



SAARC FILM FESTIVAL



26 - 31 MAY 2015 | @ NATIONAL FILM CORPORATION CINEMA HALL

SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE - SRI LANKA



South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

INDEX OF FILMS

Mina Walking (Afghanistan/ Feature) Directed by Yosef Baraki	11
Mrittika Maya (Bangladesh/ Feature) Directed by Gazi Rakayet	13
Shikhandi Kotha (Bangladesh/ Feature) Directed by Mohammad Hannan	14
The Container (Bangladesh/ Short) Directed by Abu Shahed Emon	15
An Incurable Gift (Bhutan/ Short) Directed by Kinzang Namgay	17
Tsepame Mandala for Long Life (Bhutan/ Short) Directed by Tshering Penjore	18
Chotoder Chobi (India/ Feature) Directed by Kaushik Ganguly	20
Elizabeth Ekadashi (India/ Feature) Directed by Paresh Mokashi	21
Kanche Aur Postcard (India/ Short) Directed by Ridham Janve	22
Vithya (India/ Short) Directed by Prasanna Shrikant Ponde	23
Hulhudhaan (Maldives/ Feature) Directed by Aishath Fuwad Thowfeek	25
Insaanaa (Maldives/ Feature) Directed by Ali Seazan	26
Love? Lust? Life? (Nepal/ Short) Directed by Utpal Jha	27
The Pseudo Plougher (Pakistan/ Short) Directed by Syed Muhammad Ali Bin Aziz	28
Motor Bicycle (Sri Lanka/ Feature) Directed by Shameera Rangana Naotunna	30
Patibana (Sri Lanka/ Feature) Directed by Rabin Chandrasiri	31
Dreams, Weavers and Viewers (Sri Lanka/ Short) Directed by Nayani Chandrasinghe	32
Have A Nice Day! (Sri Lanka/ Short) Directed by Kaushalya Pathirana	33



South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation



SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE SRI LANKA

Trophy for Best Feature Film 2015

Trophy for Best Short Film 2015

Silver Medal for Best Feature Film 2015

Bronze Medal for Best Feature Film 2015

Trophy for Best Director

Trophy for Best Actor

Trophy for Best Actress

Filmmaking, like any other art, is a very profound means of human communication; beyond the professional pleasure of succeeding or the pain of failing, you do want your film to be seen, to communicate itself to other people.

SAARC Cultural Centre - Colombo
SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC)

-Kenneth Lonergan



SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE

The SAARC Cultural Centre is a regional centre established on a decision made by the Heads of State of Governments of SAARC countries, to promote cultural co-operation in order to bring the people of South Asia closer and to project the distinct identity of South Asia. With this in mind, the SAARC Cultural Centre organizes events and research projects every year covering the arts, bringing together artists, performers, film makers, scholars from the SAARC Region.

In keeping with the SAARC Agenda for Culture, emphasis is placed on acknowledging diversity in culture and reflecting the expressions of richness of culture found in the region of the SAARC. The Heads of States/ Governments at the Thirteenth SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in November 2005 recognized the “crucial role of culture in bringing the peoples of South Asia closer”. They underscored that Culture could play a major role in promoting relations and understanding among South Asian countries and eventually a common identity for South Asia. With this backdrop, the SAARC Agenda for Culture will focus on

- The Promotions of SAARC Culture online visit our website and SAARC web portal for more information www.saarcculture.org
- The Promotion of Cultural Source Materials on South Asia – *Read our newsletter, regular reports and journals for more information, also visit our Resource Database Online*
- Cooperation with Organizations with which SAARC has MOUs
- Establishing linkage between culture and other sectors in attaining social and economic development *Several programs and events are organized regularly including cultural festivals, visit our website for more information*
- SAARC Exchange Program On Culture *Programs are organized regularly in all Member States where there is an exchange of dialogue on different forms of arts and culture highlighting the richness of culture in the region.*

Currently the centre is based in Colombo and is intended to function as a major meeting point for the artistic communities of the Member States. The centre will provide the necessary facilities and conditions for individuals and groups of various fields of interest to meet and interact. It is intended to cater to all forms of art (e.g. dance, music, drama, theatre, puppetry and folk culture), visual art (painting, sculpture, film making, photography) and literature as per the provisions made in the SAARC Agenda for



Culture. The Centre has already conducted a successful Cultural Festival on Traditional Dance in Bhutan in April and the upcoming programs for 2015 include

- Research Review Meeting on Cultural Heritage, Tourism & Sustainable Development in South Asia – Sri Lanka
- SAARC Regional Seminar on Cultural Dynamics in National Harmony in South Asia – Sri Lanka
- SAARC Cultural Capital Inauguration – Afghanistan
- SAARC Food Festival & Music Festival – Afghanistan
- SAARC Cultural Capital – Coordination Meeting – Bangladesh
- SAARC Literary Festival – India
- SAARC Cultural Festival – Sri Lanka
- SAARC Capacity Building Workshop on World Heritage
- Sites in South Asia – Bangladesh
- SAARC Artist Camp – Afghanistan
- Launching of the Anthologies of Short Stories & Poems – Sri Lanka
- Meeting of the Governing Board of the SCC – Sri Lanka
- SAARC Non-Violence Day – Sri Lanka
- Exhibition on Handicraft (Handicraft Village) – Pakistan
- Photographic Competition and Exhibition – Sri Lanka
- SAARC Charter Day – Sri Lanka
- SAARC Cultural Capital Closing up Ceremony – Afghanistan

The SAARC Film Festival is yet another SAARC Cultural Centre initiative which will aim to provide a platform for exchange of ideas and shared points of view from Film Directors from the region. The SAARC Region has produced some films with a standard of excellence. The SAARC Film Festival 2015 will focus on promoting some of the best films featured from all Member States, inviting Directors of these movies for workshops as well as recognizing the Best Feature Film and the Best Short Film.

