



# 8<sup>th</sup> SAARC Film Festival 2018

22 - 27 MAY 2018

AT CINEMA HALL, NATIONAL FILM CORPORATION



South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation



**8<sup>th</sup> SAARC  
Film Festival  
2018**

**22 - 27 May 2018  
© Cinema Hall, National Film Corporation**

Organised by  
SAARC Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka

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# SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE

SAARC Cultural Centre is the SAARC Regional Centre for Culture and it is based in Sri Lanka. It was established by the Governments and Heads of State of the SAARC Countries to promote cultural cooperation within the Region, to enhance cultural understanding and harmony amongst the people of South Asia and to share the distinct cultural identity of South Asia with the world.

The Centre functions as an important focal point for the artistic communities of the eight Member States of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Centre promotes Regional understanding and harmony through Cultural and Research Programmes, brought about with a view to inspire individuals and groups of Artistes, to partake in varied and diverse activities and events encompassing

the multifaceted realm of the Arts. It aims to create an inspirational and conducive environment, to meet and exchange their inter-regional creative visions and promote deeper discussion and analysis. In its view to be as inclusive as possible in its outlook and artistic vision, the Centre explores all forms of art, that of Performing Arts such as dance, music, drama, theatre, puppetry and folk culture; Visual Art such as painting, sculpture, film making, photography; and Literature reflecting the vision of the SAARC Agenda for Culture. The Centre also encourages and invites further analysis and exploration through its publications on varied topics from South Asian Diaspora to Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expression, Sustainable Development and Tourism. In its quest to share the value and depth of South Asian Heritage freely with the world at large, it continues

to foray into the realm of publications and research and the Centre will endeavour to make all publications available online on its website: [www.saarcculture.org](http://www.saarcculture.org)

The SAARC Cultural Centre is a part of SAARC, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, created with a vision to build and further promote understanding between the eight countries of the South Asian Region. Eight countries which are already inherently bound together in a richly woven tapestry of shared history and heritage brimming with warm hearted people, fertile lands, a myriad of colour and its very own and unique beauty, art and culture.



## Message from Secretary-General of SAARC



SECRETARY GENERAL

SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION  
SECRETARIAT

### MESSAGE

South Asia, while reflecting a rich and diverse plurality of cultural and religious traditions, is heir to a profound common civilizational continuum of great antiquity, which constitutes a historical basis for sustaining harmonious relations among the peoples of the region. The SAARC process could draw more deeply from the vitality and strength of South Asia's cultural heritage as a source influencing and enhancing creative energies in all fields, and uniting peoples of the region.

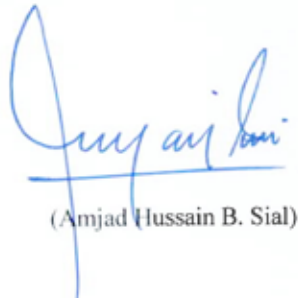
Since its establishment, the SAARC Cultural Centre, in keeping with its mandate, has been playing a key role in projecting the distinct identity of South Asia and promoting cultural cooperation in the region.

In this backdrop, I am delighted to learn that the SAARC Cultural Centre will be organising the SAARC Film Festival 2018 for the eighth consecutive year in Sri Lanka on 22-27 May 2018. This will be another important event in the realization of the directive of the Eighteenth Summit that measures be taken to preserve and reconstitute the South Asian cultural property to promote SAARC heritage.

With every passing year, the SAARC Film Festival has built a reputation as being a very important platform for projecting some of the best films from the SAARC region. It has become an event inspiring much interest, respect and regard for the promotion and sharing of the common cultural heritage, norms and traditions of the South Asian region through the unique artistry and creativity of the filmmakers in South Asia.

I warmly congratulate the people behind the nominated films and all those who have contributed towards making this event possible. I am confident that with the operationalization of a new complex of the SAARC Cultural Centre, which is being built in Matara, Sri Lanka, on about 17 acres of land, the Film Festival as this will gain further momentum and success.

I wish the Eighth SAARC Film Festival 2018 a great success.



(Amjad Hussain B. Sial)

Kathmandu, 17 May 2018



### **Message from the Director, SAARC Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka**

It is with great pleasure that I write a few words on an occasion such as the SAARC Film Festival 2018, organised by the SAARC Cultural Centre, where we witness, explore and celebrate the wonders of South Asian cinema.

The visual art of film making remains one of the most effective ways in which to share and display social practices that reflect a plethora of evolving cultural phenomena in modern society. Active appreciation of film and partaking in the wonders of its imaginative journey, often has a very positive impact on social behaviour and can contribute towards the upliftment of society. It can open doors to a world of imagery and imagination that can develop and encourage artistry and emotional exploration. The SAARC Film Festival endeavours to be an inclusive event, with Free Entrance to all films, encouraging participation of the public from all socio-economic backgrounds and with a multitude of different interests, all with the common goal of being entranced and transported by the vibrant world of Cinema.

The SAARC Film Festival 2018 is proud to present a wide array of Feature Films, Short Films and especially 'Master' films, made by respected veteran film makers who are recognised as Masters in the trade by their respective nations and peers across the Film Industry. The purpose and vision of these types of films, being one of building bridges between South Asian talent and mainstream audiences. Now in its 8th year, the SAARC Film Festival has brought together a vivid and varied group of true masters of the art and craft of film making.

Ever evolving technology and growing technical study and expertise in the field has dramatically changed the face of the film industry and particularly, the art of film making. Amongst other things, it has enabled better quality films to be viewed further afield in a much shorter space of time, with access to much more unusual material and subject



matter, constantly pushing the boundaries of accepted norms, all of which has resulted in greater exposure for the social and cultural themes that lie at the very heart of any cinematic experience.

I am delighted the SAARC Film Festival has developed into such prestigious and popular event and has become a familiar feature on the cinematic calendar of Colombo. As the culture of Film Festivals continues to grow, so does the interest, appreciation and exploration of the art of creating films and producing enhanced cinematic experiences. This growing industry in turn encourages young talent whilst celebrating and supporting the more experienced film makers and established talent. Above all, I am honoured that the SAARC Cultural Centre plays a part in fostering understanding, tolerance and greater acceptance throughout the South Asian Region using the medium of Film.

I sincerely congratulate all the Honoured SAARC Member States, Film Directors, Editors, Cinematographers, Music Directors, Sound Designers, Producers, Actors, Actresses, Jury Members, Participants, Volunteers and all others associated with The Festival for their contribution and support to make this a vibrant and memorable event.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the hard-working members of the Organising Committee of the SAARC Film Festival 2018 and on behalf of the SAARC Cultural Centre, I warmly invite you all to join us on this unique journey as we travel through the eyes of the filmmakers and experience the artistry and unique creativity of the film industry in South Asia.

