

IMAGINEINDIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

XXV EDITION

2026
MADRID

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Imagine India
International Film
Festival

XXV Edition
01 - 16 Sept
Madrid, Spain



imagineindiafestival.com

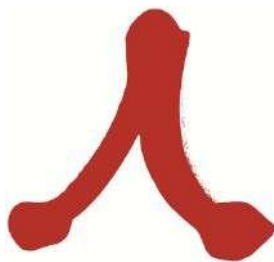


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JURY



SAMANTHA LANG

Australia - Chairwoman

Samantha Lang is a filmmaker and visual artist who directs, produces and writes. Over the last twenty years her films have screened at major international festivals including Sundance, Toronto, Locarno, and have received international recognition at the highest level, her film 'The Well' competing at the Cannes Film Festival for the prestigious Palme D'Or. She has directed across feature films, TV drama, as well as commercials and most recently several VR films.

HANNA POLAK

Poland



Hanna Polak (born 1967) is a Polish director, cinematographer and producer. For her short documentary film, The Children of Leningradsky, about a community of homeless children living in the Leningradsky railway station in Moscow, she was nominated for an Academy Award and an Emmy Award. In 2003, she was awarded Best Producer of Documentary Movies at the Kraków Film Festival for Railway Station Ballad.



EULALIA RAMÓN ESTRACH

Spain

Eulàlia Ramon is an actress, photographer and film director.

Currently, she is immersed in various projects, highlighting her work as a director. In 2023, she directed her first short film, *Divine Accounts*, written by María Zaragoza, which has achieved more than 30 festival selections and a nomination for the Goya Awards in the category of best fiction short film. In 2024, she will present *Agonía*, her second fiction short film, which will premiere at the Closing of the International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia.

MARÍA ZARAGOZA

Spain



She wrote *Divine Accounts* (dir. Eulàlia Ramon, produced *Atrece Creaciones*, a short film that closed the Sitges International Festival in 2022 and which has been nominated for the 38th Goya Awards in the category of best fiction short film. This short film continues his successful journey through national and international festivals, having already participated in some as important as the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFFF) or the Imagineindia International Film Festival.



SUSANA FIALHO MOTA

Spain

Susana Fialho Mota, born in Lugo (Galicia) of Portuguese origin. She trained as an actress at the Colegi del Teatre (Barcelona) and at the William Layton Theater Laboratory (Madrid). She began working in Theater when she was only 16 years old and at 18 he formally enrolled in these two Dramatic Arts schools, which are among the most important and prestigious in Spain. Upon finishing her studies she began to work in TV series and in Theater at the same time that she debuted in Cinema with Albert Boadella, a renowned theater director who was carrying out a daring cinematographic project with his theater group (Els Lloglars). Shortly after, she would work again with another well-known director, Sigfrid Monleòn, in a film about the poet and writer Jaime Gil de Biedma.

SHOMA CHATTERJI

India



Shoma A. Chatterji is an Indian film scholar, author and freelance journalist. She has been the recipient of a number of awards. She is the author of several biographies including those on Pramathesh Barua, Ritwik Ghatak and Suchitra Sen.

She has won two National Awards —for 'Best Film Critic', in 1991 and for 'Best Book on Cinema', in 2002. She won the Bengal Film Journalists Association's 'Best Critic Award' in 1998 and the 'Bharat Nirman Award' for excellence in journalism in 2004. In 2009-2010, she won a Special Award for 'consistent writing on women's issues' from UNFPA-Laadli Media Awards (Eastern region). In 2010, she was bestowed the 'Kalyan Kumar Mitra Award', for her remarkable work in film scholarship and contribution as film critic.



FÉLIX SABROSO

Spain

Screenwriter and Spanish film director, Felix Sabroso Cruz is known for his work for several television networks, as well as for the feature films directed along with the screenwriter and director, Dunia Ayaso.



KIM LONGINOTTO

Great Britain

Kim Longinotto (born 1952) is a British documentary filmmaker, well known for making films that highlight the plight of female victims of oppression or discrimination. Longinotto studied camera and directing at the National Film and Television School in Beaconsfield, England, where she now tutors occasionally.

Longinotto went on to Essex University to study English and European literature and later followed friend and future filmmaker, Nick Broomfield to the National Film and Television School. While studying, she made a documentary about her boarding school that was shown at the London Film Festival, since when she has continued to be a prolific documentary filmmaker.

She has received a number of awards for her films over the years, including a BAFTA for her documentary PINK SARIS.

SEPIDEH ABDOLVAHAB

Iran



Sepideh Abdolvahab is a prominent film editor from Iran. She has edited more than 70 feature films, short film and TV shows since the beginning of her career in 2002. Her films have screened in festivals around the world.

Sepideh started her journey as an assistant editor to her mother, the world-renowned Iranian editor Hayedeh Safiyari. Soon after she was hired to edit her first feature film, *Friday Evening*, by Mona Zandi Haghighi. The film earned her the first of 7 nominations and 2 wins for Best Editing at Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran. Sepideh has a history of working with auteurist Iranian filmmakers and edited more than 70 feature films, short films and TV shows. She has also served as a juror on several film festivals. Her recent teaching experiences include Asghar Farhadi's film workshops.

POOJA GUPTA

India



Pooja Gupta studied cinematography from Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata, India. Pooja was selected as an Indian cinematographer in Berlinale Talent Campus 2012, Germany. She was also invited to present her work in Stuttgart, Germany as part of series Making of Indian Cinema at Stuttgart-Indian Film Festival 2019. Pooja has recently become a member of Imago's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Her first feature film as a Director of Photography "Crossing Bridges" won at 61st National award as best Sherdupen film which she also had produced under her production house Easel Films. She was awarded Best Cinematography for feature film "Rukh" in 5th AIFF 2018. Pooja was awarded best cinematography for the short film "Water Demon" at Feel the Reel International Film Festival 2021 Glasgow UK. Pooja is also a very active member of IWCC.



MUSKA STANAKZAI

Canada

Born in Afghanistan and raised in Canada, Muska Stanakzai embodies the harmony between two worlds — one rooted in resilience and tradition, and the other in freedom and possibility. Growing up in Canada, Muska recognized her privilege early on and felt a deep sense of responsibility toward her Afghan roots. She has since dedicated her life to bridging cultures, amplifying Afghan voices, and creating understanding between communities.

As a prominent member of the International Film Festival of South Asia (IFFSA), Muska played a pivotal role in curating and promoting South Asian cinema, with a special focus on Afghan films. Her work introduced powerful Afghan stories to Canadian audiences, allowing people to see Afghanistan through art, emotion, and humanity rather than headlines.

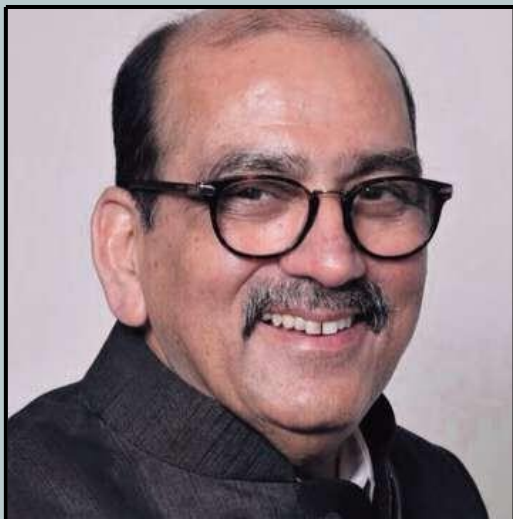
MANAS BHATTACHARYYA

India



A distinguished alumnus of the SRFTI Cinematography department, class of 2006, Manas Bhattacharyya not only topped his class but also received multiple scholarships — a testament to his extraordinary talent.

His journey in the Bollywood industry began as an Assistant Cinematographer, contributing to notable films such as Laga Chunari Mein Daag (YRF), Antardwand (YRF), and Aamir (UTV). During this time, he gained valuable experience working with renowned cinematographers such as K. U. Mohanan, Alphonse Roy, and Sushil Rajpal.



LALIT MOHAN JOSHI

India

Lalit Mohan Joshi is a film historian, documentary filmmaker, critic, former BBC journalist and founder Director, South Asian Cinema Foundation (SACF), a not-for-profit film education organisation aimed at highlighting meaningful cinema from South Asia in London.

SACF has been working in collaboration with UK's British Film Institute, various universities and the Nehru Centre in London to organise film festivals, film workshops and exhibitions and also hosts the Dadasaheb Phalke Memorial lecture on cinema.

He was the first to invite and introduce to London audiences a number of outstanding (but less well known filmmakers in the West) like MS Sathyu, Saeed Akhtar Mirza, Shyam Benegal, Girish Kasaravalli and Vishal Bhardwaj.

OLGA KHLASHEVA

Kazakhstan



Since 1997 has worked in film industry: at Kazakhfilm Studios JSC (as head of international relations / promotion of Kazakh films), at Eurasia International Film festival (since its creation in 1998) and as film producer (including international promotion of full-length features by Adilkhan Yerzhanov, e.g. his recent film "The gentle indifference of the world" premiered at Un Certain Regard/Cannes IFF-2018).

APSA Academy Member (Best Producer Nomination for the films "Owners" and "The gentle indifference of the world" by Adilkhan Yerzhanov, in 2014 and 2018 respectively).



DANIELA CREUTZ

Germany

Born in Munich, she moved to New York in 1995, where she completed a two-year postgraduate course (Direction) at the University of New York. Then she founded her own production company “Blue Circe Filmproduction LLC”. Initially she worked for broadcasters such as ABC Networks and CBS Studios, but then produced independent film projects: commercials, image films, short films and documentaries. The development and creative realization, as well as the technical realization of different cinematographic projects, from research, script and writing to filming and final postproduction. Daniela has been a member of WGA-Writer’s Guild since 2000.



ANJALI MONTEIRO

India

Anjali Monteiro is a Professor at the School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology, a Masters degree in Economics and a Ph.D. in Sociology. She is involved in documentary production, media teaching and research. She teaches courses in documentary and video production as well as theoretical approaches to image making practices and has done pioneering and innovative work in critical media education with various groups including activists, school and college students, parents and teachers.



LEENA ALAM

Afghanistan

Leena Alam (born in Kabul, Afghanistan) is an award-winning Afghan film, TV and theater actress who has appeared in films such as *Kabuli Kid*, *Loori*, *A Letter to the President* and “Hassan”. She has also been known as Shereen of Afghanistan after playing in the taboo-smashing feminist TV drama, *Shereen*, the first of its kind to have been made in Afghanistan, directed by Ghafar Azad and produced by Kaboora and Tolo TV.

In 1989, Alam and her family moved to America because of the civil war in her homeland. She began her acting and cinema career in 1998.

