

FEST

Organised by SAARC Cultural Centre in Collobaration with Sri Lanka Foundation Digital Film Academy





**1-6 JUNE 2016** 



# SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE - SRI LANKA

in collaboration with

### **SRI LANKA FOUNDATION DIGITAL FILM ACADEMY**





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### SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE

SAARC Cultural Centre is a Regional Centre established based on the decision made by the Heads of State or Government of SAARC Countries to promote cultural cooperation in order to bring the people of South Asia closer and to project the distinct identity of South Asia.

The Centre 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 in various fields of interest to meet and interact in a conducive environment. It is intended to cater to all forms of art such as performing arts (e.g. dance, music, drama, theatre, puppetry and folk culture), visual art (e.g. painting, sculpture, film making, photography) and literature as per the provisions made in the SAARC Agenda for Culture. The Centre also publishes a number of well researched publications on varied topics from South Asian Diaspora to Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expression, Sustainable Development and Tourism and so on. It shall continue to do research and make all publications available online of the

Centre's website.

SAARC Cultural Centre is part of the SAARC, an association established for corporation between South Asian Countries. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are the current members of SAARC.

More information on the centre can be found on its website www.saarcculture.org



### Message from H E the Secretary General of SAARC

I am pleased to learn that the SAARC Cultural Centre is organizing the Sixth SAARC Film Festival in Colombo from 1 to 6 June 2016.

South Asian cinema has achieved remarkable position over the world. The proposed Sixth SAARC Film Festival will help promote cultural connectivity within the region, benefitting both the film industry and the audience at large. The Festival is an occasion not only for entertainment, but also to experience culture, language and several other facets of the countries of the South Asian region.

Since its establishment, the SAARC Cultural Centre has been playing a key role in promoting cultural cooperation in the region, thereby bringing the people closer and projecting the distinct identity of South Asia. I would like to thank the Centre for taking yet another important initiative in organizing the Film Festival. I would like to congratulate the Directors of the nominated films and thank all others who contributed to make this event possible.

I wish the Sixth SAARC Film Festival every success.

### **Arjun B. Thapa** Secretary General of SAARC



### Message from Hon. Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development & Cultural Affairs, Sri Lanka

It gives me great privilege to issue this message on the occasion of the 6th SAARC Film Festival to be held in Colombo from the 1st –6th June 2016.

Cinema in South Asia has a longstanding history and South Asian Cinema has been applauded and recognized globally. The region has produced a number of excellent films, and there is no doubt that screening of South Asian Films during the festival will undoubtedly bring people closer together and foster understanding of our cultures, similarities and lifestyles. In spite of commercialization that has clouted the many ethos of South Asian culture, the best films of the region still do maintain high standards in capturing the true culture of the South Asian Region. Film has the power to provide us with a release, a window into new worlds, every day issues, and new possibilities. It gives an opportunity to experience the different cultures, traditions, and way of life of different countries. Therefore, the SAARC Film Festival is the ideal platform that would bring together the cultures of the region, and give the common man an opportunity to experience such cultures through film.

I congratulate the SAARC Cultural Centre for taking the initiative in giving prominence to South Asian Cinema, and I wish the Centre every success in this initiative.

### S.B. Nawinne

Minister of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development & Cultural Affairs



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

It is indeed a great pleasure to write a few words on the occasion of the SAARC FILM FESTIVAL - 2016, organized by the SAARC Cultural Centre in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Foundation Digital Film Academy.

Cinema is considered to be the most popular of cultural practices reflecting a plethora of social, economic and cultural phenomena in modern societies. SAARC FILM FESTIVAL is a not-forprofit cultural event that presents a South Asian collection of feature films, and short-films. Its purpose and vision is to "bridge the gap" between South Asian talent and mainstream audiences. In the last 5 years we have met some true masters of contemporary cinema in South Asian Region and we have awarded them for their outstanding careers.

Thanks to the great proliferation of technology in the digital age, the nature of the film industry has dramatically shifted. However, despite this major change, the movie industry in the South Asian Region is still an incredibly profitable field to invest in. In fact, there are many other ways that pictures can gain exposure and find financial success — and one of the most effective is the film festival. These events accept and showcase a wide range of new movies, from those made by amateur filmmakers to those shot by established indie studios. Festivals also lend the pictures they screen a sense of prestige, creating a buzz and demand across the globe, and give filmmakers a chance to network with other industry professionals, as well as people who are looking to invest in independent film.

I am very happy to see that this film festival has attracted distinguished artists from the South Asian Region. It is indeed my great pleasure to congratulate the Member States, film directors, editors, cinematographers, music directors, sound designers, jury members, participants and all others associated with the festival for their contribution and support to make this festival a lively and memorable event.

I extend my sincere thanks to all the hardworking members of the Organizing Committee of the SAARC FILM FESTIVAL – 2016.

### Wasanthe Kotuwella

Director, SAARC Cultural Centre



### **AWARDS**

Trophy for Best Feature Film 2016 **Trophy for Best Short Film 2016** Silver Medal for Best Feature Film 2016 Bronze Medal for Best Feature Film 2016 **Trophy for Best Director Trophy for Best Actor Trophy for Best Actress Trophy for Best Cinematographer Trophy for Best Editor Trophy for Best Screenplay Trophy for Best Original Score Trophy for Best Film - Open Category** 

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I don't like the idea of "understanding" a film. I don't believe that rational understanding is an essential element in the reception of any work of art. Either a film has something to say to you or it hasn't. If you are moved by it, you don't need it explained to you. If not, no explanation can make you moved by it.

