



NEPAL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

20-24 MARCH 2025

७-११ चैत्र २०८१

FESTIVAL CATALOGUE

SCREENINGS AT



CHHAYA CENTER
CIVIL MALL

TALKS AT



NEPAL TOURISM BOARD

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at the film venues



NIFF.ORG.NP

WATCH **FILMS** FROM
AROUND THE **WORLD**



nepal



© Surya Thapaliya

Annapurna Massif
as seen from the Mardi high point trek



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From the Festival Chair

Namaste!

It is with immense joy that I welcome you to the 8th Nepal International Film Festival (NIFF), organized by the Nepal Film and Cultural Academy. Over the past seven years, we have worked tirelessly to establish NIFF as a landmark event in the Nepali film industry. It fills me with great pride to see how far we have come and the growing recognition NIFF has gained on the global stage. We firmly believe that the Nepali film industry holds immense potential for growth, and our mission has always been to provide exposure and build meaningful connections between Nepali filmmakers and the international film community. NIFF was founded with the vision of bridging Nepal's vibrant storytelling tradition with the world, and each year, we strive to expand our reach and impact. We are committed to showcasing the finest international cinema to Nepali audiences while also providing a platform for Nepali filmmakers to present their work to the world. Through these efforts, we aim to foster collaborations, encourage co-productions, and contribute to the overall prosperity of our film industry.

This year, we are thrilled to present 87 films and documentaries from 40 countries, carefully selected from over 600 submissions worldwide. In addition to the screenings, we have organized insightful panel discussions, and workshops for film enthusiasts and professionals alike. These programs aim to spark conversations, share knowledge, and inspire the next generation of filmmakers.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the participating filmmakers, industry experts, and jury members for their invaluable contributions to this festival. Your support and dedication make NIFF a truly special event, and we look forward to continuing this journey together in the years ahead. We are also pleased to continue our



partnership with QFX Cinemas for NIFF 2025, making it easier for film lovers across the Kathmandu Valley to attend the festival and experience exceptional cinema. We deeply appreciate QFX Cinemas' unwavering support in bringing this festival to a wider audience.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our distinguished jury panel, led by Dr. Riwita Dutta and Deependra Gauchan, as well as our film selection committee for their dedication in curating an outstanding lineup of films. To all visiting filmmakers and the Nepali film community, we extend a warm welcome. May this festival serve as a vibrant space for connection, creativity, and collaboration. NIFF is not just a celebration of cinema—it is a movement toward a stronger and more connected global film industry.

Lastly, my sincere thanks to our promoters, sponsors, supporters, and partners: your support makes NIFF 2025 possible. Enjoy the festival, engage in sessions, and immerse you at the screenings!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "K.P. Pathak".

K.P Pathak
Festival Chair



Narayan Prasad Dahal
Chairperson

Federal Parliament National Assembly



Phone : 01-4211756
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal
www.parliament.gov.np

Greetings Message

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the organizers, filmmakers, and participants of the **8th Nepal International Film Festival (NIFF)**. This prestigious event has grown into a vital platform for artistic exchange, cultural dialogue, and cinematic excellence, uniting creative minds from Nepal and around the globe.

Film is a powerful medium that transcends borders, languages, and cultures. It informs, inspires, and ignites meaningful conversations. As Nepal continues to establish itself as a burgeoning hub for film and storytelling, NIFF plays a pivotal role in fostering creativity, promoting diverse narratives, and showcasing both the rich heritage and contemporary realities of our society.

I commend the dedication of the festival team, participating filmmakers, and all contributors for their tireless efforts in making this event a success. Your collective work strengthens Nepal's position on the global cinematic stage while deepening our understanding of the world through the lens of cinema.

To our esteemed national and international guests, I extend a warm welcome to Nepal. May your time here be filled with inspiration and unforgettable experiences. Let us celebrate cinema's unique power to connect people, share perspectives, and build bridges across cultures.

Wishing the **8th Nepal International Film Festival** resounding success!

Rt. Hon. Narayan Prasad Dahal
Chairperson, National Assembly of Nepal

March 07, 2025



Government of Nepal

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology

Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Honorable Prithvi Subba Gurung
Minister



Ref. No.:

To Whom It May Concern

It is with great enthusiasm that I extend my warmest congratulations to the organizers, filmmakers, and participants of the 8th Nepal International Film Festival (NIFF). This esteemed festival has become a remarkable platform for creative exchange, cultural dialogue, and celebration of cinematic excellence.

Film and digital media are essential tools of communication in modern era, shaping narratives, informing societies, and bridging cultures. As Nepal advances in the fields of media, technology, and storytelling, events like NIFF plays a pivotal role in fostering innovation, promoting diverse voices, and strengthening our national and global cinematic identity.

The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology is committed to supporting the growth of Nepal's film industry by encouraging creativity, investing in digital transformation, and facilitating an environment where filmmakers can thrive. I appreciate the dedication of the festival organizers and the contributions of national and international filmmakers who bring stories that inspire, educate, and entertain audiences.

To all guests, I extend a heartfelt welcome to Nepal. May this festival be a space for collaboration, inspiration, and meaningful conversations that contribute to the progress of cinema and storytelling.

I wish the 8th Nepal International Film Festival an immense success!

12th March 2025, Wednesday

Prithvi Subba Gurung
Hon. Minister of Communication and
Information Technology



Government of Nepal
FILM DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Chabahil, Kathmandu, Nepal



Date: 10th March 2025

BEST WISHES

To,

Nepal International Film Festival.

It is my pleasure to extend my best wishes to the organizers, filmmakers, and participants of the 8th Nepal International Film Festival (NIFF). As a platform that brings together cinema enthusiasts from Nepal and beyond, NIFF continues to contribute to the growth of the film sector and foster cultural exchange.

Cinema is not just a medium of entertainment; it is a reflection of society, a means of storytelling, and a bridge that connects diverse perspectives. As Nepal's film industry progresses, such festivals provide opportunities for creative dialogue and artistic exploration.

The Film Development Board (FDB) is committed to strengthening Nepal's film sector by supporting talent, enhancing industry infrastructure, and promoting Nepal as a promising destination for filmmakers. We recognize the importance of collaboration and innovation in shaping the future of cinema.

I extend my warm regards to all attendees of NIFF 2025 and hope this festival serves as a meaningful space for inspiration and exchange.

Wishing the 8th Nepal International Film Festival a successful and engaging edition!

Dinesh D.C.

Executive Chairperson
Film Development Board, Nepal
www.dineshdc.com.np



नेपाल पर्यटन बोर्ड Nepal Tourism Board

(नेपाल पर्यटन बोर्ड ऐन २०७३ द्वारा स्थापित)
(Established under the Tourism Board Act 1997)



It is with immense pleasure that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the organizers, filmmakers, and participants of the 8th Nepal International Film Festival (NIFF). This esteemed festival has evolved into a significant platform for artistic expression, cultural exchange, and cinematic excellence, attracting creative talents from Nepal and around the globe.

Cinema, as a powerful medium, transcends geographical boundaries and unites diverse cultures. In showcasing Nepal's rich heritage, breathtaking landscapes, and compelling narratives, NIFF not only promotes our nation's unique stories but also enhances our global image as a captivating destination.

The Nepal Tourism Board recognizes the profound impact of film on tourism. Visual storytelling has the ability to inspire travelers, ignite curiosity, and invite audiences worldwide to experience the beauty and culture of Nepal firsthand. We are committed to supporting initiatives like NIFF that bridge the realms of art and tourism, fostering economic growth and cultural appreciation.

To all our distinguished national and international guests, we warmly welcome you to Nepal. May your time here be filled with inspiration, meaningful connections, and unforgettable experiences. Together, let us celebrate the art of cinema and its power to connect us all.

Wishing the 8th Nepal International Film Festival resounding success!

Deepak Raj Joshi
Chief Executive Officer
Nepal Tourism Board
March, 2025

NIFF 2025 Organizing Committee



K. P. Pathak
Festival Chair



Shiva Puri
Festival Coordinator



Puru Lamsal
Festival Programmer



Sandhya Thapa
Public Relations Coordinator



Sukreet Nepal
Media Coordinator



Rashik Pathak
Creative Manager



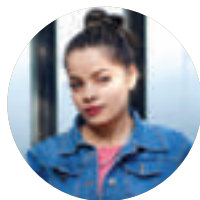
Nawal Nepal
Committee Member



Atul Kucheria
Committee Member



Bhawani Simkhada
Committee Member



Nisha Bajgain
Committee Member



Ronik Pathak
Committee Member



Stuti Niraula
Content/Research

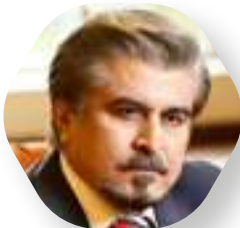
NIFF 2025 Jury

for feature films



Dr. Rwita Dutta (Head Juror)

Dr. Rita (Rwita) Dutta is a distinguished Professor, Film Critic, and Editor, and a member of the International Film Critics' Association, FIPRESCI. She is editing a book on Indian Regional Cinema and serves as the Editor of FilmBuff journal. Dr. Dutta has been a juror at major film festivals like Cannes, Busan, and Cairo. She has also delivered lectures in countries such as Istanbul, Poland, China, Brazil, and Germany, contributing extensively to global film discourse.



Jamal Shah

Jamal Shah is a renowned Pakistani filmmaker, actor, and cultural advocate, known for his impactful storytelling. His directorial debut, *Revenge of the Worthless*, earned acclaim for its exploration of resilience and conflict. Passionate about social justice and cultural heritage, Shah founded Hunerkada College of Visual and Performing Arts. As the Minister of Culture for Balochistan, he played a vital role in promoting cultural development and preserving heritage, making him a leading figure in Pakistani cinema.



Prof. Liu Jiayin

Prof. Liu Jiayin is a screenwriter, director, and associate professor at the Beijing Film Academy with a Ph.D. in Film Studies. Known for her unique style in China's independent cinema, she is a member of the China Film Association. Her films include *OXHIDE* (2005), which won the Caligari Film Award, and *OXHIDE II* (2009), nominated at Cannes. Her latest film, *ALL EARS* (2023), won Best Director at the Shanghai IFF and was selected for the Vancouver IFF.



Surakshya Panta

Surakshya Panta is a Nepali actor and certified civil engineer, who began her film career in 2015. She made history as the first Nepali actor to walk the Cannes Film Festival red carpet in 2022 for *The Eight Mountains*, which won the Jury Award at Cannes. Surakshya has received numerous accolades, including the National Award for Aama (2017) and Best Female Actor for *Bulaki* (2024). She is also a poet, jury member, creative director, and screenplay writer.

NIFF 2025 Jury

for short and documentary films



Deependra Gauchan (Head Juror)

Deependra Gauchan, a filmmaker since 1986, has directed over 20 films, including documentaries, short films, feature films, TV series, and web series across South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa. He began his career training rural women in Nepal, which inspired his TV series GUHAAR! (1997). Known for socially relevant themes, his works include UJELI (1992) and AYNALAM (2000). He co-founded Nepal's Academy of Audio-Visual Arts & Sciences, worked as Executive Producer at BBC Media Action, and now mentors young filmmakers in Cambodia through FILM PROJECT 2024 and Rachana Arts Collective.



Karim Azimi

Karim Azimi is an accomplished filmmaker who has been active in the field of cinema since 1987. His notable works include *Cinema*, *Father*, *Butterflies Die in the Snow*, *Falling*, *My House is a Cloud*, *999999999*, and *Survivor*. His films have been showcased in over 500 national and international festivals, earning more than 50 awards, such as the Canada World Festival Royal Badge, Philadelphia USA World Festival Gold Statue, Ghent Belgium Gold Medal, and Baku World Festival Golden Fairy. Azimi has also served as a jury member at renowned festivals, including the Baku International Film Festival, Tehran International Short Film Festival, and Roosevelt Island Film Festival.



Khandaker Sumon

Khandaker Sumon is a Bangladeshi filmmaker known for his socially conscious storytelling and visually striking narratives. Trained at the Bangladesh Film Institute under Tanvir Mokammel, his debut feature Saatao (Memories of Gloomy Monsoons) (2022) received critical acclaim, winning the FIPRESCI Prize at the Dhaka International Film Festival and the NIFF Guatemala Buddha Award for Best Feature Film. Sumon's work spans short films and socially driven ad films, reflecting his commitment to meaningful discourse. He is also recognized as a film critic, offering insightful analysis on contemporary cinema.

NIFF 2025 Jury

for the Don Quijote Award by IFFS



Ponnamm Ravichandra

Ponnamm Ravichandra, a renowned film critic and writer from Karimnagar, Telangana, has made significant contributions to Telugu cinema. His insightful film reviews and critical analyses have earned him widespread acclaim. Serving as the President of the Karimnagar Film Society, Ravichandra was appointed a Jury Member of the Nandi Film Awards in 2006. He authored 80 Years of Telugu Cinema PRASTHANAM, a chronological perspective on Telugu cinema's evolution, which won the Nandi Award for Best Telugu Cinema Book in 2012. His work continues to influence the Telugu film industry.



Rakshya Singh Rana (Thakuri)

Rakshya Singh Rana (Thakuri) is a pioneering Nepali filmmaker, editor, and industry leader with over two decades of experience. As Nepal's first female feature film editor, she has earned accolades like the Mahamaya Award (2003) and Best Editor Award (2010, TAFAN Tele Award). Her work spans documentaries, TV commercials, and music videos. Rakshya has also served as a jury member for NEFTA, FAAN, and NERUFF. A leader in the Film Directors' Guild Nepal (2019–2023), she advocates for gender empowerment, film preservation, and sustainable filmmaking.



Joan Marc Montiel Díaz

Joan Marc Montiel Díaz, passionate about cinema since childhood, grew up watching 1980s and 1990s films and later developed an admiration for classic filmmakers like Alfred Hitchcock. He gained early industry experience by accompanying his actress sister to castings and working on film sets. Joan Marc studied scriptwriting in Madrid and is currently pursuing a history degree. As President of the Montbui Film Club, he writes film reviews for a local newspaper and co-hosts a cinema radio program on Radio Igualada, sharing his love for film with the community.



NEPAL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

20-24 MARCH 2025

७-११ चैत्र २०८१

#celebratingnarratives

SCHEDULE

NIFF 2025 FILMS & PANELS

20-24 MARCH

चैत्र ७-११

Kathmandu 2025

काठमाडौं २०८१

QFX CIVIL MALL

QFX CHHAYA CENTER

NEPAL TOURISM BOARD

ORGANIZED BY



NEPAL FILM AND
CULTURAL ACADEMY

QFX Cinemas Civil Mall

Sundhara, Kathmandu

DAY 1 MARCH 20 THURSDAY

02:00 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

WELCOME KEYNOTES | OPENING FILM

Shambhala (150 mins)

Directed by. Min Bahadur Bham
Nepal | WORLD PANORAMA

A pregnant woman's search for her husband leads to self-discovery and spiritual awakening.

DAY 2 MARCH 21 FRIDAY

11:00 AM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

Cross My Heart and Hope To Die (17 mins)

Directed by. Sam Manacsa
Philippines | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

Unpaid and struggling, Mila finds solace in a caller's voice—until hope turns to heartbreak.

The Taste of Honey (15 mins)

Directed by. Mohammad Rakibul Hasan,
Fabeha Monir
Bangladesh | DOCS@NIFF

A tiger widow fights to protect her children and traditions as climate change threatens the Sundarbans.

Salty Blue (16 mins)

Directed by. Masashi Sogawa
Japan | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
Mitsuki hides her love for her best friend as summer fades into autumn.

Basri & Salma in a Never-Ending Comedy (15 mins)

Directed by. Khozy Rizal
Indonesia | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
A carnival couple confronts family pressure and a hidden truth behind their childless marriage.

A witness (14 mins)

Directed by. Nishan Khatri
NATIONAL SHORTS
A silent witness sees a family's journey from hope to the devastation of war.

Red Hand (13 mins)

Directed by. Kiran BK HPS
NATIONAL SHORTS
A husband catches wife red handed for.....

01:15 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

Crawling Crows - Aankha (109 mins)

Directed by. Zaun Yonzan
NEPAL PANORAMA

A newlywed couple struggles with poverty and hardship in Kathmandu's slums.

03:30 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

Girmit - The Fields of Sadness (86 mins)

Directed by. Shyam Upadhyay
New Zealand | DOCS@NIFF
The untold story of Fiji's Indian indentured workers and their enduring legacy.

05:30 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

SATIDEVI (129 mins)

Directed by. Laxman Subedi
NEPAL PANORAMA
A daughter sacrifices everything to fulfill her father's dream of a son.

DAY 3 MARCH 22 SATURDAY

11:00 AM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

Devi (80 mins)

Directed by. Subina Shrestha
NATIONAL DOCS
A survivor of torture and rape rises to power, reclaiming her narrative.

01:00 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

Rukmini (96 min)

Directed by. Nilay Prashant Raje
India | WORLD PANORAMA
Sold into prostitution, Rukmini grows into a fearless woman, torn by love and sacrifice.