RIDHIMA MEHRA

India



Ridhima Mehra is Co-Founder and Director of Rough Edges, which enables, mentors and produces feminist and queer documentary films, foregrounding the distinct voices of women, trans and queer artists. She draws on almost two decades of experiences at the Public Service Broadcasting Trust, India’s largest documentary body, co-leading the commissioning, creative realisation, curation and outreach of close to 700 films, diverse in artistic form, subject and authorship. These films have had - 2000 festival selections, 350 awards, thirty national film awards, screenings and honours at Berlinale, Rotterdam, Oberhausen, Yamagata and Busan, among others, and continue to be used extensively across local and domestic contexts. She co-directed the annual Open Frame Film Festival, curating films, conversations, installations and trainings for fourteen editions. Over the last five years, she has also been involved with commissioning and mentoring projects across multiple media on gender, from writing, performances and graphic narratives to mixed media works, podcasts and installations.



KIM DO KYUNG

Korea

Born in Seoul, South Korea. MFA in film directing the graduate school of Advance Imaging Science, Multimedia & Film at Chung-Ang University, Seoul, South Korea. Director of the films Love is professional, Be My Guest, The First Day of Snow, Persona. Screenplay for the films L'amour, The Storyteller, The Pen name, and producer of Cheoyongmoo.



ANA VICO

Spain

Ana Vico was born in Huelma, Andalucía (Spain). At 18, she moved to Madrid to study Audiovisual Communication at the Complutense University. Very interested in intimate cinema, she shot a couple of short films of this style with her group of friends from college, both with a very limited budget. After finishing her degree, she began the Directing Diploma at ECAM. "Un amor" is her short film from Diploma Graduation, which was selected at this festival, Imagine India International Film Festival. After finishing Film School, she began working on directing and editing documentaries with archival images. She continues at it and, at the same time is in charge of the script and direction of a documentary about how certain people in a town in Jaén (Andalucía) experience a traditional festival there, scheduled to be filmed in April 2025. Likewise, she participates in the Imagine India festival as jury in the international short films section.

MEHDI RAHMANI

Iran



Iranian director and producer who was born in 1979. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Iranian Cinema and Broadcasting university-Tehran as a director and made 18 short films and documentaries.

He started to make feature film from 2009 and made 4 feature films as a director and produced 3 feature films and participated in many film festivals around the world and won prizes such as Best Children Feature Film in Asia Pacific Awards, Best Film in Avanca Film Festival, Jury prize in IBBAF Film Festival, Best documentary in Noor Film Festival and many more.

SOUGATA BHATTACHARYYA

India



Writer and filmmaker, is a postgraduate in Film Studies from Jadavpur University. He did academic research on studio system of Bengali Cinema, more specifically, 100 years of Aurora Studio, supported by SARAI, CSDS, New Delhi. He is the writer of several research articles and also a story book titled 'Sahanagarik'. At present he is the Film Research Officer of Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata. He is the editor of one annual research journal 'SRFTI Taake One'. He produced several television programme from 1998 to 2003 and then nonfictions for NGOs. His documentary 'Trash' (2013) won best film, NETPAC Jury award in 13 ISIFF, Dhaka and also won 'Special Jury' mention in 7th IDSFFK. His recent film 'An Iconic Genius's' (2018) won best science film in 16IFF, Jaipur.



ANDRÉS DE LA TORRE

Spain

Born and raised in Madrid, Andres started his career as a video editor in one of the leading production companies in Spain, MediaPro. His true passion, though, was always to compose music for film. His first feature as a composer, “Going Nuts” (2006), had a theatrical release and was the first film in the world to feature peanuts as the main characters. The score earned Andres national recognition with the Ateneo Coste Cero Award in 2008 for Best Soundtrack. Shortly after, Andres wrote the music for the Spanish-North American co-production “Disney: Through the Looking Glass” (2010), a score that earned him his first Jerry Goldsmith Award after 5 years of consecutive nominations.

ALBERTO LUCHINI SOLANO

Spain



Alberto Luchini (Madrid, 1968) is Editor-in-Chief of the *Metrópoli* magazine and the *metrópoli.com* website, as well as director of the *Metrópoli Comer y Beber* Guide in Madrid. For more than 25 years, he has been a film critic. He has been an organizer and / or jury at various festivals.

He is a member of the European Film Academy and in 2014 he received the National Gastronomy Award for Best Journalistic Work.

ÓSCAR SÁNCHEZ

Spain



He studied Higher Production Technician at CEV in 1998. Later he worked as editor for Antena 3 news programs and also as Mediaset editor for Tele5 news programs and as Production Assistant at Videozapping production company, in the Mundo Mundial program for Vía Digital.

He giving classes in Film and Video Production, ENG Camera, Television Set, editing in Avid and Premiere... up to end 2025. At this stage he participates as Assistant Director in short films. Since 2013, he has directed the Audiovisual Association Next Project, which carries out a multitude of non-profit projects, with the direct participation of students and former students of the school, such as spots, video clips, reports or short films. Some of his works are short such as Sola, Vuelve, Recuerdos para mi padre, or Abatido. His short films have participated in many festivals.

HASSAN FAZILI

Afghanistan



Hassan Fazili is an award-winning Afghan filmmaker who has developed theater plays, documentaries, short films, and several popular television series in Afghanistan and abroad.

At the 2019 Sundance Film Festival, he premiered his acclaimed feature documentary “Midnight Traveler”, which won a Special Jury Award. The film has screened at over 100 festivals worldwide — including the Emmy, Berlinale, Sheffield, HotDocs, IDFA, and Yamagata — and has received more than 30 international awards.

SUNITI MARÍA JURADO

Spain



María Jurado is a Spanish actress with a solid international career in film, television and theater. She has worked with directors such as Abel Ferrara, Daniele Vicari, Miguel Littin and Cédric Kahn, participating in films selected at festivals such as Cannes, Berlin, Rome, Sitges, Málaga and Miami. On television she has appeared in numerous prime time series in Spain and France, and in theater she has worked under the direction of Jack Garfein at the Actor's Studio in Paris.

Trained between Madrid, Paris, Los Angeles and New York - with teachers such as JC Corazza, Susan Batson and Eric Morris - she speaks English, French and Italian. And has written, directed and produced the short film *Del Retiro a Sol*, selected at the ImagineIndia Festival, and has more than 19 films and 7 series in her career.

RUBÉN SÁNCHEZ TRIGOS

Spain



Rubén Sánchez Trigos (Fuenlabrada, Madrid), doctor in Audiovisual Communication with a thesis on the living dead in Spanish fiction, has published the novels *The Guests* (2008), Finalist for the Drakul Prize for Novels, *Bajo el Barro* (Planeta, 2020), *La noche de Venus* (Dolmen/Plan B, 2024), finalist for the Celsius Prize at the Semana Negra in Gijón 2025 and for the Kelvin Prize at the Celsius Festival for Best Novel, and *Come back to me* (Grijalbo, 2025). He is co-writer of the shorts *Cambio de turno* and *El intruso* (David Cánovas, 2005 and 2006), nominated for the Goya for Best Short Film, and screenwriter of *La luz* (Iago de Soto, 2021), Best Short Film at Screampfest in Los Angeles, Syfy Award for Best Short, Audience Award at San Sebastián Fantasy and Horror Film Week, among 30 other international awards.

IGNA LÓPEZ VACAS

Spain

Director, screenwriter and film writer.

He is currently developing several projects and in full distribution of his new film, the Mexican *The Partner of Death*, released in Mexico in commercial theaters, winner of the Best Film Award at the León International Film Festival (Guanajuato) and presented internationally in Hollywood, at the Los Angeles Fantasy Fest. Among his most notable works are his short films *Videotortura*, *Asalto de Navidad* and the internationally awarded *#pornovenganza* or *Killer Brownie!*. His debut in the world of feature films was *The Nanny's Night*, filmed in English and which enjoyed a wide tour of international festivals and awards.

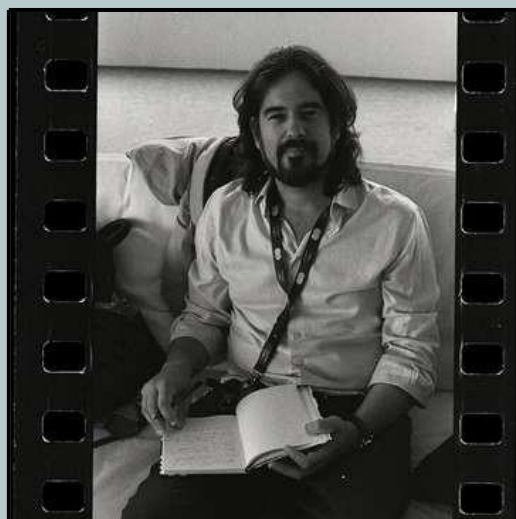
In addition, he is one of the owners of the Madrid independent and reference movie theater Artistic Metropol, author of two books *Manual de survival para cinéfilos* and *The last days of video club terror*.

ALEJO MORENO

Spain

Alejo Moreno represents one of the most unique voices on the contemporary Spanish audiovisual scene, which may be due to a kaleidoscopic personal training that is not limited to film production. Not in vain, for 18 years he was editor of the TVE 2 program “Días de cine” for which he was recruited by the legendary presenter Antonio Gasset and even went on to found and direct the curatorship of an art gallery in the heart of Madrid.

As a director, producer, screenwriter and editor, Alejo Moreno has demonstrated exceptional versatility in the world of fiction and documentary cinema. His work has enjoyed a strong impact both in specialized critics and in the political and social press. The media highlight their ability to address complex social issues from an unprecedented perspective.





KETAKI NARAYAN

India

Ketaki Narayan is an acclaimed multi-lingual actor, filmmaker, and creative practitioner whose career is defined by a deep-rooted commitment to independent cinema and the evocative power of short-form storytelling. With a diverse filmography spanning Malayalam, Marathi, Telugu, and Hindi cinema, Ketaki has established herself as a “craft-first” artist, moving seamlessly between high-profile features and avant-garde independent projects. Her notable works include *Veeram*, *Pune Highway*, *Yatra 2*, and the British-Indian feature *Footprints on Water*, alongside trending OTT series such as *Kaala Paani* (Netflix).

EVA DÍAZ IGLESIAS

Spain



Eva Díaz Iglesias is an outstanding DOP with a solid and extensive career in the audiovisual field since 1990. Her career covers film, television and documentaries, in projects of great artistic and industrial relevance, with some of the most recognized directors and directors of photography on the national and international scene.

Trained through solid technical experience, Eva Díaz has worked in 35 mm, Super 16, HD and digital, playing different roles -from assistant and camera assistant, to operator and director of photography - in productions directed by filmmakers such as Carlos Saura, Alejandro Amenábar, Vicente Aranda, Fernando Colomo...



MERCEDES CABRAL

Philippines

Mercedes Cabral was born on August 10, 1986 in Manila, Philippines. She graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, majoring in Sculpture. Mercedes was introduced in Brillante Ma. Mendoza's *Serbis*, which competed at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival. A year later she appeared in Mendoza's *Kinatay* and Park Chan-wook's *Thirst*; both films competed in Cannes.

FILMS

OFFICIAL SECTION

RAINDROPS ON A ROOF

Zhou Jiali

China. 2025. 106 min.