Message from the Secretary General, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu



It is with great pleasure that I convey this message on the occasion of the 5th SAARC Film Festival to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 26th to 31st May 2015. Cultural connectivity plays a significant role in bringing the people of South Asia closer. The SAARC Film Festival is a great opportunity to showcase the achievements of the film making industry in South Asia. Among various forms of art, film is outstanding and a source of popular entertainment. South Asian cinema has been appreciated the world over.

I commend the SAARC Cultural Centre, which serves as a symbol of South Asian shared culture, for organizing the SAARC Film Festival and express my appreciation to the Directors of the nominated films and the others who have contributed immensely towards the success of the SAARC Film Festival. I wish the SAARC Film Festival every success.

Arjun B. Thapa
Secretary General
SAARC

Message from Director SAARC Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka



It is a pleasure for me to issue this message for the SAARC Film Festival - 2015 held for the fifth year in Colombo. I am happy that the SAARC Film Festival, Colombo has now become one of the leading film festivals in Asia. This is an ideal opportunity to showcase the new phase of the Film Industry that has been developed to reflect unique cultures in South Asia. South Asia always stands for distinctive cultures in the world. Film is one of the major art forms in those cultures that could address the people to promote relations and understanding among them for the upliftment of the mankind. South Asia has been able to create an outstanding image on film industry throughout the world.

SAARC Film festival - 2015 has been organized for the fifth time in Colombo by the SAARC Cultural Centre to create an effective film culture in South Asia for further development of film industry in Member States. This Festival will provide a meeting point for the

professionals, artists and other activists of the film industry in South Asia. They could interact each other on all aspects of film industry. With the workshop organized parallel to the Festival, Film Directors and other artists could be facilitated to share their knowledge and experience with some of the world renowned film critics. While screening best films produced in South Asian Countries, SAARC Cultural Centre has taken steps to award best feature and short films screened previous year in the SAARC Countries, to encourage directors and producers to produce good films. Since this is a very good opportunity for South Asian film Directors and other artists to expose their talents to the outside world, I congratulate all of them who are representing SAARC Member States at this Film Festival 2015 in Colombo.

G L W Samarasinghe

Director

SAARC Cultural Centre

Chief Guest - Inauguration, SAARC Film Festival 2015



Sumitra Peries, born in 1935, is the first qualified Sri Lankan woman filmmaker and is known by all as the "Poetess of Sinhala Cinema". She studied film making at the London School of Film Technique and was awarded a Diploma in Film Direction and Production (1957-1959). She was the only woman studying this subject there at that time. After passing out, she began working at Mai Harris, a subtitling firm for a short period and later returned home to Sri Lanka.

Upon her arrival in Sri Lanka, Sumitra's brother Gamini contacted Lester and checked the possibility of her sister working with him on shoot. Lester agreed and Sumitra started work as assistant director in his second film *Sandesaya*. A filmmaking company called Cinelanka was established later in 1963 with Sumitra as one of the major shareholders.

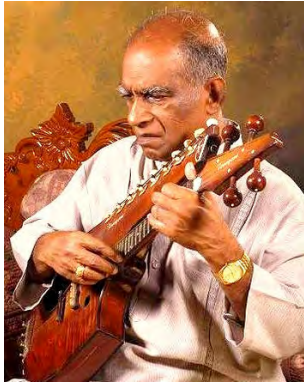
Sumitra started off her own cinema debut with her first film *Gehenu Lamai* which was a box office hit and managed to bag many awards at the film festivals of the time. Her next film *Ganga addara* was another box office hit. She has subsequently directed many more feature films which have all been subjected to international acclaim.

In the 1980s, Sumitra was a member of the Presidential Commission for two years to conducted an inquiry into Sri Lanka's film sector regarding all aspects of the industry such as its troubles, statistics, public opinions and recommendations.

She was in charge of production for Worldview International in Sri Lanka in period of 1988-1990. Also during the period of the late 1980s and early 1990s, she was a member of the Board of Management of the Institute of Aesthetic Studies, Kelaniya University, Sri Lanka.

Sumitra later served as Sri Lanka's Ambassador to France and Spain in the years 1996- 1999 and was also appointed as the ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United Nations by her excellency President Chandrika Bandaranayake Kumaratunge. She has won over 25 national and international awards to her credit.

Chief Guest - Award Ceremony, SAARC Film Festival 2015



Born in 1927, Maestro Amaradeva's singing career began with two epoch-making songs in the film *Asoka Mala* released in 1947. Maestro W.D. Amaradeva, popularly known as the creator of modern Sinhala Music, is a vocalist, violinist and composer. Primarily using traditional instruments like sitars, tablas and harmoniums, Amaradeva incorporates Sinhala folk music with Indian ragas in his work. Many consider Pandit Amaradeva's contribution to the development of Sinhala music as unmatched.

Pandith Amaradeva started his career at Radio Ceylon and had the chance to enter Bhathkande Music Institute in Lucknow, India. He followed Indian music styles there and returned to Sri Lanka. Noting that Sinhala folk music is mostly revolved around a single melody, he decided to add verses that would lead up to the central melody which would now be a chorus thus forming two parts (unseen earlier in traditional Sri Lankan music) removing restrictions that had existed earlier. In doing so, Amaradeva created a uniquely Sinhalese music style that stayed true to folk tradition while incorporating outside influences.

Pandit Amaradeva has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Philippine Ramon Magsaysay Award (2001), Indian Padma Sri Award and Sri Lankan "President's Award of Kala Keerthi" (1986) and Deshamanya Award (1998). In 2003 the French government awarded him the prestigious honour; Chevalier.

In 1972, Pandit Amaradeva composed the music for the Maldivian National Anthem (*Gaumii salaam*) at the request of Queen Elizabeth II.

