

@wiff_mumbai

WATERFRONT INDIE FILM FESTIVAL (WIFF)

INDEPENDENT VOICES | GLOBAL STORIES | MUMBAI STAGE

Dates: 2nd to 6th October 2025 Time: 10:00 AM – 10 PM IST Venues: Rangshila Theatre | Versova Social | Maverick Studios | Silk Road Cafe

















Posts 9 | Masterlists 130



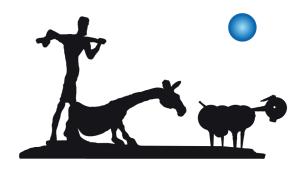












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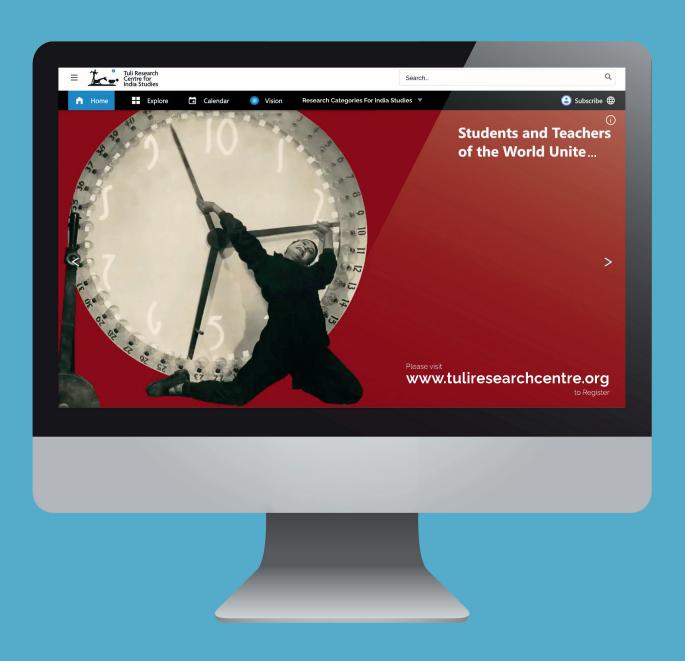








Launching November 2025 v1.1 tuliresearchcentre.org



Pioneering Modern and Contemporary India Studies

THE SECTIONS

A Note about WIFF 2025 & the Founders	1
Messages by Festival Director & Executive Director	2
Advisory Board & Executive Committee	3
Screening Committee	4
Jury Panels	5
Awards Overview	6
List of Films in Competition	7

S
Z
5
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Thu, Oct 2 Silk Road Versova Social	8
Fri, Oct 3 Ransghila (Screen 1 only) Silk Road Versova Social Maverick Studios	9
Sat, Oct 4 Ransghila (Screen 1, 2 & 3) Silk Road Versova Social Maverick Studios	10
Sun, Oct 5 Ransghila (Screen 1, 2 & 3) Versova Social Maverick Studios	11
Mon, Oct 6 Ransghila (Screen 1, 2 & 3) Maverick Studios	12
IWorkshops, Panels and Master classes	13
Festival Schedule	14
Festival Team	15

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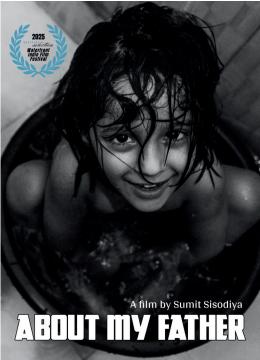
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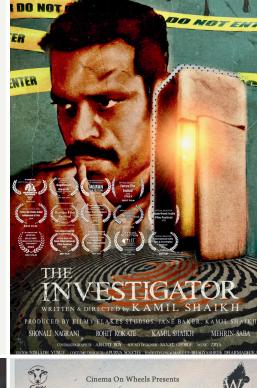








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Producer DOP Music Editor Production Head Meenakshi Sinha Prosenjit Koley Tamal Kanti Halder Pradipta Bhattacharya Akash Bhowmik

waterfrontindiefilmfestival.com @wiff_MUMBAI

WIFF MUMBAI 2025

The idea for an independent film festival emerged during a casual lunch chat between co-founders Vinata Nanda (Executive Director) and Deepa Gahlot (Festival Director). Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri and Avneesh Mishra embraced the idea and joined as co-founders, and just like that the Waterfront Indie Film Festival (WIFF) was born.

Debuting from October 2nd to 6th, 2025, WIFF is truly a hyperlocal, ground-up celebration of independent cinema and storytelling. Situated in Aram Nagar, Versova, Mumbai—India's very own "cinema village"—WIFF lives and breathes where cinema is actually made. From the vibrant Rangshila Theatre along with Versova Social, Silk Road Café, Maverick Studios, and Sathe's—the all-day diner, which anchor the festival—to other welcoming spaces within a 3 km radius, teeming with micro-theatres, studios, networks, casting hubs, rehearsal spaces, and creative cafés; WIFF will activate this unique ecosystem for five days of discovery and dialogue.

We are stepping into a time where:

Imagination finds space to bloom

- Compassion connects people across boundaries
- Freedom of expression becomes a shared celebration

Today, everyone holds a camera, a story, a truth. And for the first time, the means to be heard, seen, and understood.

WIFF 2025 honours this moment—where storytelling belongs to all. The festival is India's answer to Coke Studio—but for cinema.

Just as Coke Studio mainstreamed regional music, WIFF will:

- Spotlight raw, powerful filmmaking from untapped regions
- Support creators through training, exposure, and networking
- Offer content to the world via digital, social, and curated screenings
- Inspire a generation to create with what they have—and tell stories that matter

From village to Vimeo. From rooftops to reels. From community to global consciousness. The festival is a grassroots cultural movement born in the lanes and rehearsal halls of Aram Nagar, Versova—where writers, editors, cinematographers, actors, and directors live, work, and dream.

- Curated by and for independent filmmakers
- Hosted in actual creative spaces: theatres, diners, cafés
- Programmed through conversations with film collectives, festivals, critics, and communities
- Built not for glitz—but for authentic, lasting impact

The Waterfront Indie Film Festival (WIFF) Mumbai is not just a festival. It's a living, breathing cinema ecosystem.

Festival Director - Deepa Gahlot



Every couple of years, an indie film creates a big splash. Last year, in Hollywood it was Sean Baker's Anora; closer home, Payal Kapadia's All We Imagine As Light brought acclaim, now an independent voice emerges from mainstream Bollywood, with Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound.

While there is an explosion of indie cinema, the problem of reaching out to the target audience remains. The big hope was OTT, but that was dashed. So, maybe the best way to reach that audience is a film festival. Along came the Waterfront Indie Film Festival, placed not in glittering multiplexes,

but in the hub of Mumbai's district of creativity—Versova's Aram Nagar. The main venue, Rangshila, aligned with the vibe of the festival we planned. Not to mention that it is literally on the Waterfront.

Planning an independent film festival is a meticulous, multi-stage process. The idea and intention appealed so much to people in the creative industries that the caravan kept growing over the months. The monthly screenings at Rangshila and networking events at the cute Café Sathe's served to whet the appetite.

Concurrently, a dedicated team was brought together to handle programming, marketing, sponsorships, and volunteer coordination.

Part of the charm of a small festival is meeting like-minded people and also learning some behind-the-scenes secrets. So there is plenty of time left in between films to just chat over chai, and many workshops, panel discussions, and masterclasses to keep the conversations flowing and ideas germinating.



Executive Director - Vinta Nanda

Every festival begins with a spark, and for us, the Waterfront Indie Film Festival started simply as a conversation—one that grew into a collective dream. We had little idea that those early conversations would bring us here, ready to roll out an event that celebrates cinema in all its hues. As an artist, writer, and filmmaker, I know how much one learns through immersion in diverse stories. At WIFF Mumbai, we look forward to independent voices of all ages and across genres, telling stories that will inspire, and stay with us. Aram Nagar, our home, has fascinated me for years. Its labyrinth of lanes and by-lanes, filled with cafés, studios and theatres, pulses with creative energy.



Over time, it has grown on me deeply. Avneesh Mishra's Rangshila came first, then Sathe's—the all-day diner—and soon the discourse expanded with Versova Social, Silk Road Café, and Maverick Studios joining the movement. These spaces became more than venues; they became co-conspirators in building a community rooted in independence and imagination.

But none of this would have been possible without the belief of those who stood by us. Sameer Nair of Applause Entertainment heard the idea, was fascinated by its possibilities, and immediately extended his support. Mr. Neville Tuli, who listened to the passion in our voices, gave us the confidence we needed with his encouragement. The incomparable Feroz Khan brought theatrical depth, linking us to Hemant Chaturvedi's extraordinary work. I must give a special mention to our co-founder Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri, who lives in Delhi yet always present in Mumbai with his thoughts and ideas. Saagar Gupta, our Program Director and co-founder of Kashish Pride Film Festival (with Sridhar Rangayan), whose curatorial instinct and tireless energy have been pivotal. Equally invaluable are Varshaa A. Jainn, Deepa Bhalerao, Swapnalekha Basak, and Aditi Mathur — each of whom has brought expertise, care, and commitment that shaped WIFF into what it is today.

As I look back at this journey, I marvel at how far conversations can travel. From a casual spark to a full-fledged festival, it sometimes feels surreal. Yet it is real—made possible by every supporter and dreamer who has walked with us. WIFF is not just about cinema; it is about community and the joy of creating something that belongs to all.

PASSES

SPECIAL OFFER

FOR BOOKINGS

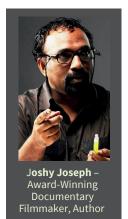
EARLY BIRD DAILY SEASONS

IOO+ FILMS | PANELS |
MASTERCLASSES | CONVERSATIONS |
ADDAS | COMMUNITY



ADVISORY BOARD

WIFF's Advisory Board comprises distinguished voices in cinema, literature, and culture who provide direction and wisdom to the festival's long-term vision.













Author, Film Critic, Editor (Silhouette)







Anupama Mandloi Producer, Consultant, Former MD (Fremantle India)



Writer, Policy Making, **Brand & Organization** Building



Filmmaker, Founder (Indie Film Circuit), TEDx Speaker







Amit Behl -Actor, Former CINTAA General Secretary



Buffington - Media Innovator, Changemaker



SMM Ausaja -Cinema Author, Archivist, Historian, Curator, Collector

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Our Executive Board is responsible for operational and creative execution, ensuring WIFF remains independent, transparent, and community-driven.



Deepa Bhalerao – Mental health professional, educator DEI strategist.



Pia Benegal – Costume designer, Producer & Creative Director.



Nandita Om Puri – Journalist, Author, chairperson Om Puri Foundation.



Saagar Gupta – Screenwriter, Lyricist, Curator, Shaping cinematic narratives.



Kabeer Khurana – Filmmaker, Founder (Indie Film Circuit), TEDx Speaker



Varsha Jain -Writer, Policy Making, Brand & Organization Building



Wellbeing consultant, Gender equity facilitator, Curator.



Rashmi Lamba – Producer, Curator, Gender advocate, Advancing inclusivity.



Christopher Dalton – Film critic, Editor, Advancing cinema's critical discourse.



Sridhar Rangayan – Filmmaker, LGBTQIA+ Activist, Founder KASHISH

films workshops cosocial Indie FRONS NET cinema WORK panels



2-6 OCT

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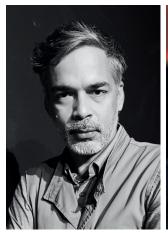
SPECIAL OFFER

RANGSHILA | VERSOVA SOCIAL | SILK ROAD CAFE | MAVERICK STUDIOS | ARAM NAGAR | ANDHERI WEST **FOR BOOKINGS**



SCREENING COMMIT

Their collective expertise of Shanti Bhushan, Utpal Datta, Joy Bimal Roy, Sharad Raj, Mudit Singhal, Kunal Shah, Dr Dipshikha Bhagawati and Aditi Mathur spans criticism, filmmaking, literature, wellbeing, cinematography, academia, theatre, and design, ensuring selections remain true to independent cinema's spirit, inclusivity, and integrity.

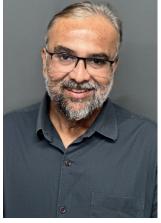






















































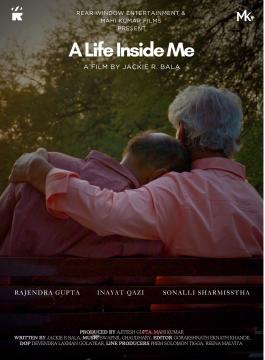




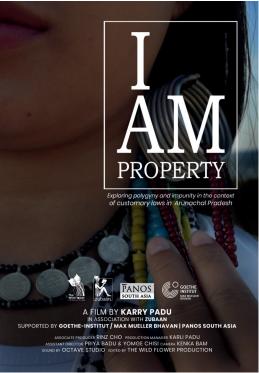








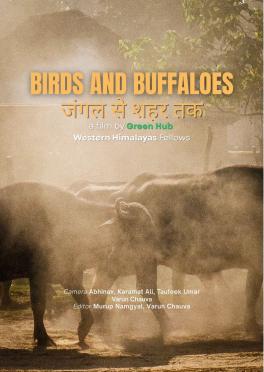




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JURY PANELS

The Jury Panels of WIFF Mumbai 2025 bring together diverse voices from film, arts, and culture, ensuring selections reflect creativity, authenticity, and innovation, while honoring cinema that challenges, inspires, and connects audiences.

Fiction Films Jury



AMBORISH ROYCHAOLIDHUR

Amborish Roychoudhury is a National Award-winning writer, biographer and film historian. He has authored several books, including 'In a Cult of Their Own: Bollywood Beyond Box Office' (Special Mention, 66th National Film Awards), 'Sridevi: The South Years', and 'Raj Khosla: The Authorized Biography'. His work appears in Hindustan Times, Firstpost, Outlook India, Filmfare, Mint, and MUBI Notebook, and has served on juries of several film festivals including the Bengaluru International Short Film Festival and the Indian Film Festival of Cincinnati.

He is currently working on the memoirs of Ameen Sayani and also on a book about the chequered life and work of Utpal Dutt.



CLARK

Larry Clark, born in Ohio, studied at Miami University before earning an MFA in Film from UCLA in 1977. With strong musical roots—his uncle was jazz pianist Sonny Clark, his father a saxophonist, and his mother an opera singer—his debut feature *Passing Through* (1977) is hailed as one of the greatest jazz films, premiering at Filmex and winning the Locarno Special Jury Prize. His second feature, *Cutting Horse* (2000), explored African American and Mexican American horse trainers. A retired professor at San Francisco State University, Clark has received multiple awards, including the Oscar Micheaux Award for Cinematography.



PUBALI CHAUDHURI

Pubali Chaudhuri is a graduate of the Screenplay Writing department of the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII) and is best known as the screenwriter for *Rock On* (National Film Award for Best Hindi Film in 2008), *Kai Po Che* (Filmfare Award for Best Screenplay in 2014) and *Rock On II*.

She has served as Mentor and Honorary H.O.D at the Screenplay Writing Department at FTII and has previously been a faculty member of the Screenwriting department at Whistling Woods International Ltd. She has also been a mentor at various script labs and workshops across India in the past decade. More recently Pubali has written, directed and produced an indie short film 'Chithi' | The Letter which premiered at the New York Indian Film Festival in 2023.



SANDRA DE CASTR BUFFINGTON

Sandra de Castro Buffington is a filmmaker and pioneering force in entertainment for social impact. As Co-Producer of the award winning film "Brainwashed: Sex~Camera~Power," President of StoryAction, LLC, and Founder of UCLA's Global Media Center for Social Impact, Sandra infuses television, film, and new media with socially provocative storylines to improve health and well-being worldwide. Her groundbreaking work inspired 565 health storylines that aired on 91 television shows across 35 networks in the span of three years, reaching millions. Sandra also conducts pioneering research, mapping pro-social content in top TV shows and measuring its impact on viewers' knowledge, attitudes and behavior. She teaches storytelling at Harvard University and delivers master classes worldwide.



Documentary & Experimental Films Jury



IRENE DHAR

Irene Dhar Malik is a Mumbai-based editor of documentaries, feature films and TV series. An alumnus of FTII, Pune, Irene has edited documentaries like Shivendra Singh's Celluloid Man and Czechmate - In Search of Jiri Menzel, Karan Bali's An American in Madras, and Miriam Chandy Menacherry's From the Shadows. Her feature film work includes Onir's I *Am*, Bikas Mishra's *Chauranga*, Ashwini Malik's *Clever & Lonely* and Atul Sabharwal's Berlin. Irene also edited the critically acclaimed Yashraj series Powder, and the recent docu series *Breakpoint*. Irene is the co-author of *I am Onir*, and *I am Gay*.

Irene won the National Award for editing Celluloid Man, the IDPA award for editing An American in Madras and the MIFF award for From the Shadows.



KIREET KHURANA

Kireet Khurana, a High-Honors graduate from Sheridan College, Canada, is a filmmaker with six President's National Awards and eighteen International Awards. His acclaimed works include T for Taj Mahal (7 International Awards, 25 selections), Komal (National Award-winning short on child sexual abuse), and India's first live-action and 3D animation feature Toonpur Ka Superrhero, starring Ajay Devgn and Kajol. His documentaries include The Invisible Visible (2022), winner at Sweden IFF and Docs Without Borders, and Saeed Mirza – The Leftist Sufi, featured in Netflix's Top 10 Indian Documentaries. He also wrote the screenplay and dialogues for The Storyteller, adapted from a Satyajit Ray short story. Under his banner Climb Films, Kireet has created 25+ award-winning social films and over 600 ad films.



KUNAL **PUROHIT**

Kunal Purohit is an award-winning independent journalist, documentary film-maker and podcast creator. Over the past two decades, Kunal has written on issues of development, politics, inequality while focussing more recently on hate crimes and the rise of Hindu nationalism. He is the author of the acclaimed book, 'H-Pop: The Secretive World of Hindutva Popstars that delves into how popular culture has been weaponised and used to radicalise millions. He is the recipient of the Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Civic Journalism (2012), the Statesman Award for Rural Reporting (2014) and the UNFPA-Laadli Media Award for Gender Sensitive Reporting (2014 and 2019).



Puloma is a struggling parent, discerning viewer of media, a potential Historian, would have been Cultural Anthropologist, who landed up being a film editor by chance.

After a bachelors in History from Lady Sri Ram and a masters in Sociology from the Delhi School of Economics, a 'chance' advice led to the Film Editing program at FTII

'Chance' became a key methodological approach at the heart of Puloma's editorial

Key screen credits that emerged are: Thread/ Muzaffarnagar Baqi Hai/ A Far Afternoon / 365 Without 377/ Turup/ Displacement and Resilience / Vanished in A Trail of Blood/ Jaadui Machchi/ If She Built a Country / #SHOUT.

Fiction Shorts Jury



ADITYA SETH

Aditya Seth, based in Delhi, is an internationally acclaimed, award-winning documentary, short, and corporate filmmaker with a strong foundation in theatre and music. His work spans short films, documentaries, and television across genres for national and international audiences. An academic and Professor of Film, he teaches filmmaking at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Aditya is a Certified Master Trainer for the Media & Entertainment Skills Council (Skill India) and for the National Skills Development Council of India. A founder member of Vikalp: Films for Freedom, he has also played a key leadership role in the Indian Documentary Producers Association, serving as Treasurer (2004–08), Vice President (2018–20), and later President, shaping India's documentary film community.



