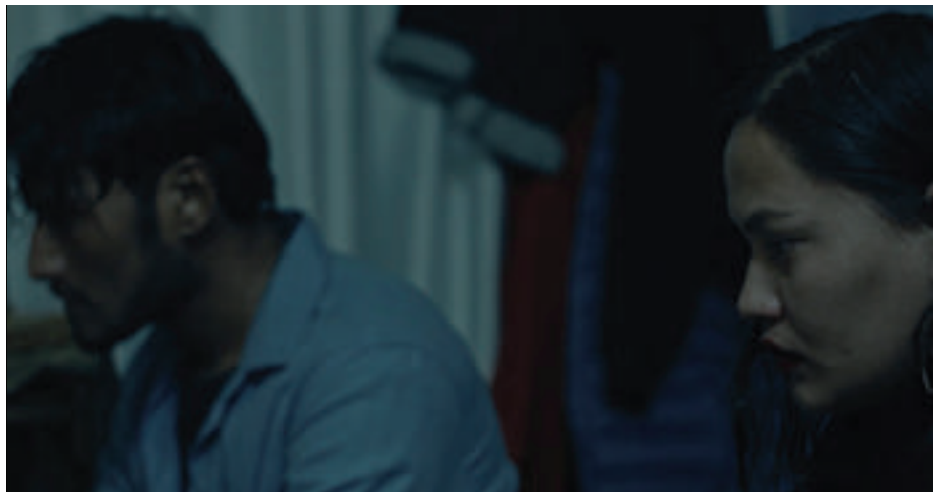
Sound Designer
Bishan Basnet

Producer
Shyam Khadka, Anna Deluche



About the director

Anna began filmmaking at 10, later studying in Paris at Sorbonne University. At 23, she pursued an MFA in Film Production at RTF University of Texas at Austin. After 4 years in the US, she ventured to Nepal as an assistant director. Since then she has shared her life between her birth country, France, and Nepal where she has made the most meaningful connections with local filmmakers.



A Bleak Home

11 mins | Nepal

Dance tutor Shubhi decides to confront her partner whom she suspects of infidelity with another girl. Later on, she discovers her parent's relationship falling apart. Now, the daughter and mother are in a dilemma of either holding on to the things that are falling apart or letting go of them.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Bidushi Giri

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Bidushi Giri

Sound Designer
Bipin Sthapit

Producer
Prem Prasad Adhikary, Rajesh Kutu



About the director

Bidushi Giri is a Nepal-based Independent female filmmaker who earned her degree in screenplay writing and direction from Everest Film Academy. A Bleak Home is a directorial debut short film by her. Fascinated by the art of storytelling, she chose to incorporate her compassion for humanity into her interest in filmmaking. Her works explore issues of morality while portraying daily life. She is currently developing her second short film project, Songs of My Kins.



Taxi Driver

8 mins | Nepal

A taxidriver murders his wife and goes through hard times hiding the corpse after he gets a knock on the door from an unexpected visitor.

Subtitled

Original Language

Nepali

Director

Bigyan Thapa

Editor

-

Cinematographer

-

Screenwriter

Bigyan Thapa

Sound Designer

-

Producer

Bigyan Thapa



About the director

Bigyan Thapa, currently immersed in my pursuit of a Bachelor's degree in Screenwriting and Direction. As a passionate storyteller, I've ventured into the world of filmmaking, creating four short films - "17 Days," "Taxidriver," "The Last Poem," and "Silence Inside the Trunk." Each one is a chapter in my ongoing exploration of filmmaking.



Wagol | The Ballon

15 mins | Nepal

A nine-year-old schoolboy sets out to sell balloons as his grandfather's substitute. Upon returning home to his grandfather, after his first joyful workday, he realizes that his inability to understand the seriousness of his job may cost his grandfather's health. There is not much he can do other than feel regret.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Manav Subedi

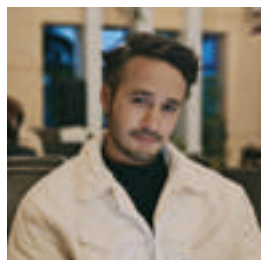
Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Sneha Rijal