Single mother Shi'ning visits a 'spiritual salon' out of curiosity and joins a group activity that promises to erase the past. At first glance, only Shi'ning seems to be obsessively attached to the loss and trauma she, her three siblings, and her mother experienced. But in reality, everyday life is often harsh for her mother and younger brother Shi'an as well. Ordinary images, such as an orange sock hanging on the clothesline, a wardrobe where a child hides, a stripped mannequin, or an old sweater trigger painful reminders of both personal and historical trauma for this family. Zhou Jiali's feature debut *Raindrops on a Roof* suggests that what matters is not cutting out memories like burning photographs but bringing pain into the open and facing one another—much like the family working together to restore their mother's cheap, shrunken sweater.



Zhou Jiali holds a PhD in film studies. She is a Professor at China Academy of Art, director, writer, academic director of IDF (West Lake International Documentary Festival) and a published author in film theory. Her published monographs include "The Dual Dimensions of Becoming – On a Deleuzian Philosophy of Imagery", "Firefly Light – Pier Paolo Pasolini's Films and Poetry". Her film credits include *THE DRIFTING-AWAY SURROUNDINGS* (director), *BEYOND THE SKIES* (screenwriter), *VANISHING DAYS* (executive producer) and *RAINDROPS ON A ROOF* (director & screenwriter). Her films have been selected at Berlinale FF, Busan FF, Beijing FF, winning over ten international prizes.

Contact: larissawang@gmail.com

RIVERSTONE

Lalith Rathnayake

Sri Lanka. 2025. 120 min



There have been many instances where suspected underworld criminals have been killed while in police custody, ostensibly in shootouts while accompanying officers to show arms caches. It is widely held by the general public that while the rule of law has been severely compromised, the police have, on such occasions, acted arbitrarily and with disregard for due process.

It is not the police nor the particular officers but the particular governments that require such suspects to be eliminated. The police merely execute their wishes. For this, relevant officers are offered the carrot of possible promotions. This film discusses the thoughts and concerns of three officers as they travel together to a destination marked for the assassination of a suspect with whom they have no quarrel whatsoever.



Lalith Rathnayake (born in 1972) is a national and international award-winning Sri Lankan director as well as script writer in movies and TV mini-series. He has been practicing his craft in Sri Lanka for 26 years. With a wealth of experience under his belt, he has acquired an all-around knowledge of the different styles of media that are in use today and is able to utilize his directing talents to the needs of these different mediums. He cut his teeth in drama with the school stage and used to work as an assistant director for movies and tele-dramas for 10 years in his career. After many years with experiences, as a director, Lalith Rathnayake gave touches to his debut movie titled 'The Other Half' which was completed in 2019 and won more than 50 international awards. The movie 'The Other Half' plot is focused on the meaning and values of education and multivalence of the phenomenon.

Contact: ulkfilmspvt@gmail.com

KY NAM INN

Leon Le

Vietnam. 2025. 140 min



Ten years after the war, Saigon is still in the midst of reconstruction. Widowed Ky Nam runs a small restaurant in a communal housing complex, where residents share a central courtyard and know every detail of each other's lives. She has adopted and is raising Su, a French-Vietnamese mixed-race child. One day, Khang, a young man translating Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince* into Vietnamese, moves into the unit upstairs. With his privileged background and natural charm, it is only natural that he draws the attention of those around him. Yet from the very first day, Khang finds himself gradually drawn to Ky Nam, who once saved him from a crisis. The highlight of this film, which evokes the tenderness of a romantic watercolor painting, is the late sequence in which the two walk through the streets of Saigon all night, enacting a dreamlike farewell ritual. Carried along by the young man's narration, the scene leaves their shared story suspended in an eternal present.



Leon Le is a director with a background in dance, singing, and acting, who works between New York and Ho Chi Minh City. His short films *Dawn* (2012) and *Talking to My Mother* (2014) were invited to over 100 film festivals worldwide. His feature debut *Song Lang* (2018) won more than 50 awards, including the Tokyo Gemstone Award at the Tokyo International Film Festival and Best Narrative Feature at the Seattle Queer Film Festival. *Ky Nam Inn* is his second feature film.

Contact: kynaminn@gmail.com

SUMMER'S CAMERA

Divine Sung

South Korea. 2025. 83 min



After her father passed away, Summer stopped taking photos.

One day, she falls for Yeonwoo, the school's soccer star, and takes her picture with her late father's camera. When she develops the film, she finds mysterious photos of her father's high school lover. In these photos, Summer uncovers a secret about her father. Will she be able to pursue her first love and uncover her father's hidden truth?



Divine Sung is a Seoul-based filmmaker with an MFA in Film Directing from Korea National University of Arts. Her short films include TRUE STORY (2019) and MY BOYFRIEND AND OUR YESTERDAY (2022). SUMMER'S CAMERA is her first feature film.

Contact: urdivinefactory@gmail.com

THE LAST SUMMER

Renfei Shi

China. 2025. 90 min



Days before China's life-defining College Entrance Exams, top student Li Zhizhi's world fractures when she sees her father with a pregnant woman. In shock, she accidentally knocks an ashtray off the balcony, striking a five-year-old girl playing downstairs. Caught between the victim's grieving family and her parents' crushing expectations, Zhizhi buries her guilt—along with her anger at what she believes is her father's betrayal. But the truth cuts deeper.



RENFEI SHI is an independent film writer and director, graduated from the University of Bristol and the Shanghai Film Academy. Currently, her 'Female Tetralogy' film projects are underway.

Contact: renfei.shi@hotmail.com

THE MURALIST

Sengedorj Janchivdorj

Mongolia. 2025. 116 min



Baya, a weather-worn muralist who spent his glory years in Europe, has drifted back to Ulaanbaatar with nothing but a rickety rooftop tent, a box of fading paints and Dolingor, the stray that shadows his every step. Each dawn he rappels down an abandoned Soviet-era factory wall, splashing mythic Mongolian landscapes across the crumbling concrete while a sardonic red balloon—equal parts conscience and comic Greek chorus—floats overhead.

When city officials announce the site will be bulldozed for a turkey farm, Baya digs in, certain this mural will be his life's summa. His only allies are Tömö, a curious herder boy who's never owned a crayon, and Kazu, a Japanese photo-journalist whose lens turns Baya's anonymity into sudden global intrigue. Their fragile coalition clashes with bureaucrats and developers, but the deeper fight is inside Baya: a decades-old guilt over the wife and daughter he abandoned for art.



Sengedorj Janchivdorj (1976) is a Mongolian filmmaker who studied directing at the "Bers" College of Media and Cinematic Arts. From 2000 to 2003, he was the director of the Film Institute at the National Youth Theatre. After his debut a feature film in 1998, he directed a twenty-episode television series and several feature films. He is also a theatre director. Since 2018, he has been a board member of the Mongolian Film Industry Association. In 2023, his film "Sales Girl" won the Audience Award at the Tartu Love Film Festival Tartuff and in 2024 his "Silent City Driver" won the PÖFF Grand Prix.

Contact: javkhlan.mail@gmail.com

PORSHI

Chandrasish Ray

India. 2025. 100 min



Like any other metropolitan city, Kolkata is a mix of diverse people. Bappa works as a supervisor in a movers-and-packers company owned by Ratan, his boss, who is almost torment personified. Bappa's girlfriend, Monika, is running around the city in pursuit of a government job she has already cleared but has not yet received the offer letter for. Choto, a 22-year-old truck driver working under Bappa, is a village boy struggling to discover his own sense of right and wrong amid the bustle of this grey city. Siuli is a homemaker, raising two children and dealing with a drunken husband, never having imagined that her life would be trapped within the claustrophobia of four walls.

We are all neighbours – Porshi (in Bengali) – to one another in some way or the other. We never know when we cross paths with a neighbour whose face we may not even recognize. Porshi (Neighbours, in English) is a palette of independent colours who never realized that, together, they could form a rainbow.



DeChandrasish Ray made his directorial debut with *Nirontor* (The Prologue) – a film he also wrote. His acclaimed short film *Dugga* (2017) received recognition at various Indian festivals and was selected for the Indian Panorama (Non-Feature) section at IFFI, Goa. His second feature film, *Porshi*, was awarded Best Film in the Bengali Panorama Competition at KIFF (2025). His first web series, *Jaha Bolibo Sotyo Bolibo*, is currently streaming on the OTT platform Hoichoi. His third feature film, *Vijaynagarer Heerey*, a Kakababu-Shontu adventure based on a story by the late Sunil Gangopadhyay, was released on January of this year.

Contact: morninggloryinternational2022@gmail.com

NINA ROZA

Genevieve Dulude de Celles

Canada, Italy, Bulgaria, Belgium. 2026. 103 min



Mihail left Bulgaria in the 1990s after the death of his wife and raised his young daughter, Roza, alone in Montreal. Far from his homeland, he established himself as a specialist in French and contemporary art. Now, he is commissioned by a collector to authenticate the work of an eight-year-old girl, Nina, who is living in a Bulgarian village and whose paintings have gone viral online. Mihail hesitates but eventually agrees to undertake the journey. Meeting Nina shakes him deeply. The disarmingly mature child reminds him of Roza at the same age. During his stay in Bulgaria, he gradually makes his peace with the ghosts of his past while trying to unravel the mystery behind Nina: is she truly the author of her work? Has someone helped her? What gives him the right to disrupt her happy life? Somewhere between the past and the present, the tangible and the symbolic, Mihail's journey becomes a cathartic one which highlights the intricate relationships between life, art and human beings. Sometimes, the journey matters more than the destination.



After completing a master's degree centred on language and poetry in cinema, the Montreal-based filmmaker made *La coupe* which won Best International Short Film at Sundance. She went on to direct two feature-length documentaries, *Bienvenue à F.L.* and *Les jours*. Her debut fiction feature film, *Une colonie*, was selected for the Berlinale Generation section where it won the Crystal Bear for Best Film. *Nina Roza* is her second fiction feature film

Contact: maeva@bffsales.eu

UNGRATEFUL BEINGS

Olmo Omerzu

Chequia, Slovenia, Poland, Slovakia, Croatia, France. 2025. 110 min



David takes his two children on holiday to the Adriatic Sea, hoping to hold their fractured bilingual family together. His 17-year-old daughter, Klara, struggling with an eating disorder, falls in love with a local boy, Denis. When he is accused of murder, David rushes the children back home. Klára's condition spirals, landing her in hospital. The only thing uniting her parents is their need to save her. And desperate times call for desperate measures.



Studied at the FAMU film school in Prague, where he developed a passion for making films that explore human nature, family relationships, and people's expectations of themselves. His first two films premiered at the Berlin IFF and San Sebastian IFF.

Contact: dorian@cercamon.biz

THE UNOPENED LETTER

Byambasuren Batdelger

Mongolia. 2026. 111 min



Genden loved his son as a piece of his own flesh and blood, yet he had no choice but to send him off to war. He lived only for the hope that his only child on this earth would return alive and well. Upon hearing the news that his son had become a war hero, Genden was overjoyed and spoke proudly of it to everyone he met.