BINITA MEHTA

Binita Mehta is currently an upper school French teacher at Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, New York, USA. She is also Professor Emerita of French at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York, USA where she taught for twenty years. She has published widely, most recently on French language graphic novels. Professor Mehta is often invited to participate on panel discussions and juries for Francophone and South Asian film festivals.



SENGU<u>PTA</u>

A postgraduate in Theatre Studies from Shri Ebrahim Alkazi's Living Theatre Academy, he has taught theatre across schools and institutions, developed courses for Drama School Mumbai, and conducted workshops nationwide. He received the Mahindra Excellence Award (2006) for portraying Gandhi in *Sammy* and the V. Shantaram Award for his film debut *Hazaar Chaurasi Ki Maa* (1999). Having worked with legendary directors like Habib Tanveer and Barry John, he has performed globally and acted in 50+ films, 10 web series, radio plays for BBC, and extensive voice, dubbing, and ad work.



RAJASHREE

Rajashree, an FTII graduate, is a National Award-winning filmmaker and bestselling novelist. A passionate film buff since childhood - she used to bunk school to watch movies — she has turned that love into a remarkable career. Her film The Rebel, which she wrote and directed, won the National Award and travelled to many festivals. She has written six commissioned series, including a thriller for Sudhir Mishra and a romantic comedy for JioHotstar. Her debut novel, Trust Me, is among India's biggest-selling chicklit titles, with her works selected at MAMI's Word to Screen Market and IFFI's Film Bazaar. She has also directed shorts, mentored 40+ student films, produced shows like Indian Idol, and served as Convener of the Events Committee at the Screenwriters Association.

2-6 OCTOBER 2025

RANGSHILA | VERSOVA SOCIAL | SILK ROAD CAFE | MAVERICK STUDIOS FILMS PANELS
 MASTERCLASSES
 CONVERSATIONS
 COMMUNITY



SAAMEER MODY

Saameer Mody is the Founder and Managing Director of Pocket Films, bringing over 30 years of business experience. Under his leadership, Pocket Films has grown into India's leading distributor of short films and the No.1 YouTube partner channel for this content. The company also pioneers short film contests in India, with 45+ events, many in association with international film festivals. Expanding into production, Pocket Films creates eclectic short films and web series while offering a de facto platform for creators to gain exposure and revenue through distribution across Facebook, JioCinema, Amazon (US & UK), MX Player, Vodafone, and more.



SHARADA RAMANATHAN

Sharada Ramanathan is a filmmaker, writer, and cultural thinker whose work spans cinema, culture, and global collaboration. Her debut feature Sringaram won three Indian National Film Awards, two Tamil Nadu State Awards, and screened at over ten international festivals. Her second feature, Puthiya Thiruppangal (Twists of Fate), explored child trafficking, while her documentary Natyanubhava, supported by the Ministry of External Affairs, showcased Indian classical dance worldwide. She has served on prestigious juries including the National Film Awards, IFFI Goa, and IFF Macau, and was the first Indian on the Grand International Jury for Denmark's Creative Business Cup (2013). A UNESCO expert and former UNDP advisor, Sharada continues to develop international film projects and a film training school in Chennai.



Best Documentary or Experimental Film

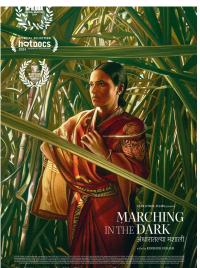
A Move directed by Elahe Esmaili

For its, portrayal of a slice of paradise where no one is an outcast, there is no imposition of any hegemonic order and quiet resistance is offered and eventually respected – all in the confines of the 'personal', and, emanating the message of, "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi", (Woman, Life, Freedom), the Jury presents the Best Documentary or Experimental Short Film award to 'A Move', directed by Elahe Esmaili.



Marching In The Dark directed by Kinshuk Surjan

The Best Feature Documentary has been awarded to 'Marching in the Dark' directed by Kinshuk Surjan for its authentic portrayal of the farmers' suicide crisis. The film, intimately and yet sensitively, captures with realistic detail the grit and stoicism of the protagonist – Sanjivani, a widow whose remarkable resilience is the bedrock of the film. Conversations with other feisty widows of Beed district are awe-inspiring and shine light on their everyday acts of resistance, making this film the best ever documentary on a very pertinent issue."



Best Director (Documentary)

Kinshuk Surjan for Marching In The Dark

The Best Director (Documentary) has been awarded to Kinshuk Surjan for his extraordinary film 'Marching in the dark'. Coming from a family of farmers, Kinshuk's empathy for their plight is omnipresent. The subject has never been painstakingly captured so intimately—a testament to Surjan's determination and effort in building a bond with his protagonist over years. Her quiet determination and her quiet resistance are captured with striking sensitivity. Marching in the Dark is a remarkable cinematic achievement—offering a humanised perspective on a well-known crisis.



Jury Mention: Best Director (Documentary)

Divya Hemant Kharnare for P for Paparazzi

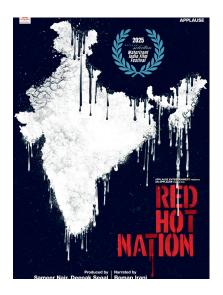
Best Director (Documentary) Jury Mention to Divya Hemant Kharnare delivers a powerful film that encapsulates and lays bare, through its main protagonist's struggles, the realities of today's socio-economic order. The protagonist, a paparazzo, feeds the insatiable appetite of social media with fleeting glamour, even as he battles poverty and precarity. Kharnare's choice of the protagonist, his deft treatment in juxtaposing the two worlds the protagonist inhibits, offers an impactful commentary, even while ensuring the film remains thoroughly engaging. For this, Kharnare, a young filmmaker, merits special recognition.



WIFF Award for Best Film on Social Issues

RED HOT NATION by Applause Entertainment

For its powerful exploration of the very urgent issue of climate change and its potentially devastating consequences on the country- WIFF Award for Best Film on Social Issues goes to RED HOT NATION produced by Applause Entertainment."



Best Director (Fiction Short Film)

Ana Berdeja for Sole

The Jury is delighted to give the Best Director (Fiction Short Film) Award to the Mexican filmmaker ANA BERDEJA for SOLE, where a senior embalmer and a dead body interact. Through magic realism, the embalmer discovers the girl's true history and learns to love herself. A powerful story of emancipation and self-discovery.



Best Fiction Short Film

Karateka Directed by Florence Fauquet

For its handling of a sensitive women's issue with courage and cinematic finesse, excelling in screenplay, cinematography, editing, sound and performances, the jury presents the Best Fiction Short Film Award to KARATEKA directed by FLORENCE FAUQUET."



Jury Mention: Best Fiction Short Film

Neither Donkey Nor Horse directed by Robin Wang

The Jury decides to give a special mention to NEITHER DONKEY NOR HORSE, a US production directed by Robin Wang, vividly recreates a 1910 Chinese hospital and the true story of Dr. Wu Lien-teh, who proved that the pneumonic plague was airborne and invented the respirator. With striking performances and cinematic finesse, it moves audiences while subtly countering post-COVID discrimination against Asian Americans.



Tracker directed by Udit Khurana

The jury has another special mention in the Short Fiction film category for TRACKER directed by Udit Khurana. In a near dystopian world a former wrestling champion turned nightclub bouncer Shalini has to enforce invasive surveillance on her own community. She battles inner demons & the moral and emotional weight of her job. A disturbing narrative of how technology has intruded our lives further complicating the human condition.



Best Performance – Female (Fiction Feature)

Sonal Madhushankar for Humans in the loop

For the Best Performance – Female in Fiction Feature, the jury honours SONAL MADHUSHANKAR for her deeply affecting portrayal of 'Nehma Oraon' in HUMANS IN THE LOOP as a migrant woman caught in the cycle of survival and self-worth. With quiet strength and emotional precision, she brings authenticity and humanity to the character, embodying resilience and dignity in the face of invisibility.



Best Performance – Male (Fiction Feature)

Arun Nath for Taarikh

For the Best Performance – Female in Fiction Feature, the jury recognizes ARUN NATH for his poignant performance as 'Durlov Dutta' in the Assamese Fiction Feature TAARIKH as an ageing journalist burdened by memory and loss. His understated yet powerful acting captures the nuances of grief, guilt, and redemption, lending the film emotional depth and a haunting realism that stays long after the credits roll.



Best Sound Design (Fiction Feature)

Kalhan Raina for Humans In The Loop

The Jury presents the Best Sound Design Award to Kalhan Raina for Humans in the Loop. The film's immersive soundscape powerfully blends the cacophony of machinery, human voices, and silences, heightening both urgency and intimacy. His precise layering of ambient and designed sounds deepens the narrative impact, making the film's realities visceral and unforgettable.



Best Cinematography (Fiction Feature)

Anand Ravi for Victoria

The Jury also recognizes Anand Ravi with the Best Cinematography Award for Victoria. His evocative camerawork transforms the confined space of a beauty parlour into a richly textured visual world, using light, movement, and composition to mirror the protagonist's inner journey with striking poignancy and power.



Monika Tiwari and Harshit Saini for Humans In The Loop

The Jury presents the Best Cinematography Award to Monika Tiwari and Harshit Saini for Humans in the Loop. Their sensitive lensing captures the precarious lives of displaced workers with a rare blend of realism and compassion, turning everyday struggles into hauntingly beautiful cinematic moments.



Best Screenplay (Fiction Feature)

Himjyoti Talukdar, Ankur Deka and Adhiraj Kashyap for Taarikh

The Jury has decided to confer the Award for Best Screenplay also on Himjyoti Talukdar, Ankur Deka, and Adhiraj Kashyap for Taarikh — a bold and poetic debut that transforms grief into unforgettable storytelling.



Aranya Sahay for Humans In The Loop

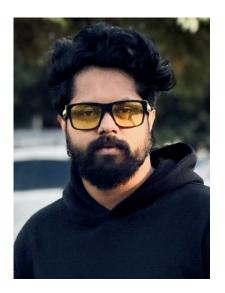
For the unique juxtaposition of setting the groundwork of big tech against the canvas of rural India and old knowledge systems, the award for Best Screenplay goes to Aranya Sahay for Humans in The Loop.



Best Film by a Debut Director (Fiction Feature)

Fasil Muhammed for Feminist Fathima

The jury honours Fasil Muhammed for his confident and original directorial voice in Feminist Fathima. With sensitivity and humour, he crafts a refreshing narrative that challenges patriarchal norms while celebrating female agency. His nuanced storytelling, strong performances, and inventive visual style mark an impressive debut that signals the arrival of a promising new filmmaker.



Jury Mention: Best Film by a Debut Director

Nukkad Naatak directed by Tanmaya Shekhar

The Special Jury Prize is awarded to Nukkad Naatak, a daring and heartfelt debut film that captures the raw energy of youth, rebellion, and the search for identity. Through the intertwined journeys of Molshri, a social justice warrior, and Shivang, a young man wrestling with his sexuality, the film explores friendship, resilience, and the courage to stand against convention. With humor and heartbreak, Nukkad Naatak transforms a story of expulsion and second chances into a powerful portrait of self-discovery. This remarkable debut announces a bold new voice in cinema, unafraid to challenge, inspire, and move audiences.



Jury Mention: Best Film by a Debut Director

Body directed by Abhijit Mazumdar

The jury gives a special mention to Body for its powerful visual language and meditative rhythm that explores the fragility and resilience of the human form. With striking imagery and minimal dialogue, the film invites viewers into an intimate reflection on existence, mortality, and the quiet poetry of being.



BEST DIRECTOR (Fiction Feature)

Sivaranjini for Victoria

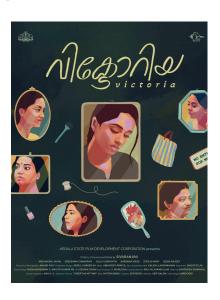
For effectively bringing the expanse of women's concerns within the confines of an uniquely women only space – the award for Best Director goes to Shivaranjini for Victoria.



Best Fiction Feature

Victoria Directed by Sivaranjini

Because the personal is very often universal and we can only hope to change the world when we start with changing our minds - the award for Best Fiction Feature goes to "Victoria" directed by Shivaranjini and produced by the Kerala State Film Development Corporation.



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FILMS IN COMPETITION

Fiction Features

- 1. A Street Play (Nukkad Naatak)
- 2. Body
- 3. Feminist Fathima
- 4. Hearth and Home (Alaav)
- 5. Humans in the Loop
- 6. In the Name of Fire (Swaaha)
- 7. Rasa
- 8. Save My Soul (Oitharei)
- 9. Taarikh
- 10. Victoria
- 11. Waterdrop

Fiction Short Films

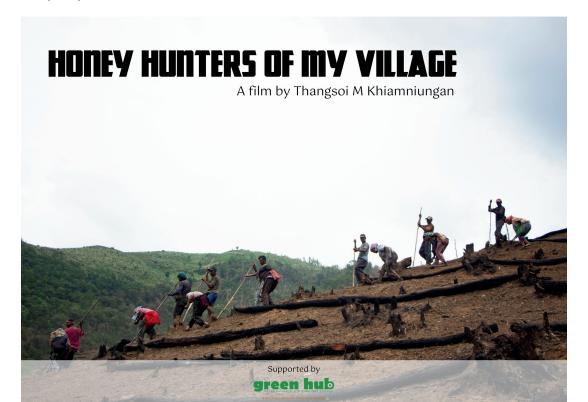
- 1. 30 Days of Autumn
- 2. A Night, After All (Shaam hi toh hai)
- 3. As Dusk Falls (ਸ਼ਾਮਾਂ)
- 4. Dark Alley
- 5. Dvand
- 6. Face To Face (Ru Ba Ru)
- 7. Jasmine that Blooms in Autumn
- 8. Kadak Chai
- 9. Karateka (Karatéka)
- 10. Love_Proxy
- 11. Mangya
- 12. My Comrade (Amar Comrade)
- 13. Neither Donkey Nor Horse (非驴非马)
- 14. Pirateland
- 15. Sole
- 16. Such a Perfect Day (Taki szczęśliwy dzień)
- 17. The Cluster Fig Flowers (Goolar Ke Phool)
- 18. The Daily Bread (Girrd)
- 19. Thursday Special
- 20. Tracker (Taak)

Documentary & Experimental Features

- 1. Asoh: Soul of the Hills
- 2. Fanatics
- 3. I Am Revathi (Njan Revathi)
- 4. In Their Own Time
- 5. Marching in the Dark
- 6. Red Hot Nation
- 7. Sally!
- 8. Sangeeta Manisha
- 9. Slaves of the Empire
- 10. The Artist
- 11. Warm Film (Topli film)
- 12. What If I Tell You (Agar Mein Kahoo)

Documentary & Experimental Short Films

- 1. A Move
- 2. Chains & Wheels (Sakhlya Ani Chaaka)
- 3. Echoes Within (Koro Gochongni)
- 4. Flowers in a Hailstorm
- 5. Haven (Przystań)
- 6. Joba (Hibiscus)
- 7. Mother's Affection (Aaini Onnai)
- 8. P for Paparazzi
- 9. Time To Change
- 10. What Will People Say? (Log Kya Kahenge?)
- 11. Woven Dreams



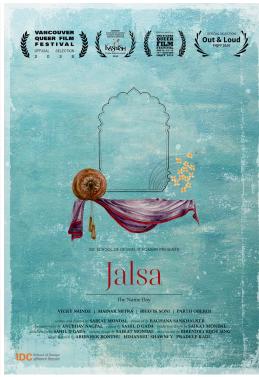






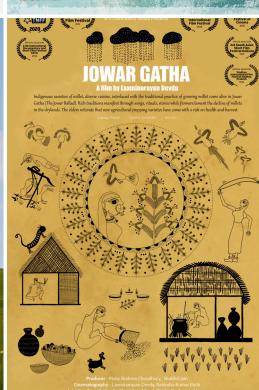


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Thursday, Oct 2 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Silk Road

WIFF SELECT: MICRO SHORTS

11 Films, 22 Min

Curated by the Illuminate Film Festival, Santa Barbara (USA), this package presents nine nominees and two finalists of the People's Choice Award from its 2025 edition. These impactful micro-shorts celebrate the 'Oneness of Humanity,' radiating love, kindness, and joy through powerful stories.

Be Better

Dir: Keldon Duane-McGlashan | 1 min 42 sec

Two young men go head to head in all areas of their lives, only to discover the true meaning of what it means to "Be Better".

Garden of Peace

Dir: Tess Cacciatore | 1 min 47 sec

A GARDEN OF PEACE' is an animated short, illustrating Yumi's universe; to bridge cultures with love and to share compassion, friendship and peace.

Just for a Moment

Dirs: Diana Hickman, John Lee | 1 min 38 sec

A photographer finds that her craft allows her to see the essence of her subjects, fostering unique connections in her neighborhood.

Noteworthy

Dir: Joe Rizzo | 1 min 44 sec

A simple written message sets off a cascade of random acts of kindness, demonstrating the power of even the smallest gestures.

Eugenia

Dir: Anthony Notarile | 1min 44 sec

Over the course of a few days in a hospital waiting room, an older woman and a young man form an unlikely bond, finding solace in each other as they navigate the fragile balance of life.

Go Time

Dir: Ari Kushnir, Schuyler Brown | 1 min 40 sec

A hypnotic visual poem illustrating that when we act together as humanity, we become an unstoppable 'Army of Love'.

My World

Dir: Jorrit Van Der Kooi | 1 min 43 sec

A little girl leaves behind an unfinished drawing; strangers pass by and add their own touches, turning her lonely world into a colorful story. In the end, the artwork becomes a reminder that even small acts of kindness can bring us together.

Oneness

Dir: Barbara Doux | 1 min 44 sec

Without a single word, 'ONENESS' weaves together people and places across continents, reminding us that compassion has no borders.

Ride Share

Dir: Michael Washington | 1 min 29 sec

A corporate executive learns about empathy through a bizarre ride share experience.

You, Rock

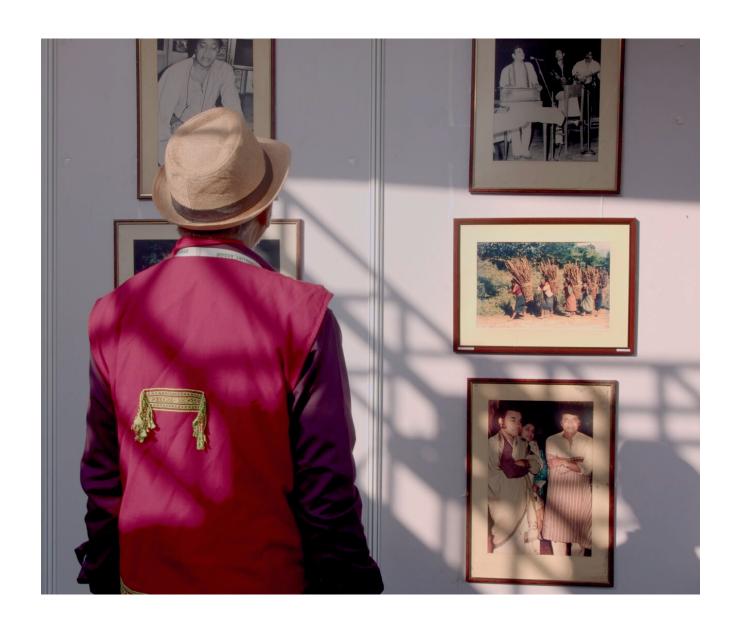
Dir: Daniel Maggio | 1 min 30 sec

An angry man makes an important discovery while skipping rocks

The Way of Unity

Dir: Tatiana Speed | 1 min 33 sec

In a world on the brink of transformation, humanity embarks on a profound journey of awakening—step by step—toward realizing its oneness and wholeness as a united human family.



