



# SAARC FILM FESTIVAL 2017

**21<sup>ST</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**  
**AT THE NATIONAL FILM CORPORATION**  
**CINEMA HALL**  
**COLOMBO 07, SRI LANKA**



South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation



Organised by  
SAARC Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka

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# SAARC CULTURAL CENTRE

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is with great pleasure that I write a few words on this very special occasion where we celebrate and witness South Asian Film at THE SAARC FILM FESTIVAL 2017, organised by the SAARC Cultural Centre.

Cinema is undoubtedly one of the most effective ways of sharing and displaying social practices that reflect a plethora of evolving cultural phenomena in modern society. The SAARC Film Festival endeavours to be an inclusive event, with Free Entrance to all films, encouraging participation of the public from all socio-economic backgrounds and with a multitude of different interests, all with the common goal of being entranced and transported by the vibrant world of Cinema.

The SAARC Film Festival will present a wide array of Feature Films and Short Films and also brings together a collection of 'Master Films', made by respected veteran film makers who are recognised as Masters in the trade by their respective nations and peers across the Film Industry. The purpose and vision of these types of films, being one of building bridges between South Asian talent and mainstream audiences. Now in its 7th year, the SAARC Film Festival has brought together a vivid and varied group of true masters of the art and craft of film making.

The significant developments in technology have dramatically changed the face of the film industry and particularly film making. Amongst other things, it has enabled better quality films to be viewed further afield in a much shorter space of time, with access to much more unusual material and subject matter, constantly pushing the boundaries of accepted norms, all of which has resulted in greater exposure for the social and cultural themes that lie at the very heart of any cinematic experience.



I am delighted the SAARC Film Festival has developed into a prestigious and popular Event, and continues to encourage young talent whilst celebrating the masters in the field. Above all, I am honoured that the SAARC Cultural Centre plays some part in fostering understanding, tolerance and greater acceptance throughout the South Asian Region using the medium of Film.

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

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the hard-working members of the Organising Committee of the SAARC Film Festival 2017.

**Wasanthe Kotuwella**

Director, SAARC Cultural Centre



# SAARC FILM FESTIVAL 2017

## AWARDS

Trophy for Best Feature Film 2017

Trophy for Best Short Film 2017

Trophy for Best Director

Trophy for Best Actor

Trophy for Best Actress

Trophy for Best Cinematographer

Trophy for Best Editor

Trophy for Best Screenplay

Trophy for Best Original Score

Trophy for Best Film - Open Category

Speical Jury Awards





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

**Werner Herzog**

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

**Adoor Gopalakrishnan**

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

**Pier Paolo Pasolini**



# NOMINATED FILMS AND OPEN CATEGORY FILMS FROM THE REGION





AFGHANISTAN



# THE BIRD WAS NOT A BIRD

Feature/Afghanistan/90 mins

Director

**Ahmad Zia Arash**

Producer

**Ahmad Faisal Jamalyar**

Screenplay

**Aman Poyamak**

Cinematographer

**Ahmad Zia Arash**

Editor

**Reshad Arash**

Music

**Shahrokh Bee Keran**

Cast

**Faisal Jamalyar, Hasiba Ibrahim, Shawali Nawabi, Siddiqa Tamkin**

## Synopsis

Usef is a young man who struggles with his living as a bird seller and looks after his old mother and sick sister. He is in love with a girl in the neighbourhood, who also loves him, but either is unable to speak about marriage proposals due to Usef's unstable financial and job conditions. Under these circumstances and looking for a better work, Usef meets an agent who offers and promises him a better job far away from the city. Usef accepts the offer without his knowledge that the agent has his connections with politically radical groups of militants and thus through accepting the offer, he gets involved into the deep dark world of terrorism where they prepare him for a suicide attack.

## Ahmad Zia Arash

Ahmad Zia Arash started his career as an amateur Filmmaker in 2002 and worked in various spheres of the industry including as a Cinematographer, Casting Director, Producer, Writer and Director. He has written, directed and produced several Short Films, Music Videos, Documentaries, Feature Films and Commercials. His Feature Films include Sin City (2006), The Yesterdays' Shadows (2009) and The Bird Was Not a Birth (2017). His early Documentary Films are Peace Ambassadors (2005), Poverty (2008) and The Police Community (2011).





# THE WATER

Short/Afghanistan

## Synopsis

This is the story of Marzia, an 8 year-old girl who unfortunately becomes a victim of human trafficking when her parents sold her to a man in Kabul. This man runs a business by forcing children to beg. Marzia and many other children work for him and he misuses them and ill-treats them terribly. Instead of residing with her family and getting a proper education - Marzia spends time on the street. One day as she was trying to pick an empty can of Pepsi, the teacher suddenly calls her...



## Sayed Jalal Rohani

Sayed Jalal Rohani is an Independent Filmmaker and is an active member of Cine-Club of French Cultural and Entertainment Institute in Afghanistan. He has actively participated in film making workshops conducted by foreign film makers in Fine Arts Department of Kabul University and in workshops sponsored by British Council and Goethe Institute. He has also worked as a production director in the French film called "Kabuli Wood". He has Directed three films previously - "Successful Women of Afghanistan" a Documentary Short Film, "Voice Reed" a Short Feature Film and "Life" a Short Film. His films have been screened at National and International Film Festivals and he is currently on post-production of his 3rd Feature Short Film "The Lady with Purple Shoes".

Director  
**Sayed Jalal Rohani**  
Producer  
**Sayed Jalal Rohani**  
Screenplay  
**Sayed Jalal Rohani**  
Cinematographer  
**Sayed Zuhair Mousavi**  
Editor  
**Edris Salehi**

Cast  
**Khushbo yousofzai, Faridoon azizmi, Arash Rahimi, Sediq Rahimi, Dawood Salam, Rahmat Safi, Mahboob Ehsan, Ahmad Ahmadi**



BANGLADESH



# ANIL BAGCHIR EKDIN

Feature/Bangladesh/120 mins

## Synopsis

Anil Bagchi is timid Hindu young man who lives in Dhaka. His school teacher father and elder sister are his only family members. In the middle of 1971 Anil receives a letter informing him that his father has been killed by the Pakistani military and he starts his journey to his village. On the way he meets Ayub Ali who is travelling with his wife and children. They are stopped on the way and despite advice by Ayub Ali to never reveal his Hindu name, Anil tells his own name. Ayub Ali risks his own life trying to save Anil but he is captured and shot.