**Wasanthe Kotuwella**

Director, SAARC Cultural Centre

# AWARDS

Trophy for Best Feature Film

Trophy for Best Short Film

Trophy for Best Director

Trophy for Best Screenplay

Trophy for Best Actor

Trophy for Best Actress

Trophy for Best Cinematographer

Trophy for Best Editor

Trophy for Best Sound Designer

Trophy for Best Original Score

Two Special Jury Awards



# **NOMINATED** FILMS AND OPEN CATEGORY FILMS FROM THE REGION





*Bangladesh*



# HALDA

Feature/ 150 mins/ Bangladesh

Director  
**Tauquir Ahmed**  
Producer  
**H.M. Ibrahim**  
Screenplay  
**Tauquir Ahmed**  
Cinematographer  
**Enamul Iuq Sohel**

Editor  
**Amit Debnath**

Original Score  
**Tauquir Ahmed, Pinto Ghosh,  
Sanzida Mahmood Nandita**

Sound Designer  
**Ripon Nath**

Cast  
**Mosharram Karim, Nusrat Imrose  
Tisha, Zahid Hassan**

## Synopsis

The River Halda is a river in South Eastern Bangladesh and the one and only natural fish breeding centre in Asia. The film is based on the struggling lives of the fishermen of River Halda in Chittagong. Set against the backdrop of River Halda in Chittagong, the film promises an intense, touching drama. The lives and struggles of fishermen during the breeding season sets the scene, added with some social conflicts and a love story between the characters of Badiuzzaman and Hasu. The emotional quotient runs high with love, jealousy, anger, hope and despair, all brought to boil against a pristine backdrop.

## Tauquir Ahmed

Tauquir Ahmed is an architect who became an Actor and a Director in both television and cinema. He commenced his direction debut in cinema with *Joyjatra* in 2004. This was followed by *Rupkothar Golpo* in 2006, *Daruchini Dwip* in 2007 and after a long hiatus with his 4th feature film *Oggatonama* for which he won the Best Screenplay at the 7<sup>th</sup> SAARC Film Festival held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2017.





# KHACHA (THE CAGE)

Feature/ 110 mins/ Bangladesh

## Synopsis

Khacha is set against the backdrop of the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan following the end of the British Colonial rule. The film revolves around the plight of a Hindu family trying to migrate to India from East Pakistan and the travails and social issues the family faces in their attempts.



## Akram Khan

Akram Khan is a writer and a director. He entered the film industry with the short film *Addhyay* (Chapter) in 1997. He has been making television dramas since the year 2000. He is an active member of the Short Film Forum of Bangladesh and his debut feature film was *Ghashphul – The Flower of Grass*. He is also a well-known writer in Bangladesh. Khacha is his second feature length film for which he has National Awards for Best Film, Best Actor and Best Director.

Director  
**Akram Khan**

Producer  
**Faridur Reza Sagar, Akram Khan**

Screenplay  
**Azad Abul Kalam, Akram Khan**

Cinematographer  
**Tanvir Khondokar**

Editor  
**Sameer Ahmed**

Original Score  
**Vinod Roy**

Sound Designer  
**Azam Babu**

Cast  
**Azad Abul Kalam, Jaya Ahsan, Mamunur Rashid, Rani Sarker, Kayes Chowdhury, Gouro Priya Pandey, Alak Moitro, Mohammad Rafiq, Pideem, Sadika Rahman Raisa, Mohammad Emon**



# KALO MEGHAR VELA

Short/ 30 mins/ Bangladesh

Director  
**Mrittika Goon**  
Producer  
**Information Ministry of  
Bangladesh**

Screenplay  
**Mrittika Goon**

Cinematographer  
**Nihad, Mithu Munir**

Editor  
**Shams Saki**

Original Score  
**Binod Roy**

Sound Designer  
**Azam Babu**

Cast  
**Runa Khan, Sumon Biswas, Apon,  
Fahim, Md. Fazlul Haque, Munira  
Yousuf Memi, Harunur Rashid,  
Golam Mustafa**

## Synopsis

The protagonist Dukhu, a child who lost his father at a young age spends a life of physical and emotional struggle in a railway station of Dhaka. However, he leaves the city to get away from his abusive step father leaving behind his mother. Thereafter, disguised as an orphan he started working for a family of a rural village. In this unknown remote village, he encounters a sage from whom he gets inspired and finally unfastens his love and adoration towards his mother.

## Mrittika Goon

Mrittika Goon commenced her career as a writer by publishing poems in newspapers while in primary school. Her first book *Amar Akashey Brishti* (Rain in my Skyline) won Ananado Alo Purashkar Literary Award in 2012. She has been working in the television industry in various capacities for many years. She has directed television documentaries and dramas including *Mirajul*, *Ragob Boal*, *Kandari* and *Moyna pakhi*. *Kalo Megher Vela* is her debut to the silver screen.





# DAAG

Short/ 13 mins/ Bangladesh

## Synopsis

Daag is based on the role of women during the liberation war of 1971. This depicts women who are not only left with emotional scars but with a burning desire for revenge. One such woman is Shila, who was brutally raped by a collaborator with the Pakistani Army during the Liberation War. Later Shila marries her rapist.



### Joshim Uddin Ahmed

Joshim Uddin Ahmed is a television drama and a documentary filmmaker. Many of his documentaries feature Liberation war of Bangladesh. The *Bondishalay Noy Mash* is one of his most popular documentaries regarding Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Pakistan jail. The short film Daag is his debut to the Silver screen.

Director  
**Josim Uddin Ahmed**

Producer  
**Josim Uddin Ahmed**

Screenplay  
**Pantha Shahriar, Josim Uddin Ahmed**

Cinematographer  
**Jogendra Panda**

Editor  
**Sumith Gosh**

Original Score  
**Partha Barua**

Sound Designer  
**Ripon Nath**

Cast  
**Shatabdi Wadud, Bakar Bakul, Sharmin Zoha Soshee**





# AKHI & HER FRIENDS

Feature (Master)/ 114 mins/ Bangladesh

Director  
**Morshedul Islam**

Producer  
**Morshedul Islam, Faridur Reza Sagaz**

Screenplay  
**Morshedul Islam & Maruf Barkat**

Cinematographer  
**Mahfuzur Rahman Khan**

Editor  
**Sujan Mahmud**

Original Score  
**Swamy Zubaer**

Sound Designer  
**Sujan Mahmud**

Cast  
**Juarria Ahmed Prattasha, Ananya Samael, Tahin Nawaz Huq Isha**

## Synopsis

The story revolves around Akhi - a visually impaired girl and her friends. Titu, one of Akhi's friends, finds that his teachers don't understand the students but things change when the new Head Mistress Dr. Raisa arrives and convinces Akhi to attend school. Akhi wants to be an ordinary student, being able to play games and Titu makes a ball which makes a sound which enables Akhi to become an excellent cricket player. Akhi and five of her friends get kidnapped and taken to a secret hideout. But Akhi and her friends show presence of mind and intelligence to escape. Drawing inspiration from Akhi, even a wheel chair bound student joins the school's football team.

## Morshedul Islam

Morshedul Islam was trained as a Pharmacist with a Bachelor and Master Degree in Pharmacy and changed his career and life when he participated in a film appreciation course. His first film was *Agami* a short film about the great war of liberation in Bangladesh. *Agami* won the *Silver Peacock Award* for best direction at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival in New Delhi, India in 1985. This movie launched his cinematic career which won the National Award for Best Short Film and represented Bangladesh at many International Film Festivals. His first feature film was *Chaka* (The Wheel) in 1993, won many film awards including at the Dunkerque Film Festival in France in 1994.