Soon after, a tragic letter arrived stating that his son had been killed on the front lines. The locals, afraid to deliver the bitter news, avoided the old man. Searching for someone to read the letter aloud, Genden finally had a neighbor's little girl read it, bringing him face-to-face with the heartbreaking news. However, Genden refused to believe that he had lost the only child he had raised so precious. Amidst this, he summons a man named Galsan to court to demand justice for his biological son's life. Having just been struck by the harsh blow of separation, he thus finds himself entangled in a matter of life and death.

But soon, a rumor spreads that one of the soldiers thought to be dead has survived and is returning home. Hearing this, Genden hurriedly sets off for the brigade center. Will the hope deep within his soul be extinguished, or will it blaze anew?



Byambasuren Batdelger is an award-winning Mongolian film and theater director. He served as the General Director of the Oirad and Arkhangai Drama Theaters before moving into film production. His work is known for its deep emotional resonance and authentic portrayal of Mongolian life.

Contact: culturedistributor@gmail.com

THE TEMPERATURE OF THE UNIVERSE

Viktor Sharimov

Russia. 2025. 93 min



Set in a remote picturesque Astronomy village, where scientists investigate the cosmos undisturbed by the hustle and bustle of the city, the story navigates the characters through a breakup to an unlikely romance. The film is a story of separation and reunion that unfolds in a remote astronomers' village in the Caucasus (filmed in Nizhny Arkhyz, home to real-world observatories). The isolated, quiet setting allows the characters to reflect on life without the noise of the city, exploring themes on the boundary between science, human relationships, and the vastness of the cosmos.



Victor Shamirov, director de cine, escritor, actor. Nacido el 24 de mayo de 1966 en Rostov del Don. Graduado del Instituto Ruso de Artes Teatrales (GITIS). Ganador del Festival Internacional de Cine de Moscú (2026, Temperatura del Universo), el Festival de Cine Pacific Meridian y el Festival Internacional de Cine Benéfico Radiant Angel.

Contact: olga_vasilenko@contentclub.film

WHITE SNOW

Praveen Morchhale

India. 2025. 81 min



A young filmmaker, Amir's film is banned from screening in the very remote mountain region on a complaint of the religious head of the town, after the film's first screening in a community hall of the town. Amir's only fault is that he has shown in the film the post-partum blood after a child's birth. He is later arrested and put in custody on the pretext of the absurd reason of trying to create social unrest, though the real reason was very different. Seeing no hope, his mother Fatima risks her life and leaves home with a small TV and DVD player keeping them on a Yak (mountain animal) to show the film to people in remote villages to fulfil Amir's dream. During her arduous journey, she meets many people who try to help her, but their own limitations do not permit them to screen her films. Resilient Fatima keeps traveling and quietly observes people's kindness and social and economic conditions. Gradually the tiring journey, hopeless situations, and unsuccessful efforts break her mentally and physically and bring her close to madness. A surprise heart-breaking incident makes her a free soul in the end.



Praveen Morchhale, a Kim Ji-Seok Award-nominated director at Busan IFF 2018, recipient of the National Awards of India 2018 and UNESCO-Gandhi Medal Award 2018 is known for his subtle, visualpoetic cinema. His films *Widow of Silence* (2018), *Walking With The Wind* (2017) have been invited toprestigious festivals like Rotterdam, Busan, Sao Paulo, Goteborg, Seattle, Camerimage, and otherfestivals in competition and have won awards. His feature films were released in theatres in many countries.

Contact: praveen.morchhale@gmail.com

FILMS

DOCUMENTARIES

SEARCHING FOR THE BAND

Musa AK, Hasan Basri Ozdemir

Turkey. 2024. 74 min



The documentary tells the story of the Eroğlu Girls' Orchestra, which was founded in 1968 as the first girls' orchestra in Turkey and gained great popularity by appearing on television and radio programs on TRT and in newspaper reports in the 1970s, and how it was brought together again by Cenk Eroğlu and the process of making music. It tells the story of the artists of the period, the understanding of music and art, social developments, and the characters' past lives in a way that intertwines their present and past lives.



Musa AK

He was born in Burdur in 1987. He completed his undergraduate education at Erciyes University, Faculty of Communication, Radio, Cinema and Television. He completed his master's degree in the same department. He completed his doctorate in Istanbul University, Department of Radio, Television and Cinema. He made many short films and documentaries. He worked as an assistant director in many TV series and feature film. He served as a jury member.

He represented national and international film festivals. He received more than 30 awards. He is currently working as a PhD lecturer at Karabük University Safranbolu Türker İnanoğlu Faculty of Communication.



Hasan Basri Ozdemir

Born in 1983. In 2005, he entered Erciyes University, Faculty of Communication, Department of Radio, Cinema and Television. He completed his master's degree in Erciyes University, Institute of Social Sciences, Department of Public Relations and Publicity in 2009. Made many movies. He represented his country in more than 50 film festivals with the films he shot. He was a jury member at national and international film festivals. Hasan Basri Özdemir, the founder of Kayseri Film Festival, is currently working as a lecturer at Kırıkkale University, Radio and Television Programming Department.

Contact: akmusa1578@gmail.com

CHILD OF DUST

Weronika Mliczewska

Poland. 2025. 93 min



Sang is one of countless children left behind by American soldiers after the Vietnam War —unwanted, discriminated against, and scarred by a war that took more than just his father. When Sang unexpectedly locates his gravely ill father in the U.S., he becomes determined to meet him, even though it comes at a price. The only way to fulfill this need is to move to the U.S. permanently, leaving behind his beloved wife, daughter, and grandson. In this foreign land, he struggles to find his place—not only in a society that sees him as an outsider but also within an American family that never knew of his existence. Cultural barriers collide when the past catches up with the present in the least expected ways.



Weronika Mliczewska is a documentary filmmaker and anthropologist. She studied anthropology and filmmaking in the UK, Poland, and the USA, earning a joint honors degree in Media and Communications and Cultural Anthropology from Goldsmiths, University of London, and an MA in Science of Culture from the University of Warsaw. She later completed postgraduate studies in Directing Actors and Film Directing at UCLA Extensions in Los Angeles.

Weronika's previous films always involved extensive travels which have shaped her immersive storytelling style.

Child of Dust is Weronika's feature-length documentary debut as a director and a producer, a project she has worked on for over eight years.

Contact: anja.dziersk@riseandshine-berlin.de

I SAW A <SUNO>

Katalin Bársony

Hungary. 2025. 92 min



Filmed over fifteen years, *I Saw a 'Suno'* is an intimate chronicle of Nasmi's journey from childhood to adulthood—torn between worlds.

Nasmi, the youngest of three brothers, was born in Germany to Roma parents who fled the war in Kosovo. He knew only safety—until the day police came to repatriate him, his brother, and their mother. Sent to a ruined refugee camp in post-war northern Kosovo, they found no power, no clean drinking water—only the bitter cold of a country Nasmi had never known. Twelve people shared a single room. What followed was not just exile, but a loss of identity, of future, of home.

Through vérité footage and quiet reflections, the film bears witness to the invisible cost of forced repatriation and the strength it takes to survive it. A story of separation and return, of love across borders, told by a Romani director, *I Saw a 'Suno'* is a testament to the resilience of a young boy—and to the unbreakable bonds of family.



Katalin Bársony (born 1982) is a Hungarian Romani film-maker and sociologist. She produced the series *Mundi Romani - The World through Roma Eyes* and directed the documentary *How Far the Stars*.

She is the executive director of the Romedia Foundation, which produces films about Romani communities. Bársony was asked to curate a selection of 35 films about Romani culture for the RomArchive. She took her 2019 documentary *How Far the Stars* to festivals including Sarajevo Film Festival and Eastern Neighbours.

Her documentary *Suno Dikhlem*, was selected for the main competition of the 31st Sarajevo Film Festival.

Contact: georgina.laboda@romediafoundation.org

CHAMPIONS OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY

Ben Sturgulewski

USA. 2025. 81 min



After narrowly missing his chance to become Afghanistan's first Olympic skier, Alishah Farhang returns to the remote mountains of his homeland to inspire a vibrant new ski culture. Bringing together young athletes from rival villages with makeshift wooden skis and secondhand gear, he organizes a ski race like no other, uniting his community in a rare moment of hope and triumph. When their world is suddenly upended, he and the athletes must call upon those lessons learned on the slopes to find their way forward. Revealing a stunning unseen side of Afghanistan, the film is a captivating and uplifting story about how champions can be made by more than Olympic medals.



Ben 'Sturge' Sturgulewski grew up on a rugged and remote island in Alaska's Aleutian Chain. Ben has created a portfolio of award-winning short films that have appeared in festivals around the globe, taking home dozens of awards for cinematography. He has directed, filmed and edited acclaimed content for clients such as Patagonia, Arcteryx, YETI, Rivian, NFL Films, and Red Bull. Ben has produced a library of Vimeo Staff Picks, and his ski film VALHALLA was recently named 'The Greatest Ski Film of All Time' by Outside Magazine. CHAMPIONS OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY is his first feature documentary.

Contact: ben@sturgefilm.com

FAR FROM HOME

Kristi Tethong

Canada, India. 2025. 76 min



Far From Home is about the fight against the erasure of both the Tibetan nation and a father's memories, collected against the ticking clock of Alzheimer's. TC Tethong and his Canadian wife, Judy, helped carve a Tibetan settlement out of a South Indian jungle in the 1960s. Featuring a never-before-seen archive of a precarious era for Tibetans struggling to survive on borrowed soil, this intimate family story of love and courage reflects upon the nature of memory and intergenerational loss and resilience, while preserving a vulnerable oral history of the aging, last connection to a free Tibet.



Kristi Tethong is a Canadian independent filmmaker whose work honours the transformative power of storytelling and story-keeping. Her work is often shot over long periods of time with intimate access, and features a strong, poetic aesthetic. Tethong's shorts have aired on the CBC and screened in festivals around the world, and were recognised with Best Experimental Film and Best Editor. She spent five years as a producer of factual television in the UK. Far From Home is her first feature documentary.

Contact: kristi.tethong@gmail.com

MAROUN RETURNS TO BEIRUT

Feyrouz Serhal

Lebanon, Qatar. 2024. 125 min



2023 marked the thirtieth anniversary of Maroun Baghdadi's sudden and tragic death. Maroun was a Lebanese filmmaker who wrote and directed films during the Lebanese civil war and contributed to documentary and fiction filmmaking from 1973 up until his death in 1993. In this film, Feyrouz Serhal embarks on a day trip in Beirut and navigates the city that profoundly shaped Maroun's journey in life and cinema. Here she encounters individuals who were close to him and who shared his experiences. And as she traverses Maroun's life and career, the social and political backdrop moves to the foreground. The film reflects on the last fifty years of the history of the country from a present standpoint. Through Maroun's story, we perceive how cinema can, beautifully and dramatically, portray our stories and discourse our life events.