Amaradeva is the unified lyrical voice of the whole nation. When he sings, the whole nation sings with that voice.

Best Feature Film 2014 – SAARC Film Festival

SOOVISI VIWARENA

Directed by Mr. Sarath Darmasiri



The Best Feature Film at last year's SAARC Film Festival, came from the Host Country Sri Lanka, a movie by Mr. Sarath Darmasiri who is a well known Director and Screen playwright.

"Soovisi Viwarena" won the title of Best Feature Film, and grabbed the main prize at this Festival. The film revolves around Ganithesara who is a classical dance teacher who becomes fond of his young talented student Jayanee who is outstanding in singing and dancing. She naturally becomes his favorite pupil and bone of contention with his wife, Punee.

When Jayanee is chosen for the lead role in "Soovisi Viwarena", a dance presentation of Ganithesara, it further aggravates Punnee's hostility. Gunithesara is compelled to hand over this star role to his envious wife and is actually dazzled by the brilliant performance put on by a determined Punnee. The couple reminisce deep into the night, going over romantic events in their past.

The movie brought out deep emotions and was commended "For its grand depiction of moral complexity through desire, dance and philosophy"

Best Short film 2014 – SAARC Film Festival

MAKARA

Directed by Prantik Narayan Basu



India walked away with the award for the Best Short Film 2014, at the SAARC Film Festival, with the Film "Makara" Directed by Prantik Narayan Basu, The Director is an upcoming Film Director from Calcutta, India

The story is about a crocodile carcass that is fished out from a man-made

lake which causes a momentary gathering of people from different walks of life.

This short film was commended by the eminent panel of adjudicators "For approaching fiction through non-fiction"



AFGHANISTAN

Film as dream, film as music. No art passes our conscience in the way film does, and goes directly to our feelings, deep down into the dark rooms of our souls.

-Ingmar Bergman

MINA WALKING

Yosef Baraki

Yosef Baraki is a Canadian writer and director. Following his studies in Film Production & Theory at Toronto's York University and Humber College, Yosef wrote and directed his fifth short film *Der Kandidat*, which won the prestigious Norman McLaren Award for best student film at the Montreal World Film Festival and the Best International Short Film Award at the Afghanistan Human Rights Film Festival. It was also nominated for Best Cinematography at the 56th Canadian Society of Cinematographers Awards and an Official Selection at the National Screen Institute (NSI) Film Festival.

It is during his travels between Canada and his native country of Afghanistan that Yosef first conceived the idea for his first feature length film *Mina Walking*. Because the war in Afghanistan created a mass population of adult invalids, many families find themselves dependent on the children to make money. Yosef befriended one of those groups and shaped a story around them with the intention to bring awareness of this social situation to the world at large. Serving as writer, director, cinematographer and camera operator, Yosef spent 19 days shooting the film with non-professional actors and heavy improvisation in the busiest of Kabul's environments. The result is a loose narrative about Afghanistan's youth issues and an intimate portrait of seven days in the life of a young girl and her family.



Feature/Afghanistan/125 min.
Director: Yosef Baraki

Synopsis

Saddled by a senile grandfather and a neglectful father, Mina, an impulsive twelve-year-old Afghan street seller sees her future slipping away when she is forced to neglect her education and walk the streets of Kabul to support her fragmented family.

In the seven days that follow her life, Mina's quest to emancipate her father from the claws of a local drug dealer and her attempt to secretly attend school underlines the current struggle of a young generation of Afghans trying to shake off the echoes of oppression from the Taliban era that continues to haunt those who bore witness to it.



BANGLADESH

*I think that is what film and art and music do; they can work as
a map of sorts for your feelings.*

-Bruce Springsteen

Gazi Rakayet

Gazi Rakayet, the multi-talented actor, director, screen-writer and playwright, who graced the small screen and our theatre stages from late '80s, has launched himself as a film director with his debut feature film, *Mrittika Maaya*. He is the Founder Director of Charuneedam School of Acting and the General Secretary of the Director's Guild.



Mrittika Maya



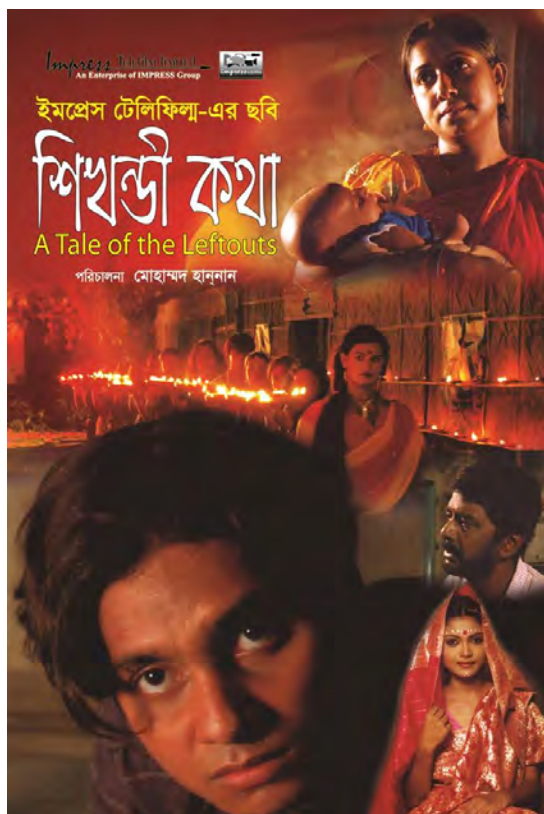
Feature/Bangladesh/128 min.