## Morshedul Islam

Morshedul Islam made his film making debut in 1982 with the short film "Agami" a Short Film about the Great War of Liberation of Bangladesh. "Agami" won the "Silver Peacock" award for Best Director at the 10th International Film Festival of India in 1985. It also won the National Award for Best Short Film and was shown in many international film festivals. The success of "Agami", the first independent short film of the country, performed a leading role to establish an alternative film movement in Bangladesh. His first Feature Film was "Chaka" (The Wheel) in 1993 which won awards at Dunkerque Film Festival in France in 1994. He made his first children's film "Dipu Number Two" in 1996. The film was acclaimed by the audience, particularly by children. He has made four children's films.

Director  
**Morshedul Islam**

Producer  
**Abul Khayer**

Screenplay  
**Humayun Ahmed**

Cinematographer  
**L. Apu Rozario**

Editor  
**Ratan Paul**

Music  
**Sunny Zubaeer**

Cast  
**Aref Syed, Gazi Rakayet, Toufique,  
Jyotika Jyoti, Farhana Mithu,  
SM. Mohsin, Khalilur Rahman  
Quaderi, Misha Sawdagar**



# OGGATONAMA

Feature/Bangladesh/107 mins

Director

**Tauquir Ahmed**

Producer

**Faridur Reza Sagar**

Screenplay

**Tauquir Ahmed**

Cinematographer

**Enamul Haque Sohel**

Editor

**Amit Debnath**

Music

**Pinto Ghosh**

Cast

**Shahiduzzaman Selim, Mosharraf**

**Karim, Fazlur Rahman Babu,**

**Abul Hayat, Nipun Akhter,**

**Shatabdi Wadud, Shahed**

**Ali, Shahed Shorif Khan,**

**Nazmul Huda Baccu, Momena**

**Chowdhury, Robena Reza Jui,**

**Iqbal Babu, Nur A Alam Noyon,**

**Kazi Uzzal, Niaz Mohammad**

**Tariq, Ranojit Chakraborty, Ram**

**Mitra Himel, Ziaul Hasan Kislul,**

**Sujat Shimul, Syed Mosharraf,**

**Iqbal, Shafiq Khan Dilu, Pronob**

**Ghosh, Parvez, Jhuma, Apon,**

**Sayeem, Nattolok and Pangsha**

## Synopsis

Beauty a young girl wants to go to Middle East. Ramjan is the agent who wants to exploit her. The Policeman Farhad who helps her to get police clearance falls in love with her. Farhad becomes embroiled in searching for the family of a person who dies in the Middle East and Ramjan becomes involved as he had sent Asir to the Middle East with false identification. Asir's family accepts the body to discover that it is a stranger they go on journey to identify the unnamed corpse.

## Tauquir Ahmed

Tauquir Ahmed is an Architect turned Actor and Director in both Television and Cinema. He has made 5 Feature Films and is involved in the Film Industry not only as a Director and Actor but as a Screen Writer as well. He commenced his Television acting career in 1996 with "Harjit" and his debut as a Director of Feature Films was "Joyjatra" in 2004.





# PREMI O PREMI

Feature/Bangladesh/127 mins

## Synopsis

Anita who lives in London falls in love with an Indian businessman – Aryan, from a traditional and conservative family from India. She left London for Kolkata to speak to Aryan about their wedding. Due to bad weather conditions she lands at Cox’bazar airport and seek help from a man who tries to trap her. Anita was saved by Rony – the owner of a motel. He helps Anita to reach Kolkata for money and they start their journey, through a lot of hardships, they finally reach Kolkata but during the journey falls in love with each other. Rony returns after arranging a meeting between Anita and Aryan. Gradually Anita came to know that Aryan was using her to fulfil his evil plans. Anita leaves him right away and return to Rony.



## Jakir Hossain Raju

Jakir Hosain Raju commenced his film career with “Jibon Sangshar” in 1996 and has being involved in the creation of over 20 films. He is a multi-talented person in the Film Industry as a Story Writer, Screenplays, and a Lyric writer. He has won 2 National Film Awards in Bangladesh and several other awards from different organizations.

Director

**Jakir Hossain Raju**

Producer

**Jaaz Multimedia Films**

Screenplay

**Abdullah Jahir Babu**

Cinematographer

**Sayeduj Jaman**

Editor

**Towhid Hossain Chowdhorry**

Music

**Anjela Monjur**

Cast

**Arafin Shuvo, Nusrat Faria, Amjad Hossain, Shibashano, Rabaka, Charli Uzzal, Chikon Ali, Amin Sharkar, Jhaki Alomgir, Kagi Kalam, Jeba, Israt Jahan, Sonia, Raj, Farhad and Bristy**



**BHUTAN**





# HUM CHEWAI ZAMLING

Feature/Bhutan/145 mins

## Synopsis

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



## Wangchuk Talop

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

Director  
**Wangchuk Talop**

Producer  
**Pema Tshering**

Screenplay  
**Gyem Dorji**

Cinematographer  
**Chencho Dorji**

Editor  
**Wangchuk Talop & Chencho Dorji**

Music  
**Tandin Dorji**

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



# SERGA MATHANG

Feature/Bhutan/145 mins

Director

**Kesang P. Jigme**

Producer

**Pema Tshering**

Screenplay

**Kesang P. Jigme**

Cinematographer

**Chhoeku Dorji**

Editor

**Kesang P. Jigme**

Music

**Tashi Wangdi**

Cast

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

## Synopsis

*Serga Mathang*, a cross-cousin marriage- is also the system of alluring children by the parents when they barely understand the system. The film raises the question about the problems concerning the cross-cousin marriages. This Film revolves around Choden and Sonam who are cross-cousins who are betrothed as children and Yangchen who meets Sonam in College. Due to family pressure Sonam and Choden gets married and have a child Karchung, who is disabled. Yangchen who becomes a doctor helps Karchung.

## Kesang P. Jigme

Kesang P, Jigme commenced his film career in 1998 as an Actor and Producer of the movie "Raywaa" and has contributed for over 15 films in different capacities as a director, editor, screenplay and script writer and an actor. His movie *Serga Mathang* "Golden Sister" was awarded the Best Director, Best Screenplay, and Best Prime Minister Award in 2017.