03:00 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

OCD (18 mins)

Directed by. Ashutosh Balchandra Pagare
India | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
Amid the COVID lockdown, a couple's life unravels as Yamin's OCD spirals.

Big (17 mins)

Directed by. Olga Dymyskaya
Russia | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
A musician struggles with isolation in a small room, facing a choice to break free.

Sunflower Girl (13 mins)

Directed by. Holly M. Kaplan
United States | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
A 13-year-old girl skips responsibilities for a skateboarding adventure with her crush.

Time (15 mins)

Directed by. Shanti Tamang
NATIONAL SHORTS
A skeptic's life unravels when he discovers an antique watch with dark, supernatural power.

And That's for This Christmas (14 mins)

Directed by. Peter Vulchev
Bulgaria | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
An elderly man spends Christmas at his wife's grave, facing solitude and reflection.

3D Boys (3 different boys) (8 Mins)

Directed by. Nishan Gole Lama
NATIONAL SHORTS
Three boys navigate differences and discover the power of living in the moment.

05:15 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

Sano Sansar (143 mins)

Directed by. Siddhartha Pudasaini
NEPAL PANORAMA

A family torn by secrets and dreams faces conflict as ambitions collide.

DAY 4 MARCH 23 SUNDAY

11:00 AM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

AMARELA (15 mins)

Directed by. André Hayato Saito
Brazil | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

A Japanese-Brazilian teenager confronts unseen violence and inner turmoil during the World Cup final.

FIZR (12 mins)

Directed by. Rani Nasr
Lebanon | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

After a violent encounter, two friends clash over justice and survival in a divided society.

The Time Lost (16 min)

Directed by. Eman Munir
Pakistan | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

A heartbroken clockmaker embarks on a journey of healing and rediscovery with a young admirer.

Kacita (5 mins)

Directed by. Amrit Sapkota
NATIONAL SHORTS

A young woman's disturbing dreams blur the lines between reality and nightmare.

Objects in mirror are closer than they appear (15 mins)

Directed by. Milan Lohani
NATIONAL SHORTS

A man returns his father's car, confronting past wounds and seeking healing.

THE LAST STROKE (10 mins)

Directed by. Roshan Pandey, Rojan Thapa
NATIONAL SHORTS

A man follows his passion for art despite his brother's career pressure.

The School's Wall (15 mins)

Directed by. Mohan Shrestha
NATIONAL SHORTS

A boy fights poverty to pursue his dream of education.

01:15 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

The Stranger (80 mins)

Directed by. Biplob Sarkar
Bangladesh | WORLD PANORAMA

A child grapples with gender identity, family tension, and personal freedom in rural Bangladesh.

03:15 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

To My Friend (10 mins)

Directed by. Ashraf Sahwiel
Palestine | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

A man receives a letter from his deceased friend, blurring reality and imagination.

03:15 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

The Tie (18 mins)

Directed by. Çamran Azizoğlu
Turkey | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

A prosecutor's car breaks down, and only criminals can help him reach court.

Khusi (19 mins)

Directed by. Pradhumna Mishra
NATIONAL SHORTS

A woman seeks happiness while devoting herself to a family absorbed in their own lives.

Strata (5 mins)

Directed by. Monika Thapa
NATIONAL SHORTS

A woman's beauty routine reflects the sacrifices made to meet societal pressures.

Himalayan Dreams - Tales of Lhasa Newar Traders (40 mins)

Directed by. Tenzing Jigme (Tuladhar),
Loonibha Tuladhar
Nepal | DOCS@NIFF

A documentary exploring the centuries-old trade, religion, and cultural ties between Tibet and Nepal.

05:30 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

House of Peace (122 mins)

Directed by. Deepankar Prakash
India | WORLD PANORAMA

A man sacrifices his happiness to care for his family, but a crisis pushes him to his limits.

DAY 5 MARCH 24 MONDAY

11:00 AM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

Cold Sigh (87 mins)

Directed by. Nahid Sedigh
Iran | WORLD PANORAMA

A son's journey to bring his father home is haunted by anger and revenge.

01:00 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

Pujar Sarki (136 mins)

Directed by. Dinesh Raut
NEPAL PANORAMA

Three individuals unite to challenge caste discrimination and fight for equality.

04:00 PM **QFX CIVIL MALL**

Closing & Award Ceremony

QFX Cinemas Chhaya Center

Thamel, Kathmandu

DAY 1 MARCH 20 THURSDAY

03:30 PM **QFX CHHAYA CENTER**

The Silent Planet (95 mins)

Directed by. Jeffrey St. Jules
Canada | WORLD PANORAMA
An aging convict confronts his past when a new prisoner arrives on his planet.

05:30 PM **QFX CHHAYA CENTER**

On Melting Snow (73 mins)

Directed by. Mojtaba Bahadori
Belgium | DOCS@NIFF
An artist reunites fragmented memories of landscapes divided by time and borders.

No Monastery No Village (27 mins)

Directed by. Tashi Lhazom
NATIONAL DOCS
A Buddhist monastery faces danger from floods, as villagers refuse to abandon it.

DAY 2 MARCH 21 FRIDAY

11:00 AM **QFX CHHAYA CENTER**

Heavy Weight (14 mins)

Directed by. Sea-Hoon Jeon
South Korea | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
A teen struggles between guilt and silence after a tragic accident.

Mother (29 mins)

Directed by. Sebastian Kwidziński
Poland | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
A paroled mother fights to reunite with her son despite resistance.

THE PROFESSIONAL PARENT (14 mins)

Directed by. Erik Jasná
Slovakia | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
Ingrid risks everything to defend a young Roma girl's rights.

A Better Place (12 mins)

Directed by. Ali Sahail Jaura
Pakistan | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
A lost girl and an undocumented immigrant form an unlikely bond.

Keyboard (25 mins)

Directed by. Acharya Gopal
NATIONAL SHORTS
A boy's dream of singing is shaken by his parents' divorce.

01:15 PM **QFX CHHAYA CENTER**

The Beginning (98 mins)

Directed by. Zhihai Liu
China | WORLD PANORAMA
A young Mao Zedong's journey reshapes his destiny amidst China's chaos.

03:30 PM **QFX CHHAYA CENTER**

A Year Apart (17 mins)

Directed by. Ocean Chin, Yasmin Wang
China | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
Huilin faces loss, change, and a withering vine at life's crossroads.

The Witness Tree (20 mins)

Directed by. Niranjan Raj Bhetwal
NATIONAL SHORTS
A mother struggles to reveal her son's painful past while protecting him.

Every hesitation of yours can destroy the world (10 mins)

Directed by. Ma Zhiyuan
China | AI COMPETITION
A time-space administrator reunites with Nikola Tesla in modern Shanghai.

The Abyss (10 mins)

Directed by. Andres Aloí
Argentina | AI COMPETITION
A wheelchair-bound woman tests a device that blurs dreams and reality.

The dream, the fog and the rain (5 mins)

Directed by. Carlos García Cornejo
Peru | AI COMPETITION
A lonely man braves a storm, seeking a lost love through music.

Mombomb part 1 (5 mins)

Directed by. Patricia Beckmann Wells
United States | AI COMPETITION
A weaponized Girl Scout battles a killer troll in 1970s Toledo.

Godcasting (25 mins)

Directed by. Florent Agostini
France | AI COMPETITION
AI Velda creates an interactive short film to integrate new participants.

05:45 PM **QFX CHHAYA CENTER**

FIVE IN THE AFTERNOON (126 mins)

Directed by. Eduardo Nunes
Brazil | WORLD PANORAMA
After her grandmother's death, Anabel bonds with a shy neighbor and a mysterious presence.

DAY 3 MARCH 22 SATURDAY

11:00 AM **QFX CHHAYA CENTER**

Bullet, Buddha, Bastille (13 mins)

Directed by. Xin Cheng Song
China | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
BaWu returns home, reconnects with his past, and confronts his loneliness.

MUKTI (27 mins)

Directed by. Gaurav Ayer
NATIONAL DOCS
Two strangers, bound by loss, find an unexplained connection across distances.

The Nature of Dogs (24 mins)

Directed by. Pom Bunsermicha
Thailand | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
A family's seaside vacation unravels hidden tensions in a sacred cave.

A Snail Without Shell (14 mins)

Directed by. Mohin Rakhaine
Bangladesh | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
An elderly couple awaits their grandson, unaware of the tragedy that struck.

Nilo Aakash (The Blue Sky) (12 mins)

Directed by. Nirmal Poudel
NATIONAL SHORTS
Madhu challenges patriarchal norms and reclaims her voice amidst pregnancy pressures.

01:15 PM QFX CHHAYA CENTER

Fishbone (98 mins)

Directed by. Xuyu Zhang
China | WORLD PANORAMA

Li Qi faces the consequences of a quarrel, hiding her secret from her mother.

03:30 PM QFX CHHAYA CENTER

Prelude of a Story (16 mins)

Directed by. Ashley Salman
Chile | DOCS@NIFF
A daughter uncovers her mother's past, unraveling the impact of abuse on womanhood.

Goodnight (15 mins)

Directed by. Shrawan Shakya
NATIONAL SHORTS
Sneha struggles with her mother's death while caring for her Alzheimer's grandmother.

Ana Morphose (10 mins)

Directed by. Joao Rodrigues
Portugal | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
Ana navigates a dreamlike world where books reshape reality, seeking her escape.

Dreamlink (19 mins)

Directed by. Kalani Gacon
Australia | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
An influencer mother and daughter reconnect through a dream-reality app.

Ecdysis (25 mins)

Directed by. Prajwol Bista
NATIONAL SHORTS
A boy's psychological turmoil drives his transition into adulthood.

05:30 PM QFX CHHAYA CENTER

Twenty20 (102 mins)

Directed by. Kwang Han Wong
Singapore | WORLD PANORAMA
Jenny struggles with expectations while caring for her brother and navigating family tensions.

DAY 4 MARCH 23 SUNDAY

11:00 AM QFX CHHAYA CENTER

Anaar Daana (20 mins)

Directed by. Nishi Dugar
India | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
Gudda's mischievous spirit faces family loss, reflecting childhood's resilience in adversity.

The Nose Knows: Foreignness and Fortune in China (22 mins)

Directed by. Bill Callahan, Kieran Hanson
Singapore, United Kingdom | DOCS@NIFF
What can noses tell us Chinese identity, and the PRC's increasingly important place in the world?

Happy Wedding Anniversary (14 mins)

Directed by. Nadja Beinert
Germany | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
A forgotten anniversary and a mysterious gift threaten Simon and Julia's marriage.

The Terrorist (11 mins)

Directed by. Meena Rathor
Norway | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
Vidar suspects his new flatmate of being a terrorist— or is he biased?

Udne Sapana – A Dream of Flight (11 mins)

Directed by. Deepa Shrestha
NATIONAL DOCS
A community's land was cleared for an airport, but development never came.

Chhesang - The Untold Story (12 mins)

Directed by. Rajeela Shrestha
NATIONAL DOCS
A 21-year-old Chhesang struggles with gender dysphoria, seeking acceptance.

01:15 PM QFX CHHAYA CENTER

V's Secret (12 mins)

Directed by. Bassma Nancy Farah
Egypt | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
Adam's feud with Bassem escalates over a missing G-string, leading to confrontation.

CURA SANA (18 mins)

Directed by. Lucia G. Romero
Spain | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
Two sisters break the cycle of domestic violence during a San Juan night trip.

The Steak (8 mins)

Directed by. Kiarash Dadgar
Iran | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
A birthday party preparation is thrown into chaos by an awful event.

Avasesh (27 mins)

Directed by. Manav Subedi
NATIONAL SHORTS
A young scavenger unravels dark truths about survival and morality in the city.

SIYA (14 mins)

Directed by. Sarita Sah
NATIONAL SHORTS
Siya challenges her sacrifice for family when faced with unmet expectations.

Adek (Unseen) (9 mins)

Directed by. Aayub Kc
NATIONAL SHORTS
Kulaman's plan to secure his son's lineage leads to an unexpected pregnancy.

03:30 PM QFX CHHAYA CENTER

Mother of Snow Cranes (78 mins)

Directed by. Iliris Härmä
Finland | DOCS@NIFF
"Mother of Snow Cranes" chronicles Ellen Vuosalo's transformative journey from immigrant to revolutionary.

05:15 PM **QFX CHHAYA CENTER**

Strangers When We Meet (108 mins)

Directed by. Guoli Zhang
China | WORLD PANORAMA

A man seeks peace after 30 years in prison, but a mysterious woman disrupts his life.

DAY 5 MARCH 24 MONDAY

11:00 AM **QFX CHHAYA CENTER**

Mic Drop (27 mins)

Directed by. Kallol Mukherjee
India | DOCS@NIFF

A young Bundelkhandi rapper battles financial struggles to produce his debut album.

FISHBOWL (14 mins)

Directed by. Reema Majid Almajid
Saudi Arabia | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
A screenwriter faces her fears, confronting past conflicts while filming her story.

The Black Stone (13 mins)

Directed by. Aashuka Aryal
NATIONAL SHORTS

A housewife grapples with her crumbling marriage, sacrificing her happiness for her son.

Girls Rewriting Destiny (33 mins)

Directed by. Lawa Pyakurel
NATIONAL DOCS

27 women climb Ganja La Chuli, symbolizing empowerment and unity.

01:00 PM **QFX CHHAYA CENTER**

Deal at the Border (99 mins)

Directed by. Dastan Zhapar
Kyrgyzstan | WORLD PANORAMA

Two drug runners risk everything to rescue a girl from slavery.

03:00 PM **QFX CHHAYA CENTER**

CHINA BEAST (26 mins)

Directed by. Kuok Hong Yoeng,
Christopher Ling

Malaysia | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
Allen searches for his missing father, fearing the legendary China Beast.

Maya And The Past Tense (18 mins)

Directed by. Dominic Curseri
Switzerland | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
Maya carries someone else's memories and has to face her own past.

Tribu (22 mins)

Directed by. Carlos Gómez-Trigo
Spain | INTERNATIONAL SHORTS
Coke navigates loyalty and conflict within his tight-knit neighborhood and friendship.

I take refuge (Saranam Gacchami) (18 mins)

Directed by. Priyanka Suryaneni
United States | DOCS@NIFF
A visionary Buddhist monk builds a sanctuary for Tibetan culture, seeking a successor.

QFX Cinemas Chhaya Center – HALL 2
Thamel, Kathmandu

RUSSIAN FILM DAY – SPECIAL FEATURE

DAY 3 MARCH 22 SATURDAY

12.00 - 02.30 PM

Threesome (Втроём) (90 mins)

Directed by. Alexandra Sarana
Russia

OUT OF COMPETITION

A departmental officer of the Ministry of Culture Dasha decides to escape from problems in her personal life - on a business trip to the Perm region, and her unexpected companion becomes the young owner of a bar Sergei...

02.45 - 04.45 PM

Four Quarters (Четыре четверти) (114 mins)

Directed by. Evgeniya Tirdatova
Russia

OUT OF COMPETITION

Masha moves to Moscow hoping to live through her last school year without incident and earn a gold medal. But love, which she cannot control, interferes with her plans.

05.00 - 07.15 PM

Nuremberg (Нюрнберг) (131 mins)

Directed by. Nikolai Lebedev
Russia

OUT OF COMPETITION

Igor Volgin comes to work as a translator at the Nuremberg Trials and meets a young Russian woman Lena...

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NIFF FORUM 2025

Nepal Tourism Board (NTB)
Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu

DAY 2 MARCH 21 FRIDAY

Beyond Boundaries: AI's Multidimensional Impact on Media Creation

FREE ENTRY | NEPALI/ENGLISH | FRIDAY,
MARCH 21 | 11.30 AM - 1.00 PM

Panelists: Karun Thapa (IT, AI and New Media Expert), Mausam Puri (AI Expert), Kundan Basnet (Animator/Creative Supervisor), Rakshya Singh Rana (Film director/editor), Arif Ali (Scientist/Author/Civil Engineer)
Moderator: Sajana Baral (Journalist)

रङ्गमञ्च कि रङ्गिन पर्दा

निःशुल्क प्रवेश | नेपाली | चैत्र ८, शुक्रबार ।
दिउँसो १.३० - ३.००

वक्ताहरू: सरिता गिरी (अभिनेत्री), प्रमोद अग्रहरी (अभिनेता), बुद्धि तामाङ (अभिनेता), सुजना अधिकारी (अभिनेत्री)
सहजकर्ता: स्वीकृत नेपाल (सञ्चारकर्मी)

व्यवसायीकरण तर्फ नेपाली चलचित्र

निःशुल्क प्रवेश | नेपाली | चैत्र ८, शुक्रबार ।
दिउँसो ३.०० - ४.३०

वक्ताहरू: शेखर गोल्लू, (अध्यक्ष, गोल्लू समूह), नविन उर्दिन (निर्देशक, वयु रफ रक्स सिनेमा), मनोज ज्ञवाली (नायक कार्यकारी अधिकृत, नविल बैंक)
सहजकर्ता: रञ्जीत आचार्य, (प्रबन्ध निर्देशक, बाइस्कोप सिनेमा)

DAY 3 MARCH 22 SATURDAY

सर्ट फिल्म : किन भएन करिअरको खुड्किलो !