Thursday, Oct 2 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Silk Road

WIFF SELECT: IN TRANSIT

6 Films, 120 Min

This package is special, highlighting journeys, transformations and liminal moments, which several of these films embody.

Curator: Kabeer Khurana

Kabeer Khurana is a Mumbai-based, award-winning filmmaker, TEDx speaker, and founder of Indie Film Circuit, a community of 3,500+ indie filmmakers. His socially relevant and visually innovative films, nominated for a Filmfare Award, have screened across 10+ countries and released on Amazon Prime US/UK, Disney+ Hotstar, and MX Player. Featured in leading global media, he currently directs niche narrative work and teaches filmmaking at Mumbai University.

Karel & Arnost

Dir: Simar Singh | 12 min | 2024 | Czech Republic | Czech | Fiction Short

A seventy three year old man who has worked at the railway station all his life, has never traveled by train. He is forced to confront his past when his grandson prepares for his first ever train journey.

Director's Bio:

Simar is a spoken word poet, standup comedian and film maker from Mumbai, India, who is known for founding UnErase Poetry. He went to the Prague Film School from 2022-2023.

Betelgeuse

Dir: Sunder Konar | 24 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Fiction Short

After a life-altering accident, Chitra must rebuild her strength with the support of family and strangers. Like Betelgeuse, the star that draws energy from others to shine, she learns resilience and endurance.

Director's Bio:

Sunder Konar, award-winning director of Betelgeuse, has also worked as Assistant Director on films including Kaabil, Dream Girl, Toofaan, Radhe Shyam, Pippa, and Yek Number. A National-level boxer, he brings a unique perspective to storytelling.

Death Walks Into A Bar

Dir: Jalpan Nanavati | 10.43 min | 2024 | USA | English | Fiction Short

In a bar at the city's edge, weary bartender Jack meets an unexpected patron—Death. Their encounter spirals into a haunting conversation that forces Jack to confront mortality.

Director's Bio:

Jalpan Nanavati is a filmmaker, writer, actor, and storyteller from Mumbai with a background in journalism. Having studied in Phoenix, LA, and New York, he creates short films blending technical skill with emotional depth.



At Last We Said Goodbye

Dir: Deeshak Patra | 18.19 min | 2025 | India | English, Hindi | Fiction Short

Yuvi, a child lost in memories, clings to the shadow of someone he once loved deeply. His brother Avi carries the same memory, but with anger. One evening, she returns—only to leave forever.

Director's Bio:

Deeshak Patra, founder of RS Films and Media House Pvt. Ltd., has directed award-winning shorts and features that challenge patriarchy and explore hidden emotions. At Last We Said Goodbye continues his pursuit of powerful, unforgettable storytelling.

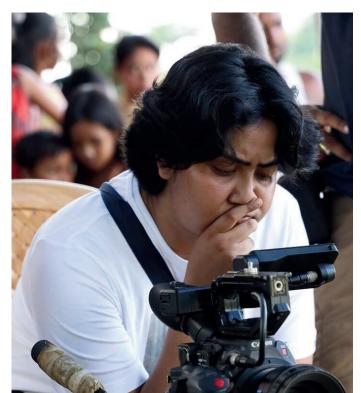
Irani Café

Dir: Shankar Kamble | 9.38 min | 2021 | India | No Dialogues | Fiction Short

In a fading Irani café, a woman waits for an online date who never arrives. Across three evenings, hope dissolves into disappointment—until a final twist reveals the café owner's secret ruse.

Director's Bio:

Shankar Kamble, an acclaimed ad film director, has worked with agencies like Ogilvy & Mather Mumbai on campaigns for Fevi Kwik, WWF, and Castrol. Now Creative Head at Climb Films, his award-winning work includes recognition from D&AD.



Free As A Bird

Aditya Khude | 16.23 min | 2024 | India | Hindi, Marathi | Fiction Short

In a cramped Mumbai home, Raj and Priya dream of a better life. A humiliating police raid mars their anniversary, but later that night, Raj finds quiet solace with his father.

Director's Bio:

Aditya Pradeep Khude, filmmaker, writer, and producer, studied at Whistling Woods International and JJ School of Arts. His short Sawantacha Ghar Hech Ka? screened in London and streams on Amazon Prime. He also directed Free as a Bird.









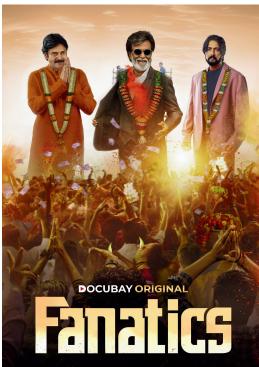




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Friday, Oct 3 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Maverick Studios

Red Hot Nation

Dir: Aarti Srivastava | 150 min | 2024 | India | English, Assamese, Bengali, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Odia | Documentary Feature

RED HOT NATION, a five-part documentary series richly narrated by Mr. Boman Irani, examines climate change's impact on health, water, food security, and livelihoods across India. Featuring firsthand accounts of people coping with environmental crises, the series highlights the human experience at the heart of the climate emergency, showing how over 50% of Indians could be directly affected in the next five years.

Episode 1: India and Climate Change

Experts and witnesses reveal how human-induced climate change affects India—from melting glaciers in Kashmir and Gaumukh to floods in Assam. Personal stories, from disaster survivors to local leaders, illustrate the profound social, economic, and environmental impacts of extreme climate events across the country.

Episode 2: Water and No Water

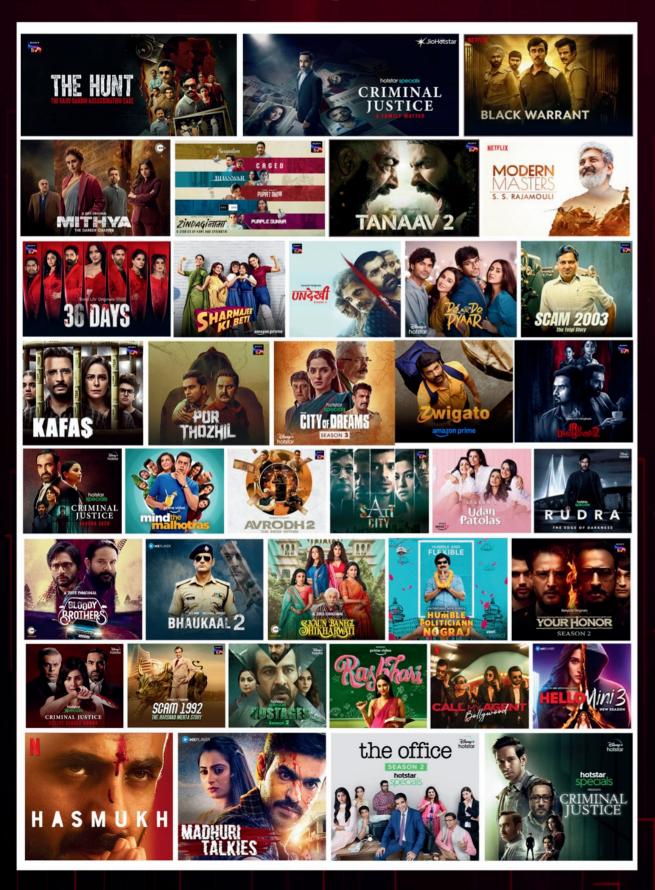
The episode explores India's water crises—floods, droughts, and scarcity—across Uttarakhand, Assam, Ladakh, Karnataka, and Delhi. Experts and locals describe the human, ecological, and gendered consequences, highlighting how development, climate change, and mismanagement threaten communities nationwide.







IT'S NOT ENTERTAINMENT IF THERE'S NO APPLAUSE



Friday, Oct 3 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Silk Road

WIFF SELECT: CONTEMPORARY NORTH
EAST CINEMA

5 Films, 210 Min

This specially curated program focuses on the rich and diverse cinematic voices emerging from India's North-East. Featuring documentaries and short films from Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland, the selection offers a nuanced exploration of cultural identities, landscapes, and stories rarely seen on the national stage.

Curators: Parthajit Baruah and Joshy Joseph

Parthajit Baruah is an Indian filmmaker and historian known for his scholarly and cinematic contributions, including "A History of India's North-East Cinema" (Bloomsbury Academic, 2024), "*The Cinema of Adoor Gopalakrishnan*" (HarperCollins, 2016), "*The History of Assamese Cinema*" (Krantikal Prakashan, 2021) and the feature film "*The Nellie Story*" (2023). He has directed 13 documentaries. He was awarded the State Film Critic Award by the Government of Assam. He did two research projects on film at NFAI, Pune.

Joshy Joseph had won 6 National Awards for making films and 1 National Award for writing on Cinema. He has authored 3 books in Malayalam. He writes for Counter Currents and Imphal Review of Arts and Politics in English and Mathrubhumi, AIDEM and Ezhuthu magazine in Malayalam on Literature and Cinema. Conducted several filmmaking workshops in Tripura, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur and Mizoram through which he mentored several aspiring film makers of North East.

IMAGI NINGTHEM (My Son, My Precious)

Dir: Aribam Syam Sharma | 110 min | 1981 | India | | Meitei | Fiction Feature

Dhani, a new teacher, befriends Thoithoi, a struggling student, and learns of his tragic past: his mother died after being abandoned by her lover, Dinachandra, who is now married to Dhani's cousin, Ekashini. When Dhani reveals the truth, Ekashini is moved to care for Thoithoi, forming a deep mother-son bond. Despite Thoithoi's grandfather's objections, Ekashini insists on keeping Thoithoi and nurtures him, even preparing him for a Krishna dance performance. The film ends with Ekashini lovingly correcting Thoithoi's dance steps, symbolizing her acceptance of him as her precious son and the healing of their fractured family.

Director's Bio:

Aribam Syam Sharma (1936) is a pioneering filmmaker and composer from Manipur, who debuted as an actor in Matamgi Manipur, the first Manipuri film. His directorial debut, LAMJA PARSHURAM (1974), was the first Manipuri film to run for 100 days. OLANGTHAGEE WANGMADASOO (1979) broke records by running 32 weeks and surpassing Sholay locally. His film IMAGI NINGTHEM (My Son, My Precious) gained international acclaim, winning the Montgolfiere d'Or at Nantes in 1982. ISHANOU was screened at in the Un Certain Regard section at the 1991 Cannes Film Festival in 1991. Sharma received the Padmashri in 2006, which he returned in 2019 in protest.



LOOK AT THE SKY

Dir: Ashok Veilou| 30 min | 2019 | India | Poula (Manipur) | Fiction Short

Hai, a 40-year-old man is outcast by his villagers for not supporting the village candidate in the election. Despite all odds, Hai shows courage and stands for his individual right - the right to vote and elect his representatives.

Director's Bio:

Ashok Veilou, an alumnus of SRFTI, Kolkata, is an emerging filmmaker from Manipur.

I AM PROPERTY

Dir: Karry Paddu | 20 min | 2020 | India | Hindi, English | Short Documentary

The film sheds light to the different communities of Arunachal Pradesh where the practice of polygyny is dominantly prevalent. However, although a woman is the breadwinner, nurturer of the land she does not have any rights to own land.

Director's Bio:

Karry Padu, from Aalo, West Siang District, is an independent filmmaker and director of Wild Flower Production, Itanagar. She created The Vivid Project, addressing racism, politics, religion, and gender equality, and her latest film I Am Property explores polygamy under customary law. Her production house also organizes events like the Arunachal Literature and Art Festival and Yomgo River Festival.







MIZO SOUNDSCAPES Dir: Joshy Joseph | 22.19 min | 2021 | India | Mizo, English | Short Documentary

Mizo Soundscape is a meta-narrative of Mizoram, told through immersive sounds, and a grand narrative of the KHUANG (Mizo Drum), presented with a captivating fusion of audio and visual elements.

Director's Bio:

Joshy Joseph is an independent and multiple award winning filmmaker.

SONGS FROM THE MIST

Dir: Kivini Shohe | 26.22 min | 2022 | India | Ao, Chang, Phom & Nagamese (Nagaland)| Short Documentary

Songs from the Mist is a lyrical documentary capturing the fading oral traditions of Nagaland's Ao, Chang, and Phom tribes. Following tribal elders as they sing and share ancestral songs and stories, the film preserves origin myths, collective memory, and cultural identity, offering a quiet act of resistance against modernization and religious change.

Director's Bio:

Kivini Shohe, a founding member of the Film Association of Nagaland, is a seasoned filmmaker with 23 years of experience. Her notable work includes *OH MY SOUL, UNDER THE LONGPHURU SKY*, and *EVEN THE DEAD SPEAKS*.





Friday, Oct 3 | 1 PM - 4 PM | Silk Road

YOUNG VOICES, NEW VISIONS: Films from the Teen Indie Film Awards (TIFA)
10 Films, 108 Min

A unique student-driven festival, the Teen Indie Film Awards (TIFA) was founded by Dr. Piyush Roy and is hosted by the School of Film Media and Creative Arts, RV University, Bengaluru, India. From 2025, we are proud to present a curated package of ten fiction and non-fiction films created by teenage filmmakers (ages 13-19) worldwide.

MENU

Dir: Vijay Rahul | 9.49 min | 2024 | India | Tamil | Fiction Short

An ordinary man, suffocated by the monotony of his rigid routine, embarks on a personal journey of small, rebellious acts that transform his perception of the world and himself.

Director's Bio:

Vijay Rahul is a YouTube content creator who has a channel called "KARUTHU SORUGAL" and he has made 4 Short films on his writing and direction and this Short film is his 5th movie. And also he worked as an actor and assistant director in many other's short films.

Where Does a Body Begin and End

Dir: Suriya Kiran T \mid 5. 27 min \mid 2024 \mid India \mid English \mid Experimental Short

An experimental short film that uses a meditative mood and abstract visuals to lull the viewer into a deep contemplation of the self before confronting them with a raw, rock-n-roll burst of existential power.

Director's Bio:

Suriya Kiran T is a young filmmaker who began his journey with short films. Passionate about directing, editing, cinematography, and colour grading, he leans towards the technical side of filmmaking. With the eye of an editor, he approaches direction thoughtfully, blending creativity with precision to tell compelling visual stories.

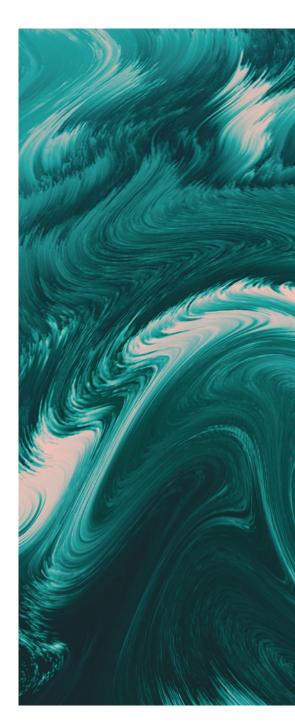
In the Backstage (Nos Bastidores)

Dir: Rui Paulo Silva | 2024 | 6.11 min | Portugal | Portuguese | Fiction Short

A young band's intimate bonds and fraying nerves are put to the ultimate test in the tense, thrilling moments before they step onto the stage for their first live concert.

Director's Bio:

Rui Paulo Silva, 18 years old, is a student filmmaker from Lisbon, Portugal. With this film, his main goal is to share his love for both cinema and music, and to demonstrate his value in these areas thathe is so passionate about. At such a young age, he feel incredibly happy and grateful to already be able to show his work to the world.





Dir: Advaith Ashok | 4.05 min | 2025 | India | English | Short Documentary

A hopeless romantic's poetic narration guides a visually stunning and peaceful journey through the majestic landscapes of Nagaland, exploring the profound beauty of life and love.

Director's Bio:

Advaith Ashok, a 20-year-old aspiring filmmaker studying at RV University, makes his film festival debut with a vision shaped by diverse global experiences. Passionate about exploring human nature and emotion, his work reflects the subtleties of human connections with honesty and universality. Having taken on varied roles in filmmaking, Advaith balances creative vision with practical demands, committed to evolving as an artist and expanding the language of cinema.



Dir: Akshat Asolkar | 11.08 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Fiction Short

After a tragic loss and relentless bullying, a college student with multiple personality disorder finds her mind becoming both a refuge and a prison as her inner voices begin to violently take over.

Director's Bio:

Akshat Asolkar is a filmmaker and VFX artist passionate about blending reality with fantasy. Beginning in 2019 by creating imaginative YouTube videos, he discovered his love for storytelling. His debut short film marks the first step in his journey to bring bold, visually rich, and emotionally resonant visions to the screen.

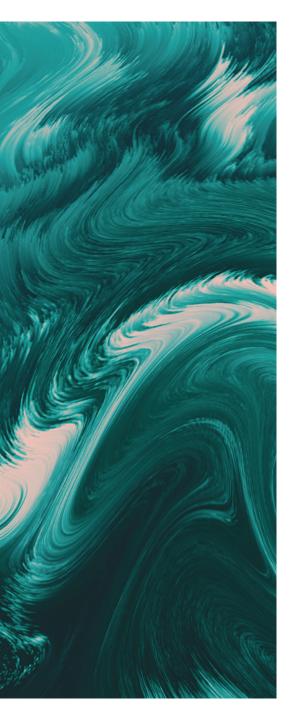
Dahi Puri

Dir: Vedant Panamgipalli | 9.08 min | 2025 | India | English | Fiction Short

Pranav and Priya are a little more than friends and a little less than anything else. As a discussion on their relationship reaches a boiling point, they must find a way to make amends, and in the simple act of sharing a plate of Dahi Puri, they find the comfortable middle ground they crave.

Director's Bio:

Vedant Panamgipalli is a student of Filmmaking at RV University, Bangalore. He is the Founding President of the RVU Film Society and the current Festival Director of the Teen Indie Film Awards at RV University. He is a writer, editor, musician and researcher, with research interests in film history and film appreciation.



Glorious Smallness

Dir: Yeha Kwon | 14.40 min | 2024 | South Korea | Korean | Short Documentary

Amidst the chaos of an African civil war, a young girl discovers her passion for storytelling, a spark that grows into a resilient filmmaker's journey of trauma, memory, and creative awakening.

Director's Bio:

Yeha Kwon is a student currently attending the Korea National University of Arts and she has directed two short films. She has won awards at various film festivals, including the 11th edition of the Sharjah International Film Festival, and the Child Rights Film Festival with Save the Children.

Guess My Name

Dir: Pranesh G. | 15.12 min | 2025 | India | English | Fiction Short

A tormented student is plunged into a web of paranoia and unresolved trauma when he becomes the target of a mysterious ghost with a terrifying and obsessive agenda.

Director's Bio:

Pranesh G. is a student of RV University and he making films is one of his favorite pasttimes. This is one of his first short films. His films usually dabble in the horrors of life and the fantasies of it, as well.

The Last Heist

Dir: Adarsh U. Nair | 24.28 min | 2024 | India | English | Fiction Short

A young comic book artist discovers that criminals are turning his illustrated heists into real crimes, forcing him and a victim's family to unravel a deadly conspiracy where his own creation could destroy reality.

Director's Bio:

Adarsh U Nair, once a civil service aspirant, found his true calling in cinema. A passionate writer and actor, he now steps forward as the writer, director, and lead of his crime fantasy *THE LAST HEIST*, aiming to connect with audiences and capture major OTT platforms' attention.