Bhutan



# SERGA MATHANG

Feature/ 145 mins/ Bhutan

Director  
**Kesang P. Jigme**

Producer  
**Pema Tshering**

Screenplay  
**Kesang P. Jigme**

Cinematographer  
**ChhoeKu Dorji**

Editor  
**Kesang P. Jigme**

Original Score  
**Tashi Wangdi**

Cast  
**Tshering Phuntsho, Dechen Wangmo, Sonam Choden Tenzin, Ugyen Dorji, Pelden Dorji Choden, Bumpa, Dorji, Dechen Wangdi, Aum Zam**

## Synopsis

*Serga Mathang* is about cross-cousin marriage and the system that allows parents to plan their children's marriages in their infancy when they barely understand the system. The film raises the question about the problems concerning the cross-cousin marriages and the impact on the lives of people involved. This film revolves around Choden and Sonam who are cross-cousins, betrothed as children and Yangchen who meets Sonam in College and befriends him. Due to family pressure, Sonam and Choden are married and have a child Karchung, who is disabled. Yangchen who becomes a doctor helps Karchung.

## Kesang P. Jigme

Kesang P. Jigme commenced his film career in 1998 as an Actor and Producer of the movie *Raywaa* and has contributed for over 15 films in different capacities as a director, editor, screenplay and script writer and an actor. His movie *Serga Mathang* was awarded the Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Film and Prime Minister's Award in 2017 at the 16<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards in Bhutan.





# HUM CHEWAI ZAMLING

Feature/ 145 mins/ Bhutan

## Synopsis

The film is woven around Mendrel, a sophisticated young lady who meets Tenzin a businessman at her aunt's village. Tenzin falls in love but is rejected by Mendrel. Tenzin's business is destroyed by a fire and he looks for employment and is hired by Mendrel as a chauffeur. Mendrel falls in love with Penjore a Gambler who deserts his previous pregnant girlfriend Phub Om. Penjore is in debt to Gangza who is a money lender. Their wedding is disrupted by Phub Om and Mendrel is hospitalized when Gangza brings the police to arrest Penjore for the debts. Penjore repays Gangza with Mendrel's money but once he is released, he kills Gangza. Tenzin is leaving to Middle East for a better future and Mendrel follows him to the airport. Will she be able to stop him?



## Wangchuk Talop

Wangchuk Talop is a film producer, documentary and a TV commercial Artist. He has been the director and assistant director for several award-winning feature Films. He was awarded the Best Director for his film *Drugda Lingpai Tashi* produced in 2015 by Chundu Pictures. He has also been awarded the Best Editor for his films *Mermaid II* (2014), *Phurba Thinley* (2012), and *Sem Hingi Meto* (2009). He is a Member of the Bhutan Film Association.

Director  
**Wangchuk Talop**

Producer  
**Pema Tshering**

Screenplay  
**Gyem Dorji Ahmed**

Cinematographer  
**Chencho Dorji**

Editor  
**Wangchuk Talop & Chencho Dorji**

Original Score  
**Tandin Dorji**

Cast  
**Gyem Dorji, Lhaki Dolma,  
Tshering Phuntsho, Sonam  
Tenzin, Sherab Lhamo**



*India*



# KSHITIJ

Feature/ 95 mins/ India

## Synopsis

This Marathi film is about Vacchi, who is a 12-year old girl and wants to study despite all the barriers and difficulties life throws at her. Poverty ridden, her family leaves their village to find livelihood as labourers in sugarcane fields. Her simple father has little patience for his daughter's aspirations. Her steady willpower to study irks him. Her unwavering determination however, helps her to combat problems and brings her closer to the inevitable showdown with her father.



## Manouj Kadaamh

Manouj Kadaamh is a director and a writer. He worked as the chief assistant director at Shop 24x7 television channel. He was a co-writer for television serials such as *Raju Raja Rajasahab*, *Mere Angne Mein* and *Kabhi Idhar Kabhi Udhar*. He was the chief assistant director in the Marathi movie *Shwass* (Indian nomination for Oscars), creative director for *Second Inning* and *Aarambh*, technical director for *Spandan*, etc. He was awarded the UNESCO Gandhi medal at the 48<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India at Goa in 2017 for his debut movie *Kshitij*.

Director  
**Manouj Kadaamh**  
Producer  
**Media Films Craft, Navraz Prasala**  
Story  
**Prof. Raybhan Davange**  
Screenplay  
**Manouj Kadaamh**  
Cinematographer  
**Yogesh Rajguru**  
Editor  
**Neeraj Voralia**  
Original Score/ Music  
**Shailendra Barve**  
Sound Designer  
**Resul Pookutty, Arnav Dutta**  
Cast  
**Upendra Limaye, Kanchan Jadhav, Vaishnavi Tangde, Arnav Mandrubkar, Rajkumar Tangade, M Manoj Joshi, Vidyadhar Joshi**





# POORNA

Feature/ 95 mins/ India

Director  
**Rahul Bose**  
Producer  
**Rahul Bose Productions and Raay Media Pvt. Ltd.**  
Screenplay  
**Prashant Pandey, Shreya Dev Verma**  
Cinematographer  
**Subhramsu**  
Editor  
**Manan Mehta**  
Cast  
**Aditi Inamdhar, Rahul Bose, S Mariya**

## Synopsis

Poorna is true story based on the youngest girl to climb Mount Everest. Poorna comes from a poor tribal family and spends most of her time with her older cousin Priya sweeping the school grounds as their parents haven't been able to pay their school fees. Priya attempts to run away and is caught and subsequently married off but Poorna gets a chance to attend the Social Welfare School. In a rock climbing expedition Poorna and Anand emerge as frontrunners and are sent for training and get selected for the Himalayan expedition. Fighting emotional hurdles and training herself physically, she ultimately becomes the youngest girl to climb to the summit of Mount Everest.

## Rahul Bose

Rahul Bose is an Indian film actor, director, screenwriter, social activist and an avid rugby player. He has appeared in Bengali, Hindi and Tamil movies. He has acted in over 40 movies starting from 1994 including *Mr. and Mrs. Iyer*, *Kalpurush*, *Anuranan*, *Antaheen*, *Laptop*, *The Japanese Wife*, *Pyaar Ke Side Effects*, *Maan Gaye Mughal-e-Azam*, *Jhankaar Beats*, *Kucch Luv Jaisaa*, *Chameli*, *Shaurya* and *Vishwaroopam*. He wrote the screenplay and directed *Everybody says I am Fine* in 2001.







GI

Short/ 30 mins/ India

### Synopsis

Gi lives with Appachan, her grandfather. Gi and her grandfather are dealing with different realities. Appachan is losing his memory and delving into worlds Gi is unfamiliar with. She on the other hand is trying to come to terms with the world around her, her lover and her work which all seem hostile to her.



### Kunjila Mascillamani

Kunjila Mascillamani is an independent writer and a filmmaker. She was trained at the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute in Kolkata. She has been making short films and other video content for over 8 years. She is a video and content editor as well as a blogger in English and Malayalam.

Director  
**Kunjila Mascillamani**

Producer  
**Satyajit Ray Film & Television  
Institute**

Story/ Screenplay  
**Kunjila Mascillamani**

Cinematographer  
**Rakesh Dharan**

Editor  
**Ritika Poddar**

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair and a bindi on her forehead, blowing a string of bubbles. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage. The title 'THE WATERFALL' is overlaid in white text on a dark rectangular background at the bottom right of the image.

# THE WATERFALL

Short/ 20 mins/ India

Director  
**Lipika Singh Darai**

Producer  
**LXI, Ideas Pvt. Ltd.**

Screenplay  
**Lipika Singh Darai**

Cinematographer  
**Indraneel Lahiri**

Editor  
**Lipika Singh Darai**

Original Score/ Music  
**Gaurab Chatterjee**

Cast  
**Soham Maitra, Rwitobroto  
Mukherjee, Indrashish Roy**

## Synopsis

Karan, a city kid visits his cousin Nilu's beautiful hill town, and immediately takes to the deep forests. He marvels at the bounty of nature in the small town. He soon learns that the waterfall they visited will soon be destroyed to make way for development projects. Deeply disturbed, Karan finds himself in deep contemplation about the conflicting issues of development and the importance of conserving nature.