Feyrouz Serhal acquired her Master's degree in Film and Screen Studies at Goldsmiths College University of London in 2009. Her short narrative film TSHWEESH won the film prize of Robert Bosch Stiftung during Berlinale 2016 and was premiered in Locarno Film Festival in 2017. TSHWEESH has screened in more than 60 festivals around the world. In 2021 Feyrouz wrote and directed the short film I COME FROM THE SEA. And in 2023 she finished her last short film SEN TI. She is now developing I AM HERE BUT YOU CAN'T SEE ME, her first feature narrative film as director.

Contact: cynthia@road2films.com

THE LAST EXPEDITION

Eliza Kubarska

Poland. 2024. 85 min



Pioneering Polish mountain climber Wanda Rutkiewicz disappeared in the Himalayas in 1992.

What happened on that final climb? Filmmaker and mountaineer Eliza Kubarska traces Wanda's footsteps on the world's highest peaks in a journey into the mystery surrounding the fate of the first woman to summit K2. Could Wanda be still alive, in a monastery in Tibet? Weaving together Wanda's own, previously unseen diaries, audio and video archives from her Himalayan expeditions, interviews with legendary climbers, Sherpas, Buddhist nuns and monks, this is a riveting account of the emotional struggles and aspirations of a woman who rose above a world that often sought to limit her and charted her own path to freedom.



Eliza Kubarska is a director and artist, screenwriter, and mountain climber specialising in filmmaking under extreme conditions. A graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts and the Wajda Film School in Warsaw.

Receiving accolades at prestigious documentary film festivals, her works include "Mountain Love Story" (63 min) shot in Greenland; "Walking Under Water" (76 min), "K2: Touch the Sky" (72 min), premiered at Locarno Festival, and "The Wall of Shadows" (90 min), filmed in winter in the Himalayas, which premiered at Hot Docs and has been recognised as the most awarded Polish mountain-themed film globally.

Contact: anja.dziersk@riseandshine-berlin.de

FIRST FRAMES

Ilie Mitaru

Turkey, USA. 2024. 24 min



First Frames follows photographer and Syrian refugee Serbest Salih and his mobile darkroom that brings photography education to overlooked communities across Turkey, where children contend with access to school, memory and displacement from devastating earthquakes.

The documentary unfolds almost completely from the child's perspective. They speak about their friendships, curiosities and frustrations while engaging with photography for the very first time. The children become collaborators in the documentary, capturing their worlds through their unique filming.

The film embraces the magical nature of children's thinking and portrays them not as passive subjects of their circumstances but as playful, resilient and complex individuals, with their insights and sometimes surprising perspectives.



Ilie Mitaru is an Emmy-nominated producer and director whose work centers on regular people in extraordinary circumstances.

Ilie's stories create empathy and a connection to what at first might appear foreign, but ultimately proves universal.

Ilie's films and photography have been featured in The New York Times, National Geographic, The Guardian, among others. A first generation Romanian-American whose parents received political asylum during the Cold War, Ilie is drawn to stories that push against easy assumptions of otherness and strive for a more complex understanding of the individuals and communities centered in his work.

Contact: mitaru23@gmail.com

SALVAR LA UTOPIÍA

Joaquín T. Smenjaud

Spain. 2025. 35 min



Leading voices from science and ecology talk to us about how climate change and overexploitation of water surround this unique natural space and those who inhabit it. Doñana National Park is perhaps Spain's most iconic environmental jewel. A mosaic of ecosystems that hosts a unique biodiversity in Europe and that, however, in 2023 was excluded from the green list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. That is why Joaquín T. Smenjaud, who was born and lives in Seville and has been a lover of this place since he was a child, wanted to share with the spectators his passion and also his concern for a space he has visited for decades.



Joaquín T. Smenjaud (Seville, 1975) has studied photography, filmmaking and audiovisual production. After 25 years as a video editor on television, he presents his first documentary film.

And for it he has chosen a current topic that ties deeply with her Andalusian roots and evokes his childhood memories. On this trip, he has the collaboration of actress Ana Cuesta and flamenco guitarist Guille Hiniesta, who surprises us with a very personal adaptation of Mozart's Requiem.

Contact: alicia@yaqdistribucion.com

PATH TO THE DESERT

Miguel Garrido

Spain. 2024. 102 min



“Path to the Desert: The Desertification of Spain”, is a feature-length documentary that explores the relentless advance of desertification in Spain. Through stunning imagery and key testimonies, it examines the impact of climate change, intensive agriculture, water overexploitation and pollution, and the expansion of industrial pig farms across the country. The documentary shows how these factors are degrading the land and affecting local communities, accelerating a process that threatens ecological balance. This journey reveals the consequences of an unsustainable model and poses the question: Are we still in time to reverse it?



Miguel Garrido is a filmmaker, scriptwriter and video editor with a outstanding career in documentary production. In 2018, he promoted and directed the “Rodando Mundos” pilot program. He has been a screenwriter, director, cameraman and editor of the documentary “Cisco 2020, Massive Rebel”. Miguel has also made the documentary “A-PLOMO”, about the rap group A-Plomo. Miguel has worked for RTVE or Atresmedia, as a video director and editor. Furthermore, he has made corporate videos for large companies such as Banco Santander, Endesa and Iberdrola.

Contact: alicia@yaqistribucion.com

POETRIES FROM THE BOOKSTORES

Hou Chi-Jan

Taiwan. 2025. 93 min



Testimonies from passionate proprietors reveal the diversity of Taiwan's independent bookshops, all with a distinct style and flair. Centring on the most human aspects of each, Hou Chi-jan's documentary reinvigorates a love for these charming establishments as a second home.

At the intersection of intellectual spirit and a desire for genuine human connection lies Taiwan's welcoming bookstore culture. Shops are places to browse texts as well as havens for reflection, discovery and connection; here, interests are traded, tea is shared and furry friends cohabit. In the end, it doesn't matter whether the stores are neatly inventoried or a creative mishmash of items; the warmth and the familiar scent emanate from every hand-picked book placed gently on a shelf.



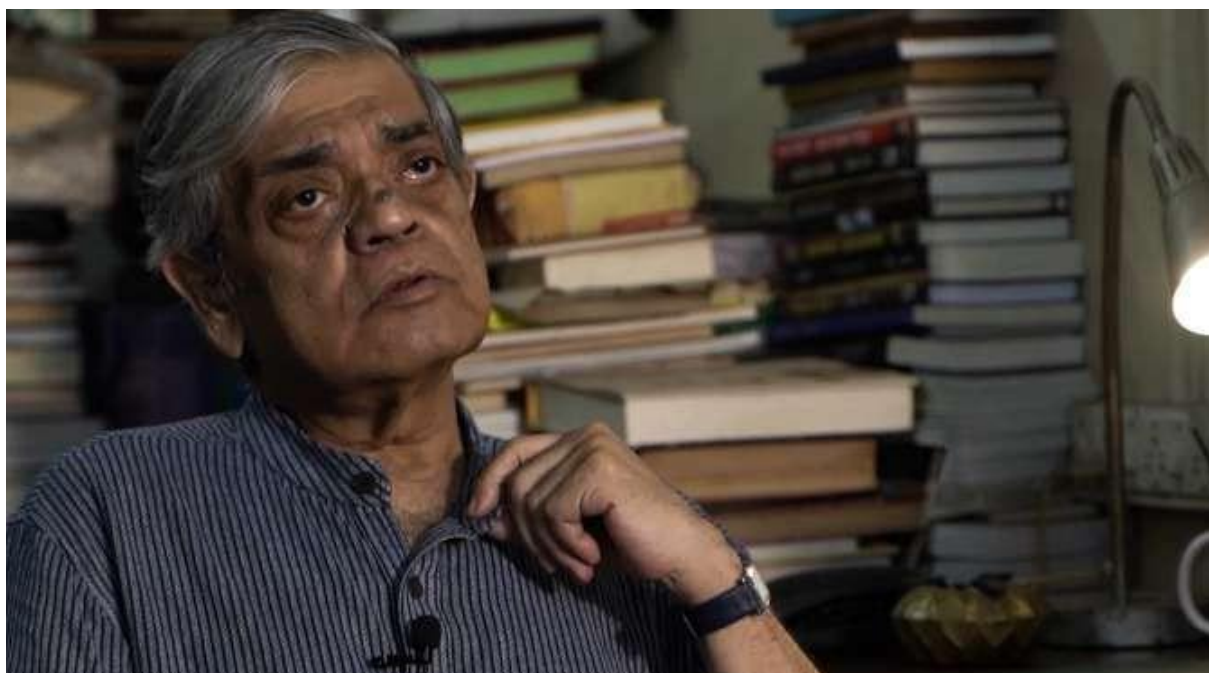
Hou CHI-JAN (Taiwan) is a filmmaker and writer whose work is often lyrical and experimental, exploring themes of time and memory. His first short, *Stardust 15749001* (2003), won first prize at the Taipei Film Festival. His documentary *Taiwan Black Movies* (2005) was selected for IFFR 2006 and the Tokyo International Film Festival and was nominated for the Golden Horse Award for Best Documentary. His script for *When a Wolf Falls in Love with a Sheep* won the top prize in the Taipei Film Commission's first screenwriting competition. His latest documentary, *Poetries from the Bookstores: Somewhere I Belong* (2025), continues his series on Taiwan's bookstores and premieres at IFFR 2026.

Contact: selina@hope-marketingent.com

SOMETHING LIKE CINEMA: EXPLORING RAY

Jaydip Mukherjee

India. 2025. 35 min



A documentary film that explores various influences that had shaped the filmmaking craft of Satyajit Ray. The influences, borne out of his meeting with a number of gifted individuals and his experiences of an array of perception-altering incidents had molded his aesthetic sensibilities and had made him what he was. The film strives to capture how the auteur Satyajit Ray had straddled atop diverse avenues of artistic pursuits, most of which had coalesced to form the identity of an unmatched narrator of ideas, – both persuasive and profound. This film attempts to capture all these influences that had imparted alchemic touches to turn him into an auteur of impeccable standing. It explores the aesthetic psyche of Ray that relates his images with his cinematic experiences. This Documentary retraces the influences that had shaped his sensibilities, some of them inherited while the remaining imbibed from the ambiance and the people that he had come across. Several of these facets such as Illustrator, Calligrapher, Musician and Author are partly eclipsed by his phenomenal standing as a Filmmaker, yet all of them were collaborating strands of his composite aesthetic universe.



Jaydip Mukherjee is an acclaimed documentary filmmaker, began his cinema journey from the Indian Parallel cinema days in the early 1980's. Many of films have been screened at the Indian Panorama of IFFI. He is a recipient of UN FAO Award at AGROFILM Bratislava, and a Merit Plaque at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. His retrospective of films was held at the White Chapel Art Gallery (London), Kennedy Millennium Auditorium (Washington), Art Institute (Chicago) and at Nandan, Kolkata organised by the FILMS DIVISION.