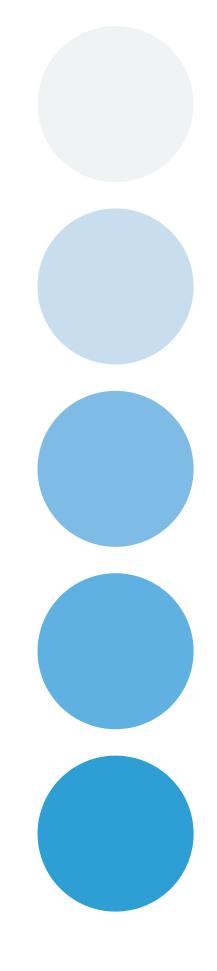
The Ceiling of Wishes

Dir: Amir Hossein Bahmani | 2024 | 6.11 min | Iran | Persian| Fiction Short

A bedridden father, confined to watching the ceiling, finds it transformed into a magical window by his daughter's love, forcing him to confront his deepest fears about his illness and the future of his family.

Director's Bio:

Amir Hossein Bahmani is 19 years old and from Iran. He has been working in the field of cinema for three years now. In those three years, he participated in the production of more than 200 teasers, 15 music videos, 10 short films and 10 documentaries as a cameraman and editor.



Friday, Oct 3 | 7 PM — 10 PM | Rangshila Screen 1

Opening Film

FEMINIST FATHIMA

Dir: Fasil Muhammed | 100 min | 2024 | India | Malayalam | Fiction Feature

Fathima, a housewife in the coastal town of Ponnani, lives under the strict control of her orthodox husband, Ashraf. When their son wets the old mattress, her attempt to replace it sparks conflict. Fathima soon realizes the mattress symbolizes more than comfort—it is her chance to reclaim independence.





Friday, Oct 3 | 4 PM — 7 PM | Maverick Studio

INDIA GOLD

A showcase of three National Award winning films-regional in roots, universal in soul!

WIFF shines a spotlight on the diversity of Indian regional cinema with *India Gold*, a showcase of three acclaimed films in **Garo**, **Marathi**, and **Odia** - each honored with the Best Feature Film award in their respective language category at the 71st National Film Awards, announced in August 2025. Through this handpicked selection from Maharashtra, Meghalaya, and Odisha, the festival celebrates rich regional voices, cultural distinctiveness, and the creative excellence of Indian storytellers- while resonating with universal human experiences.

Presenting here the Marathi language winning film!

SHYAMCHI AAI

Director: Sujay Dahake | 140 min, 2023, Marathi

Based on social worker and freedom fighter Sane Guruji's autobiographical novel, Shyamchi Aai unfolds in 1932 as inmates in a British prison gather to hear his stories. Pandurang Sadashiv Sane, fondly known as Sane Guruji, recalls his childhood in the Konkan region, where his mother's love and sacrifices shaped his life. With warmth and simplicity, he shares lessons she imparted—honesty, compassion, and resilience—painting a vivid portrait of maternal devotion. Told from the confines of prison, Shyamchi Aai becomes both a tender personal memoir and a timeless tribute to the unbreakable bond between a mother and her son, resonating across generations as a story of values, sacrifice, and love.

Sujay Sunil Dahake is a national award-winning filmmaker for his debut film Shala (School) in 2012. It was represented in 20 international film festivals and bagged the title of 'Best Director' at the New York Indian Film festival and Stuttgart Indian Film Festival 2012 in Germany. Later, Sujay Produced and Directed four Marathi feature films dealing with various subjects, such as wildlife environmental conservation, science - fiction, a sports drama, and a children's movie on verbal abuse. His other works include research in new age cinematic technologies such as A.R (Augmented reality) and V.R (Virtual Reality). He is currently pursuing a PhD in Cinema and Mathematics from Sydney Film School. If not filming, Sujay is mostly seen stone - sculpting and farming as his other interests.







Saturday, Oct 4 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Silk Road

WIFF SELECT: COMMUNITY CINEMA

10 Films, 200 Min

This curated section foregrounds community-based media practices that radically reimagine who creates cinema and how. Emerging from collective authorship, lived experience, and grassroots realities, community based filmmaking practices challenge dominant filmmaking norms and invite us to encounter stories shaped by those who have historically been spoken for. These are not films made about communities; they are authored by them where they own their representation on the big screen. In doing so, they resist extractive and hierarchical forms of storytelling and embrace processes embedded in collaborative production, experimental pedagogy, and a deep commitment to social and political engagement.

Curators: Dr. Anjali Monteiro, Dr. K.P. Jayasankar, Dr. Shilpi Gulati



Dr. Anjali Monteiro is a documentary filmmaker, researcher and teacher. Jointly with Dr. K.P. Jayasankar, she has made over 40 documentary films, winning 33 national and international awards. She co-authored the national award-winning book *A Fly in the Curry: Independent Documentary Film in India* (Sage, 2016). She retired as Professor and Dean from the School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. She has been visiting faculty at media and design institutions and universities across the world and received a Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contribution to Film Education, from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, India.



Dr. K.P. Jayasankar is a former Professor, School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, involved in documentary production, teaching and research. He is also a cinematographer and editor. Jointly with Dr. Anjali Monteiro he received the Satish Bahadur Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Film Education, from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad in 2022. His documentary films have won 33 national and international awards. His co-authored book *A Fly in the Curry* (Sage, 2016), on independent Indian documentary, got a Special Mention for the best book on cinema at the National Film Awards, 2016.



Dr Shilpi Gulati is a filmmaker, scholar, and educator based in Mumbai. She is a two-time recipient of the National Film Award for *QISSA-E PARSI* (2015) and *TAALA TE KUNJEE* (2019). A Fulbright scholar and fellow at the International Documentary Association, Shilpi's practice and research has been supported by CORO India, PSBT, Video Consortium, AJWS, and the US Consulate. Interested in the intersections of documentary film, feminist inquiry, and community-led media, she contributes widely as a curator, producer, and mentor, advancing documentary as a method for storytelling and knowledge sharing. She holds a PhD in Cinema Studies from JNU and teaches at the School of Media and Cultural Studies, TISS.

JOWAR GATHA (The Jowar Ballad)

Dir: Laxminarayan Devda | 30 min | 2017 | India | Nimadi | Short Documentary

Indigenous varieties of sorghum and millets, diverse cuisine, interlaced with the traditional practice of farming come alive in "Jowar Gatha" (The Jowar Ballad). While farmers lament the decline of Jowar (sorghum) and millets due to changing cropping pattern in the drylands of Central India, rich traditions of life around these crops manifest through traces of songs, rituals and stories. The elders reiterate that new agricultural cropping pattern have come at the cost of not only the disappearing of some of the traditional crop varieties but also with a risk on health and quantum of harvest.

Director's Bio:

Laxminarayan Devda, a farmer from a remote tribal village of Pandutalab in Bagli Tehsil is a media practitioner engaging in participatory filmmaking. He has been working with SPS Community Media since 2006, learning and discovering the joy of photography and chronicling people's voices through short video films that are shared across communities as experiential learning.

HONEY HUNTERS OF MY VILLAGE

Dir: Thangsoi M Khiamniungan | 14.37 min | 2022 | India | Khiamniungan (dialect) | Short Documentary

The Khiamniungan tribe is one of the major tribes among the Nagas, with the habitation of both India and Myanmar. Till the 90s, like many other villages in Nagaland, the Choklangan village was cut off from the rest of the country and sustained itself through agriculture and barter trade with Myanmar for many years. They used to harvest the Cliff Bee's honey and wax, and trade to Myanmar and in return they receive salt and medicines.

Director's Bio:

Thangsoi M Khiamniugan is from Choklangan village of Noklak district, Nagaland. He belongs to the Khiamniugan tribe of Nagaland. He is very much interested in photography and videography. He aspires to learn new things. Apart from this, he is also a good cook. He loves to prepare Naga cuisine and promote his culture through the medium of food.





HOTEL RAAHGIR

Dir: Ektara Collective | 40.25 min | 2020 | India | Hindi, Malayalam, Gondi, English | Fiction Short

In a bustling railway canteen, artists and traveller's from a cultural event cross paths through arguments, introductions, and fleeting encounters. What begins as an ordinary day gradually unravels into something far from normal—revealing how lives, shaped by the world around them, in turn reshape it, leaving behind moments of unexpected resonance and revelation.

Team's Bio:

As an independent filmmaking collective, Ektara brings together diverse individuals, trained and untrained, to merge their creative abilities and to make and produce films that are informed by and reflect a common reality that emerges from our experiences, both in terms of content and aesthetics. Ektara has successfully produced short fiction, feature films, music videos and has also supported the dubbing of films from various languages into Hindi.

THE ART OF SHOEMAKING

Dir: ChalChitra Abhiyaan | 15 min | 2024 | India | Hindustani (Khadi dialect) | Short Documentary

The film captures the fading cottage industry of handmade shoemaking, once a skilled, time-intensive craft. With mass production by factories, traditional artisans are disappearing. Set in Garhi Daulat, Shamli district, Uttar Pradesh, it follows a family of leather shoemakers—among the last in the region—struggling to preserve their livelihood and craft against overwhelming odds.

Team's Bio:

ChalChitra Abhiyaan (CCA) is a film and media collective based out of Western Uttar Pradesh.

CCA produces a range of video formats like documentary films, news features, interviews and live broadcasts. We try to bring to the fore local issues that concern different marginalised communities.

An important aspect of CCA's work is to train people from local communities to tell their own stories through videos. CCA also organises a range of cultural activities including regular film screenings in different villages of Shamli.

TIME FOR MYSELF

Dir: Supriya Ovhal | 5.50 min | 2023 | India | Hindi | Short Documentary

In bustling Mumbai, a young woman balances chores, studies, and expectations while finding freedom through reels on her phone. What begins as stolen moments of play and imagination becomes a space for identity and self-expression. Created under a CORO India fellowship with TISS and AJWS, the film explores youth reclaiming voice through digital media.

Team's Bio:

CORO India, established in 1989 in Mumbai, began with adult literacy efforts in urban low-income areas. Over 35 years, it has transformed into a grassroots-led organization driven by individuals, particularly women, from marginalized communities, focused on fostering equality, social justice, and community-led leadership and live events on current issues for local, national, and international audiences.





#FREE TO FEEL

Dirs: Shaikh Saima Zakir Hussain, Shaikh Shaheen Shakeel | 7.41 min | 2023| India | Hindi| Short Documentary

#FreeToFeel is an audio-led documentary where young women from Mumbai's grassroots communities speak openly about love, desire, intimacy, and everyday joys. Through laughter, jokes, and candid reflections, they share fantasies and feelings, creating a space of freedom and self-expression. Part of a CORO India fellowship, the film amplifies youth voices and lived experiences.

Team's Bio:

CORO India, established in 1989 in Mumbai, began with adult literacy efforts in urban low-income areas. Over 35 years, it has transformed into a grassroots-led organization driven by individuals, particularly women, from marginalized communities, focused on fostering equality, social justice, and community-led leadership.

KHUSHI'S ROSHNI

Dirs: Khushi Bano | 7.07 min | 2023 | India | Hindi | Short Documentary

This academic documentary follows Khushi Bano from The Third Eye's Learning Lab as she explores how offline and online lives diverge. Using dolls and social media reels, she imagines and animates a persona to question what we reveal or conceal in digital spaces, reflecting on the layered relationship between the 'real' and the 'reel.'

Director's Bio:

Khushi Bano works in Sadbhavana Trust, Lucknow. She has been part of The Third Eye's Learning Lab for two years, learning narrative making through image, sound and text. Her piece 'KHUSHI'S ROSHNI', won the Best Short Film at the prestigious TOTO Awards by the Toto Funds the Arts in 2024.

THOSE THREE MONTHS

Dir: Sana Shaikh | 14.53 min | 2023 | India | Hindi | Short Documentary

After discovering an old video of her orphanage, Shaikh Sana confronts childhood memories of isolation, where her only companion was her friend Rahin. Through filmmaking, she redefines friendship, home, and self-worth, finding purpose amid difficult circumstances and her mother's love. Created through the Govandi Arts Festival 2023 Filmmaking Mentorship, the film reflects resilience and hope.

Director's Bio:

Sana Shaikh, an undergraduate commerce student at Mumbai University, is passionate about storytelling and community work. Based in Govandi, she coordinates the Ek Aasmaan Tale Program and Govandi Arts Festival with the Community Design Agency.

BIRDS AND BUFFALOES: JUNGLE SE SHEHAR TAK

Dirs: Karamat Ali, Taufiq, Varun Chauva, Abhinav | 16.44 min | 2025 | India | Hindi | Short Documentary

Amid the forests of Uttarakhand and the shimmering waters of Jhilmil Jheel, this documentary explores biodiversity and traditional ways of life through the stories of two young men—one choosing settlement, the other nomadism.

Directors' Bio:

Varun Chauva is a filmmaker from Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh. Taufiq is a nature guide, photographer, and filmmaker from Uttarakhand. Karamat Ali is a filmmaker from the Van Gujjar community in Uttarakhand. Abhinav is a first-time filmmaker from Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh.

MEELON DUR

Dir: Megha Acharya | 50 min | 2023 | India | Bundeli | Short Documentary

When sudden rains halt work at a brick kiln in Bundelkhand, three women navigate debt, survival, and the challenges of unorganized labor. Set against rapid urbanization and a global pandemic, the film illuminates their crucial yet often invisible contributions, capturing resilience, mobility, and the everyday realities of marginalized labor in North India.

Director's Bio:

Megha Acharya is a filmmaker and video practitioner with her work mostly centring around non-fiction. The nuances of everyday-life is where her multitudes of questions are born. The process of making documentaries helps her explore the answers to those questions and makes her understand the varied realities of the world we are living in.

Saturday, Oct 4 | 3 PM — 7 PM | Silk Road

WIFF SELECT: QUEER CINEMA

5 Films, 240 Min

An inspiring line-up of award-winning films that illuminate the many shades of queer life across the LGBTQ+ spectrum. These heartfelt stories celebrate strength, joy, and hope—reminding us that happy endings are possible. Curated with pride, this package comes to you from the KASHISH Pride Film Festival.

Curator: Sridhar Rangayan



Sridhar Rangayan is a filmmaker, writer, and activist whose films address social issues with warmth, compassion, and humour. His award-winning works have screened at 350+ festivals, winning 35+ international awards, including a National Award for *Breaking Free*. He is also the founder and Festival Director of KASHISH Pride Film Festival, South Asia's biggest LGBTQIA+ film festival.

I AM TEJIMOLA

Dir: Aditav Dowerah | 7 min | 2024 | India | Assamese | Animation Short

As a sinister presence emerges, our protagonist draws strength from the Assamese folktale Tejimola-he moi, the shapeshifter. This evocative film explores gender expression and the body as resistance against rigid societal norms.

Director's Bio:

Aditav Dowerah, a designer from Guwahati now based in Bengaluru, holds a Dual Degree in Communication Design from IDC School of Design, IIT Bombay. A visual artist drawn to layered narratives, he explores nuance through imagery, printmaking experiments, and an enduring fondness for baby-talking to animals.

JALSA - THE NAME DAY

Dir: Saikat Mondal | 23 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Fiction Short Winner of Riyad Wadia Award for Best Emerging Indian Filmmaker, KASHISH Pride Film Festival 2025

On the day of Jalsa, Suresh visits his estranged sibling, now Meneka. Amid rituals, revelations, and song, he begins to understand her world – ultimately embracing her identity with acceptance.

Director's Bio:

Saikat Mondal is a Communication Designer and filmmaker who graduated from IDC School of Design, IIT Bombay, in 2022. His debut film *JALSA – THE NAME DAY* reflects his belief that exploring ethnicity strengthens roots. His visual works are empathetic, culturally rooted, and narrate compassionate queer stories.









Dir: Sunita Malpani | 19 min | 2025 | India | Hindi, English | Fiction Short

Neil, an open-hearted Hip-hop dancer, and Javed, quietly guarded, hit a crossroads when Neil's mother wants to meet. Javed, afraid to come out, pulls back. But at a café, Neil's idea turns looming heartbreak into unexpected hope.

Director's Bio:

Sunita Malpani began her career as a journalist before turning to fiction and then filmmaking. Her debut documentary *BREAKING ALL THE WAY* (Films Division of India), India's first deep dive into Hip Hop and B-boy culture, premiered at MIFF 2018 to acclaim. She followed it with the short *Because*, which premiered at KASHISH 2025.

THE WITCH OF VIHAR LAKE

Dir: Joey Kaushik | 15 min | 2025 | India | Marathi | Fiction Short Winner of Ismat Chughtai Award for Best Woman Filmmaker of Indian Origin, KASHISH Pride Film Festival 2025

In a village near Vihar Lake, where fearsome tales of a witch keep people away, young Mitthu and his sister Ishita grow up in the shadow of dread. One fateful night unravels life-altering truths – about Ishita, himself, and the witch.

Director's Bio:

Joey Kaushik is a queer screenwriter and filmmaker. She creates films which are rooted in magical realism - folk tales infused with modern narrative storytelling. She won the KASHISH QDrishti Filmmaking Grant in 2024 and 'THE WITCH OF VIHAR LAKE' is her debut short and was awarded the Ismat Chughtai Award.

A LIFE INSIDE ME

Dir: Jackie R. Bala | 102 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Fiction Feature

Sitaram, an elder confronting the twilight of his life, begins to break a lifelong silence about his gender identity. As he embraces self-acceptance and shares his truth with his family, his daughter Mira navigates her own challenges – a strained marriage and the unexpected news of her pregnancy.

Director's Bio:

Jackie R. Bala is an Indian director, producer, and screenwriter known for his award-winning short films. His recent works have garnered multiple nominations and accolades at national and international film festivals, including the Dadasaheb Phalke Actor Award for *THERE IS NO HUMAN* (2022). With a distinct voice and a flair for impactful storytelling, he continues to carve out a space in contemporary cinema. A LIFE INSIDE ME marks his debut feature.









Saturday, Oct 4 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Maverick Studio

INDIA GOLD

A showcase of three National Award winning films-regional in roots, universal in soul!

WIFF shines a spotlight on the diversity of Indian regional cinema with *India Gold*, a showcase of three acclaimed films in **Garo**, **Marathi**, and **Odia** - each honored with the Best Feature Film award in their respective language category at the 71st National Film Awards, announced in August 2025.

Through this handpicked selection from Maharashtra, Meghalaya, and Odisha, the festival celebrates rich regional voices, cultural distinctiveness, and the creative excellence of Indian storytellers- while resonating with universal human experiences.

Presenting here the Odia language winning film!

PUSHKARA (Puskara)

Director: Subhransu Das | 123 min, 2023, Odia

Puskara, based on Shankar Tripathy's Odia novel Nadabindu, follows Neelkanth, the sole Puskara in Puri who performs an ancient ritual for the departed. Once a brilliant scholar with unfulfilled dreams, he is thrust back into the life of his lost love Sunanda after her husband's death, rekindling buried emotions and reshaping their intertwined destinies.

Subhransu Das shines as an accomplished cinematographer, leaving an enduring impact on the realm of visual storytelling. His innate talent for encapsulating emotions, atmospheres, and narratives through his lens has garnered well-deserved recognition. Notable works including films like *Filmistaan*, *Ram Singh Charlie*, *Poorna*, *The Last Color*, *Atkan Chatkan*, *Siya*, *Kaun Kitne Paani Mein*, *and* the web series *Shiksha Mandal* bear his creative signature.