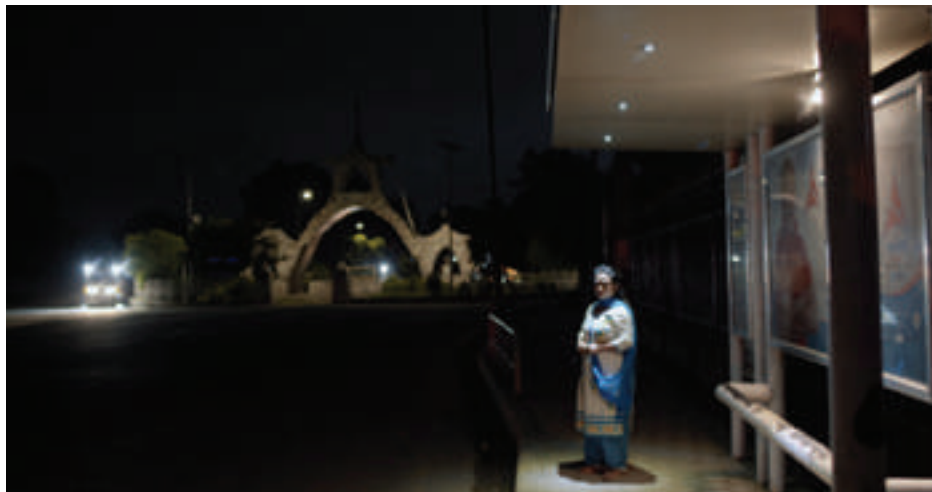
Sound Designer

Producer
Sneha Rijal



About the director

Manav Subedi took birth in Eastern Nepal (Jhapa District). He completed his +2 education from Birtamod. Having keen interest in act and music he joined Oscar College of film studies. After completing the studies he toured whole Nepal around (5-6 years) and observed the lifestyle of people in depth. He started his journey as a singer,actor.Proving art has no boundaries he came up with music videos being a director,editor and cinematographer. With this flow he directed this 'Wagol' with great dedication.



Mannequin Dreams

13 mins | Nepal

A man goes inside a clothing store after deciding to purchase a T-shirt worn by a very fit Mannequin. He meets a pretty shopkeeper who says that the particular T-shirt he is interested in might not fit him because of his protruding belly. He insists on his choice and goes to the trial room to find out that the girl was right indeed. Feeling ashamed, he rushes out of the store and wanders around the city in the night and later sees some guys dealing with a prostitute. After those guys go away, the man and the woman go to a hotel in a taxi. He spends the night there. In a dream image, he is seen smoking in front of the burning Mannequin - naked.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Pradeep Bhandari

Editor
Suren Maharjan

Cinematographer
Shishir Bishankhe

Screenwriter
Pradeep Bhandari

Sound Designer
Dikesh Khadgi Shahi

Producer
Pradeep Bhandari



About the director

Pradeep Bhandari is a Nepali film director and this is his first short film.



Anta Barta (The Final Conversation)

12 mins | Nepal

This experimental short is a journey through a young man's psyche who tries to converse with his mother, newly married wife, and brother only to find out about a tragic truth that lies beneath.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Prashanna Mali

Editor
Prashanna Mali

Cinematographer
Ranjan Mahat

Screenwriter
Prashanna Mali

Sound Designer
Dikesh Khadgi Shahi, Bhuwan Rawal

Producer
Prashanna Mali



About the director

Growing up as an only child, Prashanna Mali initially embraced storytelling to overcome shyness. His journey unfolded with a foray into writing, editing, and radio presenting, eventually extending to creating small videos and documentaries. Recognizing the compelling nature of the audio-visual medium in fostering empathy, he embarked on a film school adventure. Concurrently, a study of Anthropology enriched his grasp of societal intricacies, enhancing the authenticity in his narratives. Today, his passion for this art form drives an unwavering commitment to sustaining a continuous creative flow.



The Poplar Trees

10 mins | Nepal

An impoverished couple cross the Himalaya on foot to a relatively more prosperous village for work, but the only job left is to collect leaves and chop the wood at a clump of poplar trees in return for food and shelter. The arrangement takes an unexpected turn when the landowner's son develops an interest in the migrant woman.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Manoj Kumar Pant

Editor
Ali Rasheed

Cinematographer
Ali Rasheed

Screenwriter
Ali Rasheed, Gyalbu Lama, Kunga Tashi

Sound Designer
Sangam Panta

Producer
Prawin Karki



About the director

Manoj embarked on his professional journey as a cinematographer upon completing a proficiency certificate in fine arts. Transitioning into the role of a director, his debut project, 'Back or Continue,' a short film addressing climate change, earned recognition at the prestigious Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival. This experience reshaped his perspective on storytelling through images. Independently contributing to cinematography and art direction, Manoj has played pivotal roles in diverse projects, including 'Santosh,' 'Good Night,' 'Milarepa in Prison,' 'Duffers,' 'Ringata,' 'Lama La,' and 'Ama Khando.' His multidimensional involvement showcases a passion for visual storytelling and a commitment to artistic excellence.