Contact: essjaycast@comt.com

THE ART OF ADVENTURE

Alison Reid

Canada. 2026. 86 min



In 1957, renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman and spirited biologist Bristol Foster set out on a global expedition in a rugged Land Rover they call “The Grizzly Torque”. Starting in the UK, their travels take them to the far corners of the earth. From the lush rainforests of the Congo to the vibrant landscapes of India, Bob paints the wonders they encounter, while Bristol films on his 16mm Bolex camera. Fifty-seven years later, the abandoned Grizzly Torque is rediscovered. As its hidden history emerges and a new owner restores it to its former glory, the tale of their environmental activism through art and science unfolds.



Alison Reid is an award-winning Canadian filmmaker known for stories of adventure and exploration of the human spirit. She founded Free Spirit Films.

Her debut feature, the LGBTQ2+ comedy *The Baby Formula*, opened the Mannheim Heidelberg Film Festival in 2008 and screened world-wide. She went on to direct & produce the critically acclaimed feature documentary *The Woman Who Loves Giraffes*, which won multiple Best Film and Audience Awards and enjoyed a wide theatrical release across Canada and the United States.

Contact: ali@freespiritfilms.ca

THE EYES OF GHANA

Ben Proudfoot

USA. 2025. 90 min



THE EYES OF GHANA is a stunning feature documentary following 93-year-old documentarian Chris Hesse—personal cinematographer to forgotten African icon Kwame Nkrumah—as he races against blindness and time to rescue and repatriate a secret trove of over 1,000 films that captured the birth of African independence in the fifties and sixties. Yet unseen by the public, these films may not only rewrite Ghanaian and African history—but world history itself.



Ben Proudfoot, a two-time Academy Award®-winning documentary filmmaker and entrepreneur, is the creative force behind Breakwater Studios. His films have screened at festivals such as Tribeca, Sundance, and Telluride. *A Concerto Is a Conversation* was nominated for Best Documentary Short Film at the 93rd Academy Awards, and *The Queen of Basketball* won the Oscar for Best Documentary Short Film at the 94th Academy Awards. In 2024, Proudfoot won his second Academy Award, this time for *The Last Repair Shop*.

Contact: greer@breakwaterstudios.com

VARANASI, THE ELEGANCE OF CHAOS

Alfonso Domingo

Spain. 2025. 51 min



One must visit Varanasi at least once in a lifetime. It is a city that leaves no one indifferent—a symbol and microcosm of India, a land of wonder. We explore the banks of the Ganges and witness the rites of life and death in this sacred city: the cremation grounds, the Nagas (naked ascetics smeared with the ashes of the dead), the snake charmers, and the pilgrims flocking to Shivaratri, the festival of Shiva. In Varanasi, even the chaos fits right in.



Alfonso Domingo (Turégano, Segovia, 1955)—a journalist, writer, and filmmaker—has worked in print media, radio, and television. He holds degrees in Information Sciences and Political Science (Ibero-American studies). A journalist specializing in international affairs and a war correspondent, he has created fourteen documentary series and half a dozen feature-length documentaries—totaling over one hundred works, some of which have won multiple awards.

Contact: nicorec.overfilms@gmail.com

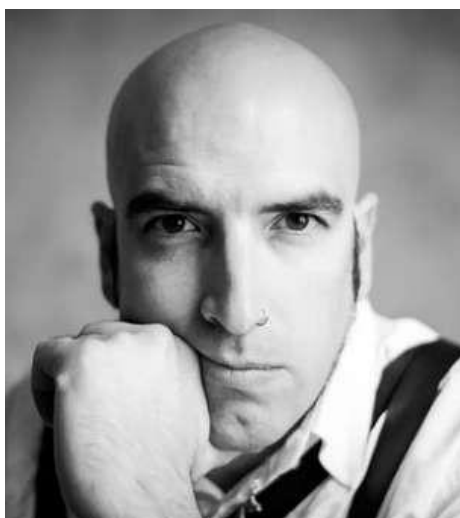
I WAS IN LAS VEGAS 2

Javier Castro

Spain. 2025. 155 min



I was in Las Vegas 2 is a documentary that reconstructs the incredible story of a legendary nightclub located in a small town in Burgos where legendary bands such as The Ramones or Motörhead came to play. Through real testimonies, emotional memories and a great sense of humor, the film celebrates the passion, music and entrepreneurial spirit that made Las Vegas 2 a unique cultural phenomenon in Spain. A nostalgic, unexpected and vibrant journey to the heart of the emptied Spain... where the impossible happened.



Javier Castro:

VIDEOCLIP la flor del tiempo with Juanma Bajo Ulloa

VIDEOCLIP Solo para ti with Manuel Manquiña

VIDEOCLIP Quijotes de cristal with Álex Angulo

Contact: alicia@yaqistribucion.com

FILMS

CLASSICS

CHANGES IN THE VILLAGE

Lester James Peries

Sri Lanka. 1965. 105min



The first novel in Martin Wickramasinghe's celebrated trilogy, *Changes in the Village*, was adapted for the screen in 1963. This film portrays a village in transition, where the old aristocracy is crumbling and capitalism is quietly beginning to reshape society. Fleeting human emotions are depicted against the backdrop of ancient, rustic vessels collecting water dripping from a broken, antique roof, and letters discarded into a cupboard by a woman trying to forget her lover. The lives of Nanda and Piyal, once young lovers from different social classes, are irrevocably altered by life's hardships. Years later, they reunite — but neither is the person they once were, and their love is no longer pure or innocent.



Lester James Peries (April 1919 – 29 April 2018) was a Sri Lankan film director, screenwriter, and film producer. Considered as the father of Sri Lankan cinema, Lester worked as a filmmaker from 1949 to 2006, and was involved in over 28 films, including shorts and documentaries.

He received critical acclaim for directing *Rekava*, *Gamperaliya*, *Nidhanaya*, *Golu Hadawatha*, *Kaliyugaya*, *Awaragira* and *Yuganthaya*. His movie *Wekande Walauwa*, starring *Ravindra Randeniya* and *Malini Fonseka*, was Sri Lanka's first ever submission for the *Academy Awards* and the film *Nidhanaya* was included among the top 100 films of the century by the *Cinémathèque Française*. He helped create an authentic expression of *Sinhala Cinema*.

THE VILLAGE IN THE JUNGLE

Lester James Peries

Sri Lanka. 1980. 120 min



Adapted from Leonard Woolf's first novel, *The Village in the Jungle* brings to life the harsh realities of a remote village in British-colonial Ceylon. Deep within the jungle, Silindu, an outcast, knows only two things: hunting and caring for his daughters. He struggles to provide for them amid poverty, disease, superstition and exploitation. When a cunning debt collector and corrupt village officials entrap him in a false murder case, he is dragged before a legal system that neither understands his world nor speaks his language. With striking realism and emotional depth, the film paints a devastating portrait of survival on the margins. The film also features a rare on-screen appearance by science fiction writer Sir Arthur C. Clarke in a cameo role.



Lester James Peries (April 1919 – 29 April 2018) was a Sri Lankan film director, screenwriter, and film producer. Considered as the father of Sri Lankan cinema, Lester worked as a filmmaker from 1949 to 2006, and was involved in over 28 films, including shorts and documentaries.

He received critical acclaim for directing [Rekava](#), [Gamperaliya](#), [Nidhanaya](#), [Golu Hadawatha](#), [Kaliyugaya](#), [Awaragira](#) and [Yuganthaya](#). His movie [Wekande Walauwa](#), starring [Ravindra Randeniya](#) and [Malini Fonseka](#), was Sri Lanka's first ever submission for the [Academy Awards](#) and the film *Nidhanaya* was included among the top 100 films of the century by the [Cinémathèque Française](#). He helped create an authentic expression of [Sinhala Cinema](#).

FILMS

SHORT FILMS

THE BIRD TRAP

Natalia Kazakova

Russia. 2025. 23 min



13-year-old Tanya restores her hearing after an illness by listening to recordings of birdsong and caring for a red Book thrush. On her birthday, her father arrives, who has his own plans for the bird. Will the father be able to solve his problems and not lose his daughter's trust?



Born in 1996 in the city of Aldan, Republic of Sakha Yakutia. After school, she moved to Moscow. In 2020, she completed her bachelor's degree in Environmental Design at the Stroganov Moscow State Agricultural University. She worked in the production of "0101" as a motion designer. Then she worked as a production designer, assistant, prop designer on TV series. In 2023, she entered the Moscow School of New Cinema, the screenwriting and directing workshop of Gennady Ostrovsky and Natasha Makarova. She is currently writing screenplays, working as a film artist, and living in Moscow.

Contact: sara@eastwood.agency

MY GARAGE!

Vladimir Sukhov

Russia. 2025. 22 min



The film “My Garage!” is a mystical drama about an old man who refuses to leave his garage in an emergency area, hiding a mysterious light source in it. The resistance to demolition develops into an eschatological confrontation, where the fate of one garage becomes the fate of the whole world.



Born in Samara on October 3, 1991. Started working with video in 2009.

2013: founded the production company ER-PRODUCTION.

2013 – 2020: worked as a producer, managing the full cycle of corporate video and commercial.

Since 2020, working as a director of commercials and music videos.

2020: became the creator, participant, and director of the travel project This Is All Russia.

2024: graduated from German Sidakov's School of Drama.

2025: directed the short film My Garage!

Contact: sara@eastwood.agency

SYNCOPTION

Maria Rival

Russia. 2025. 20 min



After eight years at ballet school, she has it all: the dream role, a chance at a career, a future.

But the more pressure builds, the louder her inner protest grows.

A stubborn spirit and fear of living someone else's dream push her to the edge.

The choice she makes may be a first step — or a point of no return.



Born in Moscow in 1984. Graduated from the Boris Shchukin Theatre Institute as a theatre and film actress. Since 2008, she has been an actress at the Vakhtangov Theatre. In 2023, she joined Gennady Ostrovsky's screenwriting and directing workshop at the Moscow School of New Cinema, where she wrote and directed the film "Syncopation". She lives and works in Moscow.

Contact: sara@eastwood.agency

THE BUOY

Ilya Sovetov

Russia. 2025. 23 min



Sanya, a surly water taxi driver, takes a strange order to transport the eccentric Lyokha with a kettlebell and rope. A day spent together on a forced river trip will change the lives of both.



Ilya Sovetov was born in 1989 in Samara. He graduated from the Faculty of Directing at the University of Culture in 2010. In 2022, he completed the courses of the Industriya School. One of the most significant projects was the reality show "It's hard to be a boss", where Ilya acted as a director for the first time. In 2022, he realized his first short film "Mine". The film became a participant in the festivals "Shorter", "Spirit of Fire", "East-West". In 2024, he released a documentary about the search for relatives in the archives. In 2025, his directed documentary "Running Ninja". He is currently actively working on creating a full-length debut. He lives in Moscow.

Contact: sara@eastwood.agency

BAGGAGE

Arseniy Seroka

France. 2025. 17 min



Arthur, a young man at a crossroads, unexpectedly reconnects with an old friend, Jean, and reveals his lingering feelings for Sofia, an ex-lover he believes he still loves. Through candid conversations and a chance encounter with a mysterious woman named Anna, Arthur begins to confront his past and embrace the possibility of new paths, leading to an unexpected journey of self-discovery and hope.