## Lipika Singh Darai

Lipika Singh Darai was trained at the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune. She started her career as a director of documentaries which includes *Some Stories around Witches* in 2016, *Kankee O Saapo* in 2014 and *A Tree a Man a Sea* in 2012.





# BISORJAN

Feature (Master)/ 130 mins/ India

## Synopsis

This Bengali film is a love story which transcends man-made religious and political boundaries. As the Hindus of East and West Bengal start their celebrations for Durga immersion in the River Ichhamati, the boundary between India and Bangladesh. A young Muslim meets with an accident and is washed ashore the next day. A young widow discovers his body by the riverside and she takes the unconscious man home. His identity as a Muslim is hidden by the widow. However, emotionally the young woman is strongly drawn to him. But in the end does the boundary still prevail?



## Kaushik Ganguly

Kaushik Ganguly is one of the most outstanding filmmakers in contemporary Bengali Cinema. His feature films and television dramas have won many awards. His feature film *Cinemawalla* was honoured at the International Film Festival of India in 2015 with the UNESCO Fellini award. His film credits include *Laptop*, *Shobdo Chhotoder Chhobi*, and *Apur Panchali* which has won many National Awards.

Director  
**Kaushik Ganguly**

Producer  
**Opera**

Screenplay  
**Kaushik Ganguly**

Cinematographer  
**Sauvik Basu**

Editor  
**Subhajit Singha**

Original Score/ Music  
**Indradip Dasgupta**

Cast  
**Jaya Ahsan, Abir Chatterjee,  
Kaushik Ganguly**



Maldives



Feature/ 132 mins/ Maldives

## Synopsis

Yusra is an independent woman who is returning to her native island to serve as a qualified teacher. On the boat she meets Ali who is making a short trip to fulfil a task for his overprotective mother. They become fast friends during the journey and Yusra becomes his tour guide. Soon, their friendship turns intimate but unexpectedly they part as bitter enemies. Yusra becomes pregnant out of wedlock and is punished under Islamic law with flogging. This is a story about women in Maldivian society who face the harshness and brutality of life all by themselves when men in their lives refuse to take responsibility.



## Abdul Faththaah

Abdul Faththaah started his film career in 1990s and has become one of the most respected and award-winning directors of Maldives. He has created 12 feature films, 240-episode television dramas and many documentaries. Among the documentaries he has produced and directed includes current social issues, human trafficking, environment and livelihood with *Vattafaalhi* being the most popular. He was one of the Jury Members for the Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards in 2018.

Director  
**Abdul Faththaah**

Producer  
**Abdul Faththaah, Numa  
Mohamed**

Screenplay  
**Mahdi Ahmed**

Cinematographer  
**Ibrahim Wisan**

Editor  
**Ahmed Sajid**

Original Score/ Music  
**Ismail Adheel**

Sound Designer  
**Ismail Adheel**

Cast  
**Shiban Ahmed, Mariyam Azza,  
Aminath Rishfa**





4426

Feature/ 150 mins/ Maldives

Director  
**Fathima Nahula, Ahmed Shinan**  
Producer  
**The Crystal Company Pvt. Ltd.**  
Screenplay  
**Fathima Nahula**  
Cinematographer  
**Ahmed Shinan**  
Editor  
**Ahmad Shinan, Mohamed Faisal**  
Original Score  
**Mohamed Ikram**  
Sound Designer  
**Mohamed Ikram, Ahmad Shinan, Mohamed Faisal**  
Cast  
**Ibrahim Jihadh, Mariyam Azza**

## Synopsis

Mifu and Ruby live in a comfortable home with their 7-year-old child they adore. Mifu, however decides to look for a new place to live in, once his sister, Elysha returns home after completing her studies. He, along with his friends visit a four storied building on lease to check it out before he can make the final decision. As they spend time exploring the place, they start experiencing strange things. Only when they want to leave, however, they find that they are unable to exit the building. Adding to the horror of this, is the disappearing of the friends, one by one – with no possible explanation. The movie concludes with a dark secret of the house.

## Fathimath Nahula

Fathimath Nahula, famously known as “Nahu” is a screenplay writer and a director. She started her film career as a writer and emerged as a director since 2000. She is known for romantic movies which are deeply moving. She is also one of the most publicly acclaimed writers of Maldives.



## Ahmed Shinan

In a career spanning for almost a decade, Shinan has produced and directed 11 commercials and documentaries for the private sector and government entities in Maldives. His skills as a visual artist became well known within the local filmmaking community, making him the youngest and most sought-after artist to be offered many projects to portray his skills.





Do i knw u?!?!?

Unknown

Im somone u knw  
very well...

# STATUS

Short/ 8 mins/ Maldives

## Synopsis

Status is inspired from the real-life influence of social media in today's world – its role in connecting with friends and family as well as its negative impacts of blackmail and cybercrimes. A middle class working girl lives alone in an apartment in a male dominated capital of Maldives. As she is resting one afternoon, she receives messages from an unknown person requesting to see her. She also receives horrifying footage of herself sent as blackmail. The man turns out to be her ex-boyfriend.



## Ali Shamin

Ali Shamin started his career as a broadcast journalist at the National Television of Maldives, working as a news anchor, senior journalist and host of many shows including primetime news, Maldives Today, Hello Maldives, etc. He has also produced some television programmes such as Presidential Pledge during the presidential elections of 2013. He directed and wrote scripts for documentaries such as *Dhivehi Sifainge Gaumee Khidhumaiy*, *Proper Waste Management in B. Maalhos*, *Gondudhod*, etc. Status his debut short film.

Director

**Ali Shamin**

Producer

**Ali Shamin**

Screenplay

**Ali Shamin**

Cinematographer

**Shamaan Shakir**

Editor

**Shamaan Shakir**

Original Score/ Music

**Shamaan Shakir**

Sound Designer

**Ali Shamin**

Cast

**Mariyam Saajiath**



# BITHUFANGI

Short/ 28 mins/ Maldives

Director

**Mohamed Niyaz**

Producer

**Anti-Corruption Commission of  
Maldives, Eternal Pictures**

Screenplay

**Mohamed Niyaz**

Cinematographer

**Hussein Munavvar, Mohamad  
Niyaz, Ahmed Wisan, Hussein  
Adnan**

Editor

**Mohamed Niyaz**

Original Score/ Music

**Mohamed Ikram, Sound Block**

Sound Designer

**Ahmed Nimal, Ali Nedeeh, Ali  
Moosa**

Cast

**Hassan Manik, Aishath Muhusina**

## Synopsis

Successful entrepreneur Abbas Umar is a native of Dheruyaafushi island, who lives in the capital city of Male. In recent times, the city seat in the parliament was represented by politicians who were convicted of bribery. The capital community requested Abbas Umar to stand for the people as an independent candidate in the upcoming by-election. Abbas is a respected figure in the community. Without much of a challenge, he wins the elections. Mahil, on the other hand is waiting to enter the university. His indulgence in recreational substance abuse gradually turned him into a junkie. In a deal gone wrong, he becomes a murder suspect. Before the swearing-in ceremony, the newly elected Member of the Parliament, Abbas Umar's plate is full. The rookie politician's career and Mahil's journey to freedom becomes intertwined in a sordid tale of betrayal.