Notably, Das makes his directorial debut with the film *Pushkara*, marking an exciting new chapter in his artistic journey. As he continues to infuse his creative essence into visual storytelling, audiences can anticipate more evocative and immersive cinematic experiences brought to life through his lens





Saturday, Oct 4 | 1 PM — 4 PM | Maverick Studio

CHHAYAANKAN - THE MANAGEMENT OF SHADOWS

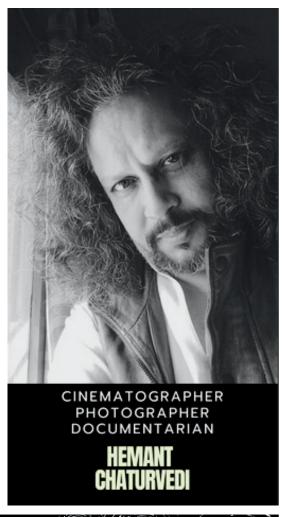
Dir: Hemant Chaturvedi | 138 min | 2021 India | Hindi, English | Documentary Feature with Q&A

Hemant Chaturvedi has spent a significant part of his adult life as a cinematographer for Hindi films - *COMPANY*, *MAKDEE*, *15 PARK AVENUE*, *KURBAAN*, *ISHAQZAADE* etc., chose to walk away from the profession in 2015, after a three-decade career. With numerous unanswered questions needing closure, he decided to speak to his peers on camera. He interviewed 14 of the 17 cinematographers he had approached between 1985–1990 for work as an assistant—sadly, three had passed away by then.

Always feeling his department never received the respect it deserved, Chaturvedi wanted to document these champions of the profession. Curiously, none of them had ever been interviewed previously, barring one—and that too, only as a director.

The film explores the journeys of these stalwarts, active between 1960 and 2010. It looks at the beginnings of their remarkable careers and walks viewers through the cycles of life—from professional infancy, to establishing individuality, with discussions on aesthetics, morality, and professional relationships.

The 138-minute documentary was filmed over two weeks in December 2015, edited in the second half of 2021, and completed in December 2021. It was produced and directed by Hemant Chaturvedi.





Saturday, Oct 4 | 7 PM — 10 PM | Maverick Studio

Ghaath (Ambush)

Dir: Chhatrapal Ninawe | 125.28 min | 2024 | India | Marathi | Fiction Feature

Ghaath is a tense tale of betrayal and shifting loyalties. An undercover fugitive stalks a cop who killed his brother, while the officer targets a deserter torn between escape and forbidden love. In the shadowy forests of conflict, loyalties fracture, and identities blur between hunter and prey.

Director's Bio

Chhatrapal Ninawe is an Indian filmmaker, director, and screenwriter. His debut feature *GHAATH* was selected for Berlinale Panorama 2023 and nominated for the GWFF Best First Feature Award. He won the 15th Giuseppe Becce Award for Best Director at Berlinale, presented by Cineclub Verona and FEDIC magazine. Earlier, Ghaath won the WIP Lab Award at NFDC Film Bazaar 2020. A Berlinale Talents alumnus (2022), Ninawe's short *A CHEQUE OF DEATH* (2007), on farmer suicides in Central India, won the Filmaka India contest.









cosmicheartgallery



Cosmic Heart Gallery A Legacy of Art, Vision, and Impact



A sanctuary of creativity in South Bombay, Cosmic Heart Gallery is a space where exquisite art transcends time, culture, and geography. Founded by Jalpa H Vithalani in 2012, the gallery has curated over 300 transformative exhibitions, fostering artistic excellence and global cultural exchange.

Among its landmark initiatives is 'Eye of the Tiger', a powerful confluence of art and conservation. Conceptualized by Jalpa H Vithalani, this project broughttogether 200 rural artists from Sawai Madhopur to create 100 breathtaking works, advocating for tiger conservation and sustainable livelihoods. The exhibition has gained national recognition, travelling to The Indian Museum, Kolkata, for its historic 210-year celebration, where Jalpa's own evocative tiger paintings were showcased and marked her debut as an artist alongside these masterpieces.

Beyond exhibitions, Cosmic Heart Gallery is a movement, collaborating with institutions like NGMA Delhi, NGMA Kolkata, J.J. School of Art, Iran Culture House, and the Consulate General of Argentina, and representing India at prestigious forums such as the United Nations and Art Bahrain Across Borders under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa. As a member of the special Task Force of Arts for BPW International, Jalpa continues to foster peace and intercultural understanding across 100 countries.

Each exhibition is a meticulously curated experience, breaking barriers of language and geography to foster a universal dialogue through art. With an unwavering belief in art as a force of transformation, the gallery continues to shape narratives, elevate spaces, and inspire generations.

Here, art is not just displayed-it is experienced, celebrated, and woven into the fabric of history.























Saturday, Oct 4 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Rangshila Screen 1

Hearth and Home (Alaav)

Dir: Prabhash Chandra | 123 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Fiction Feature

Alaav portrays Bhaveen Gossain, a 63-year-old devoted to caring for his 95-year-old mother, Savitri, in their Delhi home. The film captures tenderness, patience, and devotion, but also the struggles, frustrations, and quiet resentments of caregiving—offering an intimate yet unsentimental portrait of a mother-son bond and those entwined in their daily lives.





Saturday, Oct 4 | 1 PM — 4 PM | Rangshila Screen 1

RASA

Saturday, Oct 4 | 1 PM – 4 PM | Rangshila Screen 1

Varun, a talented young chef, wins a rare opportunity to work with the extraordinary Chef Ananth, whose unusual and magical creations send his diners into a state of euphoric bliss. Everything unravels when Varun's dream job pushes him to depths darker than he could ever imagine.

Directors' Bio

Twin brothers Angith and Preetish Jayaraj grew up on Cartoon Network and 80s action flicks, sparking a fascination with storytelling that evolved into a deep-rooted passion for filmmaking over time.

Coming from a background in VFX, animation, and concept art, the duo brings a uniquely hands-on approach to their craft. These skills were put to full use in their debut directorial, "RASA", where they handled everything from editing and cinematography to visual effects themselves.





Saturday, Oct 4 | 7 PM - 10 PM | Rangshila Screen 1

MARCHING IN THE DARK

Dir: Kinshuk Surjan | 110 min | 2024 | India | Marathi | Documentary Feature

Intent on providing a better life for herself and her children after her farmer-husband's suicide, Sanjivani struggles against her culture's traditional abandonment of widows, until she

joins a discussion group with other farmer-suicide widows. Empowered by community, shared stories of resilience, and unexpected solidarity, Sanjivani forges a path forward.

Director's Bio:

Kinshuk Surjan is a 35-year-old Indian filmmaker based in Bhopal. His first short film POLA won the Indian National Student Film Award for Best Film and Best Script in 2013.

After working as a second assistant director on the film *ISLAND CITY*, awarded at the Venice Film Festival, he was awarded a scholarship to pursue his master's at DocNomads. During this period, his short *DIVIDED LINES* was screened at the 2015 Jihlava Film Festival. In 2017, his graduation film, DE FLANDRIEN, won the Flanders Audiovisual Fund's VAF WILDCARD, which enabled him to pursue the research for his first feature film, *MARCHING IN THE DARK*.









Saturday, Oct 4 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Rangshila Screen 2

WIFF SELECT: QUEER CINEMA

5 Films, 240 Min

FICTION SHORTS PKG 1

First part of the fiction shorts in competition. 6 Films, 167 min

30 DAYS OF AUTUMN

Dir: Sudipto Roy | 44.11 min | 2024 | United Arab Emirates, India | Hindi, Bengali | Fiction Short

Based on Rabindranath Tagore's short story *The Postmaster*, the film follows an ambitious young woman on a month-long assignment in rural Bengal, where an unexpected bond challenges her loneliness and leaves her deeply transformed.

Director's Bio

Sudipto Roy is a Mumbai-based filmmaker and creative director whose work combines emotional depth with social insight, often navigating the intersections of love, identity, and morality. His debut feature, *KIA AND COSMOS (2019)*, was released in India, the USA, and GCC countries before streaming on Netflix.

Neither Donkey Nor Horse

Dir: Robin Wang | 28.29 min | 2024 | USA | English, Chinese | Fiction Short

Amidst the outbreak of the 1910 Manchurian Plague, a young Chinese doctor must defy prejudices of both the East and the West to champion his ground breaking theory of the disease and seek the truth that will heal it.

Director's Bio

Robin Wang is a Los Angeles-based director and producer whose work has earned a Student Academy Award®, three DGA Awards, and three College Television Awards. His films, including the acclaimed short NEITHER DONKEY NOR HORSE and the comedy WEI-LAI, have screened at 100+ festivals worldwide. A Chinese diaspora storyteller, Robin explores identity, belonging, and cultural displacement.



JASMINE THAT BLOOMS IN AUTUMN

Dir: Chandradeep Das | 14.44 min | 2025 | India | Bengali, Hindi | | Fiction Short

Two women at a decrepit old-age home in the autumn of their lives yearn for friendship. Both are aware of the repercussions of such a revelation but that doesn't stop them from exchanging messages and gifts in secret that they share.

Director's Bio

Chandradeep Das co-wrote his father, eminent filmmaker Anjan Das's final film and has directed shorts selected at festivals like BFI Flare, Flickerfest, Brussels, and Fribourg.

KARATEKA (Karatéka)

Dir: Florence Fauquet | 16.40min | 2024 | France | French | Fiction Short

Gabrielle and Alix are about to compete in the finals of the regional karate championship. But when Gabrielle discovers that she is having her periods, things get complicated and the fight becomes unequal.

Director's Bio

Florence Fauquet grew up in the sun, in Uzès, in the south of France, then went to Paris to study as an actress at the Cours Florent. She starred in numerous short films and TV series, then became passionate about directing and joined the Kourtrajmé school. Since then, she's thanking the universe for the chance to pursue her two passions.

DVAND

Dir: Sandeep Singh| 19.28 min | 2025 | India | Hindi | | Fiction Short

Radhika, a 28-year-old married woman grapples with guilt after committing female foeticide, battling suicidal thoughts amidst familial pressure. As she confronts her internalized misogyny, Radhika finds the courage to break free from her toxic family, embarking on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment.

Director's Bio

Sandeep Singh, born and raised in Delhi, discovered his passion for performance in college theatre, performing street plays and stage productions. He pursued a Master's in Filmmaking (Direction) at Whistling Woods International, directing several short films and music videos, honing his skills as a storyteller and visual storyteller.

TRACKER (Taak)

Dir: Udit Khurana | 39.46 min | 2025 | India | Hindi | Fiction Short

In the heart of Delhi's nightlife, Shalini, a single mother and former wrestling champion works as a bouncer. A fatal security lapse at the nightclub leads to the introduction of invasive smart watches for the staff. Berated for her team's sheer incompetence, Shalini must implement the device or face severe consequences.

Director's Bio

Born and raised in Delhi, Udit, is a cinematographer by training from L.V. Prasad Film Academy in Chennai and was selected to the prestigious Berlinale Talents Summit in 2023. His notable projects include Ghaath (Berlinale Panorama, 2023), The Hunt for Veerappan (Netflix, 2023) and For the Love of a Man (Venice Film Festival, 2015).









Saturday, Oct 4 | 7PM - 10 PM | Rangshila Screen 2

FICTION SHORTS PKG 2

Second part of the fiction shorts in

LOVE_PROXY

Dir: Marcin Niemkiewicz | 24 min |2024 | Poland | Polish, Japanese | Fiction Short

Gniewko, a sensitive software developer, gets an invention at work - a robot doppelgänger, which is an improved version of him. Instead of using it for professional tasks, Gniewko attempts to utilize the robot to get closer to his beloved Lena.

Director's Bio

Marcin Niemkiewicz earned his BA in International Business at the University of Gdańsk in 2015. He then pursued film directing and graduated from Gdynia Film School in 2023. His diploma project is the sci-fi short film, "LOVE_PROXY", which explores human relationships in a tech-centric world.

PIRATELAND

Dir: Stavros Petropoulos | 28.30 min | 2025 | France, Greece | English, Greek (Modern), Norwegian | Fiction Short

As the winter season begins in Creta, an overly touristic Greek island, the relationship between Manos, a Greek father and his son, Tassos is being tested as they are struggling to meet the increasingly challenging demands of the tourists looking to live the authentic pirate experience.

Director's Bio

Stavros Petropoulos studied Sociology at the University of Crete and Media & Communications at Goldsmiths, University of London. In 2013, he co-founded Alaska Films with Leonidas Konstantarakos. His short documentary *MICROBIOME* (2022) screened at CPH:DOX and Sarajevo, winning the Grand Prix at FEKK. His short fiction *PIRATELAND* (2025) premiered at Clermont-Ferrand and Tribeca.

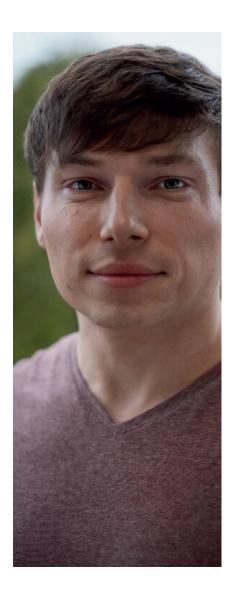
FACE TO FACE (Ru Ba Ru)

Dir: Kapil Tanwar | 29.56 min | 2024 | India | Hindi, Rajasthani | Fiction Short

Two sisters — one a rudaali (professional mourner), the other a nachaniya (dancer) — navigate survival, dignity, and womanhood in rural Rajasthan. Confronting male gaze and societal judgement they find solace in sisterhood and silent rebellion.

Director's Bio

Kapil Tanwar, a self-taught filmmaker, left a cricket career to pursue cinema. With over a decade as Chief Assistant Director and Line Producer on acclaimed films like *KADVI HAWA*, *MILI*, and international projects, he now debuts as director with *RU BA RU*, blending discipline, vision, and authentic storytelling.



MY COMRADE (Amar Comrade)

Dir: Tathagata Ghosh | 24.39 min | 2024 | India | Bengali, Santali | | Fiction Short

When a wounded rebel accidentally takes refuge in the home of a tribal villager, both the men's lives spiral into a tense interplay of politics and forbidden love.

Director's Bio

A Berlinale Talents alumnus, Tathagata has always believed in telling stories of the marginalized. His last short films "If", "Miss Man", "Footprints", "The Scapegoat", "The Meat" and "The Demon" have travelled to numerous prestigious international film festivals and have won several awards.

SOLE

Dir: Ana Berdeja | 14.48 min | 2024 | Mexico | Spanish | Fiction Short

Sole, a veteran embalmer, has two goals: the first is to honor the deceased's wishes, and the second is to facilitate peace for their families in moments of grief. Preparing the body of a transgender young man makes things complicated for Sole. With a breached secret of her own, she faces the dilemma of dressing him as he would have wished or as his family wants.

Director's Bio

Ana Berdeja studied Communication in Mexico, where she began exploring audiovisual storytelling. She has worked as a videographer, video editor, and writer, earning a master's in screenwriting. Currently working at an NGO, she continues to shape her filmmaking path, with a focus on humanity's contradictions.

SUCH A PERFECT DAY

Dir: Piotr Pluta | 18.11 min | 2024 | Poland | Polish | Fiction Short

Today will be the day for Tomasz to win it all back - his workshop, his wife, and his son, who is turning 10 years old. However, trying to make his son happy may turn out to be a disaster for him.

Director's Bio

Director, screenwriter, and author of theatrical adaptations. Studied biotechnology but switched to film industry. Graduated from the Gdynia Film School in 2023. "SUCH A PERFECT DAY" is his diploma film.

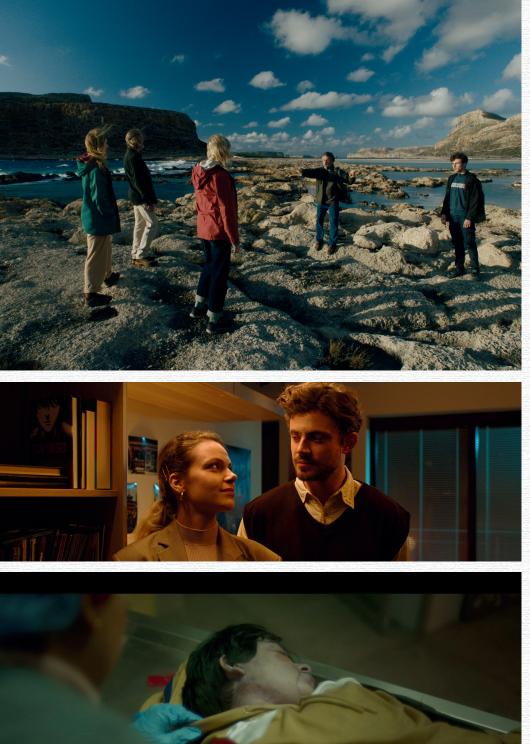
KADAK CHAI

Dir: Rohil Rajesh Khatke | 17.41 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | | Fiction Short

A soldier trapped on an endlessly looped road must confront a mysterious tea vendor to escape the loop—only to discover that home may be forever out of reach.

Director's Bio

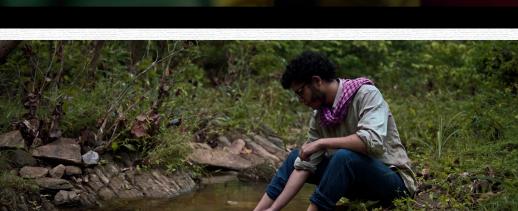
Rohil Khatke is an India-based writer and director, and a recent graduate of the Master of Fine Arts program in Film & Television Production at the School of Cinematic Arts, University of Southern California.













Saturday, Oct 4 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Rangshila Screen 3

I AM REVATHI (Njan Revathi)

Dir: Abhijith P | 114.50 min | 2025 | India | Malayalam | Documentary Feature

Njaan Revathi is a brief journey into the life of transwoman A. Revathi, a writer, activist, and actor. Over the years, she became a trans rights activist, a well-known writer, speaker and a theatre actor. As Revathi and her contemporaries narrate her eventful life, the documentary explores the lives of trans people in India.

Director's Bio:

P ABHIJITH a native of Kozhikode, India is chief Photojournalist with Madhyamam daily, besides being a filmmaker. He has been effectively marking the transgender community in the social and cultural realms of Kerala through images visuals and writing since 2007. Abhijith's maiden documentary AVALILEKKULLA DOORAM was exhibited in major festivals including IDSFFK. His debut feature film ANTHARAM won Kerala State film awards. Negha, Trans Woman from Chennai bagged Best actress award in woman / Transgender Category.



Saturday, Oct 4 | 1 PM – 4 PM | Rangshila Screen 3

THE SECOND WIND

Dir: Indira Sanjay Baikerikar | 72 min | 2025 | India | Hindi | Fiction Feature

'THE SECOND WIND' a simple story about four women who find a second chance in life through sports such as the story of Mayura Shivalkar, a cancer survivor and marathon runner, and Nandinee Khosla, a volunteer and actress who supports cancer patients and Indira's own daughter, Mallika's journey as a swimmer.

Director's Bio

INDIRA, based in Assam, grew up in a family where art and culture were integral to one's upbringing. In her journey of reinventing herself, she discovered cinema and theatre as powerful means of expression. She trained in theatre acting with Rangshila Theatres and in filmmaking with DOCUSTAN, under acclaimed National Award-winning mentors like Siddharth Sarin, Lipika, and Sachin. This transformative experience shaped her path as a filmmaker and storyteller, enabling her to connect deeply with human emotions and convey meaningful messages that contribute to the betterment of lives and humanity.