Yet Another Winter

22 mins | Nepal

Hoping her deaf daughter RADHA(5) might be able to hear and speak, YASODHA (25) her faithful mother visits the Shaman in the nearby village. As per ritual, Shaman tells Yasodha to go to the temple located in the heart of the capital city. Following her faith, Yasodha tries to convince her husband and even her neighboring sister but they refuse to accompany her. Hence, she leaves towards the city along with her daughter. Upon reaching the temple, Yasodha learns about another Mata Temple where she has to lock her daughter until she utters a word. Yasodha follows the ritual and locks Radha inside the temple eagerly waiting for her to speak.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Kiran Shrestha

Editor
Kiran Shrestha, Sarun Manandhar

Cinematographer
Ranjit Shrestha

Screenwriter
Rajesh Prasad Khatri, Kiran Shrestha

Sound Designer
Bipin Sthapit

Producer
Bibhu Poudel, Sushant Shrestha, Prabin Kumar Rawat



About the director

With more than half a decade-long experience in Film Editing, Kiran is a self-taught, independent, and promising filmmaker from Nepal, who has now turned into a writer and director as well. He has worked in various indie films as a Film Editor and Assistant Director; and has been successful in traveling to many prestigious festivals like Berlinale, Venice, Toronto, Busan, and many others. He is also an Alumnus of Busan AFA (2018) and Berlinale Talents (2019). "Yet Another Winter" is his short directorial debut.



Love & Cetamol

25 mins | Nepal

An unemployed and aimless man searches for a missing waitress whom he cannot forget, when he tracks her steps an unknown mystery awaits him.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Sagar Pandey

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Sagar Pandey

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Ravi Bhusal



About the director

A cinephile, a passionate cinematographer and sometimes a screenwriter, wants to become a Director. He began his journey in Mumbai, working in the camera department for a variety of productions, spanning from TV series to advertising films. Building on his experiences, he transitioned into assistant directing, contributing to Nepali feature films like "Chakkar" and "Ktm-Cocktail."



Can I hold your hand?

10 mins | Nepal

Two friends hang out at their favorite tea shop for one last time unsure when they'll ever be together again.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Suraj Katuwal

Editor
Suraj Katuwal

Cinematographer
Nitesh Sharma Khatiwada

Screenwriter
Suraj Katuwal

Sound Designer
Simant Thapa

Producer
Madhur Thapa



About the director

Suraj Katuwal is a filmmaking student based in Kathmandu, Nepal. His major specialization is screenwriting and direction. He believes that through cinema we can relive our past, recall our memories, and reflect on our existence. Currently, he has completed his film school graduation project and developing his feature film script.



NARIA'S 20TH BIRTHDAY

17 mins | Nepal

In a patriarchal Nepali community where post-teen-age girls are deemed marriage-ready, when an ambitious student is pressured for marriage by her orthodox family near her 20th birthday, she weaves lies to evade it, only to confront her unyielding father, unraveling a captivating narrative of tradition, ambition, and women's empowerment.

Subtitled

Original Language

Nepali

Director

Sagar Gahatraj

Editor

Sagar Gahatraj

Cinematographer

Sagar Gahatraj

Screenwriter

Sagar Gahatraji

Sound Designer

-

Producer

Sagar Gahatraj



About the director

Sagar Gahatraj is an independent filmmaker from the southern part of Nepal. He graduated with a Master's Degree in Filmmaking from the University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia in 2021. In 2020, Sagar received the Jožko Markič award for outstanding efforts to realize the production of his movie which connected a variety of individuals from the Goriska region, and for advocating a re-evaluation of the human-animal relationship. For Sagar, filmmaking functions as a platform to delve into the intersection of social activism, art, and entertainment. He thrives in collaborating with communities and creating art from a minimalistic grassroots level.

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