Federico Fellini

Not to have seen the cinema of Satyajit Ray means existing in the world without seeing the sun or the moon.

Akira Kurosawa

"The director is the only person who knows what the film is about."

Satyajit Ray



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



I remember, the first time I saw a [Andrei] Tarkovsky film, I was shocked by it. I didn't know what to do. I was fascinated, because suddenly I realized that film could have so many more layers to it than what I had imagined before. Then others, like Kurosawa and Federico Fellini, were like a new discovery for me, another country.

Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu

My function is to make whoever sees my films aware of his need to love and to give his love, and aware that beauty is summoning him."

Andrei Tarkovsky

### AN APPLE FROM PARADISE

Feature/Afghanistan/85 min. Director: Homayun Morowat



#### Homayun Morowat

Homayun Morowat (1965, Kabul) graduated from VGIK in 1988. His first short documentary movie "Dream" (1984) gained him the audience's attention in Afghanistan. His second short "The Golden Dream" was about a great Afghan poet Amir Jan Saboori. Morowat's debut feature, "The Green Coal" (1995) participated in numerous international film festivals, including MIFF. Morowat's next feature film, "An Apple from Paradise" was highly praised and gained multiple international awards. Homayun Morowat currently resides in Sweden.

#### **Synopsis**

A pious old man, who is a proponent of suicide attackers, comes to Kabul to visit his only son, who, after the holy war had remained in the Soviet Union. He had enrolled his son in a religious school "to study the Koran and return to the village as a Mullah". In Kabul he learns that his son had decided to become a divine suicide bomber so as to go to Heaven. The film presents two different forces of the inner world of the protagonist father: paternal feelings and the holy religious ideology. The spectator witnesses how he loses his only son and holy belief. Shot in chaotic and dirty Kabul, the film portrays the incorrect interpretation of religion and the conflict of generations.

### CITY OF DUST

Short/Afghanistan/13 min. Director: Mohammad Jamil Jalla

### Synopsis



Two lovers in Kabul find that their relationship is opposed by everyone who matters. They have done everything possible to get married, but have had no success. At this time, they want to escape and begin their lives somewhere far away, but it is not that easy ... It is about two lovers struggle in Kabul.

### Mohammad Jamil Jalla

Mohammad Jamil Jalla, born in 1985, graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts of Kabul University in 2007. After his graduation he made a short film called "The Locked Room" which won the best director award at the 4th Kabul International Short Film Festival in 2009. Mohammad Jamil Jalla also tried his skills in other areas such as acting and editing and has worked as a lighting crew person and makeup artist. He recently participated in the Busan international Film Festival in South Korea with "City of Dust".



### BANGLADESH

GG The essence of cinema is editing. It's the combination of what can be extraordinary images of people during emotional moments, or images in a general sense, put together in a kind of alchemy.

Francis Ford Coppola

I never thought of becoming a director. When I was twelve, the passage from silent film to the talkies had an impact on me - I still watch silent films.

Alain Resnai

A director should not define everything. For me, the movie is a form of a question I pose to the others or to the audience. I want to ask their opinion on my point of view and discuss it with them.

Kim Ki-duk

### JALAL'S STORY

Feature/Bangladesh/109 min. Director: Abu Shahod Emon

### Synopsis Abu Shahod Emon

This is the story of an infant, a child and teen named Jalal. From innocence to becoming a gangster, the unpredictable currents of Jalal's journey prove that he is truly a child of the river.

The first story begins with Miraj, who rescues an abandoned baby from the river and raises him, calling him Jalal. The second story starts off with the nine-yearold Jalal who lives as a dependent of a large landowner, Karim, who desperately needs a baby to keep up his prestige informant of the villagers. In the third story we see Nineteen-year-old Jalal works under a gang leader and budding politician named Sajib, who has kidnapped and impregnated Shila. These three stories strangely connect and flow together as one. Through these uniquely linked stories, Abu Shahed Emon tackles a lot of social issues in Bangladesh including superstition, politically motivated corruption and women's rights.

Abu Shahod Emon is a young Bangladeshi independent filmmaker, who graduated in Psychology from the University of Dhaka. In 2007, Emon studied Communication and Photography at University of Wisconsin, Lacrosse when he went to U.S.A. as a Near East and South Asia Undergraduate Exchange Student, funded by the US Department of State. Emon's screenplay 'Joon and Wendy' was selected for production in the 2010 Asian Film Academy (AFA) Fellowship Program, where he was awarded the 'AFA Scholarship Fund' 2010 for his excellent performance. In 2011, Emon received the prestigious Asian Cinema Fund (ACF) provided by the Busan International Film Festival for his project 'The Tale of a Policeman' in the Script & Project Development Category. 'The Tale of a Policeman' also made it to the top 20 projects list by the Beijing International Film Festival 2012's film market and was a runner up in the International Pitching Competition. Emon's debut feature film, Jalal's Story, which was selected in the New Currents Competition in the 19th Busan International Film Festival 2014. This debut feature has also been selected by the Bangladeshi Oscar committee for representing Bangladesh in the 88th Academy Awards in the foreign language film Category in 2016.