Born in 1993 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Since 10 years, he has been associated with the Mariinsky Theatre. He graduated as Associate Professor in Applied Mathematics at ITMO University. Since 2015, he has been engaged in international business in the art and scientific fields. In 2020, he entered the film school at the Lenfilm studio. Finished it in 2022. He shot his graduation film, moved to Paris, where he continues to develop in the film industry. Currently, lives and works in Paris.

Contact: sara@eastwood.agency

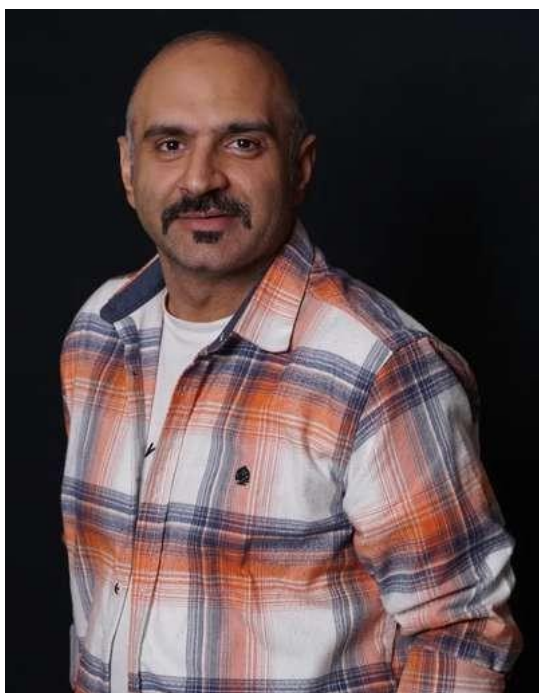
HOUSE OF THE MOON

Hamidreza Maghsoudi

Iran. 2025. 15 min



Shilan, a 10-year-old girl, was born with a birthmark on her face. She tries to make his father and others understand that every creature can be beautiful the way it is.



Hamidreza Maghsoudi, born in September 1987. He is a writer, director, editor and photographer from Dargaz (A Kurmanji Kurdish city in east of Iran). After completing filmmaking courses, he started to work as an editor, screenwriter and project consultant with different filmmaking teams in the production of several long and short films. Also, he graduated with a master's degree in dramatic literature from Sourah University of Tehran. As a filmmaker, he has made two short fiction films and one documentary films.

Contact: hamidrezamaghsoudi66@gmail.com

DESCENT

Ashkan Saedpanah

Iran. 2025. 15 min



Youssef, a religious man, along with his son Mostafa, accidentally commit the murder of a young girl during an incident at their workplace. They decide to secretly carry out the religious ceremonies of shrouding and burying the girl's body. But Youssef and Mostafa undergo a transformation as a result of this decision.



Ashkan Saedpanah was born in 1993 in Sanandaj city. Graduated in graphic design in 2014 and also graduated in film directing in 2024.

He started his Film activity at the same time as the Iranian Youth Cinema Association in 2010 and has succeeded in making 4 short films so far. While working in the field of directing in cinema, he has worked in other positions such as planning and assistant director, production manager, stage designer and graphic artist in more than 100 short and long films and serials, and has also participated in several domestic and foreign festivals. and has received an award.

Contact: ashkan.film93@gmail.com

ROOM AT THE FARM

Jasmine Kaur Roy, Avinash Roy

India. 2025. 22 min



Just like his deceased father, Nihal is desperately trying to break the vicious cycle of debt and hang on to his small parcel of farmland. Nihal's refusal to accept the futility of the fight is putting a strain on his recent marriage and testing the patience of his wife, Reet. Room at the Farm is the story of a young couple as they struggle to express love in the face of hardship and uncertainty of the future. The film is also about the last stand of a community against the tide of rampant development and inevitable change.



Jasmine Kaur Roy and Avinash Roy are National Award winning filmmakers having produced and directed several short films and documentaries under their banner Wanderlust Films. Driven by socially relevant narratives, they seek to bring forth voices that have largely remained unheard. Some of their notable films are Khooh Waala Ghar (Room at the Farm) , Amoli, Saanjh (The Dusk), Raavi and Scavenging Dreams.

Contact: wanderlustfilms@gmail.com

DOMESTIC

Nima Abdolazimi

Iran. 2024. 20 min



On a moonlit night, Afshin discovers a magical secret that can revive the dead.



Nima Abdolazimi is a filmmaker and a graduate in Film Directing. He began his cinematic career in 2015, working with directing teams and participating in several short and feature films. In 2021, he wrote, produced, and directed his first film titled "I Turn Off the Lights" in Sanandaj. All his films have won awards. In recognition of his talent, Abdolazimi was honored as a Young Talent at the 3rd Mehr cinema Festival in Iran.

Contact: nimaabdolazimi@gmail.com

DAAR

Forough Azizi

Iran. 2025. 20 min



While patrolling the forest, a ranger discovers the body of a woman. He and some villagers wish to bury her as soon as possible but the woman is carrying something that makes them hesitate.



Fatemeh (Forough) Azizi is an Iranian filmmaker and film editor, based in Tehran. She holds a Master degree in Women's Studies and is a member of the Iranian Short Film Association (ISFA). Her work explores social themes with a focus on human stories, often reflecting gender perspectives through a cinematic lens.

Contact: mehdimahaei.director@gmail.com

FILMS

SPANISH SHORTFILMS

NADIE VIENE

Sergio Rozas

Spain. 2025. 17 min



A woman lives alone on an uninhabited island, waiting for the return of her husband, a soldier sent to the front. Hopeful, every day she goes to a beach from where she can watch the war unfold in the distance. Sometimes war planes try to flee the battle but are destroyed by enemy fighters. Days, weeks, months go by and the woman feels more and more alone and abandoned. A photo is the only memory she keeps of her man. Routine takes over her life and with it, sadness. No one comes to her island. The only solution is to overcome the loss and keep on living. And perhaps making this hard decision will be what allows her to find someone new to share her life with. She hides her husband's photo and goes back to the beach. The war is at its peak but a war plane manages to escape. A paratrooper manages to reach land and the woman meets him face to face. She offers him food. Someone has come.



Sergio Rozas Manzano, Madrid, 1972. He began his career in the audiovisual world in 1995. He has directed the short films *I Don't Want to Be Alone*, *Nadie viene*, and a documentary about Japanese horror mangaka *Hideshi Hino*. He has also directed the "making of" documentaries for two major Spanish productions: *Alatriste* and *Agora*, and directed an anime sequence for the *Rubius Next Level Japan* project. He has received awards for editing, design, and directing and has collaborated with directors such as Alejandro Amenábar, Víctor Erice, Andy Muschetti, Milos Forman... He is a founding partner of User T38 (2001), winner of the Goya Award for Best VFX for Handia.

Contact: alicia@yaqistribucion.com

THE COUNTESS AND THE GENERAL

Gonzalo Escrig Molina

Spain. 2025. 22 min



The Countess and the General is a short film directed by Gonzalo Escrig that takes us in the year 1811 during the Napoleonic invasion of Valencia. The film focuses on the Countess of Faura, Doña Elena de Orbe, who is forced to house General Thérandier in her palace and against whom she will secretly conspire to support the Morvedre Urban Militia Battalions, led by Saguntine guerrilla and commander José Romeu.



I am Gonzalo Escrig Molina, student of Audiovisual Communication and Journalism at the CEU Cardenal Herrera University, where I am the General Student Delegate, and a student of the Official Master's Degree in Screenwriting at the International University of La Rioja (UNIR). Currently, I work in editing and production at the audiovisual production company Perseo Films Media S.L.

My most recent audiovisual project is the short film *La Condesa y el General*.

I collaborate in media outlets such as Radio CEU, El Debate and El Rotativo. I am part of Kinema Productions, with projects selected at festivals such as the Gijón International Film Festival.

Contact: alicia@yaqddistribucion.com

TRES PUENTES

Inés Quijano

Spain. 2026. 17 min



Alex, a 21-year-old girl, discovers that she is pregnant while on vacation with her mother and her best friend's family. She doesn't want anyone to find out who the father of her baby is. Little by little one of the characters discovers who the father is and decides to make a drastic decision.



Inés Quijano studied cinematography at the Barcelona Film School, ECIB. Three Bridges is her first film.

Contact: submissions@filmsontheroad.com

SURFERS

Iñigo Floristán

Spain. 2026. 11 min



The film is a drama that delves into mental health through the friendship of Luis and Marco. Luis battles a psychotic break while Marco unwaveringly supports him.



Iñigo Floristán Irisarri is a writer, director and producer, specialized in narrative detail, symbology and scene composition, and founder of The PathFrame. In his career he has 47 selections and 27 awards; Among many other works, he signs Pluvia y Surfistas, directing performers such as Juan José Ballesta, La Dani and Ane Gabarain.

Contact: submissions@filmsontheroad.com

ETERNAL SPRING

Elías Rodríguez

Spain. 2026. 20 min

SPANISH SHORTFILMS



A couple trapped in monotony wants to recover the lost hope by celebrating their fifth anniversary in a special way. But life is not going to make it easy...



At 22 years old, Elias tests himself by filming a film with friends that shows him the way to follow. He leaves his studies and begins to shoot short films as an apprenticeship until he manages to shoot the teaser of a film that in the end does not prosper. After that, Elias decides to focus on another type of story, Eternal Spring, with love and everyday life as protagonists.

Contact: submissions@filmsontheroad.com

FILMS

FILM SCHOOLS

REPORTER

Jan Gorecki

Poland. 2025. 22 min



Ukraine – August 2024. Tomasz, a Polish photojournalist on the frontlines, is determined to prove to his editorial team, the ukrainian soldiers, and himself that his work can make an impact on the dwindling interest in the war.



Jan Górecki – a film directing student at the Warsaw Film School, author of 19 short films, and a cinema enthusiast since childhood. He has gained experience in film production in almost every role, from directing to sound editing.

Contact: festival@szkolafilmowa.pl

NEVERLANDEX

Agata Kapuscinska

Poland. 2025. 23 min



Thirty-five-year-old Peter is convinced that everything in the outside world will sooner or later kill him due to his allergies. He is fed terrifying stories by his overprotective father, who still treats him like a child. The only thing that gives him hope are the postcards from his mother, who travels the world treating the same allergies. One day, Peter discovers an old crossword puzzle, sparking a journey to explore real life. Where is his mother? Is everything his father has told him true?



Loves irony and all things unusual and strange. Her passion for film sparked through photography, bringing heartfelt dedication to every frame. Currently student of Directing at the Warsaw Film School. She is just at the beginning of her journey, but she definitely won't stray from it anytime soon. Finds joy in crafting cinematic worlds that follow their own unique rules.

