

OUR HOME



A FILM BY ROMI MEITEI

Director's Statement

Globalisation cannot be interrupted by anyone and is renewing itself everyday. But advancement and growth in the name of globalisation does rise a concern in our minds if this is harming mother nature and affecting our habitats? Development induced displacement has impacted many levels of community based society like ours. The kith and kin of displaced communities that once co-existed with nature for their livelihood are now faced with a big dilemma and left wandering like flocks of birds migrating for their survival and identities.

The sight of this unstable livelihood is overwhelming and I, as a human, would wish that development of any kind would have the sensibility to protect the essence of communities and co-exist sustainably with natural habitats.



Logline :

Chaoren, an eleven year old boy from a fishing community fights odds of life by swimming across the Loktak lake with an undaunting spirit to excel in his school.

Synopsis :

Belonging to an isolated fishing community in Loktak lake, Chaoren makes the best use of his exclusive existence by excelling in school. When the canoe he uses every day to attend school has to be sold off because of his father's illness, his spirit is not dampened. He beats the long distance from his shanty floating hut to school by swimming his way through. But when the Government issues an eviction notice demanding Chaoren's family to leave their home, his dreams are left with an angst of a displaced person.

About the Director :

Romi Meitei is an aspiring award winning filmmaker who has also churned out box office to his credit contributing considerably to the growth of digital cinema in Manipur. His films have been screened in prestigious film festivals including IFFI (Indian Panorama), MIFF and others.

He is the chairman of Mami Thawan Foundation which aims to render services for the welfare of Manipur.



About the Film:

It was in 2001 when the director of this film tried to create a film named "Mushi Mushi" that was based on the fishing community that dwells on the floating marshy grasslands (phumdi) of Loktak Lake, which is the largest freshwater lake in North-eastern India. However, it wasn't able to be produced as a film. He debated with another film which was a female-oriented one.

Time passed and an eerie crisis broke out in 2011 when the Government declared that the fishermen community must be displaced from their floating village and that created a weird dilemma for them. It was at this time when the director of this film began to write the script, 'Eikhoigi Yum' (Our home). Fortunately, this specific script was nominated in a workshop called Green screen lab 2012.

As there was a lack of financier at that time, this script remained as a tale on paper.

After a decade (2021) this script has been brought to life under the director's home production taking financial support from his aunt and mother.

Shooting a film in the middle of a big waterbody wasn't an easy task and still the shot was carried out on the floating Hut with limited sources of battery (LED lights, camera etc) as electric power was scarce, making the situation even more challenging.

After the shooting was done for the day, the team used to head back home from the location rowing the boat in the dark which was quite uneasy and on top of that, there were times when heavy rainfall would make it tougher for the team to protect the equipment from getting wet.

During the shoots, the fishermen community spared time from their busy chores, cooking food for the team. The whole team shall ever remain grateful for their kind hospitality throughout the shoots. Keeping up far away from the noisy city at times made the artiste and crew of the film forget to return homes, as they blended so well with the quiet and soothing settings of the location. Indeed, we have become much disconnected from nature these days.



CAST & CREDIT

Master Priyjit, Bhumesore, Nganthoibi, Sori Senjam, Rajen

Production design: Demba, Lights: Lilyson Khuman,
Location Sound Recording: Debajit Gayan & Nayan Bhuyan
Editor: Johni Meitei, Sound Designer: Debajit Gayan
Cinematographer: Kangabam Bikram, Johni Meitei,
Colorist: Prashant Sharma, Producers: Romi Meitei, Sheetal Chingsu
Story/Screenplay/Direction: Romi Meitei

Production House:

Thangarakpa Living Frames

Presented by: Anticlock Films and Mayum Media & Communications

for-FAQ

The film was shot only by 7 (Seven) crew members.

The film shooting began after a decade of writing the script.

Actors of this film are all non-professional except for the one who played the role of the father.

The team completed the shooting of this film in 9 (nine) working days.

During the shoots, the team often had fish curry with fish caught fresh from the Loktak lake.

The sound crew strived hard to the spicy food of the community.

The film was shot using Sony FX-6 with CP2 lenses.