INDIA



# ONAATAH

Feature/India/112 mins

Director

**Pradip Kurbah**

Producer

**Kurbah Films**

Screenplay

**Pradip Kurbah, Lionel Fernandes,  
Paulami Duttagupta**

Cinematographer

**Pradip Daimary**

Editor

**Lionel Fernandes**

Cast

**Merlvin Mukhim, Sweety Pala,  
Richard Kharपुरi, Enshon  
Lamare, Mary Nonghuloo,  
Tashneem Lyngdoh, Ampolous  
Rajee, Destina Mawrie, Benjamin  
War, Wansuklyn Kynta,  
Renauldus Kharbuli, Margarita  
Sohtun, Regina Lamo, Banatimon,  
Bahduh Kong Ha Bos**

## Synopsis

Onaatah is a story where the protagonist asks important questions and takes a journey that gives her the answers. This is a film about Onaatah - a rape victim who refuses to be a loser but doesn't know how to pick up the pieces of a broken life. Her perspective about life changes when she gets introduced to the other characters of the village. The rustic simplicity makes Onaatah look at life differently.

## Pradip Kurbah

Pradip Kurbah has produced more than 150 music videos in different languages. He has done direction, including pioneering film making in Meghalaya State in India and winning the coveted National Film Award in 2014 and 2016.





# PINKY BEAUTY PARLOUR

Feature/India/127 mins

## Synopsis

The film deals with the obsession with fair skin- as a deep-rooted social evil. This also results in severe discrimination. Pinky Beauty Parlour is an engaging, entertaining, and a poignant tale of the repercussions this obsession for fairer skin has on a human mind, families and society in general. It follows the journey of two sisters, Pinky and Bulbul, who runs a beauty parlour in Banaras, and are drawn into a complex story of inter-mingled loyalties and insecurities.



## Akshay Singh

Akshay Singh started his film career as a script writer for films which he tried to promote with several production houses, some scripts were selected but the movies were not made. Pinky Beauty Parlour is his debut film as the Director and Producer.

Director  
**Akshay Singh**  
Producer  
**Akshikha Entertainment**  
Screenplay  
**Akshay Singh**  
Cinematographer  
**Gagandeep Singh**  
Editor  
**Sandeep Singh Bajeli**  
Music  
**Arbind-Lyton**  
Cast  
**Sulagna Panigrahi, Khushboo  
Gupta, Akshay Singh, Anhay  
Joshi, Vishwanath Chatterjee, Jogi**



# VEERAM MACBETH

Feature/India/104 mins

Director

**Jayaraj**

Producer

**Chandramohan D. Pillai**

Screenplay

**Jayaraj**

Cinematographer

**S. Kumar**

Editor

**Appu N. Bhattathiri**

Music

**Jeff Rona**

Cast

**Kunal Kapoor, Divinaa Thackur, Himarsha Venkatsamy, Shivajith Nambia, Aahram Chaudhary, Athul Vijayakumar, Martina, Seema, Ashraf Gurukkal, Justin Antony, Ketaki Narayan Kulkarni**

## Synopsis

The movie blends the folklore of North Malabar with William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in the Bard's 400th year. *Veeram* is based on the ballads of North Malabar and is set in 13th century Kerala. It narrates the tale of the fearless, mighty and brave Kalarippayattu warrior – Chandu, who falls apart by greed and ambition. The life of Chandu is starkly similar to William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* but one that occurred even before his time.

## Jayaraj

Jayaraj has marked his presence in art house films as well as mainstream films. He has directed 35 films, in four languages. His films have been critically acclaimed and won awards.





# ORMAYUDE ATHIRVARAMBUKAL

Short/India

## Synopsis

This about an elderly person's search for a son, whose name is resonating in his fading memory. Unlike a traditional family, the current nuclear families lack the much-needed human infrastructure for nursing senior citizens at home. This situation is intense in the southern state Kerala, where many younger members in the family migrate abroad for better job prospects. While bringing public awareness about this crisis, this movie explores the heart-warming story of a grandpa with dementia. Loosely based on several true incidents, this movie paints a faithful picture of how relationships are changed, personal spaces are invaded and love is redefined in a nuclear family when an unwelcome elderly person enters. Can grandpa finally recognise the face behind the resonating name?



## Sudesh Balan

Sudesh Balan is a Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Bombay he teaches photography and filmmaking with an emphasis on digital media. His research projects are related to democratization of digital media and its possibilities in India. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and a Master's degree in Visual Communication from IIT Bombay. He has an Master of Fine Arts in Mass Communication and Media Arts from Department of Cinema and Photography in Southern Illinois University Carbondale in USA and was working in commercial and independent film productions in California.

Director  
**Sudesh Balan**  
Producer  
**Sudesh Balan**  
Screenplay  
**Sudesh Balan**  
Cinematographer  
**Sudesh Balan**  
Editor  
**Vinit Masram**  
Music  
**Bijibal**  
Cast  
**T.G. Ravi, Rajesh Sharma, Saritha  
Kukku, Farsin Sidhu, Arjun  
G. Nair, Jose Amballor, Jishnu  
Krishnan, Ajay Ghosh**



# TAANDAV

Short/India

Director

**Devashish Makhija**

Producer

**Piiyush Singh**

Screenplay

**Devashish Makhija**

Cinematographer

**Swapnil Sonawane**

Editor

**Shweta Venkat**

Cast

**Manoj Bajpayee, Vibhawari  
Deshpande, Anvita Dutt Guptan,  
Suhas Sirsat, Ashish Warang,  
Abhishek Banerjee, Anand  
Alkunte, Pradhya**

## Synopsis

Head Constable Tambe isn't having the best of days. His wife slams doors on his face. His little daughter won't speak to him. His only friends, Havaldaars (constable) Sawant and Shilwant, feel cheated by him and to make matters worse, he's been given nightlong Ganapati Visarjan Bandobast (official duty during the immersion of the Ganapati idol after the ten-day annual festival of Lord Ganapati's puja) duty. The lights are blinding, the drums are deafening explosions, clanging, flashing and thrashing. His senses are being attacked from every which way. Every screaming face seems to be mocking him tonight. His blood slowly rises to a boil until he snaps, plunges into the crowd, pulls his gun out, and as jaws drop around him... he unleashes a Taandav.