Contact: festival@szkolafilmowa.pl

FUCK THEM ALL

Polina Biliaieva

Poland. 2025. 15 min



Kira, a 30-year-old Ukrainian, flees to Poland at the beginning of the full-scale invasion, after losing her husband. Her thoughts remain with her war-torn home, but here a new challenge awaits her: Kira finds out that she is pregnant. Already traumatized, she doesn't want to bring a new life into this world, but it is impossible for her to terminate the pregnancy in Poland. Kira decides to return to Ukraine, which is still in the middle of war, to have an abortion.



Born in 1997 in Kharkiv, Ukraine. A graduate of a directing degree at the Kharkiv Academy of Culture and a student of directing in Warsaw film school. Her short film *THESE DAMN PEONIES* was presented at many festivals in Poland and abroad, including 48th Polish Film Festival in Gdynia. In her work, she is particularly interested in telling stories about young women transitioning into adulthood, searching for their place and identity; discovering their sexuality and experiencing motherhood.

Contact: festival@szkolafilmowa.pl

EVER ROOTED

Yang Yuzhuo

China. 2025. 27 min



When an estranged father falls ill his son returns home with his own daughter revealing a lifetime of shame and a fathers desperate plea for belonging Through rediscovered diaries riverbank rituals and a lone tree three generations find that roots arent forged in names on pages but in the quiet soil of forgiveness and home.



Yang Yuzhuo, a junior student and young director at Dalian Art College, has honed his skills through numerous semester assignments during his studies. After winning several awards in related fields and accumulating substantial experience, he resolutely decided to go all out and film his debut work, Ever-Rooted, in 2025.

Contact: 8888811@111.com

MAJINI

Joshua Neubert, Victor Muhagachi

Germany. 2025. 19 min



When their father falls ill, a young boy who fears deep water must go out to sea with his brother to catch fish, while struggling with the pressure placed on him as a young man.



Joshua Neubert

Born 1994 in Germany, Joshua Neubert spent 10 years of his childhood in Tanzania. In 2020 he enrolled in the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg to study film directing. He has directed films in Germany, Tanzania and the US, with screenings at festivals around the world. He is currently developing his debut feature film.

Victor Muhagachi

Born 1996, is a Tanzanian filmmaker who loves telling stories that matter. He mixes his eye for beauty with real, raw narratives to create something truly special. Outside the lens, he is driven to explore, as well as being passionate about culture and landscapes.

Contact: festivals@filmakademie.de

CHISPA

Vera Kayh

Germany. 2025. 11 min



To support her single dad, 8-year-old Marta has learned to manage her everyday life alone. But when she senses that he is making less and less time for her, she decides to win back his attention.



Vera Kayh was born in Tübingen and completed her acting studies at the HMDK Stuttgart. She was a member of the acting ensemble at the theaters in Krefeld and Mönchengladbach for three years. Since 2020 she has studied fiction film directing at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg.

Contact: festivals@filmakademie.de

CHASING KITES

Anna Niebert

Germany. 2025. 8 min



As their flat turns into a sea of paper kites, a young teenager faces the impossible challenge of being there for his younger brother without losing parts of himself.



After graduating from the University of Applied Sciences in Salzburg, Austria – specializing in film – Anna Niebert worked as a production coordinator and creative producer for commercials and music videos in Los Angeles. She then found her way into the feature film industry as production coordinator and producer. Since 2021 Anna has been studying Fiction Directing at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg.

Contact: festivals@filmakademie.de

ANTS

Yu Ai

China. 2025. 21 min



Nana, living under her oppressive father's control, sympathizes with her mother, Li Jun, enduring the tyranny together. One day, she meets Lin, a captivating singer at a bar, whose voice and red dress remind her of a younger Li Jun. As Nana learns about Lin's tragic past, she begins to admire her strength.

Encouraged by Lin, Nana starts standing up to her father, but Li Jun defends him. Despite her disappointment, Nana continues to protect both Li Jun and Lin. Eventually, a surprise encounter between Li Jun and Lin reveals an unexpected side of her mother, challenging Nana's understanding.



Her practice explores self-awareness, female identity, and cross-cultural dialogue, creating immersive and visually driven experiences that merge movement, ritual, and narrative. Yu Ai's work reflects a deep understanding of the power of visual and narrative harmony, combining technical expertise with a clear artistic voice.

Contact: yu.ai@student.lfs.org.uk

MOL

Dhairya Zaveri

India. 2025. 20 min



Mol follows Prakash, a young migrant worker who arrives in Surat, the sprawling textile hub of India. Driven by the hope of supporting his family back home. As he enters the city's relentless power loom industry alongside his uncle, he is gradually exposed to the brutal realities of labour exploitation. Confronted with loss and systemic indifference, Prakash's innocence slowly gives way to a cold emotional detachment.



Dhairya Zaveri is a filmmaker and London Film School graduate who believes in learning by doing. He is drawn to the honesty of documentary and drama, focusing on the small, real details of how people behave. For him, the goal of a director is simple: to help an audience truly step into a character's world.

Contact: dhairya.zaveri@student.lfs.org.uk

MATTER

Pujit Kalash

India. 2025. 24 min



Karthik, a 25-year-old office worker, wants to attend his grandmother's 80th birthday party on the other side of Mumbai. However, he finds himself caught up in a dangerous mission to rescue his best friend Ankit, who has been captured by the ruthless Shetty Anna. As he navigates this chaos, Karthik faces intense action, all whilst racing against time.



Pujit Kalash is a director, producer and co-founder of Cloudy Hill Films, based in Mumbai. His work centres on action-driven narratives that combine striking visual style with emotional depth, grounded in a character-led approach. Having already embarked on his film career, he completed a Master's degree in Film Directing at the London Film School, where he directed and produced numerous short films.

Contact: pujit.kalash@gmail.com

TRY RUNNING NOW

Hritik Punjabi

India. 2025. 20 min



Faced with his father's imminent death, Amar, a troubled and bullied teenager, promises to complete his father's bucket list. His journey leads him to a deeper understanding of his father's relationships and to his own self-discovery.

The film unfolds over the course of a single day, during the precarious moment when Amar's father is taken off the ventilator.

As he races across the city to fulfill his father's wishes against the clock, he learns more about masculinity, grief, and belonging within the Sikh community.



Hritik Punjabi is a writer, director, and cinematographer from Mumbai, India. After graduating with a degree in Journalism, he worked in the industry for a couple of years in Mumbai, gaining experience as an assistant director and as the writer/director of several independent short films and music videos.

These short films also led him to the London Film School, where he worked to hone his filmmaking and storytelling skills.

Contact: punjabihritik20@gmail.com

NEST

Asmita Pal

India. 2025. 21 min



On an ordinary morning that transforms drastically, a young girl moves through the rhythms of her home. Her mother, an ornithologist who traded fieldwork for domesticity, is restless in ways the girl can sense but not name. As the day unfolds in arguments behind closed doors, in the steadying presence of the family maid, in the sudden visit of a bird to her mother's room the girl watches the world she knows begin to shift. By evening, something has been irrevocably lost.



Asmita is a filmmaker studying at the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata. Her work is rooted in the personal and the observational and she is drawn to quiet domestic worlds, the inner lives of women, and the natural textures of everyday life. She grew up in the Gariahat neighbourhood of Kolkata, and the houses, sounds, and rhythms of that childhood continue to find their way into her films. This is her second short film.

Contact: asmita.pal98@gmail.com

DROLESS

Anamika Pal

India. 2025. 20 min



uring a family funeral, Preeti, a middle-class daughter-in-law, faces a crisis when her breast milk dries up, leaving her 4-month-old baby hungry. Desperate, she drinks a glass of undiluted milk—an act deemed a domestic sin under the prevailing social norms.



Anamika Pal es una aspirante a cineasta que actualmente estudia en el Instituto de Cine y Televisión Satyajit Ray de Calcuta. Mientras estudiaba Periodismo, se dio cuenta de que los prejuicios de género que prevalecían en la sociedad la molestaban profundamente, tal vez porque estaban entrelazados con su propia vida. Dado que luchaba por articular sus pensamientos de manera efectiva, sintió que las películas podrían ser el medio que pudiera transmitir su voz y llevar sus historias a los demás.

Contact: anamikapal528@gmail.com

WHERE DO THE TREES GO

Mansingh Baskey

India. 2025. 15 min



Eight-year-old Sagen is brought to live with his uncle and aunt after his mother remarries following his father's death. The sudden change leaves him withdrawn, struggling to feel at home in an unfamiliar place with unfamiliar people. Though his uncle and aunt try to make him feel welcome, the house remains just a house—never quite a home. As they argue over legal guardianship and his schooling, Sagen seeks solace in the forest, the only place that feels free. But over time, small moments start to break the ice.

A quiet understanding grows, and one day, Kisku joins them at the dining table—something he once refused to do. Just as he begins to find the warmth of a family, his mother returns for one final goodbye before leaving forever. Standing before her, Sagen feels nothing—or perhaps too much. He doesn't speak, doesn't move closer, doesn't hug her, unaware that this might be the last time he'll ever see her. His uncle, witnessing their meeting, is furious. The argument that follows fills the house with fear, and once again, Sagen runs—terrified of losing the home he was just beginning to find. But will his new parents bring him back? Or will he be lost once more?



Mansingh Baskey, born in Jharkhand, India, is a filmmaker with an academic background in Mass Communication (B.A.) and Film Production (M.Sc.). He has further honed his skills with a certificate in TV Direction from FTII, Pune.

Contact: assistant.fro@ftii.ac.in

SACRED SAL TREE

Mansingh Baskey

India. 2025. 15 min



The film highlights the conflict between tribal life and the formal justice system. Tibru Munda, a poor tribal villager, is arrested for carrying firewood taken from a fallen tree and is charged under forest laws. In court, his honest explanation is ignored due to rigid legal procedures and deep-rooted prejudice. His refusal to swear on the Gita, and his choice of the sacred Sat tree instead, reveals the cultural gap between tribal beliefs and state institutions. Through Tibru's struggle, the film questions the idea of justice, ownership of forests, and the survival of indigenous identity.



Mansingh Baskey, born in Jharkhand, India, is a filmmaker with an academic background in Mass Communication (B.A.) and Film Production (M.Sc.). He has further honed his skills with a certificate in TV Direction from FTII, Pune.

Contact: assistant.fro@ftii.ac.in

AMBIVALENCE

Maan Chandravanshi

India. 2025. 29 min



Yugal, a quiet and emotionally closed man, returns to his childhood home after nearly twenty years. The empty house brings back memories of his father, his stepmother, and a childhood shaped by silence and emotional distance. Through his cousin Pankaj, Yugal slowly uncovers hidden truths about his family and why he was sent away. In the present, Yugal begins repairing his father's old tractor, believing the act will help him rebuild his own life. He becomes drawn to his neighbors—a widow named Dipti and her young son, Pintu. Dipti's strict love reminds Yugal of his stepmother, blurring the line between past and present. As feelings grow, Yugal realizes he is standing in the same emotional position his father once faced, with one chance to choose differently.



Contact: assistant.fro@ftii.ac.in