Director: Gazi Rakayet

Synopsis

Old Khirmohon was a village potter, who loves his profession, unlike his sons, engaged in other jobs. Khirmohon lives with his orphaned granddaughter-Podmo. There is another young man-Boishakh living with them. Boishakh was found unclaimed in his childhood and brought up by Khirmohon. In course of time Boishakh proves his talent as potter and carries forward Khirmohon's small industry. Before his death, Khirmohon legally transfers his property to Boishakh, which makes his sons angry. They vow to take revenge and cripple both the hands of Boishakh with the help of criminals. Despite all odds Boishakh doesn't leave the house and struggles to protect Khirmohon's small pottery handicrafts industry. Suddenly Podmo comes back home to support Boishakh in running the potter's wheel.

SHIKHANDI KOTHA



Feature/Bangladesh/114 min.
Director: Mohammad Hannan

Synopsis

The story is of an intersex individual, who is born into a family in a village. When the boy reaches adolescence, he discovers a different gender in him and becomes Hijra with a feminine gender identity. After identifying his gender, the family refuses to accept him. He joins others like him and takes a feminine name. The story revolves around him and other Hijras woes as well as casting rare blissful moments.

Mohammad Hannan

Mohammad Hannan was born in Barisal on December 14 in 1949. He made his debut in filmmaking through working as an assistant director with Baby Islam.

He made his debut as a director with making the film 'Ray Binodini' in 1985. Later on, he presented a number of super-hit films like 'Praner Cheye Priyo', 'Bidrohi Charidike', 'Shikhondi Katha', 'Aborodh', 'Bichched', 'Bikkhobh', 'Bhalobasi Tomake', 'Sabdhan', 'Khubordar', 'Dolpati' and 'Porena Chokher Polok', among others.



Abu Shahed Emon

Graduated in Psychology from the University of Dhaka, he developed interest in film-making due to his active involvement in the film society movement. After studying at the US and Australia, he currently studies at the Korean National University of Arts in the Masters Program in the Film Department. He is an alumnus of 2010 AFA and his feature project, <The tale of a Policeman> has received a Script Development fund from the Asian Cinema Fund of the BIFF and participated in the Asian Project Market 2011. His short drama 'The Container' also received a grant from Asian Film Academy (AFA) Fellowship Fund in 2012.



THE CONTAINER



*Short/Bangladesh/15min.
Director: Ali Seazan*

Synopsis

An immigrant worker decorates his home—a container—with the found trash of other people's lives. The man prides himself on the upkeep of his modest home. After he's evicted from his illegal abode he secretly returns, but it's no longer his shelter. A resonant look at the life of an immigrant worker in Korea through the eyes of a Bangladeshi director.



BHUTAN

Film is the greatest educational medium the world has ever known.

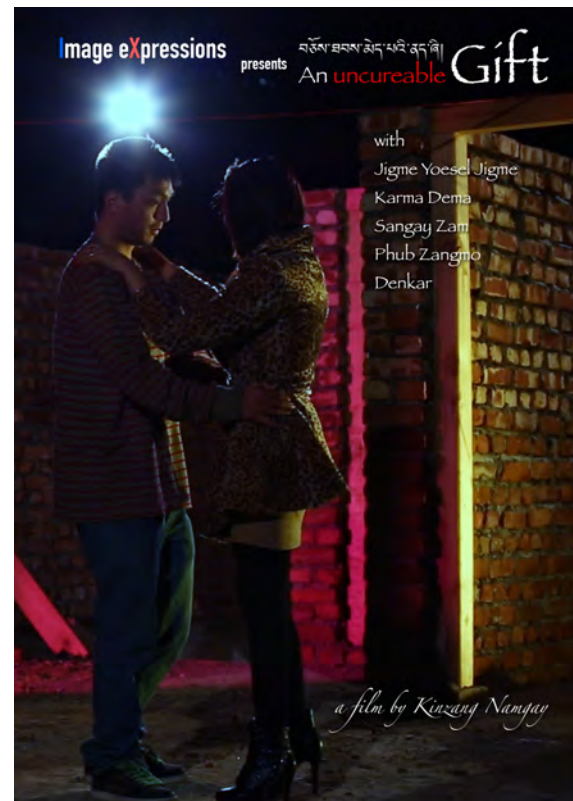
-Preston Sturges, Sullivan's Travels

Kinzang Namgay

Born in Mandar in Bhutan, Kinzang Namgay was a passionate photographer since young age although he didn't study films. He started editing Bhutanese films since 2001 using simple desktop computers in non-linear software Adobe Premier. After editing a few Bhutanese films he was given an opportunity to be a cameraman in 2003 by one of the Bhutanese film directors and he proved to be a good cameraman. Since then he has been working as a cameraman, video editor, graphics designer as well as a sound designer among the Bhutanese film makers.



AN INCURABLE GIFT



*Short/Bhutan/15 min.
Director: Kinzang Namgay*

Synopsis

Synopsis: The film is a poignant story of a young man from a wealthy family, who lives a carefree life. It looks into his way of life, and how eventually circumstances leaves him in realization of a harsh truth. It teaches him that wealth is not everything in life, rather it is health that needs to be safeguarded.

With HIV/AIDS you will lose everything.... Be Healthy to Be Wealthy!!!!

TSEPAME MANDALA FOR LONG LIFE



Tshering Penjore

Tshering Penjore is a Writer/Director/Cinematographer at Third Eye Media, Bhutan Film Association. He obtained a Post Graduate Diploma in Screen and Media from the Sydney Film School in Sydney, Australia. His latest film "Tsepame Mandala" was released in February, 2014, and it was screened at National Docu and Short Films Festival 2015 in Bhutan.



Short/Bhutan/5 min.

Director: Tshering Penjore

Synopsis

The Tsepame Mandala is an invocation to the God of Longevity that we may be blessed with a long and healthy life. Mandalas are often used as a visual aid during prayers and religious ceremonies that devotees and Buddhist practitioners may meditate upon the minutest details of life from birth to the cremation ground. Mandalas may also serve as a symbolic offering and could represent the universe and the cycle of life with the powers that be residing in its centre.