## Devashish Makhija

Devashish Makhija was a part of the movie "Black Friday" and was the Chief Assistant Director of "Buntyaur Babli". He has written and directed acclaimed Short Films such as "Rahim Murgepe mat ro", "El'ayichi", "Agli Baar", and "Absent". He is also the director of the Feature Film "Oonga". He has contributed to the Film Industry by writing numerous Screen Plays such as Avik Mukherjee's "Bhoomi", and Anurag Kashyap's "Doga". He is a multi-talented person with having held solo art exhibitions and an author of children's books







MALDIVES



# VISHKA

Feature/Maldives/130 mins

Director  
**Ravee Farooq**  
Producer  
**Aishath Rishmy**  
Screenplay  
**Mahdi Ahmed**  
Cinematographer  
**Shamin Nizam**  
Editor  
**Ravee Farooq**

Cast  
**Aishath Rishmy, Ravee Farooq,  
Rishmy Rameez, Ahmed Saeed**

## Synopsis

Ishantey a gang member and a murderer save Vishka from a mugging. Vishka falls in love with Ishantey and believes love can change Ishantey who is devoid of feelings but develops a bond with Vishka due to her caring nature. Vishka starts living with Ishantey but gradually realizes that the world of Ishantey is not easy forsake and seeks the help of Manik, a friend of Ishantey to help her. Manik has a hidden agenda and makes Vishka do anything he wishes. Within this psychological war of the good and evil, the former gets trapped. Unable to escape, Vishka realises that she is getting dragged deeper into the dark world of crime, murder, greed and violence. Can she survive? Or her only chance of escape is death itself?

## Ravee Farooq

Ravee Farooq is a director and a choreographer and started his film career as an actor in 2005 in “Hureemey Inthizaaru Gaa” for which he won the ‘Best Newcomer (Male)’ at the first Miadhu Crystal Awards. His directorial debut was “Dheke Dheke Ves 2” which was a huge success. His Short Film “Falhi Sikunthu 2” won the Best Director in the Short Film Category at the 4th National Film Awards. He was nominated for the best actor and best choreographer for his second movie “Hiyani”, at the 5th National Film Awards. “Ingili” produced and directed by him swept Maldivian Film Awards in 2014 winning 11 awards including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay. “Ingili” also won the bronze medal at SAARC Film Festival held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2014 and the 45th International Film Festival of India held in Goa in 2014.





NEPAL



# DYING CANDLE

Feature/Nepal/126 mins

Director

**Naresh Kumar KC, Bimal Subedi**

Producer

**Rabin Acharya, Naresh Kumar KC, Uttam KC, Bimal Subedi, Marie Adler, Amrit Ajita, James Kwon Lee**

Screenplay

**Dr. Naresh Kumar KC**

Cinematographer

**Rabin Acharya, Dipankar Sikder**

Editor

**Sandeep Adhikari**

Music

**Michael Klubertanz, Shyam Nepali, Dale Sumner, Roshan Raj Thapa**

Cast

**Bidhya Karki, Saugar Malla, Kesab Rai, Srijana Subba, Lakpa Singi**

## Synopsis

A sister fights all odds to take care of her younger brother, until things fall apart and she is left with no option but sell her dignity to save him. Kshemi looks after her three younger sisters, mother and younger brother Tikpe after her father's death and due to her responsibilities, she doesn't get married. Tikpe gets seriously hurt and in order to save him Kshemi elopes with the rich drunkard Janak Lal leaving her true love Mukunda an honest villager. Janak Lal wins her physically yet loses her spiritually, while Mukunda fights for her best, and wins her despite losing.

## Naresh Kumar KC

Naresh Kumar is a Medical Doctor who became a Film Director and Screenwriter of Feature Films and Documentaries. He was trained at the College of Film Studies at the Oscar International College in Screenwriting and Film Directing. He has studied at the New York Film Academy and University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. He also holds multiple Master's Degrees in English Literature and Business Studies from Tribhuvan University. He commenced his professional film career in 2003 with a Health Education Documentaries for the United Nations, Tourism Board of Nepal and other Government and Non-Government Organizations. Since then, he has written, directed, produced and edited many Documentaries, Short Films and a Feature Film so far. He believes he is born to make movies, and movies only. Rooted to the core of social realism, his stories and visuals portray the murky depths of rural lives of Upper Himalayas of Nepal.





# THE BLACK HEN

Feature/Nepal/90 mins

## Synopsis

In a remote Nepalese village, Prakash and Kiran, two 12-year-old inseparable friends, despite belonging to different castes, decide to raise a hen to earn some money by selling its eggs. A temporary cease-fire allows the residents of the small Nepalese village to breathe a sigh of relief. One day, the hen goes missing. To find it, they embark on a journey, innocently unaware of the dangers incurred by the fragile ceasefire to the civil war rocking the region.



## Min Bahadur Bham

Min Bahadur Bham is a young emerging director with a degree in Nepali Literature and Film Making and a Postgraduate Degree in Buddhist Philosophy and Political Science. His first short film was “The Last Beginning” in 2009 followed by “The Flute” in 2012 which was a historical first for Nepali film as it was selected for the Venice IFF and won a Jury Award at the Toronto Nepali Film Festival. He participated in the Berlinale Talent Campus and attended the Asian Film Academy in the Busan International Film Festival in 2013 where he was awarded The Outstanding Fellow Award. The Black Hen his debut Feature Film was the first Nepali Feature Film to be presented in Venice IFF, where it won the Best Film Award in the Critics’ Week section.

Director  
**Min Bahadur Bham**

Producer  
**Min Bahadur Bham, Catherine Dussart, Anna Kachko, Devaki Rai, Tsering Rhitar Sherpa, Anup Thapa**

Screenplay  
**Min Bahadur Bham, Abinash Bikram Shah**

Cinematographer  
**Aziz Zhambakiev**

Editor  
**Nimesh Shrestha, Aziz Zhambakiev**

Music  
**Jason Kunwar**

Cast  
**Khadka Raj Nepali, Sukra Raj Rokaya, Jit Bahadur Malla, Hansha Khadka, Benisha Hamal, Bipin Karki**



# OH MY MAN!

Short/Nepal

Director

**Gopal Chandra Lamichhane**

Producer

**Shakti Ballav Ghorasaini, Punam Gautam**

Screenplay

**Sushil Paudel**

Cinematographer

**Deepak Bajrachary**

Editor

**Hari Silwal**

Cast

**Laxmi Giri**

## Synopsis

The movie takes its story from the Hindu mythical belief related to the God Kaal Bhairav — a deity in Basantapur. The film is based on the myth about how someone is not supposed to tell a lie in front of Kaal Bhairav and the context represents our contemporary society. According to the myth, in the past notorious criminals, who wouldn't tell the truth, was taken before the God Kaal Bhairav to make them tell the truth. The belief was that whoever told lies before the God would die instantly from vomiting blood. The movie shows how cunning and tricky humans have become nowadays. Humans have become so clever that they can even trick the God and put the God in trouble. In the movie the God Kaal Bhairav is put in such a problem that he becomes helpless before the tricky lie and can't kill the liar.