Saturday, Oct 4 | 4 PM — 7 PM | Rangshila Screen 3

ASAMPURNO - THE RELENTLESS SEARCH

Dir: Amartya Sinha | 70.15 min | 2023 | India | Bengali | Fiction Feature

Asampurno is a story of a middle class Bengali couple living in Kolkata along with their daughter Pari. The film explores the complexities of their relationship while dealing with their own existential crisis along with their daughter.



Director's Bio

Amartya Sinha has worked in advertising for over 20 years before taking the plunge into filmmaking. He is passionate about telling stories that resonate with contemporary realities.

His directorial debut ASAMPURNO (Incomplete) is about unfulfilled desires.

Saturday, Oct 4 | 7 PM - 10 PM | Rangshila Screen 3

Waterdrop

Dir: Robert Budina | 90 min | 2024 | Albania | Albanian | Fiction Feature

In a picturesque Albanian town on Lake Ohrid, Aida is a tough, successful businesswoman navigating a corrupt system while managing EU subsidies. Her world unravels when her teenage son is accused of sexual assault. Convinced of his innocence, she defies her husband and the police, launching her own investigation.



Director's Bio

Robert Budina, born in Korça, Albania, is a filmmaker, producer, and screenwriter. A graduate in Theatre Directing from the Academy of Arts, he co-founded ERAFILM in 2001. His debut short *LULEBORË* screened at 40 festivals worldwide, winning awards in Portugal and Morocco. His feature *AGON* (2012), Albania's Oscar entry, was followed by *A SHELTER AMONG THE CLOUDS* (2018), which won multiple international awards and secured wide distribution, including HBO. His latest feature WATERDROP is currently on the festival circuit.

Sunday, Oct 5 | 1 PM — 4 PM | Maverick Studio

INDIA GOLD
A showcase of three National Award winning films-regional in roots,

WIFF shines a spotlight on the diversity of Indian regional cinema with *India Gold*, a showcase of three acclaimed films in Garo, Marathi, and Odia - each honored with the Best Feature Film award in their respective language category at the 71st National Film Awards, announced in August 2025.

universal in soul!

Through this handpicked selection from Maharashtra, Meghalaya, and Odisha, the festival celebrates rich regional voices, cultural distinctiveness, and the creative excellence of Indian storytellers- while resonating with universal human experiences.

Presenting here the Garo language winning film!

RAPTURE (Rimdogittanga)

Director: Dominic Megam Sangma | 127.53 min, 2024, Garo

One night, a 14-year-old boy collecting cicadas vanishes in the forest, sparking rumors of child kidnappers linked to city hospitals' organ trade. Fear grips the village just as the church announces the arrival of a miraculous Virgin Mary statue, warning of an 80-day apocalyptic darkness, lit only by Blessed Candles. Through 10-year-old Kasan, who suffers from night blindness, and his father Nengsal, the village security head, we witness extraordinary events that upend their lives amidst chaos they did not create.

Writer-director **Dominic Megam Sangma**, a Berlinale Talents 2019 and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute alumnus, made his debut with *MA•AMA* (2018), which won the National Award for Best Garo Film, Best Cinematography at the 22nd Shanghai IFF, and screened widely worldwide. His second feature *Rapture* received support from HBF, Visions Sud Est, and Doha Film Institute, and was selected at La Fabrique du Cinéma, Film Bazaar, Tokyo Talents, and Boost NL. Dominic also teaches filmmaking and is the artistic director and co-founder of the Kelvin Cinema Festival in Shillong, Meghalaya.







Sunday, Oct 5 | 4 PM — 7 PM | Maverick Studio

IN THE NAME OF FIRE (Swaaha)

Dir: Abhilash Sharma | 98.47 min | 2024 | India | Magahi | Fiction Feature

In a remote northern Indian village, a family with a newborn struggles on the edge of survival. The father, a day laborer, leaves in search of work while his wife, battling postpartum depression, struggles to feed their child. As he faces a perilous journey and she endures isolation, their fragile lives spiral into an unexpected disaster.

IN THE NAME OF FIRE (Swaaha)

Director's Bio

Abhilash Sharma, a self-taught filmmaker from Bihar, India, delves into thought-provoking cinema, particularly focusing on women's narratives within the socio-political landscape. His 2012 debut, "ACHAL RAHE SUHAAG," a captivating Bhojpuri film, aimed to empower women through the retelling of the mythological tale of Savitri and Satyawan. Now, twelve years later, "SWAHA" stands as his second feature, showcasing his enduring dedication. With artistic roots in literature and theater, Abhilash's journey has evolved into a profound cinematic odyssey.





Sunday, Oct 5 | 7 PM — 10 PM | Maverick Studio

KUCH SAPNEY APNE

Dir: Sridhar Rangayan, Saagar Gupta | 123 min | 2024 | India | Hindi, English | Fiction Feature

Kartik & Aman's relationship is tested when one of them has a fling which leads to a domestic quarrel. Kartik's parents' relationship breaks apart when Damodar and Vasudha have a tiff. *Kuch Sapney Apne* is a sensitive heartwarming film about relationships, queer or not, and what happens when relationships are challenged by uncomfortable truths. Will they stand the test of time?

Directors' Bio

SRIDHAR RANGAYAN & SAAGAR GUPTA's award winning films THE PINK MIRROR, YOURS EMOTIONALLY, 68 PAGES, PURPLE SKIES, BREAKING FREE, EVENING SHADOWS and RAJA BRO present hard-hitting social issues with warmth, compassion and humor; and are at the forefront of India's emergent queer cinema movement.

Their films have screened at more than 250 film festivals and won 40 international awards.

Their feature film Evening Shadows has won 27 awards and has been an official selection in 82 international film festivals. It had a limited theatrical release in India.

Their films THE PINK MIRROR, BREAKING FREE AND EVENING SHADOWS have streamed on Netflix; PURPLE SKIES was telecast on Doordarshan, India's National Network.

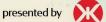




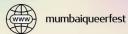
KASHISH Pride Film Festival

Exhibition | Development | Production | Distribution 2010 - 2025

















Sunday, Oct 5 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Rangshila Screen 1

SALLY!

Dir: Deborah Alice Craig | 90 min | 2024 | USA | English | Documentary Feature

On the surface, this is a documentary about Sally Miller Gearhart, an iconoclastic radical lesbian who lived life on her own terms and whose powerful presence practically hurtles off the screen. However, the film goes beyond being the straightforward biography of a "hidden figure" deserving more recognition. It also studies social movements, whose leaders wouldn't exist without their equally resolute behind-the-scenes compatriots.

Director's Bio:

Deborah Alice Craig is an award-winning documentary director and producer whose films spotlight underrepresented communities through compelling personal stories. Her short *A GREAT RIDE* (2018), about lesbians and aging, premiered at Frameline San Francisco, was distributed by Frameline, screened at 50+ festivals worldwide, and won multiple awards. Sally marks her first feature-length documentary. Deborah holds degrees from Columbia University and San Francisco State University, where she now teaches in the Public Health Department.



Sunday, Oct 5 | 1 PM — 4 PM | Rangshila Screen - 1

TAARIKH

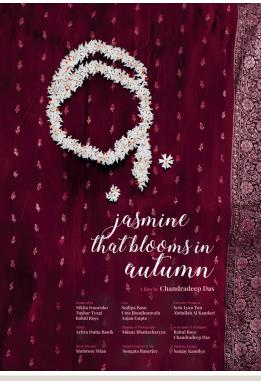
Dir: Himjyoti Talukdar | 86.13 min | 2024 | India | Assamese | Fiction Feature

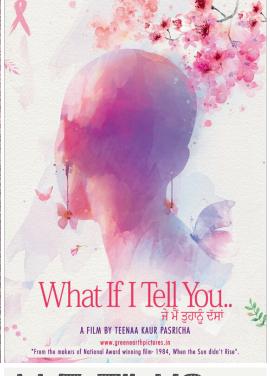
At 70, Durlov Dutta lives in solitude, his life arrested by a tragic incident in 2008 that stole his loved ones and peace of mind. While the world moved on, he remained trapped in time—until journalist Anuran Hazarika steps in, determined to help him confront grief and rediscover hope.

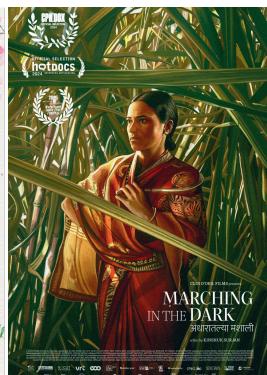
Director's Bio

Born in Biswanath Chariali, Assam, HIMJYOTI TALUKDAR is an MBA by profession whose passion for cinema shaped a distinctive filmmaking journey. He began in 2016 as scriptwriter for the children's film Marksheet, laying the foundation for his directorial career. His debut feature CALENDAR (2018) received widespread acclaim for its compelling narrative. Building on this success, he completed his second feature TAARIKH. Known for blending strong storytelling with Assam's cultural and social fabric, Himjyoti continues to bring local stories to wider audiences.



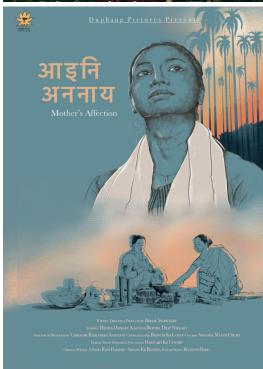


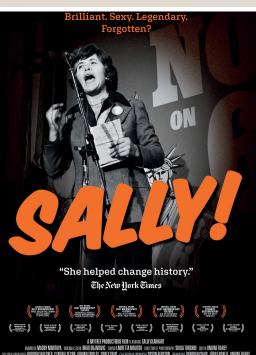


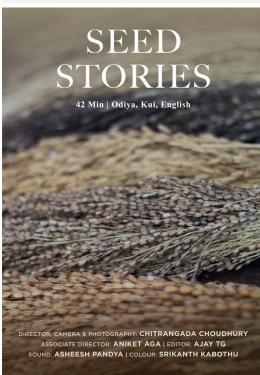




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Sunday, Oct 5 | 7 PM — 10 PM | Rangshila Screen 1

A STREET PLAY (NUKKAD NAATAK)

Dir: Tanmaya Shekhar | 106.53 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Fiction Feature

Molshri and Shivang are best friends and members of a college street-theater group. While Molshri is a social justice warrior, always on the lookout to 'fix society', Shivang is secretly queer and struggles with his sexuality.

After being expelled for petty theft, Molshri and Shivang must redeem themselves by enrolling five underprivileged children into school.

Director's Bio

Tanmaya Shekhar is a Mumbai-based filmmaker exploring personal and sociopolitical themes with imagination. His debut feature *NUKKAD NAATAK* won prizes at KIFF and UKAFF, and screened at festivals worldwide. His short *SCENES FROM A PANDEMIC* earned Critics' Choice Award nominations. Previously, he worked in New York on HBO shows, a Focus Features film, and PBS documentary Farmers for America. Before becoming a filmmaker, Tanmaya studied engineering at IIT Kanpur.





Sunday, Oct 5 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Rangshila Screen 2

BELINE

Dir: Samik Roy Choudhury | 84 min | 2023 | India | Bengali | Fiction Feature

A lonely, retired man in his late sixties leads a mundane life of watching TV shows, playing indoor games, sleeping, eating, and occasionally ogling at his housemaid's curves. His life lacks any excitement until he receives a wrong call from a girl, which opens a window into her and her live-in partner's troubled relationship. For three days, he listens to the call that reveals the guy's struggle and the girl's pain, and their fading chemistry, from the perspective of a curious voyeur. The call ends with a twist in the story that exposes a shocking mystery.

Director's Bio

Samik Roy Choudhury was born in Kolkata, India, into a middle-class Bengali family. He began his career as a science journalist and later worked for the Oscar-winning visual effects team (Rhythm & Hues). He is a writer and director, known for his work on *D-MAJOR* (2016), *MUSHROOM* (2022), and *OKIAGARI* (2021). As an ad filmmaker, he is known for his new-age filmmaking style and his willingness to learn as he goes. His most recent film is *BELINE* (2023).





Sunday, Oct 5 | 1 PM — 4 PM | Rangshila Screen 2

FICTION SHORTS PKG 3

A vibrant showcase of fiction shorts presented outside competition!

5 Films, 126 min

AVVAL

Dir: Avneesh Mishra | 38.58 min | 2023 | India | Hindi | Fiction Short

When Amit finds his school exam sheet, memories of love for Neha rekindle. Efforts to win her back unfold, revealing changed lives.

Director's Bio

Avneesh Mishra, founder of Rangshila Theatre Group, is an award-winning director, actor, and writer. His short Avval, starring Kumud Mishra, won Best Short Film at Jagran. His acclaimed plays earned honours including the Bharatendu Harishchandra Award (2025).

IF (Jodi)

Dir: Tathagata Ghosh | 25.41 min | 2023 | India | Bengali | Fiction Short

Jaya and Fatima are separated because of Jaya's marriage arranged by her conservative father. Trapped and helpless, Jaya is about to give up, when life suddenly brings her to a strange crossroad.

Director's Bio:

Tathagata Ghosh, a Berlinale Talents alumnus, focuses on stories of marginalized voices. A published novelist and former film writer, he has also directed commercials, music videos, and screenplays. His acclaimed shorts MISS MAN, FOOTPRINTS, THE SCAPEGOAT, THE MEAT, and THE DEMON have screened at prestigious festivals worldwide, earning multiple awards.

TUTTI FRUTTI CAKE

Dir: Rohit Prajapati | 17.57 min | 2025 | India | Hindi | Fiction Short

Maya, a transwoman, and her chosen family host a vibrant Diwali party celebrating love and acceptance. As tensions simmer beneath the festivities, unexpected transformations and surprises spark healing, joy, and reconciliation-making it a night of true new beginnings.

Director's Bio

Rohit Prajapati, a Theatre Studies alumnus of Maharaja Sayajirao University, transitioned from theatre into ad filmmaking before debuting with *KUNDALU*, which won seven awards at JIFF. His second feature *KATLAA CURRY* premiered at KASHISH, winning the Audience Award, and later "Best LGBTQIA Film" at Tasveer, Seattle. He was selected for IFFI 2024's Creative Minds of Tomorrow.



WINTER INTERLUDE

Dir: Bijaya Jena | 23.08 min | 2024 | India | English | Fiction Short

A Bengali woman lands in Estonia after hearing her estranged husband has passed away and she finds solace in his employer and friend, who is separated from his family due to the Ukrainian war.

Director's Bio

BIJAYA JENA is a National award-winning filmmaker from India. She is also an international juror and a trained actress from FTII, Pune and has acted in several hit regional and Hindi films along with Ismail Merchant's *THE DECEIVERS*. Her directorial debut *TARA* (1992) received the National Award while her second film *ABHAAS* (1997) competed in several international film festivals, was broadcast by BBC and is taught in universities.



SHAHI TUKDA

Dir: Suhail Saifi | 19.30 min | 2025 | India | Hindi, English, Urdu | Fiction Short

Ashraf, returns to home he grapples with the tough task of confessing his new career as a tattoo artist to his mother. Caught between his own aspirations and his mother's unwavering faith, he finds himself torn apart.









Sunday, Oct 5 | 7 PM - 10 PM | Rangshila Screen 2

FICTION SHORTS PKG 4

Yet another exciting line-up of fiction shorts competing for top honors! 7 Films, 152 min

AS DUSK FALLS (ਸ਼ਾਮਾਂ)

Dir: Jaskirat Singh | 21.4 min | 2024 | India | Panjabi | | Fiction Short

Navraj, a young Punjabi man, has long dreamed of a bigger, better life abroad. But when his visa finally arrives, he realizes the true cost-leaving his friends behind and breaking the heart of his beloved grandmother, who adoringly depends on him.

Director's Bio

Jaskirat Singh, a filmmaker specializing in Editing from the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute and an alumnus of Locarno Documentary School, Switzerland, now works as a freelance filmmaker in Mumbai. His co-edited short *MINTGUMRI* (2021) screened at DIFF, RIFF, and NYIFF.

A NIGHT, AFTER ALL (Shaam hi toh hai)

Dir: Anshul Agrawal | 14.58 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Indian Short Fiction

A retired couple, one sleepless night, a game played, a question asked, a decision pending and a life hanging. Is it right to sacrifice everything? Is it wrong to not do the same? Can a caregiver be tired of giving?

Director's Bio

Anshul Agrawal is an independent filmmaker who began with documentary films exploring real-life stories before transitioning into fiction. His debut short as Writer and Co-Director, *THE SCHOOL BAG (2017)*, was screened at 100+ festivals worldwide. Blending documentary realism with narrative cinema, he continues to craft heartfelt films reflecting the emotional landscapes of everyday life.

THURSDAY SPECIAL

Dir: Varun Tandon | 26.27 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Fiction Short

27 years of a loving marriage. 27 years of sharing a passion for food. 27 years of celebrating it every Thursday - a poignant tale of love, companionship and change.

Director's Bio

Varun Tandon is an Indian National Award winning Writer-Director based out of Mumbai. He has worked on a range of projects over the last decade. His independent works include *SYAAHI*, a short film for which he won a Jury Award at the 63rd National Film Awards, critically acclaimed documentary *DRIBBLING DREAMS* and the viral short film *GULCHARREY* among others. =



DARK ALLEY

Dir: Tushar Kaushik | 17.34 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | | Fiction Short

A stolen necklace gets stolen stirring up the lives of people connected with it.

Director's Bio

Tushar Kaushik, from Baraut, Uttar Pradesh, is a BFA graduate in Photography & Visual Communications from JNAFAU, Hyderabad. Based in Mumbai, he has worked with independent filmmakers, bringing an intimate, observational lens to his work. Primarily a cinematographer for short and feature films, he is currently developing his first feature film.

MANGYA

Dir: Chanakya Vyas | 28.22 min | 2025 | India | Marathi | | Fiction Short

When a sudden bird flu outbreak in Maharashtra leads to a government-ordered culling, a poultry owner's eleven-year-old son tries to save his beloved pet rooster, Mangya. A coming-of-age tale of innocence, resistance and feathered friendship.

Director's Bio

Chanakya Vyas is a playwright, screenwriter, director, and educator. His debut short *LOO* won awards at Bengaluru and Round the Frame festivals, with a nomination at NYIFF and selection at NFDC Film Bazaar. Former Artistic Director of Indian Ensemble, his theatre works have been staged widely. He has trained internationally in filmmaking, devised theatre, and performance making.

THE CLUSTER FIG FLOWERS (Goolar Ke Phool)

Dir: Aronn Miitr | 18.03 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Fiction Short

Goolar ke Phool portrays the journey of Murari and his nephew Puttu, embodying the resilience of farmers in rural India. Amidst challenges like erratic weather and bureaucratic hurdles, they navigate life with humor.

Director's Bio

Aronn Miltr, trained at Bhartendu Natya Academy and FTII Pune, is a director, writer, and actor with a strong theater and film background. His works, including *ACCHE DIN (2016) AND OLD KID (2020)*, have earned Filmfare nominations and multiple awards at Kolkata, Jaipur, Mumbai, and Frames Film Festivals, establishing him as a filmmaker with a distinct voice.

THE DAILY BREAD (Girrd)

Dir: Anil Kumar Anand | 21.46 min | 2025 | India | Kashmiri | Fiction Short

Maimuna faces a predicament when her ex-husband, Wazeer comes back alive after three years of his disappearance who was supposedly dead, now, demanding from her and her current husband, either a considerable amount of money or his breadwinner wife back.