## Mohamed Niyaz (Tedry)

Mohamed Niyaz also known as Tedry has been active in the film industry of Maldives for more than 30 years and has won 23 National Awards in various categories. He started his career as a trainee producer at Television Maldives and later established his own production company Eternal Pictures. The music video *Rhythm of the Waves* set new standards in music video in Maldives. *Salhi Baisa* is one of most popular television dramas created by Tedry.





Pakistan



# JANAN

Feature/ 133 mins/ Pakistan

Director  
**Azfar Jafri**  
Screenplay  
**Osman Khalid Butt**

Cinematographer  
**Haider A Rizvi**

Editor  
**Mitesh Soni**

Cast  
**Bilal Ashraf, Ali Rehman Khan,  
Armeena Khan**

## Synopsis

This film unfolds in the background of beautiful natural landscape of the Swat mountains. The story revolves around Meena who returns to Swat after living in Canada for 11 years. This is a journey of discovery for Meena and her family.

## Azfar Jafri

Azfar Jafri started his career as a 3D character animator and has contributed to several television commercials for national and international clients. His film career commenced with *Isthmus Road* in 2005, *Khel* (Game) Short Film in 2010, *Aik Khat Tumharay Naam* in 2011, *Siyaah* in 2013 for which he was awarded the ARY Film Award for Best Director.







# PUNJAB NAHI JAON GI

Feature/ 159 mins/ Pakistan

## Synopsis

The movie revolves around the intricacies of relationships in the modern society. Fawad Khagga is looking for his dream girl and his cousin Durdana Butt is in love with him. The arrival of Amal Dastoor from London changes the dynamics and Fawad falls in love with her picture. Amal rejects him in favour of Vasay, her friend.



## Nadeem Beyg

Nadeem Beyg commenced his career as a television drama director with serials such as *Ladies Park* in 2011, *Omer Dadi Aur Gharwale* in 2012, *Annie Ki Ayegi Baraat* in 2012 and *Pyarey Afzal* in 2013. He made his silver screen debut with the comedy *Jawani Phir Nahi Ani* in 2015 which was a box office hit. *Punjab Nahi Jaon Gi* is his second feature film.

Director  
**Nadeem Beyg**

Producer  
**Salman Iqbal, Humayun Saeed,  
Hassan Saeed, Shahzad Nasib**

Screenplay  
**Khalil-ur-Rehman Qamar**

Cinematographer  
**Suleman Razzaq**

Editor  
**Rizwan AQ**

Music  
**Shani Arshad**

Cast  
**Humayun Saeed, Sohail Ahmed,  
Mehwish Hayat, Saba Hameed,  
Naveed Shehzad, Urwa Hocane,  
Ahmad Ali Butt, Waseem Abbas,  
Azfar Rehman, Behroze Sabzwari,  
Safina Sheikh, Ushna Shah**



Feature (Master)/ 137 mins/ Pakistan

Director  
**Azfar Jafri**  
Producer  
**Imran Kazmi, Hareem Farooq, Arif Lakhani**  
Screenplay  
**Shafqat Khan**  
Cinematographer  
**Usman Mukhtar**  
Editor  
**Mitesh Soni**  
Original Score/ Music  
**Sahara, Manj Musik, Nindy Kaur**  
Cast  
**Ali Rehman Khan, Hareem Farooq, Ahmed Ali Akbar, Shafqat Khan, Usman Mukhtar**

## Synopsis

A profiteer (Bash) finds himself in a life-threatening situation when he messes with a local gang lord (Zodiac). Things get worse when his friends intervene and seek help from a con artist (Eman). After several failed attempts they execute a master plan, which unravels Eman's darkest secret. Parchi is a comedy, action and drama movie introducing a new dimension to the Pakistan cinema.

## Azfar Jafri

Azfar Jafri started his career as a 3D character animator and has contributed to several television commercials for national and international clients. His film career commenced with *Isthmus Road* in 2005, *Khel* (Game) Short Film in 2010 *Aik Khat Tumharay Naam* in 2011, *Siyaah* in 2013 for which he was awarded the ARY Film Award for Best Director.







# CHAIN AYE NA

Feature/ 110 mins/ Pakistan

## Synopsis

This is a love story of a young Musician who falls in love with a woman who is happily engaged. She has no interest in the musician and the movie revolves around this love story.



## Syed Noor

Syed Noor is a prolific Pakistani director who created films in Punjabi and Urdu. His debut film was *Judai* in 1984 and *Qasam* in 1993 to *Chain Aye Na* in 2017 he has directed over 45 movies including the *Meri Shadi Karao* Bollywood movie in 2012.

Director  
**Syed Noor**  
Producer  
**Jawed Siddiqi, Naim Haroon Sakhia**  
Screenplay  
**Syed Noor**  
Cinematographer  
**Irfan Mirza**  
Editor  
**Syed Umar Shafiq**  
Original Score/ Music  
**M. Arshad & Iffi-K**  
Cast  
**Shehroz Sabzwari, Sarish Khan, Adil Murad, Sobia Khan, Mustafa Qureshi, Atiq Odho, Danish Nawaz**



# CHALAY THAY SATH

Feature/ 120 mins/ Pakistan

Director  
**Umer Adil**  
Producer  
**Sheikh Shiraz Mubashir**  
Screenplay  
**Atiya Zaidi**

Cinematographer  
**Shahzad Khan**

Editor  
**M. Arsalan**

Original Score  
**Abbas Ali Khan**

Cast  
**Syra Shehroz , Kent S Leung,  
Osama Tahir, Mansha Pasha,  
Zhalay Sarhadi, Behroze  
Sabzwari, Faris Khalid, Shamim  
Hilaly, Sherbaaz Kaleem**

## Synopsis

This is a movie about relationships and discovery of each other and friends through a journey. Resham is a diligent doctor who is travelling north to meet her father, accompanied by her friends Tania and Zain a married couple on the verge of divorce, Faraz their friend who had just returned from America, Adam a backpacker from China and an older woman who is travelling alone.

## Umer Adil

Umer Adil is a director, a producer of television commercials and documentaries and feature films. He is the CEO of Water Bottle Films.





Sri Lanka





# BAHUCHITHAWADIYA

Feature/ 90 mins/ Sri Lanka

Director  
**Malaka Dewapriya**  
Producer  
**Malaka Dewapriya**  
Screenplay  
**Malaka Dewapriya**  
Cinematographer  
**Chinthaka Somakeerthi**

Editor  
**Harsha Disanayaka**

Original Score  
**Chitral Chity Somapala**

Sound Designer  
**Sasika Ruwan Marasinghe**

Cast  
**Kalana Gunasekara, Veena Jayakody, Lakshman Mendis, Damitha Abeyrathne, Samanalee Fonseka, Rajitha Hewathanthrige, D B Gangodathenna, Sulochana Vithanaarachchi, Nilmini Buwaneka, Prasadini Athapattu, Geetha Alahakoon, Omali Radhika**

## Synopsis

Sasitha works as the underpaid delivery man for Giftnet, an Internet based business which accepts gift orders from outside Sri Lanka. Suffocated by economic pressures and sexual frustration, like most of his peers he sees going abroad as the only way out of his wretched existence. Fascinated with the idea of “abroad” he forms relationships with the recipients of these gifts, most of whom are rich, lonely women. When the real world starts to look too bleak, Sasitha seeks greener pastures through virtual relationships he builds on Facebook and Skype with Sri Lankan women of his own class, working abroad.