### NEKABBARER MAHAPROYAN

Feature/Bangladesh/116 min. Director: Masud Pathik



### Masud Pathik

Masud Pathik is a Bangladeshi Filmmaker, Poet, Journalist, and Editor of Chhobipala- a magazine on film and writes poems and features in the national daily newspapers and literary magazines since 1991.

He is very experienced in a wide range of film and video projects from inception to completion. He excels in his ability to efficiently organize and coordinate shoots and is very knowledgeable on using a variety of production equipment. He is a very good script analyst and writer with a PhD degree in Literature and film making

He is also as skilled at writing and editing scenes, treatments, and scripts.

### Synopsis

The story of the film starts in 1970 when there took place a massive political upheaval in the then East Pakistan. The west Pakistani rulers were suppressing the Bengalis and continued making them deprived of their fundamental rights. The Bengalis under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman raised their voice for freedom. Like the Pakistani rulers, in the villages the landlords and the rich were also suppressing the poor landless peasants cruelly. To protest them, the poor landless peasants also began to unite themselves and raise their voice against all injustice and suppression. Nekabbar, a philanthropic landless peasant and a believer of pantheism, played the pivotal role in the movement and subsequently made himself involve in the liberation war. Although the freedom loving people won, Nekabbar lost his one leg and his beloved Fatema.



### BHUTAN

66 Film-making is not an esoteric thing to me. I consider film-making - to start with - a personal thing. If a person does not have a vision of his own, he cannot create.

**Ritwik Ghatak** 

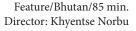
"Film as dream, film as music. No art passes our conscience in the way film does, and goes directly to our feelings, deep down into the dark rooms of our souls."

**Ingmar Bergman** 

"I don't film messages. I let the post office take care of those."

Bernardo Bertolucci

### TRAVELLERS AND MAGICIANS





### **Khyentse Norbu**

Dzongsar Jamyang Khyentse Rinpoche (born 1961 also known as Khyentse Norbu, is a Bhutanese lama, filmmaker, and writer. His three major films are The Cup (1999), Travellers and Magicians (2003) and Vara: A Blessing (2013). He is the author of the book 'What Makes You Not a Buddhist' (Shambhala, 2007) and Not for Happiness: A Guide to the So-Called Preliminary Practices (Shambhala, 2012). Norbu wrote and directed three award-winning films, The Cup (1999), Travellers and Magicians (2003) and Vara: A Blessing (2013). Travellers and Magicians was the first feature film to be produced in Bhutan. He studied film making with Bernardo Bertolucci, after serving as consultant on the Italian director's 1993 film Little Buddha. Vara: The Blessing (2013), his latest film, opened South Korea's famed Busan International Film Festival. It was the first time that the South Korean festival has not opened with either a local Korean or a Chinese film.

### **Synopsis**

'Travellers and Magicians' weaves parallel fablelike tales about two men who seek to escape their mundane. Young government official Dondup dreams of escaping to America while stuck in a ravishingly beautiful but isolated village. When the first chance arrives, he immediately heads for town and an awaiting visa, but things don't go quite as planned. Missing the bus, he hitchhikes with an elderly apple seller, a sage young monk, and an old man travelling with his beautiful daughter Sonam. Along the way, the perceptive yet mischievous monk tells Dondup a story of another young man who sought a land far away: a tale of lust, jealousy and murder that holds up a mirror to the restless Dondup and his blossoming attraction to the innocent Sonam. "Travellers and Magicians" is a magical mixture of rustic road movie and mystical fable...a potpourri of desire and its consequence, set in a breathtaking landscape.

# THE CUP

Feature/Bhutan/91 min. Director: Khyentse Norbu

### Synopsis



An inspiring True Story

Prayers.Discipline.Tradition. These are the ways of the Tibetan monks. But a group of young monks have joined a new favourite ritual....soccer. Now they will do anything including sneaking out of the monastery and risking their future. For a chance to see the World Cup finals in this mad cup adventure that is all for the love of the game.

The Cup (*Phörpa*) is a film directed by Khyentse Norbu. The plot involves two young footballcrazed Tibetan refugee novice monks in a remote Himalayan monastery in India who desperately try to obtain a television for the monastery to watch the 1998 World Cup final.

The movie was shot in the Tibetan refugee village Bir in India (Himachal Pradesh) (almost entirely between Chokling Gompa and Elu Road).

### Khyentse Norbu

Dzongsar Jamyang Khyentse Rinpoche (born 1961 also known as Khyentse Norbu, is a Bhutanese lama, filmmaker, and writer. His three major films are The Cup (1999), Travellers and Magicians (2003) and Vara: A Blessing (2013). He is the author of the book 'What Makes You Not a Buddhist' (Shambhala, 2007) and Not for Happiness: A Guide to the So-Called Preliminary Practices (Shambhala, 2012). Norbu wrote and directed three award-winning films, The Cup (1999), Travellers and Magicians (2003) and Vara: A Blessing (2013). Travellers and Magicians was the first feature film to be produced in Bhutan. He studied film making with Bernardo Bertolucci, after serving as consultant on the Italian director's 1993 film Little Buddha. Vara: The Blessing (2013), his latest film, opened South Korea's famed Busan International Film Festival. It was the first time that the South Korean festival has not opened with either a local Korean or a Chinese film.