निःशुल्क प्रवेश | नेपाली | चैत्र ९, शनिबार ।
दिउँसो १.०० - २.३०

वक्ताहरू: सरिता साह (निर्देशक), रजिता श्रेष्ठ (निर्देशक), आशुका अर्याल (निर्देशक), आचार्य गोपाल (निर्देशक)
सहजकर्ता: किरण विक (निर्देशक)

संस्कृति, पर्यटन तथा नागरिक उड्यन मन्त्रीसँग चलचित्रका कुरा !

निःशुल्क प्रवेश | नेपाली | चैत्र ९, शनिबार ।
दिउँसो २.३० - ४.००

वक्ताहरू: माननीय मन्त्री बड्ढी पाण्डे ज्यू (संस्कृति, पर्यटन तथा नागरिक उड्यन मन्त्री)
सहजकर्ता: निता काफ्ले (सञ्चारकर्मी)

DAY 4 MARCH 23 SUNDAY

Bridge the Silver Screen: Intricacies of co-production

FREE ENTRY | ENGLISH | SUNDAY, MARCH 23 |
11.00 AM - 12.30 PM

Panelists: Dr. Riwta Dutta (Professor, film critic, editor), Prof. Liu Jiayin (Screenwriter, director), Min B. Bham (Director, producer), Binod Paudel (Film director, writer), **Moderator:** Deependra Gauchan (Filmmaker)

फिल्म प्रदर्शनमा किन सधैं कमैला ?

निःशुल्क प्रवेश | नेपाली | चैत्र १०, आइतबार ।
दिउँसो १२.३० - २.००

वक्ताहरू: भाष्कर ढुङ्गना, (निर्देशक, वयु रफ रक्स सिनेमा), रेखा थापा (अभिनेत्री, निर्माता, निर्देशक), रविन्द्रसिंह बाँनिया (अभिनेता, निर्माता), गोपालकाजी कायस्थ (प्रदर्शक, वितरक)
सहजकर्ता: रीना मोक्तान (सञ्चारकर्मी)

Cinematic Medium: The Element and Essence of Tourism

FREE ENTRY | ENGLISH | SUNDAY, MARCH 23 |
03.00 PM - 04.30 PM

Panelists: Dinesh DC (Chairperson, Film Development Board), Deepak Raj Joshi (CEO, Nepal Tourism Board), Yubika Bhandari (Secretary General, Nepal Association of Tour & Travel Agents), **Moderator:** Surya Thapaliya (Sr. Manager, Nepal Tourism Board)

WATCH FILMS
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WORLD PANORAMA

12 narrative feature films (international competition)





Shambhala

94 mins | Nepal | OPENING FILM

In the Himalayan polyandrous village in Nepal, a pregnant woman, Pema endures societal judgment about her child's legitimacy when her husband vanishes on a trade to Lhasa. Together with her monk brother-in-law, Karma, de facto husband, she embarks on a harsh journey into the unforgiving wilderness to find him. What begins as a quest to reunite with her missing husband transforms into a profound spiritual awakening and a deeply transformative personal odyssey of self-discovery and liberation, where each step across the challenging Himalayan landscape becomes a passage toward inner awakening and enlightenment.

Subtitled

Original Language
Tibetan, Nepali

Director
Min Bahadur Bham

Editor
Aziz Zhambakiyev

Cinematographer
Narendra Mainali

Screenwriter
Min Bahadur Bham, Abinash Bikram Shah

Producer
Min Bahadur Bham

Cast
Thinley Lhamo, Sonam Topden, Tenzin Dalha, Karma Wangyal Gurung



About the director

Min Bahadur Bham, a key figure in Nepal's new wave cinema, holds Master's degrees in Buddhist Philosophy and Political Science. His short *Bansulli* (2012) was Nepal's first Venice Film Festival entry. His debut feature, *Kalo Pothe* (2015), won the FEDEORA Best Film Award at Venice Critics Week and was Nepal's Oscar entry. *SHAMBHALA* (2024) became the first Nepalese film selected for Berlinale Competition and Locarno Piazza Grande and is also Nepal's official entry for the Oscars.



House of Peace

122 mins | India

Ravi, a diligent man in his mid-30s, shoulders the responsibility of caring for his ailing grandfather, mentally disabled aunt, and grandmother after his parents' tragic demise. Growing up in a modest household, he learns the value of duty early on. However, as the story progresses, the weight of his responsibilities takes a toll on him. He becomes increasingly isolated, sacrificing his own happiness and relationships to meet the needs of his family. Despite his unwavering dedication, a sudden financial crisis pushes him to his limits. The story ends unexpectedly, leaving viewers to contemplate the complexities of human relationships and the resilience of the human spirit.

Subtitled

Original Language
Hindi, Rajasthani

Director
Deepankar Prakash

Screenwriter
Deepankar Prakash

Producer
Ajit Singh Rathore

Cast
Neeraj Saidawat



About the director

Deepankar Prakash is an Indian film director and screenwriter. Deepankar made his directorial debut with the critically acclaimed film *Mooso - The Mouse*. He has also made a Hotstar Quix Original web-series called *Crime Next Door*. As a filmmaker, he is known for his award winning short films such as *Masakkali*, *Kaagpanth*, *Podarok* and *Naked Voice*.



Strangers When We Meet

108 mins | China

The film is based on the true story of the murder girl wearing a wedding dress. After serving a 30-year sentence, Qin starts a new life with a government compensation of 1.5 million yuan for land expropriation. Being in his middle age, Qin only wishes to marry, have children, and live a stable and peaceful life. However, his life takes a complete turn when the 24-year-old girl, Chang Juan, enters his life. Qin realizes that Chang Juan, who shares the same fate as a wanderer, carries hidden secrets within her.

Subtitled

Original Language
Chinese

Director
Guoli Zhang

Screenwriter
Hao Ye

Producer
Amy Xin

Cast
Wei Fan, Dongyu Zhou



About the director

Guoli ZHANG is a national first-class actor, director and producer. He has received prestigious film and television awards in China, including the Plum Blossom Award in Drama, Flying Sky Award, Golden Eagle Award, Magnolia Award, Golden Rooster Award, Hundred Flowers Award. He has also been honored with the Best Actor award at the Cairo Film Festival and other international accolades.



Fishbone

99 mins | China

Eighteen-year-old girl Li Qi failed the College Entrance Examinations. At Xiaowei's birthday party, Li Qi and Xiaowei had a quarrel. Li Qi smashed Xiaowei's newly-bought iPhone in a rage. Her summer life was changed after the quarrel. Facing the crisis of claiming compensation by her classmate, Li Qi chose to hide it from her mother, determined to keep it as her secret and solve the problem alone.

Subtitled

Original Language
Chinese

Director
Xuyu Zhang

Cinematographer
Sergio Silveira

Screenwriter
Xuyu Zhang

Producer
Zhijie Fan

Cast
Jingyi Huang, Yinan Wang, Ye Chai, Jianing Chen, Hongwei Wang, Chuang Chen, Xuanwen Huang



About the director

Xuyu Zhang, graduated from Bournemouth University, is a young Chinese filmmaker, one of the top five finalists of the 6th Young Shoots Program organized by China Film Director's Guild. Fishbone is his first feature film as director. Fishbone has won the Best Script Writer award in the Asian New Talents Section at the 26th Shanghai International Film Festival.



The Silent Planet

95 mins | Canada

An aging convict serving out a life sentence alone on a distant planet is forced to confront his past when a new prisoner shows up and pushes him to remember his life on earth.

Subtitled

Original Language
English

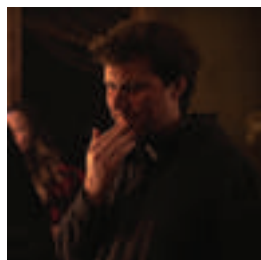
Director
Jeffrey St. Jules

Screenwriter
Jeffrey St. Jules

Sound Designer
T Krishnan Unni

Producer
Andrew Bronfman

Cast
Elias Koteas, Briana Middleton, Jonathan Bronfman, Jeff Sackman, Berry Meyerowitz



About the director

Jeffrey St. Jules, the first Canadian selected for the Cannes Festival Residence, developed his debut *Bang Bang Baby*, which won Best First Canadian Feature at TIFF and top prizes at Santa Barbara and the Canadian Screen Awards. His second feature, *Cinema of Sleep*, won Best Feature at Whistler. Known as "Canada's master of the surreal short form," his acclaimed shorts include *The Sadness of Johnson Joe Jangles*, *The Tragic Story of Nling*, and *Let the Daylight Into the Swamp*.



Deal at the Border

99 mins | Kyrgyzstan

Aza and Samat, two drug runners navigating the secret routes in the mountains of Central Asia, stumble upon Nazik, a young girl fleeing from slavery. When Nazik is recaptured by a local criminal, facing a grim return to captivity, Aza resolves to rescue her, whatever it takes.

Subtitled

Original Language

Kyrgyz

Director

Dastan Zhapar

Screenwriter

Aktan Zhapar

Producer

Suiumkan Sulaimanova, Dastan Ryskeldiev,
Avtandil Batyrbekov



About the director

Dastan Zhapar, a Kyrgyz filmmaker born in 1988, gained international recognition with *A Father's Will* (2016). The film won the Golden Zenith at Montreal World Film Festival and multiple awards at Minsk, Bengaluru, and Durban, including Best Feature and Best Direction. It was nominated for the Russian Nika Award and the Asia Pacific Screen Awards for Best Screenplay.



Twenty20

102 mins | Singapore

Jenny, a teenager striving for the perfect life, struggles with the weight of expectations while caring for her Asperger's brother. With an absent father, a high-powered mother, and a favorite teacher leaving, her frustrations peak when her drama club loses the championship. Unbeknownst to her, those around her are also facing their own challenges. A family crisis forces them to confront their differing views on perfection. Like the year 2020, the film marks a turning point—where shifting perspectives become essential for moving forward and embracing an uncertain yet hopeful future.

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
Kwang Han Wong

Screenwriter
Kwang Han Wong

Sound Designer

Producer
Ten Yee Chong

Cast
Brian Kuan Hui Lim, Chi Wan Lee, Siew Ping Tham, Meryl Yeo



About the director

Wong Kwang Han has been writing and making films since 2003 and directing theatre since 1997. An acting and theatre teacher, as well as an interpreter and translator, he co-founded Aporia Society and 2020 Productions. He also writes on arts and culture in Singapore. His debut feature, *Flights Through Darkness*, was showcased at the 2016 Jogja NETPAC Asian Film Festival and the 2017 ASEAN Film Festival.



The Stranger

80 mins | Bangladesh

Kajal, a child in rural Bangladesh, struggles with gender identity while living with their mother and terminally ill grandmother. Their absent father, Javed, suddenly returns, creating family tension. Kohinoor resents Javed, while his mother fails to recognize him. Javed insists Kajal be sent to boarding school, leading Kajal to run away. Found sick in an abandoned house, they recover to discover Javed has left, leaving a bicycle behind. As their grandmother's health declines, Kajal, wearing red lipstick, rides through the fields, embracing a new chapter of self-discovery.

Subtitled

Original Language
Bengali

Director
Biplob Sarkar

Screenwriter
Biplob Sarkar

Sound Designer
Alexander Precht

Producer
Biplob Sarkar, Tazul Haque

Cast
Ehan Rashid, Sahana Rahman Sumi, Ratan Deb, Ferdousi Majumdar



About the director

Biplob Sarkar, also known as Probir Kumar Sarkar, is a Bangladeshi filmmaker who studied Physics before turning to cinema. His debut feature, *The Stranger* (Agantuk), competed in Busan's New Currents section and won two awards at Film Bazaar 2022. His short films have screened internationally, winning Best Independent Short at ISIFF 2019. A former TV producer, he received Bangladesh's National Film Grant and the Exposition Young Talent grant. In 2016, he founded his production company, Moyo Kino.



Rukmini

97 mins | India

Rukmini, a strong and brave 16 year old gets forced into prostitution when her father sells her to a police officer. She grows up to become a fearless yet sensitive woman who later falls in love with her old childhood friend resulting in a series of truths, lies and sacrifices.

Subtitled

Original Language

Hindi

Director

Nilay Prashant Raje

Screenwriter

Kiran Prakash Thorat, Nilay Prashant Raje

Producer

Mr. K.P. Narayanan Kutty, Snehal Prabhakar Deshmukh

Cast

Snehal Prabhakar Deshmukh, Aryan Sanjay Singh, Umesh Jangam



About the director

Nilay Prashant Raje, born in Dombivli, Maharashtra, completed his BA in Filmmaking from Thakur College, Kandivali, Mumbai. While studying films, Nilay has directed multiple short films, ad films and music videos which have been heavily awarded at multiple film festivals



Five In The Afternoon (CINCO DA TARDE)

126 mins | Brazil

After her grandmother's death, Anabel, a 17-year-old girl, gets closer to Meiko, a shy neighbour. Slowly, this simple approach reveals hidden feelings and unlikely similarities. Returning to her grandmother's flat, Anabel finds a strange presence, which makes her understand better the moment in which she is now living.

Subtitled

Original Language
Portuguese

Director
Eduardo Nunes

Editor
Flávio Zettel

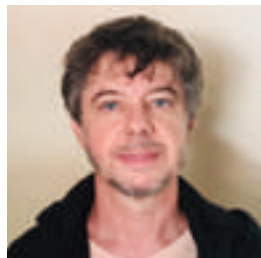
Cinematographer
Mauro Pinheiro JR

Screenwriter
Eduardo Nunes

Sound Designer
Maurício D'Orey, Pedro Marinho, Roberto Oliveira

Producer
Dai SONG

Cast
Barbara Luz, Sharon Blanche, Analu Prestes



About the director

Eduardo Nunes, born in 1969 in Niterói, Brazil, studied at UFF Film School and worked as an assistant director, producer, and editor. His short films, including *Sopro* (1994) and *Reminiscência* (2001), won over 40 awards at festivals like Rotterdam and Berlin. His debut feature, *Sudoeste* (2012), premiered at IFFR and won 23 international awards. *Unicórnio* (2017), adapted from Hilda Hilst's work, premiered at Berlinale. His third feature, *Five in the Afternoon*, continues his acclaimed filmmaking journey.



Cold Sigh

87 mins | Iran

Baha, a young boy from a border town, finds out that his father, Bahram, has been released from prison after twenty years. Bahram has killed his wife (Baha's mother) in the past accusing her cheating on him. Baha, who has never coped with this and is still full of anger and resentment, decides to take to the road to bring his father back from prison himself. Bahram and Baha start the trip while neither of them can say their words. Baha's doubts about taking revenge of his father do not leave him for a moment.

Subtitled

Original Language
Persian

Director
Nahid Sedigh



About the director

She was born in 1974. She's been the writer and director of several TV films and several TV documentaries. She also was the producer of Panah film. "Cold sigh" is her first feature film.



The Beginning

98 mins | China

Set in 1917, on the eve of the October Revolution, China was torn by warlord conflicts. Mao Zedong, a soon-to-graduate student, embarks on a thousand-mile journey with Xiao Zisheng, witnessing the struggles of the people. From poetic wanderings to harsh realities, Mao's experiences reshape his values, igniting his pursuit to save the nation. Using the aesthetics of Chinese landscape painting and long shots, the film presents a poetic, pilgrim-like journey of growth, rooted in natural harmony and oriental philosophy.

Subtitled

Original Language
Chinese

Director
Liu Zhihai

Editor
Hsiao-ming Hsu, Di Jin

DOP
Xinjun Mi

Screenwriter
Taoge Li, Zuhao Liu

Sound Designer
Dukar Tserang

Producer
Chong Ouyang, Xiang Zhang, Ju Ding

Cast
Zekai Luo, Weixin Chen



About the director

Liu Zhihai, a professor at the China Academy of Art, is a filmmaker, curator, and founder of the West Lake International Documentary Festival. Dedicated to Chinese poetic cinema, he promotes art films through education and research. His feature *Beyond the Skies* (2021) won multiple Tiantan Awards at BJIFF and screened at SIFF, TIFF, and Kyoto. His works include *Illegal Being* and *Son of Sun*, along with documentaries like *Patriotic Chinese Around the World* and *JIADINGing 800*.

NEPAL PANORAMA

4 narrative feature films from Nepal





Pujar Sarki

136 mins | Nepal

Three individuals unite against societal norms perpetuating caste discrimination, facing challenges in their collective struggle to defy the existing caste-based social order.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Dinesh Raut

Screenwriter
Bikash Subedi

Producer
Subash Bhusal

Producer
Aaryan Sigdel, Pradip Khadka, Purna Bikram Shah, Anjana Baraili



About the director

Dinesh Raut began his career as a theater artist at 14 and later assisted in *Mero Euta Sathi Cha* before directing his debut, *I Am Sorry* (2012). His breakout film, *November Rain* (2014), won him Best Director awards at Box Office Movies and CG DCine. *Classic* (2016) and *Parva* (2017) were major successes. His film *Prakash* (2022) earned Best Director awards at NERUFF, SBIFF, and PIM Nepal. Raut is also a lyricist for several of his films.