## Gopal Chandra Lamichhane

Gopal Chandra Lamichhane has been involved in the Film Industry since 1989. He is a versatile and talented person and is known as a Director, Actor, Script Writer of Feature Films, Short Films and for the Television in Nepal. His Feature Films include "Boksi", "Kin Lagchha Maya" and "Janta Jindabad". His Short Films include "The Mirror". He has written Scripts of "Vastabikta", "Sadak Ko Jindagi", etc., where he has displayed his creativity and talent within the Film Industry.





# THE YEAR OF THE BIRD

Short/Nepal

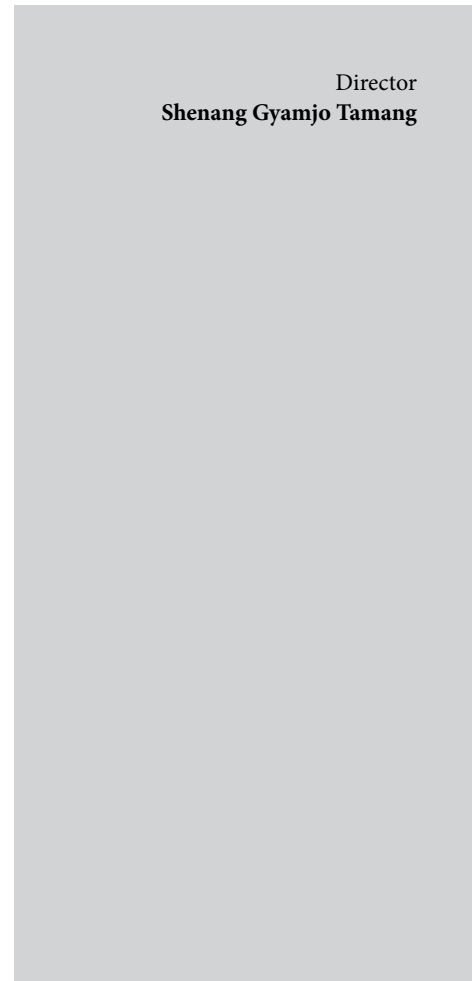
## Synopsis

This is the story of two Buddhist monks, of different ages, one the teacher and the other another- a student, but with the same kind conflict - guilt and anger. Tashi, a troubled young monk with no perspective is sent to a retreat center, far from the monastery, with his master Paljor, an old monk, who is suffocating from guilt. These two- troubled souls left alone at the retreat center and their encounter in each other's existence alter both their lives forever.



## Shenang Gyamjo Tamang

Shenang Gyamjo Tamang is a Buddhist monk with a PhD in Buddhism and a teacher at the Shechen Monastery in Nepal where he teaches Buddhist philosophy. He has an abiding passion for film which led him to participate in Film workshops held in India and Nepal. The "Jha Lo" (The Year of the Bird) is his debut as a Short Film Director which he made as an experimental movie.



Director  
**Shenang Gyamjo Tamang**



PAKISTAN





# BIN ROYE

Feature/Pakistan/120 mins

## Synopsis

Saba, a hopeless romantic is driven to obsession by her intense feelings for the man of her dreams - Irtaza. Irtaza decides to study abroad and while in the USA, he meets Saman and falls in love with her. Meanwhile, Saba desperately longs for Irtaza and his return. In a twist of events, Saman ends up in Pakistan at Saba's home while searching for her biological parents. Saba immediately develops a bond with Saman upon learning that she is her elder sister. Their friendship grows deeper each day until Irtaza confesses his love for Saman. What follows is a tragic story of regret, remorse and reunion and a beautiful tale about how love can often bring out the best and sometimes the worst in us.

## Momina Duraid

Momina Duraid is a Producer and a Director, known for "Humsafar" (2011), "Zindagi Gulzar Hai" (2012) and "Diyar-e-Dil" (2015). She has produced and created several acclaimed series including "Dastaan" (2010), "Qaid-e-Tanhai" (2010-11), "Shehr-e-Zaat" (2012), "Sadqay Tumhare" (2015), "Mann Mayal" (2016), "Udaari" (2016), "Bin Roye" (2016) and "Yaqeen Ka Safar" (2017). In 2015, she ventured into film direction and co-directed Bin Roye, that earned her critical acclaim and recognition. Later that same year, she founded film production house, Hum Films. In 2015, she was named among the Pond's list of Miracle Journey: The 100 Most Inspirational Women.

## Shahzad Kashmiri

Shahzad Kashmiri is a Pakistani television and film director. He is best known for his work as a cinematographer in Hum TV drama series "Zard Mausam" and the most popular drama "Humsafar", "Mata-e-Jaan Hai Tu", etc. He is best known for directing the Pakistani film "Bin Roye". Bin Roye is Pakistani drama movie which is directed by Shahzad Kashmiri, written by Farhat Ishtiaq and produce by Momina Duraid

Director  
**Momina Duraid and Shahzad  
Kashmiri**  
Producer  
**Momina Duraid**  
Screenplay  
**Farhat Ishtiaq**



# MAH-E-MIR

Feature/Pakistan/150 mins

Director  
**Anjum Shahzad**  
Producer  
**Khurram Rana, Sahir Rasheed,  
Badar Ikram**  
Screenplay  
**Sarmad Sehbai**

## Synopsis

Set in contemporary times a young anarchist poet while denouncing the tradition, goes through the sufferings of love, separation and poverty which drives him to madness in which he discovered the 18th century legend of poetry 'Mir Taqi Mir'. In his poetic journey he embodies the intense love, the passion and the creative madness of poet. Mah-e-Mir is an attempt to connect the audience from classical age of Urdu poetry through present times and issues. The modern poet Jamal's character as Mir Taqi Mir provides rare glimpses from the life of this great poet. The movie tries to draw parallels between Jamal's and Mir Taqi Mir's life with the story jumping from present day to Jamal's mind as he imagines himself to be Mir Taqi Mir in Lucknow focusing on the trials and tribulations that Mir once experienced.