This particular mandala in the film was created for the Long life of His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo on the occasion of his 34th Birthday. It was filmed so that it may be recorded and preserved for posterity with the prayer that all who gaze upon it may invoke the blessing of Tsepame and enjoy a long and healthy life.



People say that a time machine can't be invented, but they've already invented a device that can stop time, cameras are the world's first time machines.

-Rebecca McNutt, Smog City

CHOTODER CHOBI



Feature/India/118 min.

Director: Kaushik Ganguly

Synopsis

We are born. We talk. We play. We grow up. We love. We work. We marry. We have babies. We have families. We retire. We die. Even “they” do the same. Still, what we do is normal. What “they” do, funny. They are the little people of our society. We call them dwarfs, or even midgets! This is a simple love story of such a couple, Khoka and Soma. How can a dwarf couple dream of making another family again knowing all the troubles they face?

Kaushik Ganguly

Kaushik Ganguly spent eight years as a teacher and freelance scriptwriter before turning director in 1995 with the tele-serial “Raahat”. Making his feature film debut with “Waarish” (2004), Kaushik went on to garner much acclaim for his second film “Shunyo e Bukey” (2005). He is known for his works that explore sexuality. He has had four consecutive nominations in the Indian Panorama and won a National Award for “Shobdo”.



Paresh Mokashi

Paresh Mokashi, an Indian filmmaker, producer, actor and Theatre director-producer; working predominantly in Marathi cinema and Marathi theatre, was born in 1969. He started working as a backstage worker for theatre and did few minor roles for plays as well as films. Mokashi made his directorial debut for theatre with the Marathi play, "Sangeet Debuchya Mulee" in 1999. Mokashi is known for the films "Harishchandrachi Factory" (2009), "Elizabeth Ekadashi" (2014) and "Straight from the Heart" (1999). He continued to work for theatre and made his directorial debut for cinema with the 2009 Marathi feature film, "Harishchandrachi Factory". The film depicts the making of India's first full-length feature film, "Raja Harishchandra" (1913), made by Dadasaheb Phalke. The film was acclaimed critically and won several awards. It was also selected as India's official entry to 82nd Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Language Film category.

His feature film "Elizabeth Ekadashi" was released on 14 November 2014. The film received critical acclaim and commercial success and was selected as the opening film of 'Indian Panorama' at The International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The film won National Film Award for Best Children's Film at the 62nd National Film Awards in 2015.



ELIZABETH EKADASHI



Feature/India/90min.

Director: Paresh Mokashi

Synopsis

With an international sensibility but impregnated with Marathi Folklores and saint culture, "Elizabeth Ekadashi" is a unique offering. At the core of the film are basic human emotions of mother and child and a child's struggle to help his struggling single mother financially. Though the theme is universal, the presentation is such that it is very close to the Marathi soil. Set against the backdrop of Pandharpur, the film explores children's scientific curiosity vis-à-vis the spiritual teachings of the land.

KANCHE AUR POSTCARD



Ridham Janve

Director of the film, 27-year-old Ridham Janve grew up in Udaipur and had distinct memories of a childhood, which he wanted to put across through this film. 'Kanche aur Postcard' was an official selection at the India's biggest film festival, 44th IFFI (International Film Festival of India) held in Goa in 2013.



Short/India/30min.
Director: Ridham Janve

Synopsis

'Kanche aur Postcard' is about childhood in the alleys of a small town. An everyday, lighthearted story of a boy wanting and being denied a game of marbles while on vacation. He wants to play the game of marbles but denied an opportunity. Seen through the eyes of the young protagonist, the film is full of drama with deeply felt rejections, difficult choices and unfortunate compromises. Through its innocence and simplicity, the film explores deeper themes of class, caste, control and acceptance. It also reminds us of the often overlooked yet very essential differences of perception and understanding between children and adults.

VITHYA



Short/India/30min.

Director: Prasanna Shrikant Ponde

Synopsis

Vithya realizes the hardships that the villagers from his village face due to the pathetic conditions of the roads. He decides to do something about. He soon realizes that it is not an easy task. The story revolves around the efforts he makes and the difficulties he faces. He comes across a magazine cover with the photograph of Bill Gates on it. He writes a letter inviting Mr. Gates to his village and sharing with him his problem. Mr. Gates accepts his invitation. And that's how the road construction starts and the boy's efforts start to bear fruit.

Prasanna Shrikant Ponde

Prasanna Ponde's fascination with the films started from childhood when he would watch films on a roadside projector. That's when he decided that he would be a movie director. After working in the hospitality industry for eleven years, he started working with an international animation studio. After completing eight years in Prana Studio, gaining a little knowledge about film direction, he made his first film 'Vithya'.



MALDIVES

An actor is just a part of a movie, but director - he is the movie.

-Amit Kalantri

HULHUDHAAN

Aishath Fuwad Thowfeek

Aishath Fuwad Thowfeek has a diploma in creative writing in English from the Indira Gandhi Open University. Aishath began her career as a screenwriter in 2011 and in 2012 wrote and directed her first feature film Hulhudhaan which released on the 25th of December 2014.

In 2014 she co-produced Emme Fahu Vindha Jehendhen (Till the last pulse) with her husband Mohamed Ali, released on the 5th of April 2015; the film has become the year's most commercially successful film.



Feature/Maldives/95min.

Director: Aishath Fuwad Thowfeek

Synopsis

A man's journey to rediscover himself

Manik (Roanu Hassan Manik), like all of us, is challenged by aspects of the changing world. Coming from a middle-class background, his life has always revolved around his work, and he takes pride in being self-sufficient. His identity has always been defined by what he does for a living. When Manik is suddenly forced into retirement, he finds himself completely lost.