Satidevi

130 mins | Nepal

Kul Bahadur, who accused his wife of not being able to give birth to a son, has four daughters. He wants a son anyway. Satidevi, the eldest of the daughters, steals a baby boy for make her father happy, But that happiness cannot last even for a few days. Satidevi is expelled from the village. Satidevi is a story of daughters' struggle for their father's happiness, daughters' sacrifices, dedication and love.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Laxman Subedi

Screenwriter
Laxman Subedi

Producer
Dilasa Creation Pvt Ltd

Cast
Malika Mahat, Harshika Oli, Manjila Baniya



About the director

Laxman Subedi is a famous film Journalist, Film Writer, Lyricist, Producer and Director. He has directed Eauta Saathi (a Friend), Laal Jodi (Lovely Couple) & Satidevi (a Nepalese lady's name) so far. He is making movies since last 1 decade. His every movie depicts a social issues. He believes in content, Satidevi is his highly appreciated and acclaimed movie, in this movie he has shown the greatness of daughters in the Nepalese Society.



Sano Sansar (2024)

143 mins | Nepal

Lila Bahadur and Sanu Maya are raising two daughters, Sujata, a 28-year-old manager who feels underestimated by her father due to his past financial mistakes, and Sara, a 20-year-old high school graduate with big dreams of studying in the US. When Sara reveals she has secretly applied to the US and needs 10 lakh to continue, family tensions reach a breaking point. Sujata's resentment toward her father grows, and Sara's ambitions further strain their already fragile relationships. Meanwhile, Lila and Sanu Maya struggle with their own financial hardships and the emotional burden of their son, Laxman's continued silence from abroad.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Siddhartha Pudasaini

Editor
Romi Moses Tandukar

DOP
Prabin Khadka

Screenwriter
Sarisma Khatri, Siddhartha Pudasaini

Producer
Arjun Kumar Dangol

Cast
Anjasha Rijal, Anu Dahal, Raj Pangeni Sharma, Sita Devi Timilsena



About the director

Siddhartha Pudasaini is a skilled director and writer known for projects like Sano Sansar: Stories of Middle Class, Crime Patrol Nepal, and Sambandhak. As the founder and CEO of Tunamuna Production, he manages all stages of production. He also served as showrunner and director for Chef Nepal. With expertise in scriptwriting, acting, photography, and graphic design, Siddhartha blends his diverse skills to create compelling narratives. He holds a Bachelor's in Film Studies and a BBS in Accounting and Finance.



Crawling Crows – Aankha

109 mins | Nepal

In the slums of Kathmandu, newlyweds Rabindra and Sarita, an inter-caste couple, face harsh realities. Rabindra, a waste picker with idealistic views, struggles to provide for their modest home, while Sarita depends on his meager earnings. After a misunderstanding leads to Sarita being threatened, she insists on moving to a concrete room. Sarita takes up cleaning jobs, working for a wealthy woman and dreaming of a better life. However, an accident involving Rabindra's cart deepens their hardship. *Crawling Crows* explores the stark wealth disparity in Nepal, presenting a slow-burning narrative of survival, ideals, and societal marginalization.

Subtitled

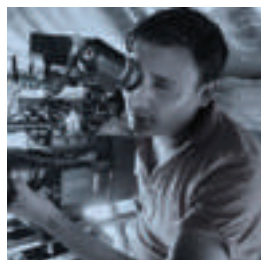
Original Language
Nepali

Director
Zaun Yonzan

Screenwriter
Zaun Yonzan

Producer
Zaun Yonzan

Cast
Smita Lamichane, RK Mehta, Pashupati Rai,
Budhi Tamang, Nisha Adhikari



About the director

Zaun Yonzan is an independent filmmaker based in South Asia, Nepal. Zaun works on local independent film productions in Nepal and School teacher in Lower Secondary School. Zaun sometimes gets ideas for the characters in his films from his School teaching experience. He is currently working in Nepali Film Industry and graduated his film School in 2017.

DOCS@NIFF

9 international documentaries





Himalayan Dreams – Tales of Lhasa Newar Traders

40 mins | Canada, Nepal

Subtitled

Himalayan Dreams - Tales of Lhasa Newar Traders recounts the century old trade relationship and the deep connections between Nepal and Tibet from the voices of the traders and their surviving family members. The film is a unique historical story of the lives of of Newar traders, the cultural and religious connections, the loves lost and their continuing relevance in the 21st century.

Original Language

English, Nepali, Tibetan

Director

Tenzing Jigme (Tuladhar), Loonibha Tuladhar

Producer

Pramod Karki, Govinda Khanal



About the director

Loonibha Tuladhar is an Actor/Director/Film maker/Acting Coach and a Mother based in Kathmandu Nepal. She has played in several films in Nepal and had been involved in several film projects raising awareness on social issues like Aids. @loonibhatuladhar

This film is Tenzing Jigme's (Tuladhar) first foray into documentary film -making. He currently lives in Canada. He wanted to make this film based on this personal connection to this history, a connection even shared by his co-director, Loonibha Tuladhar. @tenzings



Girmit – The Fields of Sadness

87 mins | New Zealand

This heartbreaking film tells the story of Fiji's Indian indentured workers, the Girmityas, who endured profound suffering between 1879 and 1920. Over 60,000 Indians were brought to Fiji under conditions resembling slavery, forced to work in brutal sugar cane fields under British rule. Through the personal narratives of their descendants and grandchildren, the film unveils the untold story of their endurance, broken promises, and the lasting legacy of resilience. It highlights the brutal realities of their lives, aiming to illuminate this forgotten history and honor the experiences of those who endured immense suffering during this dark period.

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
Shyam Upadhyay

Producer
Rajendra Prasad, Aruna Prasad, Shyam Upadhyay



About the director

Shyam Upadhyay began his filmmaking journey as an Associate Director in Mumbai and New Zealand. His latest project, *Unseen World*, is set to debut at international film festivals. He made his directorial debut with *Waiting For You*, an Indo-Kiwi collaboration, which premiered in Auckland. As a Line Producer, he contributed to the award-winning *Putani Party*. Shyam has directed and produced several documentaries and worked as an Assistant Director on various films, including *A Small Life* and *Edith Collier*.



The Nose Knows: Foreignness and Fortune in China

23 mins | Singapore, United Kingdom

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
Bill Callahan, Kieran Hanson

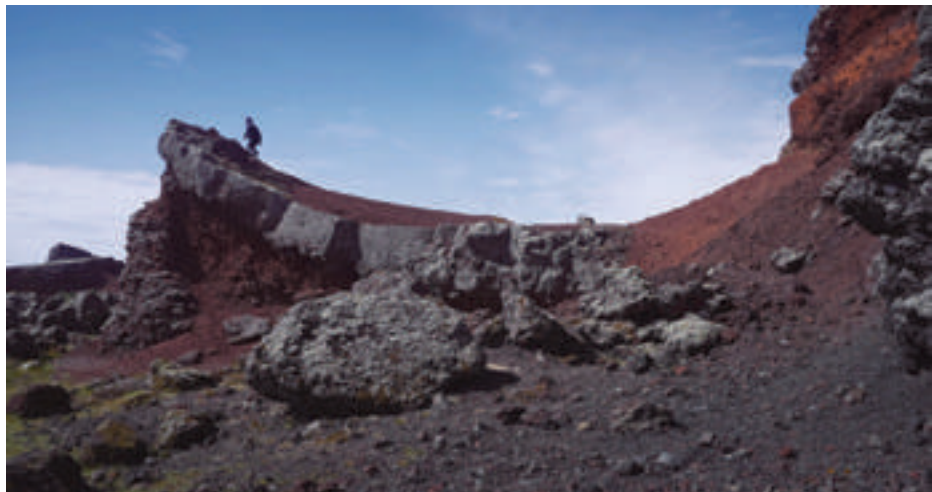
Producer
Bill Callahan

What can noses tell us Chinese identity, and the PRC's increasingly important place in the world? There are so many different kinds of noses. But what can they tell us? Can they be political? Throughout Chinese history, noses have been used to separate Chinese people from foreigners. In the present day, they can also be the key to changing your destiny. If we know more about noses, perhaps we can better understand how China sees itself and its increasingly important place in the world.



About the director

Bill Callahan is a director and producer at Sensible Films, creating films about China and the world, including *Great Walls* (2020), *China Bound 1964* (2018), and *Toilet Adventures* (2015). He taught visual international politics and filmmaking at the London School of Economics and is now based in Singapore. Kieran Hanson is a director, producer, and Visiting Lecturer at the University of Manchester, specializing in ethnographic and documentary films, with works like *What We Do Here* (2018) and *Shooting Freetown* (2011).



On Melting Snow

73 mins | Belgium

Each landscape reflects a memory of our planet, memories that have been cruelly divided by time and man-made political borders. For the past 33 years, Sophie Cauvin has been on a journey to engage with these transformed landscapes, collecting and reuniting these fragmented memories, and immortalizing them in her astonishing art creations.

Subtitled

Original Language
French

Director
Mojtaba Bahadori

Screenwriter
Mojtaba Bahadori

Producer
Mojtaba Bahadori, Sophie Cauvin

Cast
Sophie Cauvin



About the director

Mojtaba Bahadori is a filmmaker, photographer, and visual artist whose work blends personal narratives with poetic minimalism. After studying cinema at the Art University of Tehran and in Paris, he collaborated with the Louis Lumière School. His anthropological photography earned the IBDAA Award, and his gemology studies in Antwerp inspired his art. Bahadori's film *On Melting Snow* explores humanity's relationship with nature and art, reflecting his deep connection to both.



Mother of Snow Cranes

78 mins | Finland

Over 90 years old, Ellen Vuosalo has lived many lives. First as a Finnish immigrant in Canada, then as an American citizen and student of zoology at UCLA and finally as a Mother of Cranes in Iran. Iiris Härmä's *Mother of Snow Cranes* tells the story of an incredible woman's extraordinary life, from love to tragedy to revolution. It is a story about nature, humanity, and the role of women in both the West and Iranian culture. Or as Ellen herself says "What a life! What a world!"

Subtitled

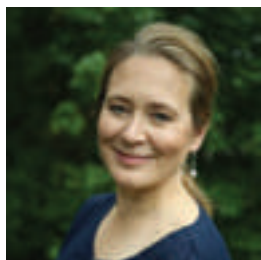
Original Language
English

Director
Iiris Härmä

Cinematographer
Visa Koiso-Kanttila

Producer
Visa Koiso-Kanttila

Cast
Ellen Vuosalo



About the director

Iiris Härmä is an award-winning director and producer with over 20 years of filmmaking experience. Her work has taken her from Japanese humanoid robot labs to indigenous lands in Kenya, addressing issues such as youth marginalization, loneliness, gender equality, and artificial intelligence. Her films have earned international acclaim at festivals like IDFA and Hotdocs, and have been broadcast on networks like ARTE, NHK, and Netflix. Härmä is a co-founder of Guerilla Films production company.



Mic Drop

27 mins | India

In a region where the native language is often overlooked, a young Bundelkhandi (a tribal dialect) rapper from Madhya Pradesh, India works tirelessly on his first album. As he faces financial struggles and a lack of resources, the question remains: will he be able to make it and at what cost?

Subtitled

Original Language

Hindi

Director

Kallol Mukherjee

Editor

Kamal Gupta, Ankit Burman

Cinematographer

Yash Dubey

Screenwriter

Roopa Barua

Sound Designer

Jahnab Roy

Producer

Public Service Broadcasting Trust,
Uncombed Buddha Films

Cast

FPC ANK



About the director

Kallol Mukherjee is a Mumbai-based filmmaker from Jabalpur, who recently served as an Associate Director on an OTT documentary series co-produced by Juggernaut and Applause Entertainment. His student short documentary "Khor" received accolades at IDSFFK 2022 and "Badariya" at IDSFFK 2023. His feature film "Who am I?"—for which he also penned the screenplay and dialogues—was released in theatres and streamed on JioCinema. Currently, he works as an Associate Creative Director for a feature documentary film for DocuBay OTT. "Mic Drop" is his debut short documentary by PSBT, India.



Prelude of a Story

17 mins | Chile

After a mother's passing, a daughter searches through archival footage to understand who she was, and how it connects to the father's abusive relationship that is shaping her understanding of womanhood.

Subtitled

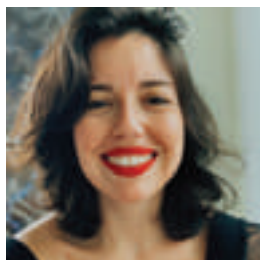
Original Language
English, Spanish

Director
Ashley Salman

Editor
Karina Sandoval

Cinematographer
Ashley Salman

Screenwriter
Ashley Salman, Karina Sandoval



About the director

Ashley Salman is a Chilean-American filmmaker and Director of Photography, graduated from the University of Chile and based in the US. She has worked on films like "I'm Still Here" (Hot Docs 2017) and "La Huella en el Agua" (Femcine 2020). She has been a Berlinale Talents selectee and has participated in major festivals like Cannes and TIFF. Currently based in Atlanta, she's working on her debut documentary feature, "The Witch Old Story," and a prison reform documentary.



The Taste of Honey

15 mins | Bangladesh

A resilient tiger widow from the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans (Bangladesh), Shorbanu Khatun, grapples with the relentless impacts of climate change, struggling to provide for her children while preserving the endangered traditions of honey and Gol leaf collecting amidst a world of increasing storms, salinity, and societal ostracism.

Subtitled

Original Language
Bengali

Director
Mohammad Rakibul Hasan, Fabeha Monir

Screenwriter
Mohammad Rakibul Hasan, Fabeha Monir

Producer
Afsaneh Angelina Rafii, Madeleine Bazil

Cast
Shorbanu Khatun



About the director

Mohammad Rakibul Hasan is a Bangladeshi-born photographer, filmmaker, and visual artist known for his humanitarian work. With over two decades of experience, he has captured pressing global issues, earning international recognition. Hasan holds multiple degrees in photography and filmmaking from renowned institutions. His awards include the Lucie Award, One World Media Awards, and PX3 Prix de la Photographie. His work has been showcased in global festivals such as Photo Basel, Berlin Photo Festival, and the Indian Photo Festival.



I Take Refuge (Saranam Gacchami)

19 mins | United States

A visionary Buddhist Monk, hailing from the Himalayan foothills of Nepal, leads one of the Bay Area's largest Tibetan Monasteries, an invaluable sanctuary for Tibetan culture and community in diaspora. He wears many hats at the monastery—prayer leader, spiritual guide, gardener, and Halloween party planner! Now, nearing retirement, he hopes to find a worthy successor to carry forward the Monastery's legacy.

Subtitled

Original Language
English, Tibetan

Director
Priyanka Suryaneni

Editor
Prakshi Mallik, Hena Ashraf

Cinematographer
Priyanka Suryaneni, Erika Staud

Sound Designer
Andre Traveras

Producer
Priyanka Suryaneni



About the director

Priyanka Suryaneni is a Bay Area-based media entrepreneur, documentarian, and visual storyteller from India. Fluent in five languages, she has worked across various platforms, including Bollywood with Yash Raj Films. As the founder of Pensar Creations, she produced over 50 corporate films and short documentaries on social justice issues. A USC Annenberg graduate, Priyanka specializes in narrative and verité-style documentaries. Her work has earned accolades such as the LA Press Club Fellowship and selection for BAVC Connect Mentee.

NATIONAL DOCS

6 national documentaries





Devi

80 mins | Nepal

In 1997, seventeen-year-old Devi, was arrested, accused of being a rebel, tortured, and raped in custody. A civil war had just begun. Rebel leaders revealed her as a rape 'victim'. Tagged with this shameful taboo, Devi battled depression, social ostracism, joined the rebel frontlines, and rose through the ranks, even serving as a member of the parliament when the war ended. Shot as an immersive verité, the film travels with Devi, as she consolidates the voices of survivors. As Devi confronts her former lawyer and her counselor, the film dives into deeply intimate and vulnerable moments. Through her diary, supported by archives and sweeping images, Devi reconstructs history erased to rewrite her new destiny.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Subina Shrestha

Producer
Rosie Garthwaite, Asmita/Aruna Khadka,
Heejung Oh



About the director

Subina Shrestha is a filmmaker and journalist known for pushing boundaries in storytelling. Her work spans from print stories in The New York Times to short fiction in virtual reality. Documentaries for Al Jazeera have been used by prestigious institutions like Columbia Journalism School and SOAS, and her coverage of Nepal's earthquake earned her an Emmy nomination. She was nominated for the Rory Peck Award for undercover reporting in Myanmar and is a 2017 Nieman fellow at Harvard.



MUKTI

27 mins | Nepal

Sagar, orphaned at 23, seeks solace in solitary travels, exploring remote villages like Doti. Meanwhile, in Kotigaun, Dev faces similar struggles. Despite the distance, an inexplicable connection ties them together, their shared burdens weaving a mysterious bond.