## Anjum Shahzad

Anjum Shahzad is Television and Film Director, Producer, Writer and a former Actor. He is best known for his critically acclaimed portrayal of Bobby in the Comedy Drama Series "Family Front" for which he won the Best Debut Actor Award. He left acting and to pursue a career in directing, and has directed some of the most popular drama serials such as "Woh Tees Din", "Mora Piya", "Pehla Chand", "Mirat Al Uroos", "Dead Line", "Rang Laaga", "Khuda Aur Muhabbat", "Satrangi", "Dusri Bivi" and "Armaan" which was critically acclaimed. He received his 3rd Television Director Lux Style Award at the 15th Lux Style Awards for "Rang Laaga". His debut as a Director of Feature Films was in 2016 with "Mah-e-Mir".





SRI LANKA



# FRANGIPANI

Feature/Sri Lanka/90 mins

Director

**Visakesa Chandrasekaram**

Producer

**Visakesa Chandrasekaram**

Screenplay

**Visakesa Chandrasekaram**

Cinematographer

**Kularuwan Gamage**

Editor

**Sithum Samarajewa**

Music

**Shantha Peiris**

Cast

**Dasun Pathirana, Jehan**

**Srikanth Appuhami, Yashodha**

**Rasanduni, Bhoome Harendran,**

**Ruvan Malith Peris, Kumudu**

**Kumarasingha, Ganga Jeevani**

**Weliwatta, Anjana Premaratna,**

**Nishantha Lorance, Nilmini**

**Buwaneka**

## Synopsis

Sarasi does not want Chamath to be the only boy in her bridal dressing class but she enjoys wrapping the beautiful wedding saris that Chamath embroiders. She wants Chamath to rescue her from an arranged marriage but Chamath wants to run away from the village looking for the freedom in the city. Then Chamath finds a new friend – Nalin, a welding mechanic who comes to work in the local temple. Sarasi reluctantly welcomes the outsider to her closed circle, not knowing that one day the mechanic would give her hopes of entering a marriage of her choice. The unvoiced love triangle starts shattering when the secret promises are about to be broken. The clash between the three companions comes to an end when Sarasi chooses her groom. Five years later they meet again to question whether the early winners in fact have lost their bid for a long-lasting love.

## Visakesa Chandrasekaram

Visakesa Chandrasekaram known as Vissa is a human rights lawyer, community law practitioner and an independent artist practicing in Sri Lanka and Australia. He won the prestigious Gratian Prize and the National Literary Prize for English and Sinhalese versions of his debut play, Thahanam Adaviya (Forbidden Area). He has written and directed many plays. Vissa received a PhD from the Australian National University for his research on the use of confessionary evidence under the counter-terrorism laws in Sri Lanka. He has also published his debut novel, Tigers Don't Confess. Frangipani is his debut Feature Film.





# HANSA VILAK

Feature/Sri Lanka/90 mins

## Synopsis

The story is woven around Nissanka and Miranda who starts a clandestine relationship with each other and their families. Nissanka is married to Samathi and is the father of two children while Miranda is married to Douglas and the mother of one child. Their adulterous relationship is exposed Nissanka and Miranda and culminates in divorce. Nissanka and Miranda starts a new life together but the old life intrudes in the form of Miranda's child. This leads Nissanka to drink, paranoia and depression which results in hallucinations. Nissanka disintegrates psychologically to the point where reality and fantasy are blurred.



## Dharmasiri Bandaranayake

Dharmasiri Bandaranayake commenced his Cinematic career as an Actor in the "Bak Maha Deege" in 1969. He became a Playwriter and a Producer and left his mark on Sri Lankan Drama through "Ekadhipathi", "Makarakshaya", "Trojan Kanthawo", etc. Hansa Vilak was his debut as a Screenwriter and Director and was the main Actor as well. His Films include "Thunweniyamaya" in 1983, "Suddilage Kathawa" in 1985, "Bhava Duka" and "Bhava Tharana" in 1997. He was the Screenwriter and Director in all his movies. He won a Special Diploma Certificate at the Manheim Film Festival in West Germany in 1979, Bunka Prize in 1996 and many other Sri Lanka Film Awards for his acting, writing and directing.

Director  
**Dharmasiri Bandaranayake**

Producer  
**Albert Jayasinghe**

Screenplay  
**Dharmasiri Bandaranayake**

Cinematographer  
**Andrew Jayamanne**

Editor  
**Stanley De Alwis**

Music  
**Premasiri Khemadasa**

Cast  
**Henry Jayasena, Swarna Mallawarachchi, Wasanthi Chathurani, Dharmasiri Bandaranayake, G.W. Surendra, J.H. Jayawardana, Walter Rodrigo, Denawaka Hamini, Ashoka Weerakoon, Amarasena Peiris, Granwil Rodrigo, V.B. Karunarathna, Ostin Samarawickrama, Barbara Liyanage, Nandasena Hewage, P. Ilangakoon, Prasanna Ginige, Hemasiri Abeygunawardana, ChinthaniCharulatha Jayasena, Ranga Bandaranayake, Wishaka Hansakula, Tharanga Kularathna**



# LET HER CRY

Feature/Sri Lanka/104 mins

Director

**Asoka Handagama**

Producer

**Jagath Wijenayake**

Screenplay

**Asoka Handagama**

Cinematographer

**Channa Deshapriya**

Editor

**Ravindra Guruge**

Music

**Chitral "Chitty" Somapala**

Cast

**Swarna Mallawarachchi, Dhritiman Chatterjee, Rithika Kodithuwakku, Sandali Ash, Hashinika Karaliyadda, Thilakshini Ratnayake, Asoka de Zoysa, King Ratnam, Keerthi Ranjith Peiris, Amarapala Karasinghearachchi, Nayomi Kanchana, Thilak Jayakodi, Manjula Perera**

## Synopsis

An old university professor, almost 50 years of age is in a secret relationship with one of his young and beautiful students. However, the latter does not seem to take it to her liking when the professor wanted to put an end to the relationship. She also turns out to be a psychopath as she refuses to believe the professor and locks the man up in her house, smiling at him naked from across the room. She also starts tormenting the wife of the professor through various calls. The old couple realises that they cannot escape from the young woman and in an attempt to save the honour and the prestige of the family, the wife takes a momentous decision, she invites the young woman to live with them in their house.

## Asoka Handagama

Asoka Handagama is considered as the leader of the third generation of Sri Lankan cinema. His films, like "This is My Moon (2000)" (which won Woosok Award for Best Film at JIFF 2001) "Flying with One Wing" (2002) (Which won Best Asian Film at Tokyo IFF), aiming to tackle harsh socio-political realities in the society, always tend to explore new forms and narratives. Amiens International Film Festival, paid tribute to Asoka Handagama for his contribution to development of independent cinema in Asia, at its 33rd Edition, held from 8th to 16th November 2013. His latest film "Let Her Cry" is his eighth full-length Feature Film.