My cow is not pretty, but it is pretty to me. David Lynch

Good cinema is what we can believe, and bad cinema is what we can't believe. Abbas Kiarostamy

# CINEMAWALA

Feature/India/105 min. Director: Kaushik Ganguly

### **Synopsis**

Cinemawala is a film about a father-son relationship set against the backdrop of cinema. It also focuses on the sad state of single-screen theatres in the country. Pranab, a retired film exhibitor, has always maintained himself as a true 'Cinemawala', whereas, his son, Prakash is an opportunist who has no qualms about selling pirated DVDs of feature films in town.



### Kaushik Ganguly

Kaushik Ganguly is an eminent film maker who has garnered criticial acclaim for his feature films and the national Award-winning Shobdo. His film, Chotoder Chobi won the National Award for Best Film on social issues.

## MASAAN

Feature/India/109 min. Director: Neeraj Ghaywan



#### Neeraj Ghaywan

Neeraj Ghaywan quit corporate life to pursue filmmaking. He has made two short films, The Epiphany and Shor, which won Grand Jury awards at many international film festivals and the Mahindra Sundance Global Filmmaker Award. He is one of the few directors who had primiered a debut film at Un Certain Regards at Festival de Cannes.

### **Synopsis**

Four lives intersect along the Ganges: a low caste boy hopelessly in love; a daughter ridden with guilt of a tragic encounter; a father's fading morality over ransom; and a spirited child yearning for a family, all longing to escape the moral constructs of a small town. Masaan tells the story of modern contemporary India where these characters are seeking a better future, whilst buffeted between modernity and attachment to tradition.



### BENEGAL'S NEW CINEMA

Short/India/58 min. Director: Iram Ghufran



### Synopsis

Iram Ghufran

A documentary on the films of Shyam Benegal, that explores the time, ethos and concerns of the New Cinema Movement in India through his oeuvre. Based on extensive interviews with Benegal, the film is a foray into the mind of this great film maker and an attempt to understand his motivations and impulses for making cinema. Iram Ghufran is a Delhi based filmmaker and artist working on moving image, sound and text. Her first documentary essay film There is Something in the Air is the winner of several awards including the National Award for Best Direction and Best Editing.

### **GOONGA PEHELWAN**

Short/India/45 min.

and Vivek Chaudhury

Director: Mit Jani, Prateek Gupta



Mit Jani, Prateek Gupta and Vivek Chaudhury

This film is directed by three young directors, Mit Jani, Prateek Gupta and Vivek Chaudhury, from Ahmedabad. The three of them are bound by their deep interst in meaningful cinema and the attempt to bring out previously untold stories from across the country.

### **Synopsis**

Goonga Pehelwan is a documentary that follows India's most successful deaf athlete, Virender Singh, on his unlikey quest to reach the Rio Olympics (2016) and became the only second seaf wrestler in the history of the Olympics to do so. The film delves into his journey from a village in Haryana and emerging as India's most successful deaf athlete

### O APARA KALA

Short/India/24min. Director: Abha Naktode



The art of dancing stands at the source of all the arts that express themselves, first in the human. Great dancers are not great because of their technique; they are great because of their passion.

This story is of a young teenager Apara living in the West. One day while meditating she sees visions of her previous birth. In her vision she visualised that she is dancing kuchipudi with a group of dancers on a riverbed. She recalls herself to be Aparna in her previous birth, who is guided by Ammagaru Bharathi Devi. She visualises herself to be dancing Kuchipudi after being inspired and encouraged by a male exponent dancer, Sudhakar Reddy. After looking at his mesmerizing performance, she feels that when a male dancer can dance so beautifully and gracefully. Why not she?

She takes up Kuchipudi to be her passion and starts learning it with great enthusiasm. She researches up to the depth of that particular art form by reading a variety of books and practicing them. Aparna is so immersed in it, that she feels that she is dancing with Lord Krishna in Bhrindhavanam. In the end, of her vision while meditating she sees herself dancing on a sea shore and is been engulfed by the waves.

After this vision of hers, Apara clearly understands that her passion to learn, desire to teach others Kuchipudi and promote the art form of Kuchipudi. She travels from abroad to India and starts her research work in Kuchipudi. She learns, teaches herself and starts promoting the dance art form of Kuchipudi. Fulfilling the desire of her previous birth she starts promoting kuchipudi in India and abroad. Her efforts to glorify Kuchipudi are met with success.

### Director Ms Abha Naktode (15Yrs) and Asst Director Ms Aditi Nag (16 yrs also a painting artist) are both sisters and Kuchipudi artists. They are studying in classes X and XI respectively. They are very passionate about Kuchipudi dance and try to Choreograph, teach

small children, organize and perform

at various occasions.

AAAAAA

**Synopsis** 





66 Academia is the death of cinema. It is the very opposite of passion. Film is not the art of scholars, but of illiterates.

Werner Herzog

The need of the hour is to promote good cinema and for this it needs to be incorporated in the academic curriculum.