Subtitled

Original Language

Nepali

Director

Gaurav Ayer

Screenwriter

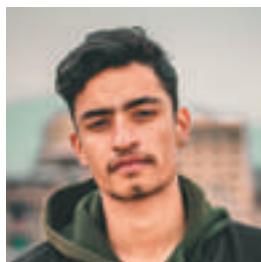
Gaurav Ayer

Producer

Gauri Oli

Cast

Guddu, Sagar Ayer, Nabaraj Joshi, Dev B.K



About the director

Gaurav Ayer, born in Kathmandu in 2001, began his filmmaking journey in 2017, starting with video editing before exploring scriptwriting, cinematography, and visual storytelling. He gained recognition directing music videos for Albatross Nepal and other artists, while also collaborating with brands like NMB Bank. His documentary work on Building Education showcases his versatility. With a passion for suspense/thriller, Gaurav aims to establish himself in the industry through short films before venturing into feature filmmaking.



No Monastery No Village

28 mins | Nepal

Halzi village, located in far north-western Nepal, is home to the 11th-century Halzi Rinchenling Buddhist Monastery, a cultural treasure facing imminent danger. Situated just 6.5 kilometers below a perilous glacier prone to destructive glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), the monastery is at great risk. Despite warnings from international glaciologists of the impending threat, Buddhist monk Sonam and female yak herder Pema, along with 500 other villagers, are unwilling to abandon their home. Believing that religious observance will protect the monastery, the community convenes to discuss potential solutions and what can be done to preserve their heritage.

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
Tashi Lhazom

Editor
Sanjeev Ratna Shakya

Cinematographer
Amar Maharjan

Screenwriter
Andej Adhakari

Producer
Santa Nepali, Nimesh Puri



About the director

Tashi Lhazom hails from Limi Valley in northwestern Nepal. She is a climate justice activist, indigenous storyteller, and independent filmmaker whose work focuses on identity politics, climate change and grassroots empowerment. She is also a co-founder of Limi Unity Cooperative Society which promotes community-based eco-friendly tourism. As a youth leader, Tashi aims to harness the power of young minds to promote generational change.



Girls Rewriting Destiny

34 mins | Nepal

This documentary chronicles the inspiring journey of 27 courageous women from diverse and marginalized backgrounds as they embark on their first expedition to conquer the 5,863-meter Ganja La Chuli in Sindhupalchok, Nepal. Led by famous mountaineer Maya Gurung, these women set out from the south-eastern route with a mission that extends beyond reaching the summit—they seek to advocate for sustainable development, environmental protection, and women's empowerment. Through powerful narrative, the film illustrates how this historic climbing adventure transforms into a profound statement of unity, strength, and change for the region and beyond.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Lawa Pyakurel

Producer
Lawa Pyakurel, Maya Gurung

Cast
Maya Gurung, Sarswoti Tamang, Manmaya Tamang, Pabitra Bisawakarma



About the director

Lawa Pyakurel is a renowned figure in Nepal's documentary film industry, with over two decades of experience in editing, filmmaking, conceptualization, and narration. Known for his versatility, he has made a significant impact across documentaries, feature films, TV commercials, and short films. His collaborations with top television stations and production houses have cemented his legacy. Pyakurel is dedicated to preserving historical accuracy and artistic integrity through meaningful discussions and in-depth studies of visual archives.



Chhesang – The Untold Story

12 mins | Nepal

An empowering untold period story of Chhesang 21-year-old who is enduring the gender dysphoria, and hoping for acceptance.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Rajeela Shrestha

Producer
Rajeela Shrestha



About the director

Rajeela Shrestha is a filmmaker based in Kathmandu. A graduate from Oscar International College in Direction and Screenplay writing; she believes that visual storytelling helps people understand the complexities of the world a bit better. She is currently developing her first feature documentary “A Place Where Rhododendrons Bloom”. She is a 2023 Global Media Makers fellow at Film Independent.



Udne Sapana – A Dream of Flight

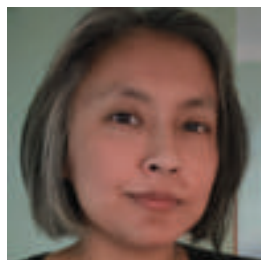
11 mins | Nepal

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Deepa Shrestha

In 2009, an agreement was made between the government and Kang community forest and Mothiyahi community forest in Jogidaha, Udaypur. A portion of the forest was to be cleared to build an airport, with promises of economic growth and prosperity for the local people. But years have passed, the forest is gone, yet the airport is nowhere to be seen. Politicians continue to use the project as a tool to secure votes during every election- promises are made about the airport, but the reality remains the same. No one seems to be taking responsibility for what has been lost—156 hectares of land cleared in the name of development.



About the director

Deepa Shrestha is an independent visual artist based in Sankhuwasabha and Kathmandu, Nepal. Her work explores and experiments with various visual mediums such as photography, video, and sketches. She is deeply curious about human and non-human experiences and the complex layers that shape them. She also uses personal narratives to shape her work.

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

32 narrative short films





Mother

29 mins | Poland

Paulina (35 years old) is out on parole after serving a prison sentence for the murder of her husband Andrzej. She returns to her hometown to meet her 11-year-old son Nikodem. Jadwiga (55 years old), Paulina's mother-in-law who takes care of Nikodem, does not want this meeting to take place. She is still grieving the loss of her son, Andrzej, and is unable to forgive Paulina for what she did. The film deals with domestic violence and its consequences.

Subtitled

Original Language
Polish

Director
Sebastian Kwizdiński

Screenwriter
Sebastian Kwizdiński

Producer
Maciej Ślesicki

Cast
Maria Pakulnis, Magdalena Maścianica,
Piotr Witkowski, Aleksander Szachniewicz



About the director

Sebastian Kwizdiński (born April 27, 1979) is an Polish filmmaker, director and screenwriter. Education: Wajda School Warsaw Film School Filmography: - "Matka" (english title: "Mother"), the diploma film "Warsaw Film School" - "Fabryka"(english title: "Factory"), short animation(clay stop motion) - "Winda" (english title: "Elevator"), short movie



OCD

18 mins | India

A couple's life goes haywire during COVID. But not because of coronavirus. Yamini and Adway haven't even started their new life together when the all-India lockdown hits them hard. And what triggers panic across the world also ends up setting off Yamini's OCD. One minute they are discussing and dreaming about the future together in the new home and the next instant she loses control of herself. While the world braces to battle a new virus, Adway has a new battle to face.

Subtitled

Original Language

Marathi

Director

Ashutosh Balchandra Pagare

Screenwriter

Ashutosh Balchandra Pagare

Producer

Ashutosh Balchandra Pagare, Amol Jadhav, Swapnil Gandhi

Cast

Madhura Gokarn, Abhay Manachekar



About the director

Ashutosh Balchandra Pagare has been an advertising specialist for 25 years, always harboring a passion for filmmaking. Over the years, he has directed ad films and worked as Chief Assistant Director on two Marathi films. His first professional short film marks a significant step in his journey, receiving an overwhelmingly positive response. This success has further fueled his inspiration to continue making films, with his next project already in the works.



Anaar Daana

20 mins | India

Guddal, a free spirited 5 year old girl along with her younger brother Laddoo and older sister Chinu live in their ancestral home with a nanny(Aaya Didi) to look after them. Guddal and Laddoo are on a series of shenanigans orchestrated by Guddal. Her mischief lands her in trouble and she is punished. But the news of the death of her ailing grandmother and the flow of relatives in her idyllic space leave her perplexed. The film looks at the spirit of childhood even in the grimmest of times.

Subtitled

Original Language
Hindi

Director
Nishi Dugar

Editor
Pavan Theurkar

Cinematographer
Ashwin Ameri

Screenwriter
Nishi Dugar

Sound Designer
Dawn Vincent

Producer
Nishi Dugar

Cast
Veda Agrawal, Lavya Jain, Manav Hinduja



About the director

Nishi Dugar is a filmmaker and cinematographer from Jaipur, India. She studied Cinematography at the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, and holds a Bachelor's in Multimedia from Saint Xavier's College, Kolkata. A member of the Indian Women Cinematographer's Collective, she has worked extensively as a second-unit cinematographer and camera operator. Passionate about intimate human stories, she returned to her Rajasthani roots for her directorial debut, *Anaar Daana*, her first short film.



Happy Wedding Anniversary

15 mins | Germany

“Happy Wedding Anniversary” tells the story of SIMON and JULIA’s desperate efforts to make their forgotten first wedding anniversary unforgettable after all. The search for a present almost leads to the end of the marriage because Julia finds a pair of red panties under the bed that are not hers. A metal band suddenly appears, adding to the chaos.

Subtitled

Original Language
German

Director
Nadja Beinert

Screenwriter
Paul Markurt, Nadja Beinert

Producer
Nadja Beinert

Cast
Luan Gummich, Julia Anna Grob,
Dierk Prawdzik



About the director

Nadja Beinert, born in 1978 in Staßfurt, Germany, studied Business Administration at Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg. Since 2007, she has worked in film and television as a production assistant, script supervisor, and first assistant director. A bestselling author of historical novels with publishers like Knauer and Ullstein, she combines creativity with structured work. In 2024, she directed her first short film, Happy Wedding Anniversary.



The Steak

8 mins | Iran

A birthday party preparation is thrown into chaos by an awful event.

Subtitled

Original Language
No Dialogue

Director
Kiarash Dadgar

Editor
Amin Enteshari

DOP
Farzad Shahab

Screenwriter
Kiarash Dadgar, Ali Narimani

Sound Designer
Abdolreza Heydari

Producer
Kiarash Dadgar

Cast
Faranak Khamis, Amin Simiar,
Panisa Peyvaght



About the director

Kiarash Dadgar is an award-winning Iranian film and theatre artist with an MA in Dramatic Literature from Soore Art University. His debut film, *The Steak* (2023), screened at festivals like Slamdance, Tirana, and RiverRun, winning multiple awards, including the AGBO Award. His production *Jouissance* (2022) premiered at BUSAN IFF. Currently pursuing an MFA in Film at York University, Toronto, he is developing his first feature, *Graveyard*, with AGBO Studio in Hollywood.



CURA SANA

18 mins | Spain

JESSICA and ALMA, two sisters in a situation of domestic violence, will begin to treat each other with love instead of violence through one of their routine trips to the food stamp office on the night of San Juan, a Spanish holiday.

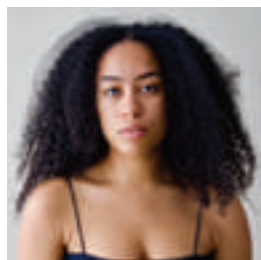
Subtitled

Original Language
Spanish

Director
Lucía G. Romero

Screenwriter
Lucía G. Romero

Producer
Ruth Porro, Borja Nández



About the director

Lucía G. Romero is a Spanish director born in Barcelona in 1999. She earned a full scholarship to ESCAC film school, where she completed a master's degree in film directing. Her graduation film, *Cura Sana*, is an autobiographical work deeply connected to her Cuban roots and rich in political consciousness.



Bullet, Buddha, Bastille

14 mins | China

After spending many years in the city, a Tibetan man named BaWu returns to his long-abandoned pastoral homeland with a heavy heart. As soon as he arrives home, he encounters his younger brother, who has just returned from herding cattle. In the awkwardness of familiarity mixed with estrangement, they work together to return a lost foal to its owner, subtly rekindling the bond of their old familial ties.

Subtitled

Original Language
Tibetan

Director
Xincheng Song

Screenwriter
Xincheng Song

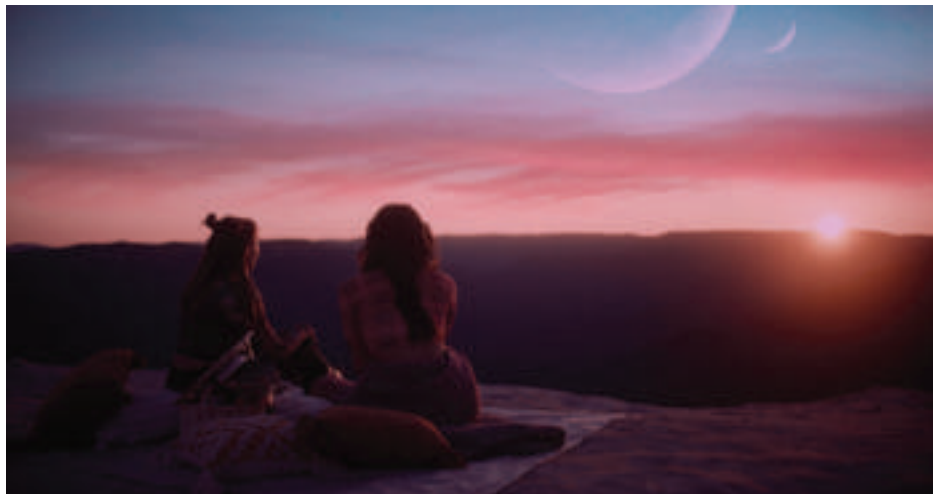
Producer
Xincheng Song

Cast
Ba Wu



About the director

Song Xincheng graduated from the Shanghai Film Art Academy with a degree in Animation. After joining Dragon TV in 2012 as a director and producer for Let's Talk Tonight, he transitioned into media and advertising, working with brands like Fashion One, Nike, TOM FORD, ARMANI, and Lancôme. Since 2020, he has focused on independent filmmaking, where his distinctive artistic style—marked by visual precision, rhythmic storytelling, and deep human empathy—has earned him recognition both domestically and internationally.



Dreamlink

19 mins | Australia

The crumbling relationship between an influencer mother and her neglected daughter finds an unexpected remedy in DreamLink, a revolutionary app merging dreams and reality that promises to connect them with the person they need most.

Original Language
English

Director
Kalani Gacon

Screenwriter
Helena Zadro-Jones

Producer
Riley Saxton, Helena Zadro-Jones

Cast
Chloe Engels, Ebony Nave, Eva Chen,
Liliana De La Rosa



About the director

Kalani Gacon is an Australian filmmaker from Katoomba who tells stories of disappearing ways of life and human resilience. He has worked across four continents, including Hollywood productions like *Upside Down Magic* and *Riverdale*. Since 2015, he has lived in Nepal, using filmmaking for social impact. His films *Bhukampa*, *Journey to the Centre of the Heart*, and *Sapana ko Awaz* have garnered international acclaim. In 2022, he founded Mountain of Youth, a filmmaking mentorship program for at-risk youth.



The Professional Parent

15 mins | Slovakia

Ingrid lives in a small village in eastern Slovakia, where the Roma population is the victim of a tenacious stigma. Despite this, Ingrid decides to become the legal representative of a young Roma girl, which upsets the fragile balance of her home.

Subtitled

Original Language
Romany, Slovak

Director
Erik Jasaň

Editor
Catalin Cristutiu

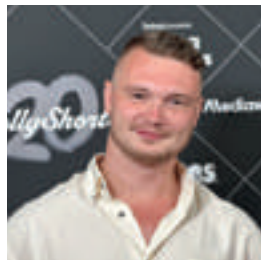
DOP
Tudor Mircea

Screenwriter
Erik Jasaň, Marta Parlato

Sound Designer
Ivan Horák

Producer
Erik Jasaň, Marian Crisan

Cast
Ela Lehotská, Oľga Solárová, Klára Svitekova, Mariana Krokova, Andrej Šoltés



About the director

Erik Jasaň graduated dramatic art at the Conservatory in Bratislava, then he completed the Further Education of Film Language at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. As a director, he deals with sensitive topics that affect the inhabitants of eastern Slovakia. His short films premiered at Academy Awards Oscar festivals such as the Bengaluru, Cine Lebu, HollyShorts, Balinale or Thomas Edison. He is the recipient of the Trenčín city award from the Association of European Cities of Peace.



AMARELA

15 mins | Brazil

On the day of the World Cup final between Brazil and France, Erika Oguihara, a Japanese-Brazilian teenager who rejects her family traditions, experiences a violence that seems invisible and plunges into a painful sea of emotions.

Subtitled

Original Language

Japanese, Portuguese

Director

André Hayato Saito

Screenwriter

André Hayato Saito

Producer

Mayra Faour Auad, Gabrielle Auad

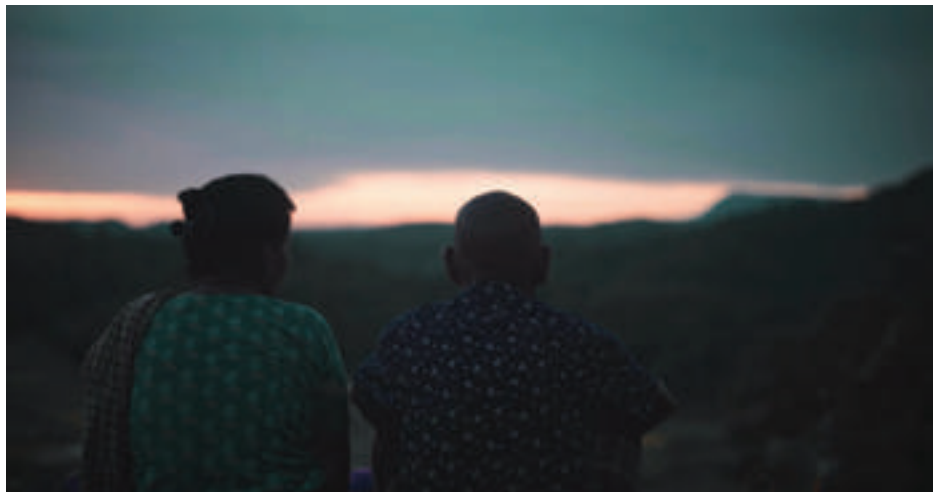
Cast

Melissa Uehara



About the director

André Hayato Saito is a Japanese-Brazilian scriptwriter and director. His short films were selected by festivals like Cannes, TIFF, and others. Recently, Saito joined Torino Feature Lab and TIFF Filmmaker Lab with his debut feature film, selected by markets like OntarioCreates and FocusCoPro.