# NAKED AMONG PUBLIC

Short/Sri Lanka

## Synopsis

Everything was perfect until he lost his phone. It was the darkest era of his life as well as hers. They struggled to get back to their normal lives and they thought that it would happen soon, however nothing seemed to change...



## Nimna Dewapura

Nimna Dewapura is an undergraduate at the University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo. He has contributed his talents to a number of Short Films in various capacities as a director and script writer. Some of his short films include "The Change" and "I Want You" in 2015, "Inside" and "Which Way" in 2016 and "Naked Among Public" in 2017. His Short Film "Inside" made the short list of the Public Library Festival and "Which Way" was nominated as the Most Promising Film Maker in 2016. The Short Film "Naked Among Public" was the official selection for the Coins Film Festival in 2017.

Director  
**Nimna Dewapura**



# SONG OF THE INNOCENT

Short/Sri Lanka

Director  
**Dananjaya Bandara**

## Synopsis


A group of Freshmen are being seriously tormented and ragged by senior students. One of the freshers reaches the tipping point beyond which he could not take it anymore. Traumatic memory of this experience leads him to a psychological breakdown. There are numerous reports of such mental breakdowns in Sri Lanka. This is merely one of the many such instances.

## Dananjaya Bandara

Dananjaya Bandara holds Bachelor of Performing Arts (Special) Degree in Digital Cinema from the University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo. His debut film was “The Cat” in 2014. “Dream of Heaven” in 2015, “Coffee” & “The 40th Poem” in 2016 and “Fire of Life” in 2017 are his creations. His Short Film “Song of the Innocent” won the 1st place at the 6th Youth Short Film Festival 2017 organized by the National Youth Services Council and the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs. It has also won several accolades including the Audience award at the Colombo International Student Film Festival 2017, the Best Short Film Award at the Fifth Derana Film Awards 2017, and Best National Film Award at the Jaffna International Student Film Awards 2017.







**MEET**  
**THE JURY**  
**MEMBERS**

# MEET THE JURY MEMBERS



## **Anne Démy-Geroe**

Anne Démy-Geroe is a Film Curator and Scholar specializing in Asian cinema. A lecturer on Asia Pacific Cinema at Griffith Film School and co-Director of the Iranian Film Festival Australia, she is an inaugural member of the Nominations Council for the Asia Pacific Screen Awards, a Vice President of NETPAC - the Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema, and a Co-Director of APSL - Asia Pacific Screen Lab. Anne was the inaugural Director of the Brisbane International Film Festival from 1991 to 2010. She has Curated many Regional festivals and International retrospectives. She has served on many Film Juries from Hawaii to Beirut and was a Judge on the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards (Scriptwriting) from 2001 to 2010, and chaired the APSA Children's Film Fund Panel for several years. A past Council Member of the National Film and Sound Archive, she was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal for services to the film industry in 2003. She has a PhD in the area of Iranian cinema.



### **António Costa Valente**

António Costa Valente holds a doctorate in cinema and teaches at the University of Aveiro, The University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD) and has been a guest professor at several universities in Austria, Brazil, El Salvador, Spain, USA, France, Ireland, Japan, Morocco, United Kingdom, Sao Tome and Principe and Switzerland. He Produced and Co-directed the first Portuguese animated feature film “To the Top of the World”. As a Director and Producer, he has participated in over a hundred films that have been honored around the globe with around three hundred awards. He is a member of the Board of the “Academia Portuguesa de Cinema” (Portuguese Cinema Academy), “Geminal Platform” which brings together various projects between Portugal and Guinea-Bissau, and national coordinator of “INPUT-International Public Television Conference”. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the “CARTOON - Association Européenne du Film d’Animation” - Brussels (1995 to 2000), “APCA - Associação de Produtores de Cinema e Audiovisuais” (Association of Film Producers), Chairman of the “Cartoon Portugal” (1992 to 1995), and is currently the director of “Cine-Clube de Avanca” and “Debat Evolution”.

# MEET THE JURY MEMBERS

# MEET THE JURY MEMBERS



## **Amir Masoud Soheili**

Amir Masoud Soheili is a short filmmaker who has won many international awards. He has participated in hundreds of festivals around the world as a Director and a Jury member. He has been one of the seven most honoured Iranian short filmmakers in 2015. He has been working for more than ten years in the film industry as an Assistant Director. He has also proven his talent for writing scripts such as “This is the deed Mr. Doctor!” (Short film 2010), “Pari” (Short film 2015) and “Loved her like a sister” (short film 2016) produced by other filmmakers. His second short film “Blue Eyed Boy” (2014) was officially selected in more than 140 International Film Festivals and has won 20 International Awards such as the “Best International Narrative Short” at Garden State International Film Festival in USA, and the “Best Director” at the International Festival Entr’2 Marches in Cannes, France. His last Film “Heaven of Children” was selected in more than 40 International Film Festivals and has already won 2 International Awards. He was member of the Jury of the 10th Yogya Netpac Asian Film Festival (2015), Vidsee Juree awards competition, Borneo film festival in Indonesia (2016), Avanca international film festival in Portugal (2016) and CreActive International Open Film Festival (IOFF) in Bangladesh (2016). He is working as a festival director of Inaugural “Safe Community” International Film Festival in Mashhad, Iran (2017) and Asia Peace Film Festival in Islamabad, Pakistan (2017).

# MASTER CLASS

24th November 2017 from 9.00 am - 11.00 am  
at The Russian Cultural Centre  
Colombo 07, Sri Lanka



**SAARC  
FILM  
FESTIVAL  
2017**

## International Film Festivals and Cinema Education Opportunities in Asia, Europe and the Asia Pacific Region

Conducted by



Dr. Anne Démy-Geroe is a film curator and scholar specializing in Asian cinema. A lecturer on Asia Pacific Cinema at Griffith Film School and co-Director of the Iranian Film Festival Australia, she is an inaugural member of the Nominations Council for the Asia Pacific Screen Awards, a Vice President of NETPAC, the Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema, and a Co-Director - APSL - Asia Pacific Screen Lab, NETPAC.