Unable to cope with the blow, he finds a greater purpose in life when his estranged drug addict daughter Sama (Mariyam Majudha), gets landed under his custodial responsibility. He finds this as an opportunity to redeem himself from the grave mistakes he has made in the past as he is determined to rehabilitate her. What ensues is an intense drama of high doses between father and daughter as they gradually come to terms with their painful past, volatile present and most importantly the harsh realities of life. Experience his journey to rediscover himself in a brighter light.

INSAANAA



Feature/Maldives/63min.

Director: Ali Seazan

Synopsis

Film “Insaanaa” winds around the character Zabeer, a low paid welder from a poor island, fed-up from his marriage and fatherly duties. His wife Hana on the other hand, is a responsible, committed wife/mother survives and lives with a thin line of hope to keep the family together regardless of the unfortunate circumstances.

Zabeer is arrogant, impulsive, intimidating and absolutely uncontrollable in his anger. Irresponsible father and a husband who always ran away from his responsibilities, to pursue own selfish needs and happiness never thought once that he will be gripped by the fear of possible repercussions and tortured by the guilt of his violent actions. Zabeer seeks to hide his sins in hopes that they will go unnoticed and become no more than a dirty little secret. However, his plan quickly falls apart when he begins to see menacing visions and the line between reality and paranoia becomes blurred. His plans quickly unravel and become engulfed in one of his evil, dirtiest sin.

Ali Seazan

Seezan pinned his name on top of the actor's list with “HIYYEDHENE” directed by Feeroaz Aisthu Alimanik for newly established EMA Production. This was Seezan's third back to back hit. For his self-possessed performance, he won best actor at the 3rd National Film Awards. He won the Best Supporting Actor Award at the 5th National Film Awards for “ZULEYKHA” directed by Fathimath Nahula, an influential director in the industry.





LOVE? LUST? LIFE?



Short/Nepal/22min.

Director: Utpal Jha

Synopsis

A poet explores his poem through a series of imagination occurring in transitory time and settings as he constructs it. He enters subjectively into his self-generated objective realities; how shall he emerge from it remains open to individual analyses.

Utpal Jha

Utpal Jha is an emerging Film-maker (Director/Screen-writer) and Actor with fine language skills. His short film: "Love? Lust? Life?" has been accepted in the Short Film Corner of Cannes Film Festival (2015).



THE PSEUDO PLOUGHER

Short/Pakistan

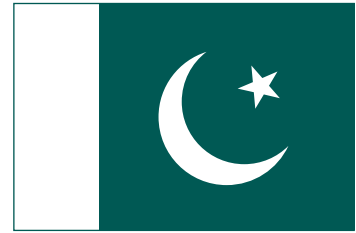
Director: Syed Muhammad Ali Bin Aziz

Synopsis

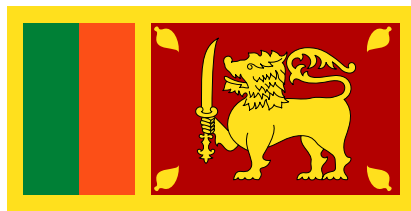
A short film, expressing the love of the inhabitants of the arid agricultural area with the nature in general and with the bulls and the oxen in particular.

"Muhammad Ramzan" is the central human character of this short film who procures a calf, brings him up with devotion and culturally inherited methods. His ox, "Dhunalya" named as the representation of the bull's race is finally taken to the plaguing competition, a famous cultural heritage of the vernacular population.

"Dhunalya" wins the competition at the end.



PAKISTAN



SRI LANKA

The lasting and ultimately most important reputation of a film is not based on reviews, but on what, if anything, people say about it over the years, and on how much affection for it they have.

- Stanley Kubrick, Stanley Kubrick: Interviews

MOTOR BICYCLE



Feature/Sri Lanka/110min.

Director: Shameera Rangana Naotunna

Synopsis

Rangana is a 26 year old man living with his mother in a city slum environment. For a living, he plays the guitar and sings in a small night club. Rangana's mother, a widow aged about 50, carries on a trade in little items, to make ends meet.

Rangana's main ambition is to make the grade some day, as a popular singing star. Also, he constantly dreams of going about with his girlfriend on a new motorcycle. Meanwhile, he is involved in practice sessions with a tiny musical band, in a room in a friend's nearby flat, much against protests from neighbors.

Rangana keeps pleading with his mother to pawn her gold chain, so that he may realize his aim of buying a motor bicycle. She agrees reluctantly, so that her son may have his wish.

But, Rangana buys his motorcycle from a place in town which sells them on false pretexts. This causes severe complications in his life.

While doing his motorcycle rounds to thrill the girlfriend, Rangana comes up against a variety of mishaps. In the end, he fails even to win over his beloved.

Heartbroken, Rangana wanders aimlessly from place to place all over town. At the same time, he also falls into the society of a member of the underworld. The events that follow deprive him of not only the motorcycle, but also of so much else that's valuable.

Shameera Rangana Naotunna

Shameera Rangana Naotunna entered the field of Art very early, as an actor. He participated as a child star in teledramas, stage plays and films.

After Secondary Education, he functioned as a programme producer in a television channel. His first stage play, "Allow me to realize My Dream" was presented at the Youth and State Drama Festival of 2007, and received high recognition.

Rangana directed his first short film, "Six Miles" in 2010. It received special commendation from the jury at the Agenda short film Festival, as well as at the State Film Corporation short film Festival, Thereafter, at the Rupavahini State Festival it went on to receive the Golden Award for the best short film of the year.

In the year 2011, "Six Miles" participated in the competitive section of many international film festivals. Some of them were, the sixth International Independent short film Festival held in Solvenia, the sixth Cine Fantasy short film Festival run in Brazil, "24 Hours Nuremberg" Festival in Germany, and the tenth Third Eye Festival held in India.

Right now, he is creating films as a script writer and producer for several media. "Motor Bicycle" is his first effort as a film Director.