Adoor Gopalakrishnan

If you know that I am an unbeliever, then you know me better than I do myself. I may be an unbeliever, but I am an unbeliever who has a nostalgia for a belief."

Pier Paolo Pasolini

# ASHAM

Feature/Maldives/136min. Director: Ali Seezan

### Synopsis

### Ali Seezan



Ali Seezan is a Maldivian actor, director whose films and dramas are some of the most popular films of all time in the Maldives. He was born on 6th February 1977 to parents who were directly or indirectly involved in entertainment industry. However, Seezan's passion to work in Dhivehi film industry ignited at the tender age of twelve. As an actor, the film 'Maazee' was his stepping stone into filmmaking.

He won best supporting actor at the 5th National Film Awards for 'ZULEYKHA' directed by Fathimath Nahula, an influential director in the industry. In 2009 'KARUNAVEE BEYVAFAA' was the first feature film directed by Seezan after spending nine long years in the film industry. This film was an instant hit. Followed by 'MAAFEH NEI' IN 2011, 'WATHAN' IN 2013 and super hit 'INSAANA' in 2014.

Seezan has a vision to experiment new genres and is determined to raise the level of filmmaking in Dhivehi film industry.

"AHSHAM" The movie will showcase the impact of the current political state and the distractions caused to families. The story will also highlight the discriminations within the community at different levels and will showcase some of such incidents and its impact on foreign labor.

### MIKOE BAPPA BAEY BAEY

Feature/Maldives/93 min. Director: Ravee Farooq



#### Ravee Farooq

#### **Synopsis**

Ravee Farooq's professional film career began in 2005 as an actor when he was given the leading role in feature film, HUREEMEY INTHIZAARAGAA (AWAITING). He won BEST NEWCOMER (MALE) at the 1st Miadhu Crystal Awards for his role. He was nominated for best CHOREOGRAPHY AWARD at the 3rd National Film Awards for FAHU NEYVAA (LAST BREATH) and AMAANAAIY (CUSTODY). The same year his directorial debut, DHEKEDHEVES 2 (KEEP LOOKING 2) was released. His second direction and the first film he produced, INGILI (FINGER) which was released in 2013 was critically acclaimed nationwide. Ravee's third feature film direction is MIKOE BAPPA BAEY BAEY (COME MY BABY'S FATHER) which has an allegorical theme of how women are treated in the Maldivian society. This film was also critically acclaimed for its narrative style.

MIKOE BAPPA BAEY BAEY is the second installment to 'two characters-one location' trilogy with first being INGILI (FINGER), the critically acclaimed suspense thriller that made history by becoming the first Dhivehi film to win an international award at the SAARC Film Festival 2014 held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

FAZEEL (played by MANIK) wakes up at a room he believes he isn't familiar with. As he explores the room for clues on where he could be at, he sees a baby monitor and hears a baby crying. He then hears a woman singing a lullaby to comfort the baby. But he is completely shocked when he sees a wedding band on his finger. He is immediately thrown into a state of confusion. Short/Maldives/25min. Director: Ravee Farooq

EFFAS

### **Synopsis**

### **Ravee Farooq**

А small community with limited opportunities is given the chance to move to a more developed island

Under a government population consolidation program called "Effas". But not all are so open to leave

The place they call home.

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Life is a tragedy when seen in close-up, but a comedy in long-shot. Charlie Chaplin

Cinema, radio, television, magazines are a school of inattention: people look without seeing, listen in without hearing.

**Robert Bresson** 

Cinema should make you forget you are sitting in a theater. Roman Polanski

### K2 AND THE INVISIBLE FOOTMEN

lara Lee

Short/Pakistan/59min. Director: Iara Lee

### Synopsis

In K2 AND THE INVISIBLE FOOTMEN, filmmaker Lara Lee and her team chronicle the lives of the indigenous porters of Gilgit/ Baltistan in Pakistan. These heroes of mountaineering make possible the ascent of K2, the second highest mountain in the world. Amid breathtaking scenery, the film depicts the courage and everyday sacrifices of these unacknowledged porters. It also provides a fresh look into Pakistan, a country typically portrayed in the foreign media as being merely a land of conflict and sectarian strife. Iara Lee is a Korean Brazilian film producer, director and activist who works mainly in the Middle East and Africa. She is the director of the documentaries *Life Is Waiting: Referendum and Resistance in Western Sahara* (2015), *K2 and the Invisible Footmen* (2015), *The Kalasha and the Crescent* (2013), *The Suffering Grasses* (2012), *Cultures of Resistance* (2010), *Beneath the Borqa in Afghanistan* (2002), *Architettura* (1999), *Modulations: Cinema for the Ear* (1998), *Synthetic Pleasures* (1995), and *An Autumn Wind* (1994). In 2010, Lee was involved in the "Gaza Freedom Flotilla," where nine pro-Palestinian activists were killed by Israeli naval forces and many were injured.

Lee is the founder of the Cultures of Resistance Network Foundation (formerly named the Caipirinha Foundation), a member of the Council of Advisors to the National Geographic Society, and a longtime supporter of Greenpeace International, among many other organizations.



SRI LANKA

66 Perhaps it sounds ridiculous, but the best thing that young filmmakers should do is to get hold of a camera and some film and make a movie of any kind at all.