A Snail Without Shell

15 mins | Bangladesh

In a Garo tribal village facing displacement, an elderly couple clings to their broken home and the hope of seeing their grandson, a firefighter from Chittagong, Bangladesh. Excitement turns to sorrow as he fails to arrive, unaware of the tragedy that claimed his life. Their hearts ache with the weight of loss, and the once joyous village weeps in silence, leaving their simple home echoing with unfulfilled love and longing. The old couple never learns why their grandson didn't come, leaving them with an eternal mystery to accompany their grief.

Subtitled

Original Language
Bengali

Director
Mohin Rakhaine

Editor
Ahsabul Yamin, Mohin Rakhaine

Cinematographer
Samiul Karim Shuptak

Screenwriter
Mohin Rakhaine

Sound Designer
Rajesh Saha

Producer
Manoj Pramanik

Cast
Subinath Mankhin, Projota Raksam



About the director

Mohin Rakhaine is a Bangladeshi filmmaker from the Rakhaine indigenous community, focusing on stories of indigenous and tribal groups. A graduate of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, his short film *A Snail Without Shell* has screened at international festivals like the New York Asian Film Festival and Dharamshala IFF, earning an Honorable Mention at the Hill Film Festival. He is developing *Tsirima*, a feature based on Rakhaine mythology, and *Kawrangdongke*, a documentary on Mru teenage girls.



Heavy Weight

14 mins | South Korea

High school student SeeWoo was playing with his little sister, SeoYeon, at home when a water balloon thrown by SeoYeon accidentally fell out the window, resulting in the death of the child living upstairs. The only ones who know the truth are SeeWoo and his mother. SeeWoo hesitates out of fear, but his mother strongly opposes his desire to confess.

Subtitled

Original Language
Korean

Director
Sea-Hoon Jeon

Editor
Yun-Ho

DOP
Young-Chan Cho

Screenwriter
Sea-Hoon Jeon

Sound Designer
Jun-Gu Chang

Producer
Sea-Hoon Jeon



About the director

Sea-Hoon Jeon was born in South Korea and spent 16 years studying in China, completing his elementary, middle, high school, and college education there. He is currently a graduate student at Hanyang University's Department of Theater and Film in South Korea.



The Time Lost

16 mins | Pakistan

Alice is a widely renowned clockmaker who has been living a solitary life after her granddaughter "Eleanor" left her to pursue her own passion and happiness. The event left Alice heart broken, and her legacy abandoned. After Eleanor's unprecedented departure, Alice's quest for her unconditional happiness begins. Soon, a young lady from the Southern fields who admires the art of clock making enters Alice's life. Alice finally finds a reflection of her granddaughter. The poetic journey of the three women narrates the value of time.

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
Eman Munir

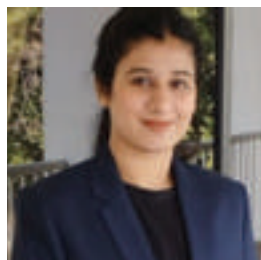
Editor
Eman Munir

Cinematographer
Eman Munir, Vishal Kodwani

Screenwriter
Eman Munir

Sound Designer
Huzaifa Ahmed

Producer
Eman Munir



About the director

Eman Munir is a filmmaker from Pakistan. She started her journey as an independent filmmaker with almost no financial resources. She got into film studies on a Merit Scholarship in her country and then competed in a National Film Festival that she won. The festival provided her with a one-year scholarship to the New York Film Academy. Her documentary had also won Pakistan's Information Ministry contest and was screened in Washington. Initially, she began with Cinematography which made her overcome the challenges in the male-dominated department of filmmaking.



Cross My Heart and Hope To Die

17 mins | Philippines

Mila struggles as she remains unpaid at work and a love interest becomes a source of comfort through his constant phone calls. But a promise of hope may also lead to tragedy and sad love songs.

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
Sam Manacsa

Editor
Carlo Francisco Manatad

DOP
Martika Ramirez-Escobar

Screenwriter
Sam Manacsa

Sound Designer
Sum-Sum Shen, Ilya Selikhov

Producer
Chad Cabigon, Carlo Francisco Manatad

Cast
Jorrybell Agoto



About the director

Sam Manacsa worked as Art Director on award-winning films such as Carlo Francisco Manatad's *Whether the Weather Is Fine*. Her short film, *If People Such as We Cease to Exist* (2016), was selected at Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Competition. Her first feature, *The Void Is Immense on Idle Hours*, is currently in development.



Sunflower Girl

13 mins | United States

Rosie, a 13-year-old Chinese-American girl, embarks on a skateboarding escapade through the streets of New York with her crush and his best friend - at the cost of abandoning her little sister and never delivering a forgotten lunchbox.

Subtitled

Original Language
English, Yue Chinese (Cantonese)

Director
Holly M. Kaplan

Editor
Hailey Choi

Cinematographer
Zhejiang Michael Cong

Screenwriter
Holly M. Kaplan

Sound Designer
Delu Duan

Producer
Thibault Bilien



About the director

Holly M. Kaplan is a Chinese-American filmmaker from New York City. In 2022, she was selected for NALIP & NETFLIX's "Latino Lens: Narrative Short Film Incubator for Women of Color," funding her first solo-directed project, *Sunflower Girl*. Passionate about diversity and Asian diaspora narratives, she holds a BA in Film & Media Arts from American University and studied at FAMU International Prague. She has worked with Ben Barenholtz, Lisa Soper, and Alex Pillai on *Pretty Little Liars: Original Sin* (HBO/Max).



To My Friend

10 mins | Palestine

The film *To My Friend* begins when the protagonist tells his wife about a peculiar letter from his late friend Masoud, who died years ago, sparking a heated conversation. Is he provoking her? Has he lost his grip on reality? Is the letter real or a figment of his imagination? The film navigates the depths of human conscience, intertwining past and present in a haunting exploration of fear, grief, and unresolved pain. Inspired by Ghassan Kanafani's *A World Not Ours*, it portrays a relentless struggle for hope amid the weight of memory and the harshness of reality.

Subtitled

Original Language

Arabic, English

Director

Ashraf Sahwiel

Screenwriter

Ashraf Sahwiel

Producer

Arab Film TV School, Dr. Mona El Sabban

Cast

Mohammed Abu Kaweek, Wesam Yaseen



About the director

Ashraf Sahwiel is a Palestinian refugee from Majdal Ashkelon, born in Gaza in 1973. He studied media at Al-Aqsa University and pursued applied arts, interior design, and architectural drawing in Jordan. He later studied scriptwriting and directing at the Arab Film TV School. He is the Chairman of the Gaza Center for Culture and Arts, a board member of several cultural and journalistic organizations, and a member of the Supreme Committee of the Red-Carpet Festival for Human Rights Films. A journalist specializing in cultural, artistic, and economic coverage, he has played a vital role in Palestine's creative landscape.



Big

18 mins | Russia

A musician arrives on tour in a small town. After settling in a small room, he feels the closeness of the overwhelming walls and life in it becomes a real challenge for him. Reaching the boiling point, the hero is faced with a choice - to stay inside his walls or allow himself to break free.

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
Olga Dymtskayai

Screenwriter
Olga Dymtskaya

Producer
Konstantin Kutuev

Cast
Sergey Kuznetsov, Maria Mukukenova



About the director

Olga graduated from GITIS, the directing faculty, acting department, workshop of E.B. Kamennikovitch. "Big" is her debut short film.



Maya And The Past Tense

19 mins | Switzerland

Maya carries someone else's memories and has to face her own past.

Subtitled

Original Language
German

Director
Dominic Curseri

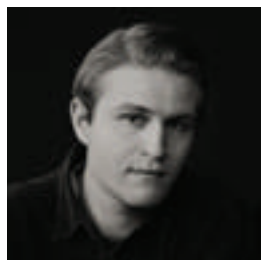
Editor
Andri Erdin

Cinematographer
Manuel Seiler

Screenwriter
Dominic Curseri

Producer
Dominique Frey

Cast
Mahalia Horvath, Luana Fitzgerald



About the director

What Dominic Curseri did before studying film at the ZHdK in Switzerland seems so far away that it has been distorted beyond recognition and has therefore become irrelevant. In spring 2024 he finished his studies with a strong desire to tell stories.



V's Secret

13 mins | Egypt

Adam, 27, drops his wife's G-string onto neighbor Bassem's balcony. Bassem shuts the door, ignoring Adam's explanation. Convinced Bassem took it, Adam retaliates, breaking a flowerpot. He sneaks into Bassem's room, leading to a confrontation. But when the G-string is still missing, doubt begins to creep in.

Subtitled

Original Language

Arabic

Director

Bassma Nancy Farah

Screenwriter

Bassma Nancy Farah

Producer

Jesuit Cairo Film School, Antonious Bassily, Bassma Nancy Farah, Amir Fahim

Cast

Maher Gamal, Ahmed El Banhawwy, Amir Fahim, Hossam Bayoumi



About the director

Bassma Farah is a versatile artist with a degree in Art Direction from Helwan University and a graduate of Jesuit Cairo Film School. She works as a filmmaker, editor, actor, photographer, storyboard artist, singer, and composer. Her short film *Sushi With Kebda* won awards at Egyptian festivals, while *V's Secret* earned international recognition, including Best Screenplay at the Golden Beggar Festival. She is also the International Press Guest Relations Manager at the 2024 Cairo International Film Festival.



A Better Place

12 mins | Pakistan

After being abandoned by her mother on a bus stop in the city of Seoul, 7-year old Jia has nowhere to go. As the night gets darker, she sees light in a stranger, an illegal South Asian immigrant stuck in South Korea after unsuccessfully performing “Donkey Flight”. The unlikely pair survives the night by forming an unusual connection by making brave and at times, difficult choices.

Subtitled

Original Language

Bengali, English, Korean

Director

Ali Sohail Jaura

Screenwriter

Ammar Zafar

Producer

Jake Morgan, Dinesh Deokota

Cast

Mahbub Lee, Ye-Bom Park



About the director

Ali Sohail Jaura is an independent filmmaker from Karachi, Pakistan, known for his visual storytelling expertise. His thesis film *Dry Leaves* has been selected at over 35 international festivals. His latest short film, *Murder Tongue*, has won 25 awards, including “Best International Short Film” at the 39th Miami Film Festival, and screened at over 60 festivals, including six Oscar-qualifying ones. His recent project, filmed in Seoul, marks a significant Pakistani-Korean filmmaking collaboration.



And That's for This Christmas

15 mins | Bulgaria

While preparing the details for his own funeral, an elderly man realises that he will be celebrating Christmas alone. Unable to fall asleep, he decides to spend the holiday at the grave of his deceased wife.

Subtitled

Original Language
Bulgarian

Director
Peter Vulchev

Editor
Nevelin Vulchev

DOP
Kiril Prodanov

Screenwriter
Peter Vulchev

Producer
Peter Vulchev, Nevelin Vulchev

Cast
Lubomir Buchvarov



About the director

Peter Vulchev is a Bulgarian director, writer, photographer, and producer, educated at the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts "Krastyo Sarafov." His notable short films include Shh... Sing to Me! (2013), A Monologue in the Intermission (2018), Good Night, Lily (2021), and And That's for This Christmas (2024). Good Night, Lily was Bulgaria's official submission for the 2022 Oscars. Vulchev is also involved in producing documentaries, music videos, and photography projects.



FIZR

13 mins | Lebanon

Issam takes refuge in an abandoned cabin after a violent confrontation with the mayor, who had shot his cat. His friend Raafat finds him there and offers to help him until tensions pass. Issam's relentless anger at the mayor's tyranny clashes with Raafat's cautious pragmatism. The story reflects the tension between two opposing forces in society—the loud but righteous versus the silent but complicit.

Subtitled

Original Language

Arabic

Director

Rani Nasr

Screenwriter

Rani Nasr

Sound Designer

Marita Sbeih

Producer

Rouba Nouredine

Cast

Saad Al Kadirj, Chaker Bou Abdallah



About the director

Rani Nasr is a Lebanese multi-disciplinary artist based in Belgium. Though this is his first film, Rani has been active in cinema for over a decade. Coming from a background in writing, he has crafted scripts for feature films, series, shorts, webseries, and commercials. His creative pursuits also span music for film, photography, and non-fiction writing, all of which have informed his approach to narrative filmmaking.



Fishbowl

15 mins | Saudi Arabia

After years of suppressing her passion, Alia, a determined screenwriter, decides to turn her story into a film. Throughout the process, her inner fears manifest as reality in every scene. As she shares her project with her boss, she is stunned to discover that he is her arrogant husband, who reacts unexpectedly. Alia then faces various stages of her life—school, friendships, marriage, and societal expectations—while confronting her past. A symbolic fish tank represents her inner struggles, leading Alia to a life-changing decision that she never anticipated. Ultimately, she embarks on a soul-searching journey to reclaim her true self.

Subtitled

Original Language

Arabic

Director

Reema Majid Almajid

Screenwriter

Reema Majid Almajid, Marwa Fahad Sogati

Producer

Fahad Alotaibi

Cast

Rand Alguasaibi



About the director

Reema AlMajid is a talented Saudi filmmaker, writer, director, and producer known for her impactful work in the industry. She produced the Saudi films *Meal* (2023) and *Memories from the North* (2021), and supervised production and scripts for popular TV series such as *Al-Zahiriyyah* (2022) and *Ya Hali* (2024). Her experimental short film *Fishbowl* (2023) won the Daw' Film Competition. Reema's achievements also include a nomination from MEMI and a development grant from USC. She now works at King Faisal Specialist Hospital, creating educational videos.



A Year Apart

17 mins | China

Huilin confides in a Guan Gong statue daily, sharing life's ups and downs. However, over-fertilization leads to the withering of her cherished grapevine. With her husband's recent passing, his approaching birthday, and subtle life changes, she stands at a pivotal moment.

Subtitled

Original Language
Chinese

Director
Ocean Chin

Co-director
Yasmin Wang

Producer
Yong Liao

Cast
Hui Lin Wang



About the director

Chin Ocean, a director and cinematographer, pursued his graduate studies at FAMU in the Czech Republic. In 2018, he was selected for the 10th Golden Horse Film Academy. In 2022, he was chosen as one of the top ten directors in the Falcon Project Short Film Season. He has previously worked as a director of photography on feature films such as "Moonlight Warrior" and "Happiness of Iberia," as well as short films like "Mosquito Patch" and "Cease Susurrantion."



The Terrorist

11 mins | Norway

When three room mates welcome a new housemate into their apartment, tensions rise as suspicions about his true nature grow. Through humor and satire, the story unravels preconceived notions and explores the absurdity of fear and prejudice in unexpected ways.

Subtitled

Original Language

Norwegian

Director

Meena Rathor

Editor

Sverrir Kristjánsson, Farzad Samsami

DOP

Vi Duc Truong

Screenwriter

Meena Rathor, Mina Juni Stenebraaten

Sound Designer

Espen Mogens

Producer

Lars Ulrik Wold

Cast

Arman Surizehi, Sigurd Kornelius Lakseide, Khalid Mahmood, Gaute Adela Kudjoe



About the director

Meena Rathor is a director with a unique perspective, blending humor and satire to shed light on societal observations. With an MFA in directing from Columbia University in NY, she went from directing commercials internationally to writing and directing drama. Meena is also a travel addict, and her travel background contributes to her playful, yet sharp approach and observations that challenges conventions and captivates audiences.



Tribu

22 mins | Spain

For Coke, the limits of his world are set by his neighborhood and his two friends. He may not agree with everything they say, but he would do almost anything for them.

Subtitled

Original Language
Spanish

Director
Carlos Gómez-Trigo

Editor
Jimena Valero

Cinematographer
Marino Pardo

Screenwriter
Carlos Gómez-Trigo

Sound Designer
Roberto HG

Producer
Carlos Gómez-Trigo

Cast
Christian Checa, Felipe Pirazán, Rafa Álamos



About the director

Carlos Gómez-Trigo (Madrid, 1981) He alternates his work as an advertising director with cinema. As with many directors, he produces, writes and directs his own short films. His previous short film, *Survivors* (2020), has more than 250 selections. This tour includes a dozen Oscar qualifying festivals (PÖFF, Nashville, Encounters, Calgary, Uppsala...) and various genre festivals such as Fantasia, Screampfest, Trieste or HARD:LINE, where it obtained the Mèlies D'Argent.



The Nature of Dogs

24 mins | Thailand

A family of four and their dog arrive at a seaside hotel in Kui Buri, Thailand. What appears to be an ordinary vacation turns into a series of interactions that betray an unspoken tension in their relationships. The next day, complexities unfold in a cave housing buddha statues.