Rabin Chandrasiri

Rabin Chandrasiri, a past student of Dharmasoka College in Ambalangoda started his professional career as a Government Surveyor in the Survey Department of the Republic of Sri Lanka.

He left the Survey Dept. in 1979 for employment in Saudi Arabia as a Survey Party Chief for a period of 2 years.

Back in Sri Lanka, he starts his first feature film with Vasantha Obeysekera who directed same which was titled as Dadayama (The Hunt). This film was selected as the official nominee for the Ninth International Film Festival of India in 1983, held in New Delhi, by the National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka. Also it bagged 9 awards, inclusive of the Best Film award in the Presidential Film award in 1983 held in Sri Lanka.

The film Patibana (Perception) is his debut as a Director, which is scheduled to be released in mid-2015 in Sri Lanka. Hope you will enjoy this movie.

PATIBHANA



Feature/Sri Lanka/137min.

Director: Rabin Chandrasiri

Synopsis

"Ariyasiri" (Sampath Sri Jayasinghe) who is a bright student gets ill treated by his step mother and soon after his A/Level exam he loses his father too. He finds that he cannot live any further with his step mother and step brother and decides to flee away from home. He comes to Colombo and gets involved with some crooked guys of the under-world and becomes known as 'Podi Sira'.

After some years he ends up in jail for man slaughter. He escapes from the prison after stabbing a prison officer with the intention of leaving for some other country. He plans to steal a gold statue from a Buddhist temple in a remote area on a tip he gets accidentally. While robbing, he gets seriously injured. The chief priest (Samson Siripala) of the temple who goes through body-feature signs of the unconscious body of Podi Sira decides to treat the victim, against the wish of his personal attendant called Upasaka (Chandrasoma Binduhewa) without handing him over to the Police. Ariyasiri alias Podi Sira is compelled to lodge in the temple for about a month due to a fracture in the leg.

In the meanwhile Police Inspector Almeida (Niroshan Wijesinghe) with his team is trying his best to trace the escapee.

DREAMS, WEAVERS AND VIEWERS



Short/Sri Lanka/20min.
Director: Nayani Chandrasinghe

Synopsis

The insurgents may have had something underneath their fighting spirit, quite apart from their common cause. Dreams, each of them could call his own. In their last hour did the dreams surface for their assassins to decode them in the glint of their eyes? Even today the memories of the assassins may be haunted by the living dreams of the dead.

Nayani Chandrasinghe

Ms. Nayani Chandrasinghe is a young film maker from the SLF Digital Film Academy in Sri Lanka. She studied Film and Television in the Department of Fine Arts as the subsidiary subject during her student years at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. She demonstrated her artistic skills as a student film director through her maiden effort: The Snail (a short film).

She followed a Higher National Diploma course in Film & TV at SLF Digital Film Academy, and specialized in film direction since her graduation. During this period she directed short films such as Dewadara Gas (Autumn Leaves), Numb and Dreams, weavers and viewers and also a documentary film entitled Dust.

Her short film "Dreams, Weavers and Viewers has been awarded the Best Film Jury Award at the COINS Film Festival in Sri Lanka.



HAVE A NICE DAY!

Kaushalya Pathirana

Kaushalya Pathirana, born in 1982, is a Sri Lankan short film maker and a script writer. He started his career as a media planner in advertising industry and later served as a brand manager for some reputed brands. He directed his debut short film "Even in Siberia there is happiness" in 2012 and "Have a Nice Day" in 2013. Also he wrote the scripts for few television series and documentaries as well. Kaushalya holds a BSc degree in Physical Science and currently reading for his Masters in Mass Media.

Short/Sri Lanka/13min.

Director: Kaushalya Pathirana

Synopsis

The film is based on a hypothetical future scenario and experimented with one artist on one location. It is 2018 in Sri Lanka and abortion is legalized in the country. The film shows how a receptionist of an abortion center struggles to protect her unborn child she has while promoting the service of the clinic.

MEET THE JURY MEMBERS



Masoud Djafari Djozani - Iran

Masoud Djafari Djozani is a film director, screenwriter and film producer born in 1948 in Malayer, Iran. As an outstanding playwright for the play "Stories Have Become Sorrows" which he wrote at the age of twenty, he was awarded a scholarship by the Prime Minister of the time to study in the United States. He was on the Dean's list at the San Francisco State University as a straight "A" student, from where he received both his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in cinema (1975 - 1978). Djozani started teaching at Tehran University (School of Arts), University of Broadcasting (IRIB), Bagh Fedrows School of Film Making in 1985 after teaching in the United States for two years. He was an acting advisor to postgraduate students at Tehran University for 16 years.

The rich eastern culture and mysticism inherent in Persian Poetry such as works of Hafiz and Rumi has served as Djozani's main source of artistic inspiration. Hence the historical and epic tone of heroic subjects in natural environment he generally deals with in his feature films. Some of his films were awarded local prizes. His film "In the Wind's Eye" (1989), the conclusion to his television series "Dar Chashm-e Baad", was partially filmed in Los Angeles, making it the first Iranian production to be shot in the United States since the 1979 Iranian Revolution. It was awarded the Golden Plaque for Best Film at the Fajir International Film Festival held in Tehran, Iran in 2009. His film the "Frosty Roads" (1985) was awarded Golden Plaque for Best Film and "Stony Lion" (1986) was awarded Golden Plaque for Best Script at the same Film Festival held in the following years.

MEET THE JURY MEMBERS



Philip Cheah – Singapore

Philip Cheah, the uncompromising festival director of the Singapore International Film Festival, is a long time champion of little known films from the Southeast Asian region. He is a film critic and is the editor of BigO, Singapore's only independent pop culture publication. He is Honorary Secretary of Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC), and is currently program consultant for AsiaPacificFilms.com, the Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival, the Cinema Digital Seoul Film Festival, and the Dubai International Film Festival.