## Malaka Dewapriya

Malaka Dewapriya is a writer and director of media, film, video art, theatre and radio. He has written scripted 9 short films which has been screened internationally. His debut short film *Sammanaru* was judged as the Best Film of the National Youth Center Video Production (NYSCO) team in 1998 in Sri Lanka. His short films have been screened at the 10<sup>th</sup> Tel Aviv International Film Festival in Israel in 2004, Tokyo Short Film Festival in 2004, Mumbai International Sport Movies and Television Film Festival in 2006. This is his debut feature film.





28

Feature/ 90 mins/ Sri Lanka

## Synopsis

Abasiri and Mani arrive in the city from a village in the hills to identify a woman who had been raped and murdered. Abasiri recognizes his wife Suddhi on the mortuary table. Penniless and destitute, Abasiri persuade Lenin, (the owner of a small ice- cream van) to carry an empty coffin back to the village. The two men ply Lenin with alcohol and opium in order to appease him and the coffin flies off the hood of the van and onto the ground. The truth is revealed. Lenin is livid that he has been tricked, but seeing the dead Suddhi's body he agrees to transport her body back to the village. The villagers already know how Suddhi died through newspaper reports and rumors, resulting in Abasiri being humiliated by the villagers. Suddhi addresses the mourners at her own funeral stating that she is now bereft of fear and censure since she is dead and provides a powerful testimony on behalf of all women.



## Prasanna Jayakody

Prasanna Jayakody is a Sri Lankan film director, screenwriter and a stage dramatist. His stage drama *Seveneli Saha Minissu* won the Best Stage Drama Award of Sri Lanka in 1993. His debut film *Sankara* (Introspection) reflect the influence of eastern philosophies in his work and won the *Silver Pyramid* for directing at the Cairo International Film Festival in 2007. He also secured the Best Debut Director and Netpac Award for the Best Asian Film at the Kerala International Film Festival in 2007 and Special Jury Award at the Turkey Silk Road Film Festival.

Director  
**Prasanna Jayakody**

Producer  
**Sky Entertainers, Film Garage,  
Cognitive Eagle, Film Equipment  
Gallery - FEG**

Screenplay  
**Prasanna Jayakody**  
Cinematographer  
**Chandana Jayasinghe**

Editor  
**Rangana Sinharage**

Music  
**Deshaka Bamunumulla**

Cast  
**Mahendra Perera, Semini  
Iddamalgoda, Sarath Kothalawala,  
Rukmal Niroshan, Daya  
Thennakone**





# FIRE OF LIFE

Short/ 24 mins/ Sri Lanka

Director

**Dananjaya Bandara**

Producer

**Anoma Rajakaruna**

Screenplay

**Dananjaya Bandara**

Cinematographer

**Kularuwan Gamage**

Editor

**Ajith Ramanayake**

Music

**Ruwan Sri Walpola**

Cast

**Sadew Tenuwan, Jeewanthi**

**Rathnakumari, Saubagya**

**Nirmani, Tarushi Sethmini,**

**Chandana Withanage, Sumith**

**Shantha Silva, Nihal Perera**

## Synopsis

A 13-year-old child attempts suicide due to disappointment with his mother. When he is unsuccessful, the child wants to kill his mother. Although the child was disappointed with the mother, certain affection can be seen through his actions towards her. The mother loves her child too. But the child rejects a close association with his mother. Both mother and child adore each other but maintain the anger between them. Finally, they decide to get together on behalf of their love.

## Dananjaya Bandara

Dananjaya Bandara holds a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Special) Degree in Digital Cinema under the Episodic Artist from University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo. His short films include *The Cat* in 2014, *Dream of heaven* in 2015, *Coffee* in 2016, *The 40th Poem* in 2016 and *Song of the Innocent* in 2017. The *Song of the Innocent* was selected by Sri Lanka as one of the Short Films to be screened at the 7<sup>th</sup> SAARC Film Festival in 2017.





# WHILE YOU SLEPT

Short/ 24 mins/ Sri Lanka

## Synopsis

With the end of the war, there has been a substantial rise of Chinese investments in Sri Lanka. Hambantota, in the South of the island, witnessed a sudden influx of Chinese male migrant labour. At a “massage parlour” in arid Hambantota, Pinky, a local girl, tends to Chinese customers. She makes herself up to look ‘Chinese’ in order to appear more authentic in the eyes of her clients. When without a warning, the management hires a Chinese woman to work there, Pinky fears being made redundant. Imitation will no longer do. The transformation has begun. In to what, remains the question...



## Nadya Perera

Nadya Perera is an independent researcher and filmmaker. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from University of Pune, India and Master Degree in Development Studies from International Institute of Social Studies in Netherlands. She has directed many advocacy videos and *4<sup>th</sup> February*, a Documentary film is one of her endeavours.

Director

**Nadya Perera**

Producer

**Anomaa Rajakaruna**

Screenplay

**Nadya Perera, Boopathy Nalin**

Cinematographer

**Kularuwan Gamage**

Editor

**Sankha Malwaththa**

Cast

**Geetha Alahakoon, Cai Yalan,  
Kanishka Fernando, Shyamila  
Kalhari, Antoinette Thilakshini  
Ratnayake, Bimsara Premaratne,  
Wang Chenxu, Lecheng Sun**



# AGANTHUKAYA

Feature (Master)/ 90 mins/ Sri Lanka

Director  
**Wasantha Obeysekera**

Producer  
**National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka and AGA Films**

Screenplay  
**Wasantha Obeysekera**

Cinematographer  
**Ruwan Costa**

Editor  
**Ravindra Guruge**

Music  
**Rohana Weerasinghe**

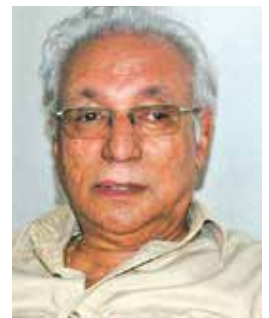
Cast  
**Saumya Liyanage, Chandani Seneviratne, Sanath Gunathilaka, Anjali Ehelepola, Giriraj Kaushalya, Nimal Anthony, Damayanthi Fonseka, Somasiri Alakolanga, Chandrasoma Binduhewa, Sriyani Ratnayake**

## Synopsis

The story revolves around a principal who comes to an ordinary school due to a political transfer. With honest hard work, Sampath the principal improves the school to become the top school in the area. He regulates and prevents bribery and corruption in school activities, including construction of new buildings and admissions to school. Living up to his principles brings Sampath in to conflict with politicians and corrupt teachers and as a result he is victimised. He becomes destitute by trying to clear his name and also remembers the murder of his father. Finally he makes a decision.....

## Wasantha Obeysekera

Late Wasantha Obeysekera commenced his career as a journalist and writer of short stories. He entered the film industry with *Sath Samudra* which he co-wrote and worked as an assistant director. His other films include *Ves Gaththo* in 1970, *Valmathuwo* in 1976, *Diyamanthi* (Diamond) in 1977, *Palangetiyo* in 1979, *Dadayama* in 1983, *Kedapathaka Chaya* in 1989, *Maruthaya* in 1995, *Dorakada Marawa* in 1998, *Theertha Yathra* in 1999, *Salelu Warama*, *Agni Warsha*, *Aganthukaya*, and *Sewwandhi* are some of his creations. He has won many awards for his films as the Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Film at National Film Festivals. He is considered to be one of the Master Filmmakers of Sri Lanka and a well-known personality loved by film enthusiasts of Sri Lanka.