**Stanley Kubrick** 

I am a typed director. If I made Cinderella, the audience would immediately be looking for a body in the coach.

Alfred Hitchcock

Photography is truth. The cinema is truth twenty-four times per second. Jean-Luc Godard

### BORADIYA POKUNA

Feature/Sri Lanka/101min. Director: Satyajit Maitipe

### Synopsis



Three rural working class garment factory girls – a pampered prima donna (Mangala), a safe runner (Swineetha) and a tormented vixen (Gathami) – go through trials and tribulations of their sweet youth in a liberalized industrial zone in the city. Lovely Gothami makes life difficult for everyone around her and creates her own tragedy by obsessively falling in love with her pretty friend Mangala's sexually frustrated lover, Vipula.

The carefree existence of the three girls ends in catastrophe and Gothami disappears.

An accidental meeting of the two girls after several years results in a confession by the ever winning Mangala. The revelation shocks Gothami.

Perhaps for the first time Gothami sees Life, Winning and Losing, Suffering and Salvation in a completely different perspective, which she never thought existed.

### Satyajit Maitipe

Satyajit Maitipe was born in North Western Sri Lanka to a Catholic mother and a Buddhist father.

He studied Political Science, Sociology, and English Literature at the University of Melbourne and the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

He is currently teaching Language skills at the University of Colombo while completing a Masters in Counseling and Psycho-social work. His dissertation focuses on disabled war veterans in Sri Lanka.

He has also worked as a film journalist, broadcaster, copy writer and as a social worker dealing with the lonely and the suicidal.

Bora Diya Pokuna (Scent of the Lotus Pond) is his cinematic debut

### HO GAANA POKUNA

Feature/Sri Lanka/120min. Director: Indika Ferdinando



### Indika Ferdinando

Indika Ferdinando is a writer and director for the stage and the screen in Sri Lanka. He has received many National Theatre Awards including Best Short Play Director/Playwright in 1997, Best Upcoming Director in the year 2000 and Best Director/ Playwright in 2010. He also received several Youth Theatre Awards and is four-time winner of Best Music Composer - National Children's Theatre Awards. In 2010 his renowned theatre production "Colombo Colombo" was selected for the South Asian Women's Theatre Festival held in New Delhi and Mumbai and the Kathmandu International Theatre Festival in Nepal. Indika read his BA Honours and MPhil in Drama and Theatre at the University of Kelaniya, and is employed as a senior lecturer at the Drama and Theatre Department - University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo. He is currently conducting his PhD research at Monash University in Australia. Ho Gaanaa Pokuna (The Singing Pond) is Indika's cinematic debut.

### Synopsis

One day, a new teacher –Uma, arrives at a primary school in a remote little village in Sri Lanka. There are merely eighteen students in the school with only the principal and Uma herself as teachers.

With Uma's help, her little pupils gradually learn not to be afraid of dreaming big. One beautiful morning, little Upuli, who is blind by birth, shares her unseen dream with her friends Ukkun, Sukiri and others. It gradually becomes the unseen dream, not only in the eyes of the little ones, but also in the eyes of the entire village.

The perils that the children and Uma encounter in their venture to realize this dream, and their determination to triumph, is poignantly portrayed through the innocence of childhood and the harsh reality of village life. Little ripples can become a big wave; so similarly, can a little dream change your life?

This single dream gives rise to a little revolution, stirring up the quiet village, as it has never experienced before.

### APPLE

Short/Sri Lanka/15min. Director: Chamila Priyanka



### Synopsis

### Chamila Priyanka

A man's electronic tab is lost. But it is later found by an app of the same tab. The app also indicated the thief who stole the tab, and later the thief is found by the police. After the police releases the thief, he is then chased by a white van. Chamila Priyanka is a Sri Lankan movie maker who has experience in Theater and Scripted and directed "Meya Thuwakkuwak Nove" (This is not a Gun).

He is interested in Interactive Theatre for Cultural & Social Awareness and scripted and directed a play to raise awareness on Legal Aid Facilities on behalf of Legal Aid Commission in Sri Lanka funded by USAID in 2014 and directed a series of theatre performances, performed in several locations across the island to sensitize local communities on issues of Violence against Women. The programme was implemented on behalf of Legal Aid Commission in Sri Lanka in 2013.

Chamila Priyanka has directed and scripted a short video documentary film on issues and rights of people affected by mega-development projects and land-grabs in Hambantota District.

He is currently in the post-production phase of a short fiction film on the theme of 'Coexistence and Reconciliation 'supported by Youth Create and Agenda 14. The film was selected for a film grant at a recently held production pitch.

# LIVING WITHOUT



Eranda Mahagamage, Sajani Shanika and Dulanjalee Balage

They are working at the University of Colombo as final year students . This is their joint venture film production. Sripalee Campus, Faculty of Performing Arts, 2015 Final Year Production. Short/Sri Lanka/28min. Director: Eranda Mahagamage, Sajani Shanika and Dulanjalee Balage

### **Synopsis**

Human life and on the water cannot abandon a relationship. The inverse is to bring under control the water by man. It is culturally, politically, economically happen. End of human life to colonize the net market conditions. Now contrast the relationship between water and human life. Religion protect the monk forgotten man A man who believes in the politics, The struggle to protect human life dedicated to the end of the water. Net property and political future of water bodies?