Director's Bio

Anil Kumar Anand, a Mass Communication postgraduate from JMI, New Delhi, has spent over a decade crafting audiovisual content. His expertise spans corporate AVs, promotional films, documentaries, and films. His notable works, 'BEECH KA RAASTA NAHIN HOTA' (2012) and 'MAKKAAR' (2023), 'DOSTBOOK' (2024), have graced national and international film festivals. Currently, Anil is trying to float his first feature film, tentatively titled 'DIGITAL DETOX'.

Sunday, Oct 5 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Rangshilla Screen - 3

DOCUMENTARY & EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS - 1

7 Films, 149 min

WOVEN DREAMS

Dirs': Varun Chauva, Arif Wazir | 23.48 min | 2025 | India | Hindi, Tibetan | Short Documentary

The story of Looms of Ladakh, a transformative cooperative that has empowered over 450 women across 16 villages in Ladakh through a farm-to-fashion model supporting artisans at every step of production and fosters leadership and ownership among its members, which is crucial for community growth and cultural preservation.

Directors' Bio:

Mohammad Arif, from Chuchot village in Ladakh, is a professional biker turned filmmaker whose passion grew from capturing landscapes, culture, and community life. Witnessing the environmental changes in Ladakh, he embraced filmmaking as a medium to raise awareness and inspire change. His latest work explores women's empowerment and sustainability through the cooperative Looms of Ladakh.

Varun Chauva, from Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, shifted from law to filmmaking during quarantine, channeling his love for photography, music, and storytelling. His recent work highlights how Looms of Ladakh transforms artisans' lives through collective ownership.

CHAINS & WHEELS

Dirs: Jayshankar Ramu, Aryaki | 7.33 min | 2024 | India | Marathi | Short Documentary

In Pune, bicycles serve the working class yet remain sidelined in motor-centric city plans. Through their stories, the film explores survival, resilience, and the struggle to reclaim space on chaotic roads where cyclists exist in policy only on paper.

Directors' Bio:

Jayshankar Ramu and Aryaki are independent filmmakers from Pune, India. Their documentary *SAKHLYA ANI CHAAKA (Chains & Wheels)* was a finalist at the Nagari Short Film Competition 2024, supported by The Charles Correa Foundation, and their films have collectively screened at PIFF, IDSFFK, Alpavirama (NID), IDFFB, IFFB Bhubaneswar, Cut.in (TISS Mumbai), and LP Film Festival (Rome). Jayshankar is a writer, director, editor, and producer whose work explores memory, individuality, and reality through bold hybrid forms. Aryaki is a cinematographer and producer recognized among NFDC's "100 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" in 2024.



TIME TO CHANGE

Dir: Pocas Pascoal | 6.06 min | 2024 | Angola | No Dialogues | Experimental Short

Colonization, like a forced and destructive transplant, leads to ruin, desolation, and the enslavement of fauna, flora and humans.

Director's Bio:

Pocas Pascoal is an Angolan director, videographer and screenwriter. She began as the first female camera operator on Angolan TV at 20. Trained in France, she edited for 15 years before directing acclaimed documentaries and the award-winning feature ALDA AND MARIA (2012). Her works include DEMAIN SERA DIFFÉRANT (2008), A PALAVRA MÁGICA (2021) AND SOUFFLE (2021). Invited by Lisbon's Natural History Museum in 2022, she is now finishing her feature Menina.

SEED STORIES

Dir: Chitrangada Choudhury | 42 min | 2024 | India | English, Odia, Kui | Short Documentary

Set in Odisha's Niyamgiri mountains, Seed Stories follows ecologist Dr. Debal Deb and his small team conserving over a thousand heirloom rice varieties. As chemical farming spreads, the film celebrates indigenous wisdom, resilience, and the urgent need to rethink sustainability.

Directors Bio:

Chitrangada Choudhury is an Indian journalist and filmmaker. Her reportage on issues of the environment and human rights has been named for multiple national and international journalism awards including the European Commission's Lorenzo Natali Prize twice. She is on the Editorial Board of Article 14, an award-winning digital outlet dedicated to issues of justice, civil liberties and the constitution.

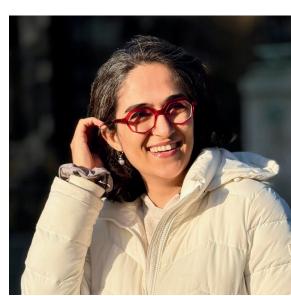
ECHOES WITHIN (Koro Gochongni)

Dir: Pranami Koch | 26.19 min | 2024 | India | Assamese, English, Tibetan | Short Documentary

A diary film tracing an indigenous Koch woman's search for her ancestral identity, especially of her grandmother, whom she had never met. Through her father's memories and the voices of community women she reconstructs belonging, nostalgia, and matrilineal heritage.

Director's Bio:

Pranami Koch is a queer, indigenous multimedia artist, filmmaker, and designer from Assam, with a Master's in Photography Design from the National Institute of Design. Her debut film BOI THAKA (The Flow of Resilience) premiered at Visions du Réel's Film Market. Her second short, KORO GOCHONGNI (Echoes Within) is supported by Rough Edges, Gender Bender, and GENERATOR grants. She also created Myra's Choice, an interactive zine on safe abortion and reproductive rights. Her work explores gender, identity, and community, blending research, filmmaking, photography, and design.





JOBA (Hibiscus)

Dir: Indira Sanjay Baikerikar | 15 min | 2025 | India | Bengali | Experimental Short

A heartfelt short narrative from a daughter to her father, the film moves seamlessly between past and present—piecing together memories from a mother and daughters as a tribute to a man who lost himself while longing for life's unfulfilled journeys.

Director's Bio:

Indira Sanjay Baikerikar is a theatre actor and producer with Sweekaar Productions, based in Mumbai. She has worked with Rangshila Theatre and Docustan India, and is also a long-time athlete of over 13 years. At an age when many retire, she chose to dream bigger, stepping into filmmaking with passion and courage.

A MOVE

Dir: Elahe Esmaili | 26.37 min | 2024 | Iran | Persian | Short Documentary

Elahe returns to her hometown in Mashhad, Iran, to help her parents move to a new place after 40 years. Influenced by the Woman-Life-Freedom movement, she's also hoping for a bigger move beyond just a new apartment.

Director's Bio:

Elahe Esmaili is an award-winning documentary filmmaker. Her works include 'THE DOLL' (Best International Short Hot Docs 2021), 'CAN I HUG YOU?' (Sheffield Doc/Fest 2023) that are recognized by prestigious awards such as Critics Choice, IDA, SAA; spanned over 50 festivals and reflects her prowess in storytelling and women's rights advocacy.



Sunday, Oct 5 | 1 PM — 4 PM | Rangshila Screen - 3

DOCUMENTARY2 films | 94 min

WHAT WILL PEOPLE SAY? (Log Kya Kahenge?)

Dir: Rafina Khatun | 39.56 min | 2025 | India | Gujarati, Hindi

Gulnaz is the first female breadwinner in her family and the first woman in her area to work outside the home. Despite having no formal education in media, she became a voice for many. Through her radio show 'Shahernama', she challenges patriarchy, amplifies the voices of the marginalized and fosters harmony in an increasingly divided society.

Director's bio:

Rafina Khatun, filmmaker and editor from Kolkata, uses cinema to amplify women's voices and marginalized communities. Trained in Journalism and Mass Communication, she has collaborated with noted filmmakers and editors while working across fiction and documentary. Her films include MADE IN BELDA (2021), PAAN (2024), and LOG KYA KAHENGE? (2025). Currently specializing in editing at SRFTI, Rafina's storytelling remains intimate, grounded in lived experiences, and rooted in social realities.





WHAT IF I TELL YOU (Agar Mein Kahoo)

Dir: Teenaa Kaur Pasricha| 54 min | 2024 | India | Hindi, Panjabi | Documentary Feature

After breast cancer treatment, the filmmaker confronts silence imposed by family and society. Exploring the stigma around survivorship, she turns the camera on men while seeking a partner, questioning how her identity as a survivor shapes perceptions, relationships, and her search for acceptance.

Director's Bio:

Teenaa Kaur Pasricha is a National Award-winning filmmaker and screenwriter, with fellowships from Asia Society New York, Time Warner Foundation, and the US Dept. of Cultural Affairs (IVLP, Sundance). Known for 1984, WHEN THE SUN DIDN'T RISE, which won Best Investigative Film at the National Film Awards, she has 15 years' experience making documentaries on human rights and the environment. Her latest work WHAT IF I TELL YOU? received the Jai Chandiram Award.

Sunday, Oct 5 | 4 PM — 7 PM | Rangshila Screen - 3

THE INVESTIGATOR

Dir: Kamil Shaikh | 143 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Fiction Feature

When a woman with disabilities is found dead, an investigator suspects murder despite pressure to close the case. His relentless pursuit unravels corruption, secrets, and his own fragile sanity—until truth and delusion blur, trapping him in a chilling cycle of betrayal.

Director's Bio:

Born and raised in Mumbai, KAMIL SHAIKH is an actor by birth and a director by choice, who later discovered his passion for screenwriting. A Commerce graduate with postgraduate degrees in Sociology and Political Science, he has been associated with theatre for over 12 years, both as a performer and director. Alongside, he has worked as an acting coach for 12 years. Deeply interested in human behavior and psychology, Kamil brings a unique perception to storytelling, weaving these insights into his creative work.

Waterfront Indie Film Festival, Mumbai 2025 – Schedule



Sunday, Oct 5 | 7 PM — 10 PM | Rangshila Screen - 3

DOCUMENTARY

2 films | TRT 83 min

P FOR PAPARAZZI

Dir: Divya Hemant Kharnare | 26.40 min | 2024 | India | Hindi, Maithili | Short Documentary

Amid flashing lights and frenzied crowds, Manoj, seasoned paparazzi from Nepal, battles rivals for the most sensational shots. Behind the glamour, he faces a personal crisis—his brother's worsening health—and must navigate whether his celebrity connections can save him from an isolating struggle.

Director's Bio:

Divya Kharnare is an independent filmmaker with over eight years of experience in crafting documentaries and fiction films. His acclaimed films- *P FOR PAPARAZZI, 15 SECONDS A LIFETIME* and *LETTERS TO MY GRANDMA* have screened at IFFI, DIFF, NYIFF, and IDSFFK over the past few years. He's a recent direction graduate from the Film & Television Institute of India, Pune and was selected for the 2022 Kyoto Filmmakers Lab's Hands-On Jidaigeki project.



FANATICS

Dir: Aryan Roy | 56 min | 2024 | India | English, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu | Documentary Feature

'Fanatics' explores the unique phenomenon of Indian fan culture, especially in South Indian cinema. Through the lives of die-hard fans who worship their idols and reflections from industry voices, the documentary captures how this devotion sets Indian cinema apart from its western counterpart.

Director's Bio

Aryan Roy from Kolkata, India, started out his career as an actor in Regional movies. He made his film debut with Riingo Bannerjee's SADA KALO ABCHA in a negative role. He acted in several other movies like ZULFIQAR by Srijit Mukherjee, an unnamed movie by Arijit Singh, and EK JE ACHE SOHOR by Riingo Bannerjee. Roy has also appeared in a Regional TV Serial and various TV Commercials.

Monday, Oct 6 | 1 PM — 4 PM | Maverick Studio

3 films | TRT 152 min

ASOH: SOUL OF THE HILLS

Dirs: Linda Horam, Takar Pujen | 51 min | 2025 | India | Hindi | Documentary Feature

Set in the lush hills of Arunachal Pradesh, Asoh: Soul of the Hills explores love, tradition, and kinship through the lens of a wedding and the search for a Mithun—a revered semi-wild bovine central to indigenous culture.

Director's Bio:

Linda Horam, an emerging filmmaker from the Tangkhul Naga tribe in Manipur, and Takar Pujen, a filmmaker from Arunachal Pradesh, collaborated during their Green Hub Fellowship in Tezpur, Assam. Their work explores indigenous identity, ecological knowledge, and cultural resilience through intimate storytelling. Together, they co-directed ASOH: SOUL OF THE HILLS, along with films on the biodiversity and bioresources of Mouling National Park. Their practice foregrounds indigenous perspectives, reclaiming ecological narratives with care, authenticity, and deep community engagement.

THE ARTIST

Dir: Samiran Deka | 50 min | 2025 | India | Assamese | Documentary Feature

For over five decades, photographer Samir Choudhury has captured Assam's fading tribal traditions with his Rolleiflex camera. Now 75, as he prepares to showcase his legacy at the Youth Festival's Golden Jubilee, he wonders—will his stories endure in young hearts, or fade amidst the grandeur of celebration?

Director's Bio:

Samiran Deka is a documentary filmmaker and researcher based in Guwahati, Assam. He holds a postgraduate degree in Drama & Theatre Arts from Visva-Bharati University and IKSVV. His notable works include WHERE IS MY HOME (2021), recognized at Vision du Réel Industry, and TEENS OF 42'S STORIES OF FREEDOM 1942 (2022), which won Best Director at the Himachal International Film Festival. His films have screened widely, including in Nepal, the Philippines, and across India.

SLAVES OF THE EMPIRE

Dir: Rajesh James | 51 min | 2024 | India | Malayalam | Documentary Feature

'Slaves of the Empire' unfolds against the backdrop of colonial-era Fort Kochi, a picturesque town in Kerala, India. This evocative film delves deep into the ordinary existence of a dhobi community, laundry workers who were enslaved by the Dutch during the colonial era. Through the captivating journeys of four central characters, the film paints a vivid portrait of their remarkable stories, depicting their trials and triumphs, as well as their unwavering spirit of resistance and endurance.

Director's Bio:

Rajesh James is a documentary filmmaker and film researcher from Kochi, India. He was awarded the prestigious Riyad Wadia Award for Best Emerging Filmmaker, India in 2017. His documentary *NAKED WHEELS* won K.F.Patil Unity in Diversity Award for Best Documentary Short at KASHISH International Queer Film Festival Mumbai in 2017. He was also awarded Kerala State Award for Best Documentary in 2020 by Kerala Chalachitra Academy, Government of Kerala. He has also directed other documentary films like *IN THUNDER, LIGHTNING AND RAIN (2018) NAKED WHEELS (2017)* and *ZEBRA LINES (2014)*.

Monday, Oct 6 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Maverick Studio

WARM FILM (Topli film)

Dir: Dragan Jovićević | 91.48 min | 2024 | Serbia | Serbian | Documentary Feature

Dir: Dragan Jovićević | 91.48 min | 2024 | Serbia | Serbian | Documentary Feature

Two young actors receive an offer to play in a movie with love scenes. Torn between the desire of become famous and the fear of being labelled, they begin to explore how this topic was portrayed throughout the history of Yugoslav cinema. What did the presence of queers in cinema, through the decades, actually mean?

Director's Bio:

DRAGAN JOVIĆEVIĆ, a Belgrade-based filmmaker, studied Film at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts. He creates short films, video art, and installations, and is also a published author and cultural critic. He was the producer of a documentary program at National Serbian Broadcast Avala. He leads Greifer, a production house in Belgrade uniting multidisciplinary artists across diverse visual forms.





Monday, Oct 6 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Rangshila Screen 1

BODY

Dir: Abhijit Mazumdar | 142 min | 2024 | India | Hindi, Marathi, English | Fiction Feature

Months after the third wave of Covid, Manoj, a struggling actor, joins his theatre peers on a trip that leaves him broken and adrift. Back in Mumbai, his trauma strains his relationship with partner Khushboo and derails his work —until an unexpected bond with a little boy across the street leads him onto a complex, uncertain path.

Director's Bio

Abhijit Mazumdar is a Direction alumnus of Film & Television Institute of India, Pune. His films have been screened at National and International film festivals like IFFK, Dublin, Torino, IFFI, IDSFFK, Durban, Glasgow, Karlovy Vary Fresh Film Festival. His short fiction "BHABAA PAAGLA" received the National Award for Best Sound Design. A fellow of Mumbai Mantra-Sundance Screenwriting Lab for his feature script DELIRIUM, he has also been on the Jury for Indian Panorama (Non-Feature Section). He presently heads the Direction Department at Whistling Woods International, Mumbai.



Monday, Oct 6 | 1 PM - 4 PM | Rangshila Screen 1

A STREET PLAY (NUKKAD NAATAK)

Dir: Tanmaya Shekhar | 106.53 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Fiction Feature

Molshri and Shivang are best friends and members of a college street-theater group. While Molshri is a social justice warrior, always on the lookout to 'fix society', Shivang is secretly queer and struggles with his sexuality.

After being expelled for petty theft, Molshri and Shivang must redeem themselves by enrolling five underprivileged children into school.

Director's Bio

Tanmaya Shekhar is a Mumbai-based filmmaker exploring personal and sociopolitical themes with imagination. His debut feature *NUKKAD NAATAK* won prizes at KIFF and UKAFF, and screened at festivals worldwide. His short *SCENES FROM A PANDEMIC* earned Critics' Choice Award nominations. Previously, he worked in New York on HBO shows, a Focus Features film, and PBS documentary Farmers for America. Before becoming a filmmaker, Tanmaya studied engineering at IIT Kanpur.



Monday, Oct 6 | 1 PM - 4 PM | Rangshila Screen 1

Victoria

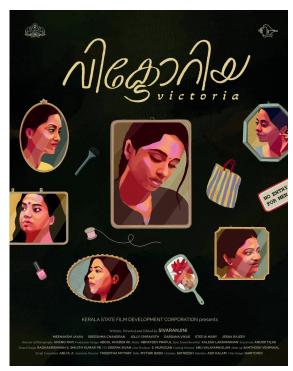
Dir: Sivaranjini | 84 min | 2024 | India | Malayalam | Fiction Feature

Victoria, a young beautician working in a small town ladies beauty parlour, treads an overwhelming day into a decisive conviction, while an unruly offering-rooster serves as an unexpected spiritual witness.

Director's Bio

SIVARANJINI is an independent filmmaker and research scholar based in India. Her short films were screened at many notable national and international film festivals. VICTORIA is her Debut Feature Film.







Monday, Oct 6 | 4 PM - 6 PM | Rangshila Screen 1

Closing Film

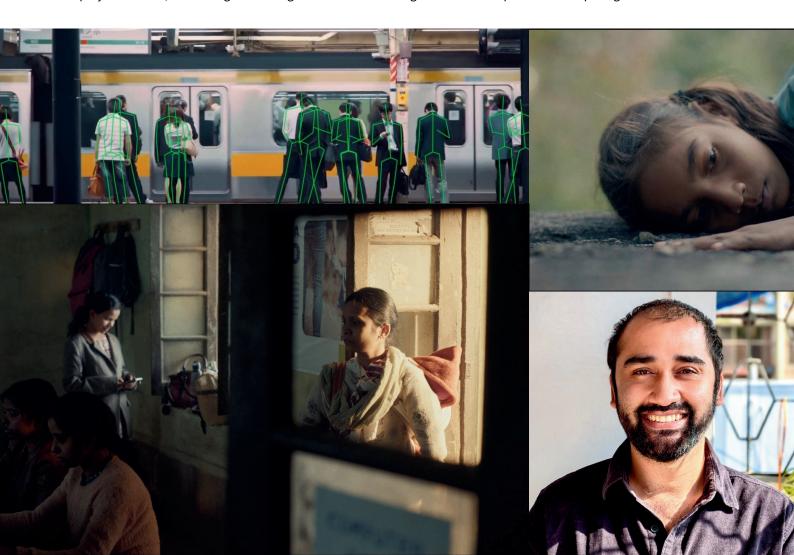
HUMANS IN THE LOOP

Dir: Aranya Sahay | 74 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Fiction Feature

Nehma, a tribal woman from the Oraon tribe, returns to her village with her children Dhaanu (12) and Guntu(1), after her divorce. She begins to work as a data labeller, training the 'childlike' AI models to differentiate objects. While Nehma faces the challenge of giving Dhaanu - forever tempted to flee back to the city - a reason to stay, she also notices AI adopting harmful human biases, echoing prejudices against her own community.