Subtitled

Original Language
Thai

Director
Pom Bunsermvicha



About the director

Pom BUNSERMVICHA (b. 1993, Thailand) is a non-binary filmmaker based in Bangkok, Thailand. Their work, which mostly combines documentary elements with fiction, has been shown at festivals in Southeast Asia and abroad, including International Film Festival Rotterdam, Locarno Film Festival, MoMA's Doc Fortnight, Hamburg International Short Film Festival, and SeaShorts.



Salty Blue

16 mins | Japan

Mitsuki Ayase, a college student, is a girl who has a secret crush on her best friend, Umi Hoshino. At the end of summer, they sneak out to a singles party and go to a public bathhouse right before closing time. Umi talks to Mitsuki about her own love life without knowing Mitsuki's feelings. This is a story about two girls struggling between friendship and love when the autumn wind chills their heated bodies.

Subtitled

Original Language
Japanese

Director
Masashi Sogawa

Screenwriter
Masashi Sogawa

Producer
Masashi Sogawa

Cast
Reika Matsubara, Miyu



About the director

Masashi Sogawa (b. 1993) is a Japanese director and producer. He assisted on *The Real Thing* (Cannes 2020) and *Love Life* (Venice 2022). His short films *Midnight* and *Salty Blue* earned festival nominations. Born in Tokushima, he discovered acting at the University of the Ryukyus and later trained in Tokyo. Now an assistant director under Koji Fukuda, he leads Ten Rivers Film. His work explores emotional repression, regret, and catharsis through music.



China Beast

26 mins | Malaysia

Allen's father is missing after going to work for many days. This reminds Allen again about the China Beast in the logging area. Allen worries that his father has been eaten by the China Beast. He starts the journey to find his father and hopes Arbi can take him to save his father.

Subtitled

Original Language

Mandarin Chinese, Other

Director

Kuok Hong Yoeng, Christopher Ling

Editor

-

Cinematographer

-

Screenwriter

Kuok Hong Yoeng, Christopher Ling

Sound Designer

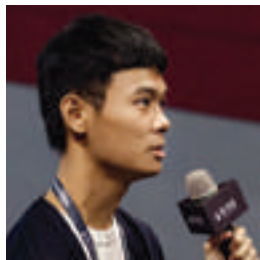
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Producer

Chin Hsu

Cast

Kyzer Tou



About the director

Kuok Hong Yoeng, a Malaysian director from Elephant Village, debuted with *Kampung Gajah* (SeaShorts 2020). His *Perhaps That Elephant Is Still Asleep* won Best Film at SeaShorts 2022. His feature *Return to Malaya* was selected by HAF and SGIFF labs. In 2024, he joined the Asian Film Awards Academy's International Film Camp.

Sarawakian filmmaker Christopher Ling Jing curates WatchMovies-Not Film Festival and crafts films like *China Beast*, exploring Malaysian identity through cinema.



The Tie

19 mins | Turkey

On a road where there is no one, Prosecutor Cengiz's car breaks down. The only team that can help Cengiz, who is trying to get to the hearing in the city center, is a prison vehicle containing criminals.

Subtitled

Original Language
Turkish

Director
Çamran Azizoğlu

Editor
-

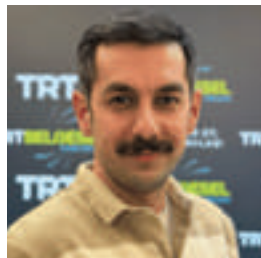
DOP
Arda Üzmez

Screenwriter
Çamran Azizoğlu

Sound Designer
İbrahim Kahraman

Producer
Cemil Nazlı

Cast
Mehmet Emin Kadıhan, Yüksel Akça
(Jandarma), Yiğit Ege Yazar



About the director

Çamran Azizoğlu, who was born in Istanbul in 1995, sat in the director's chair after gaining experience as an assistant on many sets. Çamran, who completed the shooting of his last project, Kravat, in 2024, is preparing for new projects.



Ana Morphose

10 mins | Portugal

A little girl reads herself to sleep. As she dozes off, the physical world starts melting into an alternate reality where the contents of a book rule over the laws of physics. Ana has to escape being swallowed by the overwhelming accumulation of printed knowledge and find her own space in a world where nothing is what it seems.

Subtitled

Original Language
No Dialogue

Director
Joao Rodrigues

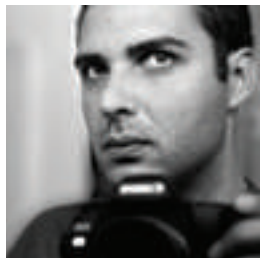
Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Joao Rodrigues

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Rodrigo Areias



About the director

João Rodrigues (1981, Porto) His graduation short "Black & White" was selected for over 50 film festivals, from Cuba to India. He directed the documentary "Alexandrino" and "The Tile-Jail Toilet-Tale", founded the "Instant Tanz Company". In 2014 he directed the short film "Fortunato- from here to S. Torcato" for Guimarães Capital of Culture.



Basri & Salma in a Never-Ending Comedy

15 mins | Indonesia

A husband and wife married for 5 years, own an Odong-Odong at the carnival together, spending their days entertaining and taking care of other people's children without any of their own. Between meddling relatives, self-doubt and an explosive confrontation, they uncover why they have not been blessed with a child.

Subtitled

Original Language
Indonesian

Director
Khozy Rizal

Editor
Khozy Rizal

DOP
Andi Moch Palaguna
Screenwriter
Khozy Rizal

Sound Designer
Sutarjo

Producer
John Badalu

Cast
Arham Rizky Saputra, Rezky Chik



About the director

Khozy Rizal is a filmmaker based in Makassar, Indonesia. He started making films in 2021 with the short film Makassar is a City for Football Fans, official selection at Sundance Film Festival, BFI Flare and many others. In 2023, he directed Basri & Salma in a Never-ending Comedy, world premiere at the 76th Cannes Film Festival. Basri & Salma in a Never-ending Comedy is the first Indonesian short film that is eligible to compete for Palme d'Or for short film.

NATIONAL SHORTS

19 Nepali short films





The Witness Tree

15 mins | Nepal

Sabitri takes her son Sridhar, who is questioning his own identity after the discovery of his father's suicide, on a coming-of-age ritual. However, Sridhar runs away and demands his mother to reveal the secret of his origin. She wants to protect her son from the painful truth but also wants to be honest with him, but the tree where her husband hanged himself still stands, reminding her of the past and her father-in-law who holds the secret and poses a threat.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Niranjan Raj Bhetwal

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Niranjan Raj Bhetwal

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Nawa Nidhi Dahal, Prakash Angdembe,
Monarath Pokharel, Samjhana Lamichhane

Cast
Aditya Ghimire, Sonica Thakuri, Ganesh
Prasad Chaulagain

About the director

Niranjan Raj Bhetwal, a Nepali filmmaker from Kathmandu, explores Nepali culture, family ties, and magical realism. A Berlinale Talent Campus 2021 and Global Media Makers 2022 alum, his short Kafal Pakyo (2014) traveled to 75+ festivals, while Madariyko Nilo Dhuwan (2018) screened at 25+. Anhad (2022) premiered at IFF Rotterdam and Raindance. His feature Across the Rainbow Bridge was selected for Locarno Open Doors, Cannes Cinéfondation L'Atelier, and NFDC Film Bazaar.





Time

16 mins | Nepal

Ram, a hardworking young man in his early 20s, leads a quiet life as a furniture maker. A staunch skeptic, he dismisses myths, black magic, and the supernatural as mere stories. His only belief is in love, and his world revolves around Pari, his spirited and kind-hearted girlfriend. One fateful evening, while at their favorite meeting spot, Ram discovers an antique watch hidden in the dirt. Curious yet indifferent to its origins, he takes it home. From that moment, his life begins to unravel. Strange occurrences disrupt his routine—objects move on their own, eerie silences fill once-familiar spaces, and an indescribable, unseen presence begins to haunt him.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Shanti Tamang

Screenwriter
Ram Kumar Shrestha

Producer
Shanti Tamang

Cast
Aashant Sharma, Ram Kumar Shrestha, I.P. Acharya, Mokhtar Ansari



About the director

Shanti Tamang is a visionary filmmaker known for deep, meaningful storytelling. From a young age, she explored filmmaking through short films, later gaining recognition with her debut feature. Her work highlights cultural diversity, human resilience, and everyday beauty, resonating deeply with audiences. Praised for her innovative style, she brings fresh perspectives to cinema. Dedicated to storytelling, Shanti continues to inspire with her passion and commitment to the art of filmmaking.



Avasesh

27 mins | Nepal

The story follows Rabindra, a young scavenger navigating the harsh realities of urban life while collecting scrap to survive. Amid the filth and chaos of the city, Rabindra encounters Basu, a street vendor with a mysterious and grim past. Their interactions reveal the struggles of marginalized lives and the unspoken bond of survival. As Rabindra faces exploitation and violence, including an intense confrontation with a local bully, his journey takes a dark turn. Ultimately, he uncovers unsettling truths about Basu, forcing him to confront the moral complexities of human survival in a society that often looks the other way.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Manav Subedi

Screenwriter
Nara Jung Budhathoki

Producer
Nara Jung Budhathoki

Cast
Nara Jung Budhathoki



About the director

Manav Subedi is a Nepali actor, musician, and filmmaker, born in 2046 B.S. in Jhapa, Nepal. Renowned for his creative versatility, he gained recognition for directing the hit song Kalo Kesh Ma Reli Mai, which captivated audiences across Nepal with its powerful visuals and storytelling. With a passion for exploring socially relevant themes, Manav has established himself as a significant figure in Nepal's entertainment industry, using his talents to bring compelling stories and music to life.



Goodnight

15 mins | Nepal

A story of a night when Sneha's mother passes away and Sneha has to deal with this tragic news with her Alzheimer sufferer Grandmother.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Shrawan Shakya

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Shrawan Shakya

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Shrawan Shakya

Cast
Shrawan Shakya



About the director

Shrawan Shakya, a 27-year-old filmmaker, has completed a Diploma Course in Film Direction from Everest Film Academy in Nepal.



3D Boys

8 mins | Nepal

Despite of all the disparities these 3 boys are still a very good friends. They might have a lot of arguments and disagreements but they continue to do things together. How they manage to scratch the surface of the idea on living in the moment is the basic premise of 3d Boys.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Nishan Gole Lama

Editor
-

DOP
Alex Metaxas

Screenwriter
Nishan Gole Lama

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Nishan Gole Lama

Cast
Bhim Odari, Santosh Sapkota, Amit Sapkota, Akshay Sharma



About the director

Nishan Gole Lama is a passionate aspiring filmmaker with a mindset of making films for the rest of the life knowing the fact that the journey is going to be hard and full of uncertainty.



SIYA

15 mins | Nepal

Siya, who is sacrificing her dream of being a badminton champion for the sake of marriage and families, takes an earth shaking decision when she encounters a huge difference in expectations and reality.

Subtitled

Original Language

Nepali

Director

Sarita Sah

Editor

-

Cinematographer

-

Screenwriter

Sarita Sah

Sound Designer

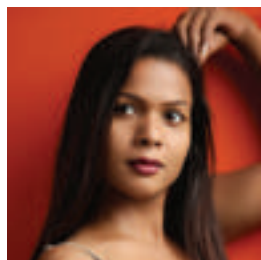
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Producer

Krishna Kumar Mahato

Cast

Sarita Sah, Renuka, Sujita Sah



About the director

SARITA SAH is a storyteller, who has been working as an actor, writer and director in films & theatre since a decade. She is more passionate to tell the stories of her community, which has not been told before to change to perspective the world towards it. She believes that story is one of the most powerful tools to bring change in the world. She has earned remarkable appreciation from her short films like 'Phaguniya', 'The Notebook' and 'Threshold', which has been screened and showcased in different national and international film festivals.



Objects In Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear

15 mins | Nepal

"Objects in Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear" follows Ranjit as he returns the car his father gave him, a symbol of his growing disillusionment with his father's choices. Their confrontation reopens old wounds—Ranjit's painful childhood, being sent to live with his grandparents after his mother's death, and the shock of his father's hasty remarriage. Seeking closure, he expresses a desire to revisit the riverbank filled with memories of his mother. This heartfelt story delves into family, loss, and forgiveness, exploring the complexities of parent-child relationships, the weight of past decisions, and the healing power of revisiting cherished memories.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Milan Lohani

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Milan Lohani

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Shailesh Mainali, Bidhan Reshmi, Milan Lohani

Cast
Bishal Pahari, Shishir Siwakoti



About the director

Milan Lohani, a filmmaker with a Bachelor's in Screenwriting and Direction from Oscar International College, specializes in exploring human relationships through short films. His studies provided hands-on experience in screenwriting, directing, and production. His college project, Interbellum, premiered at the 43rd VGIK International Student Film Festival. Passionate about storytelling, Milan aims to create films that deeply resonate with audiences and leave a lasting impact through emotional and thought-provoking narratives.



The Black Stone

13 mins | Nepal

Madhu, a housewife in a crumbling marriage, questions her relationship after witnessing the intimacy of a newlywed couple. Striving to reconnect with her distant husband, she realizes the spark they once shared is lost. Bound by her love for their son, Rymnth, the only glue holding them together, Madhu sacrifices her own happiness for his future.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Aashuka Aryal

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Aashuka Aryal

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Aashuka Aryal

Cast
Sabina Gopali, Sandesh Shakya



About the director

Aashuka Aryal (b. 2000) is an award-winning Nepali filmmaker known for impactful storytelling. Her short film *Confusion* explores LGBTQ themes in a village setting. Holding a bachelor's in screenwriting and direction, she is developing *The Black Stone* and *Kamana*. She served as Associate Director on *BUKI*, highlighting Nepal's culture and sports. Focused on gender-based and women-centric narratives, Aashuka sees filmmaking as both a passion and a responsibility to drive meaningful change globally.



Keyboard

25 mins | Nepal

Jiyan, who is working hard to participate in a singing competition that is held at his school, learns that his parents are about to divorce. What kind of mental barrier does this decision of his parents cause him and in such a situation can he participate in the school singing competition or not?

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Acharya Gopal

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Bijay Raj Acharya

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Koushal Kumar Bhattarai

Cast
Alok Chaurali



About the director

Acharya Gopal perceives Cinema as a Socio-Political Reflection of a Society, To Portray the organic stories, art & culture of Nepal through the medium of Image and Sound is the ultimate and crucial aim he aspires to achieve. He is the Bachelor graduate in arts, major in script writing and Film Direction from Oscar International College, Nepal.



The Last Stroke

10 mins | Nepal

Eighteen-year-old Arush faces a dilemma—pursue his passion for painting or follow his brother Ashok's dream of him becoming an engineer. Ashok, a 25-year-old veteran painter, discourages Arush from art, fearing the struggles he endured. Despite Ashok's pressure, Arush's heart remains with painting. Months later, at university, Arush is drawn to a canvas. As he paints, Ashok bursts in, ready to destroy it—only to realize it's his own unfinished work. Overcome with guilt, Ashok sees himself in Arush. Will he reconsider and support his brother's dream, or force him to abandon his passion for a stable future?

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Roshan Pandey, Rojan Thapa

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Roshan Pandey, Rojan Thapa

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Nepal Film Campus

Cast
Rikesh Ghimire, Ashok Pathak



About the director

EXPLORING THE ART OF CINEMA



Ecdysis

26 mins | Nepal

This story revolves around the character's internal psychological turmoil and the repetitive habit which has made him psychologically sick. One of the perspective of the movie is about a transition in which a boy turns to a man.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Prajwol Bista

Editor
-

Cinematographer
-

Screenwriter
Prajwol Bista

Sound Designer
-

Producer
Prajwol Bista

Cast
Prajwol Bista



About the director

Prajwol Bista is a passionate filmmaker with a deep love for cinema and storytelling. As a writer and director, he brings captivating narratives to life, crafting scripts that resonate with emotion and authenticity. Known for his meticulous attention to detail and creative vision, Prajwol strives to connect audiences with compelling characters and meaningful stories. With every project, he continues to push the boundaries of storytelling, leaving a lasting impact on the world of cinema.



Red Hand

13 mins | Nepal

A husband catches wife red handed for.....

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Kiran BK HPS

Screenwriter
Kiran BK HPS

Producer
Kiran BK HPS

Cast
Nutan, Sahara Koirala



About the director

Kiran BK HPS is the director of "Red Hand".



Nilo Aakash (The Blue Sky)

12 mins | Nepal

Nilo Aakash (The Blue Sky) is a film about Madhu, a young Madhesi woman navigating patriarchal norms while confronting her pregnancy with a girl. Amidst family pressure for abortion, Madhu's journey of self-discovery and courage reshapes her destiny and challenges community traditions, offering a compelling narrative of women reclaiming their voices.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Nirmal Poudel

Screenwriter
Nirmal Poudel

Producer
Astha Sharma, Nirmal Poudel, Teju Pandey,
Ganesh Kanchan Bharati

Cast
Nikita Chandak



About the director

Nirmal Poudel, an independent filmmaker from Nepal, graduated from Oscar College of Film Studies and is pursuing a Master's in Media Technology. He began as an assistant director on films like Gajalu and Romeo. His directorial debut, Shipahiki Swasni, premiered at NIFF, followed by Ma Comrade (2022), which gained recognition at global festivals and won third prize in the National Short Film Competition. Nirmal is currently developing his debut feature film, focusing on compelling narratives and unique perspectives.