**Andrey Vasilenko** 

Curator, critic, programmer of Vladivostok International Film Festival.

Since 2008 he has worked as a member of the selection committee and curator of special programs for Valdivostok International Film Festival "Pacific Meridian". Throughout this period he prepared a few programs dedicated experimental films, video and documentary pieces. In 2011 he organized a large-scale project titled "10 Thesis of Architecture" focusing on cinematic representation of social and political dimension of architectural practice and urbanism as a whole. In 2014, for the offical program 'Pacific Meridian', a full retrospective of acclaimed Chinese Filmmaker Wang Bing was curated by Andrey Vasilinko.

Andrey is a contributor of the most influential Russian magazine "Iskusstvo Kino" (The Art of Cinema) which elucidated current issues of cinema theory and published analytical reviews dedicated to the most interesting new films.

### MEET THE JURY MEMBERS



**Fabienne Aguado** 

Artistic director, story editor

Fabienne Aguado holds a Master Degree in Film Studies (thesis about Jacques Tati) and a postgraduate diploma in Sociology (Cultural policies - socio-economic issues).

In 1998, she helped founding the Centre for Cinematographic Scripts (CÉCI) and has been managing it for the past ten years. The CÉCI holds its offices at the Moulin d'Andé, a cultural association of international reputation located in Normandy (France) where artists have found support and inspiration over the last fifty years. It provides a permanent program for film screenwriting which supports independent projects and bridges talents with partners [www. moulinande.com]

Fabienne Aguado is a talent scout, reader, adviser on the development process and script consultant, as well as a regular member of juries at international festivals and forums.

### MEET THE JURY MEMBERS



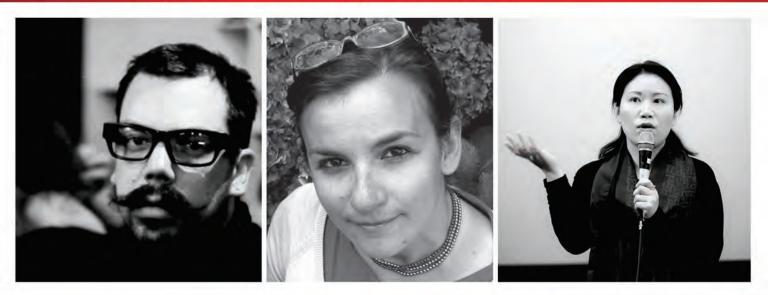
Jinna Lee

Jinna Lee, is the Programmer at the Busan International Short Film Festival (BISFF) from 2014, She holds a MA degree in Film Studies from the Hanyang University in Seoul, and finshed her PHD in Film studies at the same university. Before joining BISFF, she has worked at Jeonju International Music and Film Festival, and DMZ International Documentary Film Festival since 2005. Furthermore, she serves as a juror for the Konju National University Film Festival (2013-2015), and is currently working as an adviser for small festivals in Korea and lecturing at other universities.

### MEET THE JURY MEMBERS

# TABBERS OF CONTRACTOR OF CONTR

### **3rd** June at 10:30AM - 12:30PM at Russian Cultural Centre in Colombo 07



Conducted by Andrei Vasilenko from Russia Fabienne Aguado from France Jinna Lee from South Korea Organised by SAARC Cultural Centre, Sri lanka in collaboration with Sri Lanka Foundation Digital Film Academy



Limited number of seats and first come first serve basis.

### SAARC FILM FESTIVAL 2015 -AWARDS

#### SPECIAL JURY CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR NEW TALENT

Nayani Chandrasinghe - 'Dreams, Weavers And Viewers' (Sri Lanka)

#### **BEST DIRECTOR**

Rabin Chandrasiri – 'Patibhana' (Sri Lanka)

### BEST ACTOR

Dulal Sarkar - 'Chotoder Chobi' (India)

#### **BEST ACTRESS**

Farzana Nawabi – 'Mina Walking' (Afghanistan)

#### **BEST SHORT FILM**

'Love? Lust? Life?' Nepal – Utpal Jha for "its transcending evocation of poetic reality - both sensual and philosophical"

### **BEST FEATURE FILM BRONZE MEDAL**

'Insaanaa' Maldives – Ali Seaxan for "its experimental attempt to capture audience interest through genre and social problems"

#### **BEST FEATURE FILM SILVER MEDAL**

'Mrittika Maya' Bangladesh – Gazi Rakayet for "its careful references to cultural tradition and its strong position in humanitarian values"

#### **BEST FEATURE FILM TROPHY**

'Motor Bicycle' Sri Lanka – Shameera Rangana Naotunna for "being both social and entertaining while pointing to the harsh reality of urban life and the lost hopes of the youth"

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### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE SAARC FILM FESTIVAL 2016



### Dhanushka Gunathilake -Consultant

Dhanushka Gunathilake has a strong background in film as a director, producer, cinematographer and 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 Rupavahini Corporation.

Dhanushka has worked as a cinematographer in the critically acclaimed film "Thanha Rathi Ranga" for which he received the best cinematography awards in Derana Film Awards as well as OCIC Film awards in 2015. He was also 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 UNIVOTECH.