He is also on the selection committee of the Locarno International Film Festival and Founding Member of the Singapore International Film Festival. He is co-editor of the books, Garin Nugroho: And the Moon Dances; Noel Vera: Critic After Dark, and with Ngo Phuong Lan, Modernity and Nationality in Vietnamese Cinema. Mr. Cheah was given an award for Achievement in the Promotion of Asian Cinema at the 8th Cinemanila International Film Festival in 2006 and the Korean Cinema Award at the 9th Pusan International Film Festival in 2004.

MEET THE JURY MEMBERS



Dr. Gulnara Abikeyeva – Kazakhstan

Dr. Gulnara Abikeyeva is a well known Kazakh film critic and film researcher. Since 2005 to 2013 she was an artistic director of the International Film Festival Eurasia in Almaty. During different years she made film magazines Asia-kino, Territoriya Kino as editor-in-Chief, TV programmes about Kazakh cinema. In 2001-2002 she was a Fulbright scholar at Bowdoin College, read lectures in Pittsburgh University and made presentation in Harvard, Yale, Tafts Universities in USA. She is the author of ten books about cinema, mostly about Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries. First book was New Kazakh Cinema (1998), next - Cinema of Central Asia: 1990-2001 was awarded by "White Elephant" award of Gild of film critics of Russia as the best book about cinema of the year published in CIS. The book Nation-Building in Kazakhstan and other Central Asian States, and How This Process is reflected in Cinematography' (2006) was awarded by national prize "Kulager" as the best book of 2007 in Kazakhstan. As a member of FIPRESCI and NETPAC she was jury member on different international film festivals. Now she is a professor in Turan University in Almaty where she gives lectures on film history and film theory. In 2013 she has three international publications: in Great Britain - Cinema in Central Asia. Rewriting Cultural Histories, co-edited by Michael Rouland and Birgit Beumers, in South Korea - The Unknown New Wave of Central Asian Cinema, co-edited by Kim Ji-Seok and in Russia in one of the best publishing houses (New Literary Observation, Film texts series) Mahmalbaf's Film House.

SAARC FILM FESTIVAL 2014 AWARDS

Special Jury Certificate of Recognition for New Talent:
Joes Pandey for “Saanghuru” (NEPAL)

Trophy for Best Director:
Sarath Dharmasiri - “Soovisi Wivarana” (SRI LANKA)

Best Actor:
Ismail Rasheed - “Ingili” (MALDIVES)

Best Actress:
Garima Panta - “Jhola” (NEPAL)

Best Short Film:
“Makara” – Directed by Prantik Narayan Basu – INDIA
“For approaching fiction through non-fiction”

Best Feature Film Bronze Medal:
“Ingili” Directed by Ravee Farooq – MALDIVES

Best Feature Film Silver Medal:
“Saanghuru” Directed by Joes Pandey - NEPAL

Best Feature Film Trophy:
“Soovisi Wivarana” – Directed by Sarath Dharmasiri - SRI LANKA
“For its grand depiction of moral complexity through desire, dance and philosophy”





SAARC FILM FESTIVAL 2015 WORKSHOP

**SOUTH ASIAN FILMS IN
THE WORLD CINEMA**

FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2015
INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE AUDITORIUM

SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE - SRI LANKA



South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

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Disclaimer

This Brochure contains information received by the respective Member States and Directors of the featured films received up to date of submission for printing 22.05.2015. The SAARC Cultural Centre is not held responsible for the details submitted with regard to the nominated films

SCREENING SCHEDULE 2015

26
TUE

6.30 pm
Inaugural film - Short
Tsepame Mandala for Long Life
(Bhutan/5min)
Directed by Tshering Penjore Paco



6.35 pm
Inaugural film - Feature
Elizabeth Pilgrimage (Elizabeth Ekadashi)
(India/2014/107min)
Directed by Paresh Mokashi



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27
WED

3.30 pm
Short film
An Incurable Gift
(Bhutan/16min)
Directed by Kinzang Namgay



4.00 pm
Feature film
Insaanaa
(Maldives/2014/63min)
Directed by Ali Seezan



6.00 pm
Short film
Marbles and Post Card
(India/2015/30min)
Directed by Ridham Janve



6.30 pm
Feature film
Mrittika Maaya
(Bangladesh/2014/125min)
Directed by Gazi Rakayet



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28
THU

3.30 pm
Short film
Dreams, Weavers & Viewers
(Sri Lanka/2014/13min)
Directed by Nayani Sandya Chandrasinghe



4.00 pm
Feature film
Chotoder Chobi
(India/2014/108min)
Kaushik Ganguly



6.00 pm
Short film
Love?Lust?Life?
(Nepal/2014/22min)
Directed by Utpal Jha



6.30 pm
Feature film
Motor Bicycle
(Sri Lanka/2014/110min)
Directed by Shameera Rangana Naotunna



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29
FRI

3.00 pm
Short film
The Container
(Bangladesh)
Directed by Abu Shahed Emon



3.30 pm
Feature film
Shikhandi Kotha
(Bangladesh/2013)
Mohammad Hannan



6.00 pm
Short film
Have a Nice Day!
(Sri Lanka/2013/13min)
Directed by Kaushalya Pathirana



6.30 pm
Feature film
Mina Walking
(Afghanistan/2014/125min)
Directed by Yosef Baraki



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30
SAT

3.00 pm
Short film
Vithya
(India/2014/30min)
Directed by Prasanna Shrikant Ponde



3.30 pm
Feature film
Patibhana (Perception)
(Sri Lanka/2015/135min)
Directed by Rabin Chandrasiri



6.00 pm
Short film
The Pseudo Plougher
(Pakistan)
Directed by Syed Muhammad Thowfeek



6.30 pm
Feature film
Hulhudhaan
(Maldives/2014/95min)
Directed by Aishath Fuwad Thowfeek