A Witness

14 mins | Nepal

From its first moment of awareness, a solitary witness observes the lives of a grandmother and her grandson. Through its enduring presence, it witnesses the family's evolution from their initial struggles to moments of joy and prosperity. However, their happiness is tragically upended when the news of war devastates their home, turning their once-bright future into ruin. It's a silent witness to their journey captures the full arc of their lives, from hardship to hope, and ultimately to the heartbreaking consequences of conflict.

Subtitled

Original Language

Nepali

Director

Nishan Khatri

Screenwriter

Nishan Khatri

Producer

Sharmila Khatri

Cast

Maiya Khatri



About the director

Nishan Khatri is a passionate filmmaker and storyteller dedicated to the art of cinematic expression. With a background in theater spanning seven years, Nishan has honed a deep understanding of narrative and character development, which now informs their approach to filmmaking. Currently studying at Oscar international film school, Nishan is immersed in exploring the boundaries of the art form, striving to blend innovative techniques with classic storytelling. Their work reflects a commitment to both craft and creativity, bridging theatrical roots with a fresh cinematic vision.



Adekh (Unseen)

9 mins | Nepal

Kulaman is a rich person who belongs to the Khas clan, the ruling clan in the rural region in the contemporary time. His son, Jiwan, has not borne a child for 8 years despite trying. In order to carry on his lineage further, Kulman tries to help Jiwan in all possible ways. He believes that the cause might be a bad omen and hatches a plan with his best friend to get rid of it. Finally, Malati seems to become pregnant.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Aayub Kc

Screenwriter
Prakash Subba

Producer
Aayub Kc

Cast
Prem Subba, Kalpana Pandey, Aayub Kc, Chanda Dhungana



About the director

Aayub Kc is a prominent Nepali actor and director known for his versatile contributions to cinema. His notable films include *Nari (The Women)* (2011), *Ma Timro Bhaishake* (2011), *Traash* (2014), and *Palash* (2017). Kc has also made a mark in the music video industry, acting and directing over 100 music videos. His work captures Nepali culture and societal issues, earning him recognition as an influential figure in Nepali entertainment.



Kacita

5 mins | Nepal

Kachita, a young woman tormented by unsettling dreams, wakes up to eerie whispers and a disturbing knock on her bedroomr. Investigating the noise, she finds blood seeping under the door and encounters multiple versions of herself—one bleeding and another holding a knife with a sinister stare. As she wakes up again, thinking it was all a dream, the nightmare seems to repeat, blurring the lines between reality and illusion.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Amrit Sapkota

Screenwriter
Amrit Sapkota

Producer
Parashuram Bhandari

Cast
Arati Acharya



About the director

My name is Amrit Sapkota, and I am a 3D animation artist and passionate filmmaker from Nepal. I have always been drawn to storytelling and visual creativity, which led me to explore the world of filmmaking. This short film is my first venture, created alongside my friends and family as an incredible professional crew. Bringing this project to life has been an exciting journey, where I've been able to combine my passion for animation and film with the support of those closest to me.



The School's Wall

26 mins | Nepal

The short film presents the story of the struggle of a boy from Nepal's Terai who polishes shoes near the school. His desire to study drags him to school. Poverty, circumstances and responsibilities remain as walls for him to go to school. He adopts various measures and succeeds in entering the school, but that happiness does not last long and the story takes a different turn. The film tries to show what a child can do for his desire to study.

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Mohan Shrestha

Screenwriter
Mohan Shrestha

Producer
Surendra Katuwal

Cast
Shlok Sah



About the director

Mohan Shrestha (Mohan Avilashi) is a young creative writer, director, and theatre artist. He has directed and acted in several short films, including Trust, Bhau (Cost of Living), and Ghurra. An acting tutor and youth influencer, he holds a Master's in Arts and has won numerous awards, such as the Banita Multifaceted Talent Award (2022) and Best Short Film Award for Ghurra (2024) at the Nepal Cultural International Film Festival.



Strata

4 mins | Nepal

A woman's escalating beauty routine symbolizes the sacrifices made to meet societal expectations, offering a poignant reflection on the broader pressures women endure, including those from conflict or violence.

Subtitled

Original Language

Nepali

Director

Monika Thapa

Screenwriter

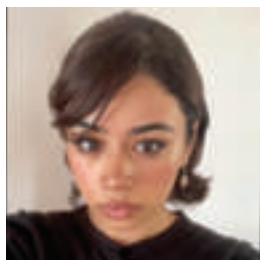
Monika Thapa

Producer

Monika Thapa

Cast

Monika Thapa



About the director

Monika Thapa, also known as Whiskey, is a versatile artist involved in painting, singing, acting, writing, and directing. Currently studying sound design at Nepal Film Campus, she has acted in films like *Man Singh Ko Chaite Dashain* and *Karnel Ko Pratima*. Monika has directed short films such as *Strata* and *One Last Tea*. Her creative focus is on crafting simple yet profound narratives, while she continues to explore new genres and storytelling techniques.



Khusi

20 mins | Nepal

This movie is a story about a woman who is seeking happiness in her life by devoting herself to her family members who actually are immersed in their own universe of happiness. Amid all this, she is trying to find her lost happiness. Will she break the ceiling or stick to the status quo?

Subtitled

Original Language
Nepali

Director
Pradhumna Mishra



About the director

Pradhumna Mishra is a versatile Nepali director, writer, producer, and commercials. Pradhumna is also known for directing reality shows and serving as a jury member at national film festivals. A skilled still photographer, he is adept in filmmaking techniques, staying current with technological advancements. Pradhumna is recognized for his leadership, multitasking, and creative abilities.

AI FILMS

5 Artificial Intelligence films





Every Hesitation of Yours Can Destroy the World

10 mins | China

Subtitled

Time-space administrator Yan Yue is currently experiencing the life of an ordinary person in Shanghai. While watching the news, she suddenly discovers that the entire world has plunged into a state of uncertainty. It turns out that due to the explosion of artificial intelligence technology, there is a significant impact on the course of human civilization, causing the entire universe to enter an uncertain superposition state of multiple possibilities. One of the side effects of this is that Nikola Tesla has been transported to present-day Shanghai.

Original Language
Chinese

Director
Ma Zhiyuan

Screenwriter
Ma Zhiyuan

Producer
Li Che

Cast
Shan Jiang, Zi Xuan Nie



About the director

Ma Zhiyuan, founder of Shanghai Wuyou Digital Technology Co., Ltd., is a senior comic artist and animation director. A graduate of Beijing Film Academy, he worked on several award-winning comics and animation projects. His directed works include New Yue Fei's Biography (2013) and Ah Fei Forward (2015), China's first open-source film. Ma Jian is also known for his role in Tencent's Zhong Yao Chronicles (2021) and creating the digital human Yan Yue (2022). He is pioneering new models in Chinese animated films.



The Abyss

10 mins | Argentina

Iris, a wheelchair-bound young woman, is recruited into testing a cutting-edge device that hijacks the mind and induces vivid dreams. As she assesses a prototype that is as dangerous as it is revolutionary, Iris struggles to accept her physical reality.

Subtitled

Original Language
English

Director
Andres Aloï

Screenwriter
Andres Aloï

Producer
Pablo Finkelstein

Cast
Victoria Paz



About the director

Andres Aloï is an Argentine screenwriter and director known for his work on *Re Loca* (2018), which earned a Sur Awards nomination. He co-produced *Sangre Azul* (2019), which competed at Sitges, and directed *Platos Voladores* (2024). Aloï co-wrote *Camila Comes Out Tonight* (2021), selected for the San Sebastián Festival. He also worked on the series *Alt-Esc* (2021) and directed the short *El Sueño de la Mariposa* (2022), featured in various genre festivals.



The Dream, The Fog and The Rain

5 mins | Peru

Subtitled

A lonely man searches through the storm for the signal that brings him closer to her through his melody.

Original Language
English

Director
Carlos García Cornejo



About the director

Carlos García is a Peruvian musician and audiovisual multimedia communicator. He is known for works like Pucará, Hacedors de Cerámica, La Marcha de los Caxamarcas, and Este Tipo Se Ha Muerto y No Se Ha Enterado. He is the director of viernes.online, founder of the band Diazepunk, and creator of web projects lacentral.pe and komu.pe. His first AI-made short film, The Dream, the Fog, and the Rain, explores generative AIs in audiovisual media and their ethical implications.



Mombomb

6 mins | Nepal

Pez is a feminist comedy-horror series set in 1970s Toledo, Ohio, a hotspot for serial killers. Pez, a weaponized Girl Scout, must fight off a killer troll using her cookies while navigating the harsh realities of a world before the internet. Growing up under the shadow of her mother, a World War II survivor who refuses to accept America's corruption, Pez discovers her strengths and her mother's flaws. As she learns to survive, she uncovers the bizarre truths of life and death, exploring intergenerational trauma, feminist ideals, and revenge in a world built on naivete. Based on real events.

Original Language
English

Director
Patricia Beckmann Wells

Screenwriter
Patricia Beckmann Wells

Producer
Peter Tomas Wells



About the director

Dr. Patricia Beckmann Wells, a tenured professor at Irvine Valley College, is an expert in interactive media arts. She authored *Face It: A Visual Reference for Multi-ethnic Facial Modeling* and has consulted for Epic Games' Unreal Metahuman project. With leadership roles at Dreamworks SKG, Disney, and Warner Brothers, she's a celebrated animation filmmaker, with works showcased in over 200 festivals, including Slamdance and LACMA. She's also an advocate for AI in independent filmmaking and supports education in digital arts.



Godcasting

25 mins | Nepal

In order to integrate new participants into the program it created, the artificial intelligence Velda is developing a new cinematic concept based on an interactive short-film.

Subtitled

Original Language
English and 8 more

Director
Florent Agostini

Editor
Alexis Bizière

DOP
Nicolas Démousseau

Screenwriter
Florent Agostini

Sound Designer
Juste Bruyat

Producer
Alex Giroux

Cast
Pascal Cannebotin, Ornella Nobili



About the director

Florent Agostini, a graduate of Ecole Supérieure d'Etudes Cinématographiques, began his career with an internship on Pierre Schoeller's *Les Anonymes*. He worked as a broadcast operator for BFMTV, which influenced his critical perspective on society. Between 2015 and 2020, he self-financed several short films before receiving funding from the Corsican regional authorities in 2021. This allowed him to direct his first futuristic short film, *Godcasting*, produced by One Shot Film in 2023, marking a significant milestone in his filmmaking journey.



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Threesome | Втроём | हमी तीन जना

103 mins | Russia

At first glance, Dasha's life is not a fairy tale. She holds a high position in the Ministry of Culture, a young man who bought an apartment for their future family is in love with her. But in reality, not everything is smooth at work, the new apartment overlooks a vacant lot, and her lover is more interested in his mother's opinion. Dasha decides to escape - on a business trip to the Perm region. Her unexpected fellow traveler is a young bar owner, Sergei. Now strangers to each other will have to travel through Perm cities and villages, meet people who are alien to the ambitions and bustle of the metropolis.

Subtitled

Original Language
Russian

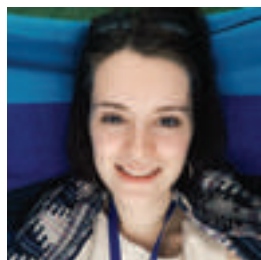
Director
Alexandra Sarana

DOP
Alisher Khamidkhodjaev

Screenwriter
Svetlana Shtebe, Evgeny Grigoriev, Juliana Koshkina

Producer
Evgeny Grigoriev, Viktor Shadrin, Olga Yerofeyeva-Muravyeva, Georgy Shabanov, Ashot Mesropyan

Cast
Irina Starshenbaum, Sergey Kuznetsov, Ales Snopkovsky, Alexandra Revenko



About the director

Alexandra Sarana is a Russian director graduated from the Faculty of Journalism at Moscow State University, received film education in Ireland (Trinity College, Dublin), the Mike Lee Film School in London, graduated from the Marina Razbezhkina and Mikhail Ugarov School of Documentary Film and Theater.



Four Quarters | Четыре четверти | चार चौथाई

114 mins | Russia

Moving to the capital from St. Petersburg, Masha hopes to spend her last year in the physics and mathematics school quietly and without adventures. However, love, which she cannot control, shatters her plans. He is her classmate Zhenya, a young talented sculptor. Moreover, there are new friends and new enemies, the school, and their vastly different families. Masha, having fully entrusted herself to her amazing partner, an idealist and a maximalist, follows him in an attempt to build a completely adult new life together, without waiting for school to end.

Subtitled

Original Language
Russian

Director
Evgeniya Tirdatova

Editor
Boris Mnukhin

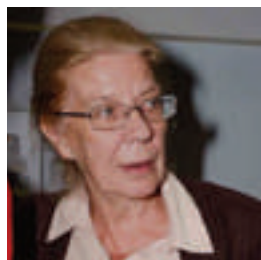
DOP
Irina Uralskaya R.G.C

Screenwriter
Alexander Yuk, Alexey Stepanov,
Evgeniya Tirdatova

Producer
Evgeniya Tirdatova

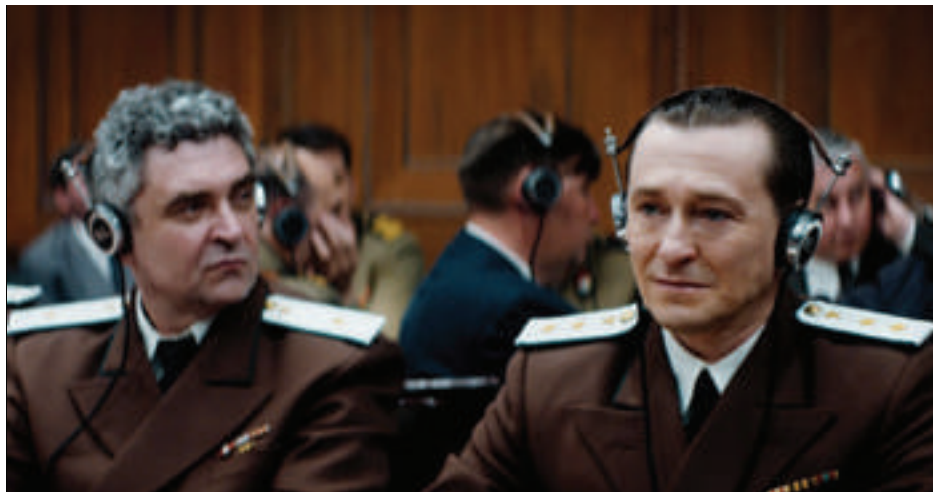
Sound Designer
Roman Khokhlov

Cast
Petr Bezmenov, Anastasia Ermoshina,
Andrey Ilyin, Nadezhda Mikhalkova



About the director

Evgeniya Tirdatova is a Russian director, writer, producer. Member of the EFA, National Academy, Board of Filmmakers Union, President of "Kinoglaz" independent com. Born in Moscow. Graduated from VGIK and Gnesins Russian Academy of Music.



Nuremberg | Нюрнберг | न्युरेम्बर्ग

131 mins | Russia

1945. The International Military Tribunal begins its work in Nuremberg. A huge number of people from all over the world come to the trial, which will later be called the Trial of the Century: the city is overflowing with journalists, lawyers, translators, witnesses and many participants and employees of the trial. Among those who come to Nuremberg to work on the Trial is Igor Volgin. He is young, but he went through the war, has awards, and speaks several foreign languages. Volgin is to be a translator in the Soviet delegation led by Colonel Migachev. One day on the streets of Nuremberg, Volgin meets a young Russian girl, Lena. Their nascent feelings will go through many trials, but love is the only thing that has always saved the world from dehumanization.

Subtitled

Original Language
Russian

Director
Nikolai Lebedev

Editor
Helios Chuchka

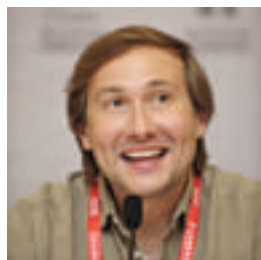
DOP
Irek Khartovich

Screenwriter
Nikolai Lebedev, Alexander Zvyagintsev

Sound Designer
Eduard Artemyev

Producer
Elmira Ainulova, Maria Zhuromskaya,
Arkady Fateev

Cast
Sergey Kempo, Lyubov Aksenova, Evgeny
Mironov, Sergey Bezrukov, Alexey Bardukov



About the director

Nikolai Igorevich Lebedev is a Russian film director, screenwriter and film producer. Born in Kishinev, Moldavian SSR, Soviet Union (now Chişinău in Moldova). He is best known as the director, writer, and producer of *Wolfhound* (2007) and *Legend № 17* (2013), both of which became well grossing films in Russian cinema. Other films include the critically lauded drama *The Star* (2002), the drama film *Soundtrack of Passion* (2009), and the disaster film *Flight Crew* (2016).

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