Dhanushka also designed and coordinates the Higher National Diploma in Film and Television at Sri Lanka Foundation Digital Film Academy, where he works as a senior lecturer.

He is also the curator of the Colombo International Student Film Festival (COINS Film Fest), and a committee member of the International Film Festival of Colombo (IFFCOLOMBO).

### **Organizing Committee**

Chairperson - Mr Wasanthe Kotuwella - Director, SAARC Cultural Centre Mr Dhanushka Gunathileke - Consultant, Organizing Committee Ms Soundarie David Rodrigo - Deputy Director, SAARC Cultural Centre Mr Karma Tshering Wangchuk - Programme Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre Mr Keerthi Gunathileke - Administrative Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre Mr Ishan Amaraweera - IT Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre Mr Kalum Bandara - Finance Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre Mr Mahinda Sumanasekara - Documentation Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre

#### **Special Thanks**

SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu. High Commissions and Embassies of the SAARC Member States Prof. Kapila Gunasekara, Chairman, Sri Lanka Foundation Digital Academy Deepal Chandraratne, Chairman, National Film Corporation Our Chief Guest for the Award Ceremony: Hon. Minister S.B. Nawinne, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development & Cultural Affairs, Sri Lanka All Distinguished guests All Print and Electronic Media

All Volunteers

#### **Concept and Design Layout**

Mr. Ishan Amaraweera - IT Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre

### Printing

Neo Graphics, Nugegoda

#### Published by

SAARC Cultural Centre 224, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 Sri Lanka

### Disclaimer

This Brochure contains information received from the respective Participants up to the date of submission for printing on 27.05.2016. The SAARC Cultural Centre does not bear any liability for the information contained in the bio notes.

### SCREENING SCHEDULE



6.30 pm naugural film - Feature Film Masaan (Adults only) (India/109min) Directed by Neeraj Ghaywan

### JUNE THU

SAARC Film Festival 2016

#### 3.30 pm Short film - Open Category City of Dust (Afghanistan/13min) Directed by Mohammad Jami Jala SAARC Film Festival 2016 SAARC Film Festival 2016



#### 10.30 am Master Class with the Film Experts at Russian Cultural Centre



#### 6.30 pm Feature film Ho Gaana Pokuna (Sri Lanka/2014/120min) Directed by Indika Fernando 🐞 SAARC Film Festival 2016 🛛 SAARC Film Festival 2016 🍘 SAARC Film Festival 2016 🖉 SAARC Film Festival 2016 🖉 SAARC Film Festival 2016



SAARC Film Festival 2016

#### 10.00 am Short film Apple (Sri Lanka/15min) Directed by Chamila Priyanka

3.30 pm Short film Living Without Life (Sri Lanka/28min) Directed by Eranda Mahagamage, Sajani Dulanjalee

#### 6.30 pm

#### Feature Film Cinemawala (India/105min) Directed by Kaushik Ganguly

### JUNE SAT

10.00 am Short Film - Open Category O Apara Kala (A dream of Apara) (India/ 24min) Directed by Abha Naktode

4.30 pm Feature film The Cup (Bhutan/1hr 31min) Directed by Dzongsar Norbu

#### 🤹 SAARC Him Feetival 2016 🐞 SAARC Him Feetival 2016 🐞 SAARC Him Feetival 2016 🍓 SAARC Him Feetival 2016 4.00 pm

#### Feature film - Open Category Jala s Story (Bangladesh/2014/109min) Directed by Abu Shahod Emon

3.30 pm Short film Goonga Pehewan (India/45min) Directed by Mit Jani, Prateek, Gupta, Vivek Chaudhury

### 6.30 pm

Feature film Travellers and Magicians (Bhutan/2014/85min) Directed by Dzongzar Norbu 🥶 SAARC Film Festival 2016 🛛 🦉 SAARC Film Festival 2016 🛛 🦉 SAARC Film Festival 2016 👘 SAARC Film Festival 2016

#### 4.30 pm

Feature film Mikoe Bappa Baey Baey (Maldives/2014/93min) Directed by Ravee Faroog

### 10.30 am

Feature film - Open Category An Apple from Paradise (Afghanistan/85min) Directed by Homayun Morowat

### 4.30 pm Short Film - Open Category

K2 and the invisible Footman (Pakistan/ 59min) Directed by Lara Lee/Jawad Sharif

#### 1.15 pm

Feature Film Nekabbarer Mahaproyan (Bangladesh/116min) **Directed by Masud Pathik** 

#### 6.00 pm Short film

Effas (Maldives/25min) **Directed by Ravee Farooq** 

#### 10.30 am Feature film Asham (Maldives/ 2 hrs 16min) Directed by Ali Seezan

😂 SAARC Film Feetival 2016 🛛 SAARC Film Feetival 2016 🚳 SAARC Film Feetival 2016 🏐 SAARC Film Feetival 2016

6.30 pm Feature film Boradiya Pokuna (Adults only) (Sri Lanka /101min) Directed by Sathyajith Maitipe

### 3.00 pm Short film Benegal's New Cinema

(India/58min) Directed by ram Ghufran

Some of the Films Screened may contain Adult Content, Parental Guidance Advised

www.saarcculture.org