**MEET**

**THE JURY  
MEMBERS**



# MEET THE JURY MEMBERS



**Han Sunhee**

Ms. Han Sunhee is a filmmaker and a film educator working in Seoul and Busan in South Korea. She is the founding owner of Plain Pictures and currently serving as the Professor and Dean of the International Film Business Academy of Busan Asian Film School. She started her film industry career as a professional film journalist. Her career as a film producer commenced with the feature length documentary film *Talking Architect* in 2011 which became the highest grossing independent film. With this promising start Han was able to produce *Manshin: Ten Thousand Spirits* in 2013, she was the executive producer of the *Basement Satellite* in 2013, both of which were critically acclaimed films which were released nationwide. Han has expanded her endeavours to television documentaries and had her directorial debut in 2016 with *Old Days* a feature length documentary. Her work has been acclaimed at International Film Festivals in France, Italy, etc.





### **Amable R. Aguiluz VI**

Amable R. Aguiluz VI better known as Tikoy is a well-known Filipino filmmaker of international repute. He started his film career as the Chairman of the Chamber Film Group of the University of Philippines in 1971 and currently works as the Co-Producer and Director of Takion Inc., a Japanese Philippines Co-Production Company. He has received over 50 national awards for his movies including Best Director and Best Film for *Manila Kingpin* and *Rizal sa Dapitan*. He received the Silver Trophy from the Young Filmmakers of Asia Festival in Iran in 1976, John D. Rockefeller III Grant in 1976, London Film Festival Award for the Outstanding Film of the Year in 1985, Certificate of Award from Manheim Film Festival in Germany in 1987, etc. His creations have been screened at Goteborg International Film Festival in Sweden, Taormina and Torino Film Festivals in Italy, Hongkong Film Festival, New Delhi International Film Festival in India, Denver and Hawaii International Film Festivals in USA, Durban International Film Festival in South Africa, Asian American and Amiens Film Festivals in France, etc.

# MEET THE JURY MEMBERS

# MEET THE JURY MEMBERS



## **Christophe Henri**

Born into an academic family in Germany to a French father and a British mother, Christophe Henri AKA Kriz H. Harriz is an actor, director and line producer, with a background in media. His academic background was in marketing and management, prior to studying acting and film making at the Los Angeles Film Academy. After finishing at LAFA, he pursued a professional career in management, and continued to work in the motion picture industry in the South Asian Region. Since then, Christophe has resided in South Asia for almost a decade and acted in several films and television productions in India, Sri Lanka, China and Malaysia. He has also produced and directed work for the corporate world and is currently exploring the art of documentary film making. Based in Los Angeles, Chris works predominantly in the US and Europe, but has strong ties with South Asia. In 2017 he wrote, directed and presented a TV series, “Crossroads with Kriz Harriz”, a unique “digest” of Sri Lanka. His credits include feature films, tele sitcoms, documentaries and unscripted content in the US, Europe, Africa and Asia both an Actor & Director.



# 8<sup>th</sup> SAARC Film Festival 2018

22-27 May 2018 @ Cinema Hall, National Film Corporation

## MASTERCLASS

### CONDUCTED BY



**HAN SUNHEE**  
🇰🇷 | SOUTH KOREA

Han Sunhee is a filmmaker and film educator working in Seoul and Busan, South Korea. She is the founding owner of Plain Pictures and currently serving as the Professor and Dean of the International Film Business Academy of the Busan Asian Film School.



**AMABLE TIKOY AGUILUZ**  
🇵🇭 | PHILIPPINES

Amable Tikoy Aguiluz is an award-winning Filipino film director, film producer, screenwriter & cinematographer. He also founded the Cinemania International Film Festival in Manila in 1999.

He is one of the leading figures in the alternative cinema movement in the Philippines. Educated at the University of the Philippines (Comparative Literature and Fine Arts), he is acknowledged as the co-founder in 1976 of the UP Film Center.



**CHRISTOPHE HENRI**  
🇫🇷 | FRANCE

With French, German and British heritage, Christophe Henri AKA Kriz H. Hariz is an actor, director and line producer and studied acting and film making at the Los Angeles Film Academy. Christophe has worked in the motion picture industry in South Asia and acted in several film and TV productions in India, Sri Lanka, China and Malaysia. Based in LA, his IMDB credits include feature films, tele sitcoms, documentaries and unscripted content in the US, Europe, Africa and Asia both an Actor & Director.

### MODERATED BY



**DHANUSHKA GUNATHILAKE**

is an award winning cinematographer, educator and festival curator. He teaches cinematography at many universities in Sri Lanka. He also works as the consultant in SAARC Film Festival 2018

“ **ROLE OF  
A PRODUCER AND CO-PRODUCTION IN  
SOUTH ASIA** ”

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FRI**

**9.00 - 11.00 AM**

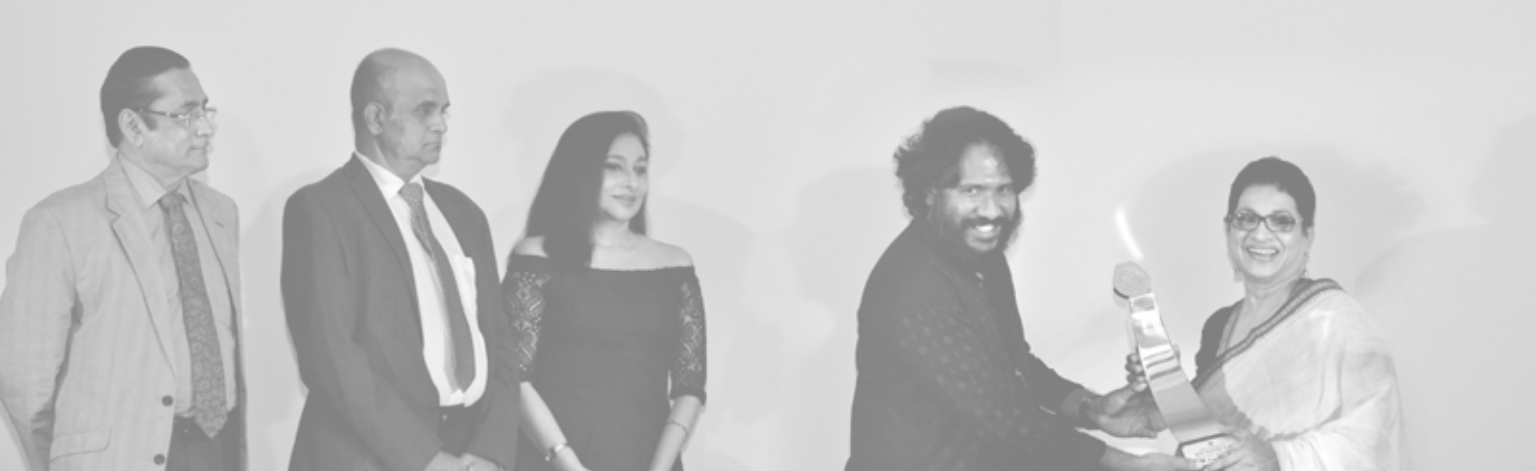
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South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation



# SAARC FILM FESTIVAL 2017 AWARDS

The Award Ceremony of the SAARC Film Festival in 2017 was held at the National Film Corporation Cinema Hall on 25th November 2017.