Director's Bio (facepic n stills at WIFF1035)

Aranya Sahay is a Mumbai-based filmmaker and an alumnus of St. Stephen's College and FTII, Pune. He has assisted Imtiaz Ali and Patrick Graham as Associate Director and Director's Assistant. He has directed five short films, including SONGS FOR BABASAHEB and CHAIT, which screened at the Mumbai International Film Festival, Signs Film Festival, and Jaffna Film Festival. His 2021 short SAAYA was selected as a 'Film Bazaar Recommends' project. In 2023, he won a grant through the Museum of Imagined Futures Impact Fellowship Programme.



Monday, Oct 6 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Rangshila Screen 2

FICTION SHORTS PKG 5

5 Films, 126 min

SOUR CANDY (Anaar Daana)

Dir: Nishi Dugar | 20 min | 2023 | India | Hindi | Fiction Short

Five-year-old Guddal, full of mischief, leads her siblings into endless shenanigans under the watch of their nanny. But when news of her grandmother's death unsettles their idyllic home, Guddal struggles to make sense of it.

Director's Bio

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 degree in Multimedia from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. *ANAAR DAANA*, her debut short film, takes her back to her roots in Rajasthan, where she explores the intimate, unspoken fragments of human relationships.

THE IMAM

Dir: Saba Mumtaz | 39.30 min | 2023 | India | Hindi | Fiction Short

Six-year-old Saher, daughter of a village Imam, dreams of becoming an Imam herself. Her innocent wish unsettles her conservative granny and the village alike. But with her father's gentle challenge to find just one supporter, Saher sets out with unshaken determination.

Director's Bio

Saba Mumtaz has been working in the television industry for over 20 years. She began her career with the 16mm film Disha as writer and director before moving to television, where she wrote popular Hindi soaps for Star Plus, Sony TV, and Zee TV, and produced three serials. Her acclaimed shows include YEH RISHTA KYA KEHLATA HAI, BADE ACHCHE LAGTE HAIN, and SAPNE SUHANE LADAKPAN KE.

SON OF THE SOIL

Dir: Akanshya Bhagabati | 23.57 min | 2024 | India | Assamese | Fiction Short

A decade after migrating to the city, Haren returns to his village, hoping to rebuild his life on ancestral land. But his dream is shattered when he discovers the farmer who tilled it now claims ownership, and the events that unfold gradually.

Director's Bio

Akanshya Bhagabati is a writer, director, and producer from Guwahati, Assam, and an alumnus of Mumbai University. Her debut short film *KUMU: THE SONG OF A WINGLESS BIRD* received acclaim for its social realism, winning six national awards. She addresses themes of childhood, poverty, land, cultural identity, immigration, and belonging. Her second short, *SON OF THE SOIL*, explores identity and tensions between indigenous people and immigrants.



SIR..MA'AM

Dir: Rayyan M | 22.23 min | 2025 | India | English, Hindi | Fiction Short

On the eve of a corporate celebration, Khushbu, a trans woman, faces exclusion at work. Alongside Neha and Pratul, she finds strength in friendship, courageously confronting bias and reclaiming space for belonging.

Director's Bio

Rayyan M, a woman of transgender experience, is a filmmaker, writer, visual content strategist, and LGBTQIA+ advocate. A founding member of The Fatsmeagol Collective, she has over a decade of experience in direction, photography, and production, creating content for Disney Star, The Queer Muslim Project, Gaysi Family, The Humsafar Trust, Filter Copy, among others. Currently pursuing her M.A. in Filmmaking at Whistling Woods International, she continues to tell stories rooted in intersectional diversity as a queer Muslim woman.

WINTER RAIN

Dir: Abhishek Chaturvedi | 18.25 min | 2024 | India | Hindi | Fiction Short

A retired man struggles to balance home and hospital visits, grappling with the growing challenge of managing alone while facing the pain of letting his wife go.

Director's Bio

Abhishek Chaturvedi, born in Hyderabad in 1992, grew up across India due to his parents' defence careers. After completing an MBA in Lucknow, he worked over six years at Euromonitor International before leaving the corporate world to pursue filmmaking. Graduating in Direction from Whistling Woods International in 2024, he honed his craft through short films and later worked as an associate director on two shorts, assisted in an ad film, and conducted interview research.



Monday, Oct 6 | 1 PM - 4 PM | Rangshila Screen 2

DOCUMENTARY & EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS - 2

6 Films, 107 min

SALAAM QUILT

Dir: Devlin Bose | 19.13 min | 2025 | Australia | English | Short Documentary

Women from diverse cultural backgrounds share stories of peace, unity, and understanding through collaborative textile art. Each quilt patch offers a unique expression, rich in symbols and messages that celebrate cultural diversity and connection.

Directors Bio:

Devlin Bose is a media practitioner, cinematographer, and filmmaker with experience on over 500 film and television projects. He worked as first assistant cameraperson on Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning GANDHI and has collaborated with international and Indian producers across documentaries, dramas, commercials, and feature films. A FTII alumni, Devlin's recent works include SALAAM QUILT (2025), I'M FLYING OFF I GO (2025), and environmental and social documentaries in Australia, India, and Vietnam.

WHAT'S IN MY BASKET: CHHIRI

Dir: Laxminarayan Devda | 9.48 min | 2025 | India |Nimadi | Short Documentary

The documentary follows Takal Singh and his family as they search for their favorite wild green 'chhiri,' once abundant but now rare. Through their foraging, they share memories, struggles, and the fading bond between community and forest.

WHAT'S IN MY BASKET: CRAB

Set in the village of Garaghat, in central India, this film follows Shankar & Reshma, a crab catcher, as both explore the life cycle, health benefits, and culinary delights of crabs. Through Shankar's voice, the film becomes both a tribute to age-old wisdom and a stark warning about the threats to aquatic ecosystems.

Directors Bio:

Laxminarayan Devda, a farmer from a remote tribal village of Pandutalab in Bagli Tehsil is a media practitioner engaging in participatory filmmaking. He has been working with SPS Community Media since 2006, learning and discovering the joy of photography and chronicling people's voices through short video films that are shared across communities as experiential learning.



A HANDFUL OF HAIR (Oru Pidi Mudi)

Dir: Saran Sundar | 8.34 min | 2025 | India | Malayalam | Short Documentary

In a symbolic setting, a man converses with his moustache, beard, and hair—manifestations of confidence, overthinking, and spirituality. The film questions whether spirituality is true fulfillment or simply another form of addiction.

Directors Bio:

Saran Sundar is from Kerala and is currently settled in Bangalore for work. He completed his Master's in Journalism from Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal. While studying, he was also associated with films and did an internship at the prestigious Films Division of India. He was also involved in documentary films produced by FDI. Saran also volunteered at the International Film Festivals of Kerala and Mumbai. A HANDFUL OF HAIR is his debut as a filmmaker.

LOUD & UNHEARD

Dir: Atul Antony | 12.45 min | 2025 | India | English | Short Documentary

The documentary explores the revival of Perini Natyam, an ancient Indian war dance with roots in the Kakatiya dynasty that was lost for over five centuries. Through in-depth interviews with dancers and teachers, it weaves together the past and present that influenced in shaping its identity.

Directors Bio:

Atul Antony is a designer fascinated by culture, history, and art. His practice centers on visual communication and storytelling, uncovering overlooked narratives and shaping them into meaningful design experiences. He holds a B.Des in Human-Centred Design from Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology and an M.Des in Interaction Design from IIT Hyderabad. Beyond design, he enjoys sketching, painting, and reading widely.



Monday, Oct 6 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Rangshilla Screen - 3

2 films | TRT 147 min

SANGEETA MANISHA

Dir: Shobhit Jain | 71.32 min | 2024 | India| Nimadi, Hindi | Documentary Feature

Set against the rugged backdrop of the Narmada valley in Central India, "Sangeeta, Manisha" offers a sobering glimpse into the lives of two families from a remote tribal village. As their young daughters are admitted to the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center (NRC) for treatment of severe malnutrition, the documentary unfolds with a quiet intensity.

Director's Bio:

Shobhit Jain, award-winning filmmaker and FTII alumnus, is the founder-director of SPS Community Media, a collective in rural central India using interactive filmmaking to amplify marginalized voices and drive social change. He mentors young filmmakers, produces films, and directs documentaries that have screened globally. His works include BONDED (2022), HAILSTORM (2021), CENTRIFUGE (2021), NAARI SANGH (2015), THE ROAD BACK HOME (2013), and EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE (2011).







Monday, Oct 6 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Rangshilla Screen - 3

ABOUT MY FATHER

Dir: Sumit Sisodiya | 75.07 min | 2025 | India | Hindi | Documentary Feature

The filmmaker turns his camera on his once distant, guarded father, uncovering unexpected vulnerability. As buried emotions surface, the father holds onto an improbable dream: reconciling with his estranged wife and uniting two fractured families, despite scars that may never truly heal.

Director's Bio:

SUMIT SISODIYA is an independent documentary filmmaker, editor, and environmental advocate based in Delhi and Assam. As Creative & Technical Head at the Green Hub Project, he has mentored over 250 films across Northeast India, the Central region, and the Western Himalayas. His debut feature *ABOUT MY FATHER* received the Let'sdoc Fellowship (2021) and won the Lumière Award at DocEdge Kolkata (2023). He continues to create and edit films exploring conservation, social issues, and personal narratives.







Monday, Oct 6 | 1 PM - 4 PM | Rangshila Screen - 3

2 films | TRT 143 min

FLOWERS IN A HAILSTORM

Dir: Maharshi Tuhin Kashyap | 29.04 min | 2024 | India | Assamese | Short Documentary

Through abandoned houses and objects, the filmmaker explores a personal fear of abandonment—shaped by relationships, society, and community. Interwoven with insights from a psychologist and a lover who collects forsaken things, the film becomes an intimate journey of memory, loss, and reclamation.

Director's Bio:

Maharshi Tuhin Kashyap is writer-director from Assam and graduate of SRFTI, has a background in children's theatre as an actor and teacher. His debut feature *KOK KOK KOKOOOK* premieres at the Busan International Film Festival. His short *THE HORSE FROM HEAVEN* won Best Film at VGIK, Moscow, and BISFF. His documentary *FLOWERS IN A HAILSTORM* premiered at Nara IFF, Japan. He has also written screenplays for *BOROXUN: SONGS FOR RAINS*, *BULU FILM*, and *GOODBYE GURUJI*.







Monday, Oct 6 | 1 PM - 4 PM | Rangshila Screen - 3

IN THEIR OWN TIME

Dir: Sourya Dipta | 113.39 min | 2024 | India | Bengali | Documentary Feature

In Their Own Time is a narrative journey of three women - Srija, Tuhnu, and Jhumur, as they reflect on love, loss, childhood, friendship, and belonging over three years; we never see their faces, as the evolution of their experiences is manifested by an inherently dynamic and increasingly personal kaleidoscope of the city and suburbs of Kolkata.

Director's Bio:

Sourya Dipta, a filmmaker from Bengal with a Master's in Film Studies from Jadavpur University, directed his debut documentary *IN THEIR OWN TIME* at 28 on a \$1,000 budget. The film has won awards at Gange Sur Seine, Legacy Theatre, and Come On, Doc! festivals, and screened widely across Europe, Asia, and the Americas. It is archived at OSA Blinken Archivum, Hungary. Sourya is currently developing a fictional road-trip feature film.







Thursday, Oct 2 | 4 PM — 7 PM | Versova Social

Workshop: Cinematography - The Craft of Frame, Light & Movement with **Shanti Bhushan Roy**



Through this expert masterclass on cinematography, explore the craft of filmmaking that shapes how stories come alive on Screen with the fine eye for details from behind the Lens. This immersive session will unravel the language of light, frame, and movement—helping you see beyond the script into the visual heartbeat of cinema

Why attend? Because powerful visuals are what make audiences feel before they think.

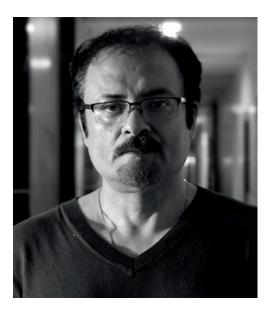
What you'll take away: Hands-on perspectives and techniques to translate your vision into compelling imagery that elevates your storytelling.

Discover how every frame can become a story in itself.

Saturday, Oct 4 | 4 PM — 7 PM | Versova Social

Workshop: Sound Design with

Bishwadeep Dipak Chatterjee



Cinema is not only what you see—it's what you hear. This workshop dives into the art and craft of sound design, revealing how atmosphere, silence, and rhythm can transform a scene from ordinary to unforgettable. Expect an ear-opening session on how sound shapes emotion and storytelling.

Why attend? Because sound is the invisible thread that binds your audience to the screen.

What you'll take away: Practical tools to enhance your filmmaking with layered soundscapes that deepen impact and elevate cinematic experience.

Learn to make your films heard as powerfully as they are seen.

Friday, Oct 3 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Versova Social



Participants: Rashmi Lamba | Maneck Dastur | Jamshed Mistry | Gayathiri Guliani | Arfi Lamba

Why Co-Productions & Co-Ventures Are Here to Stay

Presented by the Indo-Canadian Business Chamber and moderated by Rashmi Lamba, this masterclass unpacks the opportunities of international co-productions. Producers, legal experts, and veterans reveal how to access new markets, share resources, and blend diverse perspectives. Gain insider knowledge on business models, creative strategies, and practical pathways to position your work on a truly global stage.

CO-CURATORS



Friday, Oct 3 | 1 PM - 4 PM | Versova Social

ADDA 1-Storytelling Across Mediums:
From Advertising to Cinema
with:Prahlad Kakkar, Suchitra
Krishnamoorthi,Rajesh Mapuskar

Facilitator: Kabeer Khurana



WIFF's Adda / Dialogues is an informal, high-energy talkathon where cinema becomes community. From industry stalwarts like Javed Jaffrey, Saeed Mirza, Suchitra Krishnamoorthi, Prahlad Kakkar, and Amit Sadh to budding filmmakers, Kabeer Khurana has created this space for mentorship, honest exchange, and collaboration. Expect intergenerational conversations, chance encounters, and stories that inspire creativity beyond the screen.

The Many Faces of Jaaved Jaaferi: Comedy, Commentary and Cinema with: Jaaved Jaaferi

Facilitator: Kabeer Khurana

Saturday, Oct 4 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Versova Social

MASTERCLASS WITH ANUPAMA MANDLOI



Participants: Aryana Sahay | Poorvi Bhat | Miriam Chandy Menacherry | Kashmira Patil

Storytelling that etches lasting change

Step into a masterclass with Anupama Mandloi on how cinema can move beyond entertainment to inspire change. Learn to weave social resonance into your filmmaking, gain clarity in storytelling, and create films that leave lasting impressions on hearts and minds. This session is about making stories matter, not just making movies.

CO-CURATORS



Friday, Oct 4 | 1 PM — 4 PM | Versova Social

ADDA 2-Emerging Voices in Indian Cinema" (3 hrs) with Ida Ali, Vidar Joshi, Saad Nawab and Simar Singh

Facilitator: Kabeer Khurana



Emerging Voices in Indian Cinema is a dynamic dialogue featuring Ida Ali, Vidar Joshi, Saad Nawab, Gia Singh Arora and Simar Singh. Facilitated by filmmaker Kabeer Khurana, this session explores the journeys, challenges, and inspirations of young storytellers redefining Indian cinema, offering fresh perspectives and a glimpse into the future of independent filmmaking.

Friday, Sat, Sun Oct 3, 4, 5 | 4 PM — 7 PM | Rangshila- Sc 1 ROUND OF APPLAUSE

These high-impact sessions bring together leading filmmakers, producers, and thinkers to shape the future of independent storytelling.

The Outbreak of the Breakout Stars













- Moderator: Shravan Shah
- Speakers: Pratik Gandhi | Priya Bapat | Amit Sial | Surveen Chawla | Shweta Basu Prasad

The Directors' Cut (redefining Indian storytelling)











- Moderator: Shravan Shah
 - Speakers: Hansal Mehta | Vishal Furia | Rohan Sippy
 | Tushar Hiranandani

Writers Shaping the New India













- Moderator: Shravan Shah
 - Speakers: Anahata Menon | Adhir Bhat | Karan
 Sharma | Purva Naresh | Rahul Ved Prakash

COLLABORATORS







APPLAUSE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS



An exclusive series of conversations that bring together an extraordinary panel of acclaimed actors, directors, and writers. Expect unfiltered discussions on craft, behind-the-scenes anecdotes, and personal journeys.

VENUE

Waterfront Indie Film Festival (WIFF), Rangshila Theatre Group, Mumbai.

DATE

October 3rd – 5th, 2025

RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW!

Sunday, Oct 5 | 10 AM — 1 PM | Maverick Studios

MASTERCLASS WITH SANDRA DE CASTRO BUFFINGTON



Participants: Sandra de Castro Buffington | Dr Piyush Roy | Brahmanand Singh | Barnali Ray Shukla

WEAVING CONSCIOUSNESS AND PURPOSE INTO NARRATIVES

Global catalyst Sandra de Castro Buffington leads a transformative workshop on storytelling that sparks empathy, inclusivity, and social change. Expect practical tools and inspiring conversations on how filmmakers can craft stories that shift culture and heal communities. Discover how to awaken awareness through cinema that doesn't just live on screen but in people's hearts.

CO-CURATORS



Sunday, Oct 6 | 1 PM — 4 PM | Versova Social

ADDA 3 WITH GOKUL KRISHNAMOORTHY



Participants: Indira Baikerikar | Mitrajit Bhattacharya | Sonal Dabral | Karthi Marshan

Brands and independent cinema — unlocking potential by unleashing synergies.

Sunday Adda at WIFF 2025 explores 'Brands and Independent Cinema — Unlocking Potential by Unleashing Synergies' at Versova Social.

Featuring Indira Baikerikar, Mitrajit Bhattacharya, Sonal Dabral, and Karthi Marshan, moderated by Gokul Krishnamoorthy, this engaging session examines how storytelling and brand strategy intersect, opening fresh avenues for collaboration, visibility, and growth in the evolving landscape of independent cinema."

THE TEAM







VARSHAA A. JAINN



ADITI MATHUR

It gives me immense joy to welcome you to the inaugural edition of the Waterfront Indie Film Festival. This festival is born out of a deep love for cinema that dares to be different, cinema that often struggles for space in a world dominated by OTT platforms and big-budget spectacles. WIFF is not just a platform to screen films, but a celebration of fearless voices, bold experiments, and stories that push boundaries while reflecting the richness of human experience. Over these five days, let us watch, reflect, and revel in the power of independent cinema together.

Saagar Gupta | Programming Director, WIFF 2025



DEEPA GAHLOT



VINATA NANDA



AVNEESH MISHRA



SHANTANU RAY CHAUDHURI

CO-CURATORS













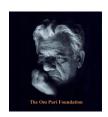


































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LIVE

From Vinatage

E S P A C E

look look look



Inaugural Edition: Oct 2 – Oct 6, 2025 Rangshila Theatre | Silk Road Cafe | Versova Social | Maverick Studios