A Panel of impartial Jury Members – Dr. Anne Demy-Geroe of Australia, Dr. Antonio Costa Valente of Portugal and Mr. Amir Masoud Soheili of Iran made the selections. The SAARC Film Awards 2017 are as follows:

## **SPECIAL JURY AWARD**

*"For a highly accessible representation of the important themes not only of colour but of women's perceptions of body image"*

**PINKY BEAUTY PARLOUR – INDIA**

## **SPECIAL JURY AWARD – SPECIAL MENTION**

*"For a brave debut feature about a controversial subject in a conservative society"*

**FRANGIPANI – SRI LANKA**

## **BEST SOUND DESIGNER**

*"For the skilful interplay between the sound and the vision in a film full of many characters and crowded locations"*

**RAKSHIT THANTRI (PINKY BEAUTY PARLOUR) – INDIA**

## **BEST EDITOR**

*"For its role in supporting the director with smooth storytelling and focusing on the main characters in a film shot in limited locations and over a short period of time"*

**BHUPENDRA ADHIKARI (DYING CANDLE) – NEPAL**

## **BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY**

*"For very effectively creating ambiance, using only existing light"*

**AHMAD ZIA ARASH (THE BIRD WAS NOT A BIRD) – AFGHANISTAN**

## **SPECIAL JURY AWARD SPECIAL MENTION**

*"For the effective use of a range of cinematographic styles appropriate to the changes in mood"*

**SWAPNIL SONAWANE (TANDAAY) – INDIA**

## **BEST SCREENPLAY**

*"For creating a very humanistic and coherent story combining a strong range of characters and complex interplay of moods"*

**TAUQUIR AHAMED (OGGATONAMA) – BANGLADESH**

## **BEST ORIGINAL SCORE**

*"For its restrained use of traditional music to underscore the narrative"*

**JASON KUNWAR (BLACK HEN) – NEPAL**

## **BEST ACTOR**

*"For the delicate ensemble performances of the 3 actors to convey an in-depth portrait of a marginalised group"*

**DASUNA PATHIALANA, JEHAN APPUHAMU & BHOOMI HARENDRA (FRANGIPANI) – SRI LANKA**

## **BEST ACTRESS**

*"For a highly credible performance that maintained the character's deception until the final reveal for both the other characters and the audience"*

**AISHATH RISHMY (VISHKA) – MALDIVES**

## **BEST SHORT FILM**

*"For a subtle portrayal of poverty that used metaphor to discuss the issue of education in Afghanistan"*

**THE WATER – AFGHANISTAN**

## **BEST DIRECTOR**

*"For the creative bridging of script and film in handling a broad range character types"*

**ASOKA HANDAGAMA (LET HER CRY) – SRI LANKA**

## **BEST FILM OPEN**

*"For its delicate depiction of political and social issues of a particular historical era through the eyes of a young untouchable boy"*

**BLACK HEN – NEPAL**

## **BEST FEATURE FILM**

*"For its originality and the overall excellent execution of a complex narrative"*

**LET HER CRY – SRI LANKA**



# ORGANISING COMMITTEE

## SAARC FILM FESTIVAL 2018



**Dhanushka Gunathilake - Consultant**

Dhanushka Gunathilake is a career cinematographer and an educator. He produced the first ever internationally franchised reality show in Sri Lanka, *Obada Lakshapathi Mamada Lakshapathi* (Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?) in 2010. He has worked on a variety of commercial productions including *The Amazing Race* (India 2008), TV commercials, documentaries, video art and many music videos to date. He has produced, shot and consulted on film projects for the BBC, International Planned Parenthood Federation, UNSECO, the United Nations Development Program, the National Child Protection Authority (Sri Lanka), the Red Cross (Singapore),

Oxfam (Australia) and Education TV unit of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, etc.

Dhanushka has worked as a cinematographer in the critically acclaimed film *Thanha Rathi Ranga* for which he received the Best Cinematographer awards in Derana Film Awards in 2015, OCIC Film awards in 2015 as well as Hiru Golden Film Awards in 2016. He was the associate cinematographer of *Sulanga Gini Aran* which was the first Sri Lankan film to be premiered in the main competition at the prestigious Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland.

Dhanushka received his BSc in Information Technology from Edith Corwen University (Perth, Australia), an MA in Film and Television from the Rai University (Pune and Mumbai, India) and a Post Graduate Diploma from the Film and Television Institute of India (Pune, India). He has taught courses in film production at The Indira School of Communication (Pune, India) and St. Xavier's College (Mumbai, India) in the past. He is, at present, a Visiting Lecturer at a number of prestigious Universities in Sri Lanka, including the University of Peradeniya, the University of Visual and Performing Arts Colombo, University of Colombo, University of Moratuwa,

University of Kelaniya and University of Vocational Technology. He designed and coordinated the Higher National Diploma in Film and Television at Sri Lanka Foundation Digital Film Academy. He is a founding member of the Digital Film Academy.

During the last two years, he worked as a cinematographer in *Amawka Sanda* (The Invisible Moon) which is directed by Vijitha Gunarathne, *Suparna* directed by Sujeewa Priyal and *Ginnen Upan Sithala* (Chill Out of Fire) which is directed by Anuruddha Jayasinghe, which are in the post-production stage at the moment.

He has participated at Open Doors in Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland, was the curator of the Colombo International Student Film Festival (COINS Film Fest), a consultant for Iran Cultural Center for Cinema, SAARC Film Festival and a committee member of the International Film Festival of Colombo (IFF COLOMBO). Currently he is a jury member for the Asia Peace Film Festival in Karachi - 2018 and the curator of the Iran Film Festival in Colombo. He was also a Jury member of the Asia Peace Film Festival 2017 in Islamabad, State Music Awards 2015, Derana Music Video Awards 2016, Raigam Teleés 2018.

### Organising Committee

Chairperson – Wasanthe Kotuwella, Director, SAARC Cultural Centre

Dhanushka Gunathilake – Consultant, SAARC Film Festival 2018

Kishani Jayasinghe – Wijayasekara, Deputy Director (Programmes), SAARC Cultural Centre

Bindu Urugodawatte – Deputy Director (Research), SAARC Cultural Centre

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Mahinda Sumanasekara – Documentation Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre

Ishan Amaraweera – IT Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre

Harishnath Nadarajah – Programme Assistant, SAARC Cultural Centre.



## **SPECIAL THANKS**

H.E. Secretary General of SAARC and the SAARC Secretariat  
in Kathmandu, Nepal

Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of External Affairs and  
other line Ministries in SAARC Member States

High Commissions and Embassies of the SAARC Member  
States in Sri Lanka

Mr. Sitendra Senaratne, Chairman National Film Corporation  
of Sri Lanka and staff

Our Chief Guests and Guests of Honour at the SAARC Film  
Festival

Jury Members of the SAARC Film Festival

Film Directors, Cast and Crew of the Officially Nominated  
Films

All Distinguish Guests

Sri Lanka Media Training Institute

All Print and Electronic Media

All Volunteers of the SAARC Film Festival

The staff of the SAARC Cultural Centre

Enthusiastic and dedicated fans and film lovers of the SAARC  
Film Festival for your continuous patronage

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Ishan Amaraweera, IT Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre

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