Dr. António Costa Valente is a filmmaker, director of the AVANCA Film Festival since 1997 ([www.avanca.com](http://www.avanca.com)), and the scientific conference "AVANCA | CINEMA, International Conference Cinema – Art, Technology, Communication" since 2010.



Amir Masoud Soheili is an internationally awarded short filmmaker who has participated to hundreds of festivals around the world as a director and also jury. He has been one of the seven most honored Iranian short filmmakers in 2015.

Organised by SAARC Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka



South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

[www.saarcculture.org](http://www.saarcculture.org)

Limited number of seats on first come first served basis

Moderated by



Dhanushka

Gunathilake is an award winning cinematographer, educator and festival curator. He teaches cinematography at many universities in Sri Lanka. He also works as the consultant in SAARC Film Festival 2017



# SAARC FILM FESTIVAL 2016 AWARDS

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

Eranda Mahagama, Sarjani Shanika, Dulanjalee Balage for the Film titled *“Living without Life”* representing Sri Lanka.

## **SPECIAL JURY MENTION**

To the Film *“Benegal’s Cinema”* Directed by Iram Ghufuran representing India

## **BEST CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Barkaat Hassain for the Film *“Jalal’s Story”* representing Bangladesh.

## **BEST SCREENPLAY**

Indika Ferdinando for the Film *“Ho Gaana Pokuna”* representing Sri Lanka.

## **BEST EDITOR**

Tissa Surendra for the Film *“Ho Gaana Pokuna”* representing Sri Lanka.

## **BEST ORIGINAL SCORE**

Chirkutt Band for the Film *“Jalal’s Story”* representing Bangladesh.

## **BEST FILM – OPEN CATEGORY**

*“An Apple from Paradise”* directed by Homayun Morawat representing Afghanistan.

Citation: *“For its noticeable directing, main actor’s act, and its efforts in trying to break stereotype”*

## **BEST SHORT FILM**

*“Apple”* Directed by Chamila Priyanka representing Sri Lanka

Citation: *“For its pure plot which meets the traditional and contemporary world successfully”*.

## **BEST DIRECTOR**

Neeraj Ghaywan, for the Film *“Masaan”* representing INDIA.

## **BEST ACTOR**

Rajab Grussainov for the Film *“An Apple from Paradise”* representing Afghanistan.

## **BEST ACTRESS**

Kaushalya Fernando for the Film *“Bora Diya Pokuna”* representing Sri Lanka.

## **BEST FEATURE FILM BRONZE MEDAL**

To the film *“Goonga Pehelwan”* Directed by Mit Jani, Prateek Gupta and Vivek Chaudhury representing India.

Citation: *“For its try to express the real life of a deaf athlete and it being a very focused feature documentary film”*

## **BEST FEATURE FILM SILVER MEDAL**

To the Film *“Travellers and Magicians”* Directed by Khyentse Norbu, representing Bhutan.

Citation: *“For intelligently expressing anti-globalization based on a love story, with a build-up story and good editing”*.

## **BEST FEATURE FILM TROPHY**

To the Film *“Masaan”* Directed by Neeraj Ghaywan representing India.

Citation: *“For its well-coordinated story about four characters, with good script, editing, directing and music through breaking stereotype about the caste system”*

Selected by Fabienne Aguado (France), Andrei Vasilenko (Russia) and Jinna Lee (South Korea) on 5th June 2016.

# ORGANIZING COMMITTEE SAARC FILM FESTIVAL 2017



## **Dhanushka Gunathilake - Consultant**

Dhanushka Gunathilake has a strong background in Film as a Cinematographer and Educator. He produced the first ever internationally franchised reality show in Sri Lanka, “Obada Lakshapathi Mamada Lakshapathi” (“Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?”) in 2010. He has worked on a variety of Commercial Productions including “The Amazing Race” (India 2008), TV Commercials, Documentaries, Video Art and many Music Videos to date. He has Produced, Filmed and Consulted on Film projects for the BBC, International Planned Parenthood Federation, UNSECO, the United Nations Development Program,

the National Child Protection Authority (Sri Lanka), the Red Cross (Singapore), Oxfam (Australia) and Education TV Unit of the Rupavahini Corporation of Sri Lanka.

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

In 2016/2017, Dhanushka worked as a Cinematographer in his latest films “Amawka Sanda” (The Invisible Moon) which is directed by Vijitha Gunarathne, “Suparna” directed by Sujeewa Priyal and “Ginnen Upan Sithala” (Chill Out of Fire) which is directed by Anuruddha Jayasinghe, which are in the post production stage at the moment.

Dhanushka received his BSc in Information Technology from Edith Corwen University (Perth, Australia), an MA in Film and Television from the Rai University

(Pune and Mumbai, India) and a Post Graduate Diploma from the Film and Television Institute of India (Pune, India). He has taught courses in Film Production at The Indira School of Communication (Pune, India) and St. Xavier’s College (Mumbai, India). He is working as a visiting lecturer at a number of prestigious Universities in Sri Lanka, including the University of Peradeniya, the University of Visual and Performing Arts Colombo, University of Colombo, University of Moratuwa, University of Kelaniya and UNIVOTECH.

Dhanushka also designed and coordinated the Higher National Diploma in Film and Television at Sri Lanka Foundation Digital Film Academy. He is also a founding member of the Digital Film Academy.

He also participated at Open Doors in Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland, a Curator of the Colombo International Student Film Festival (COINS Film Fest), a consultant for Iran Cultural Center for Cinema, SAARC Film Festival and a Committee Member of the International Film Festival of Colombo (IFFCOLOMBO). He was also a Jury member of the Asia Peace Film Festival 2017 in Islamabad, State Music Awards 2015 and Derana Music Video Awards 2016.

## **Organizing Committee**

Chairperson – Wasanthe Kotuwella, Director, SAARC Cultural Centre

Dhanushka Gunathilake – Consultant, Organizing Committee

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

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

Keerthi Gunathilake – Administrative Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre

Kalum Bandara – Finance Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre

Mahinda Sumanasekara – Documentation Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre

Ishan Amaraweera – IT Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre

Harishnath Nadarajah – Programme Assistant, SAARC Cultural Centre.

**Special Thanks**

SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal.

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

Mr. Sitendra Senaratne – Chairman, National Film Corporation.

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All Distinguished Guests.

All Print and Electronic Media.

All Volunteers

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Mr. Ishan Amaraweera - IT Officer, SAARC Cultural Centre

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**Disclaimer**

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# NOTES

# FILM SCHEDULE 2017

**NOVEMBER** 5.00 pm  
**21<sup>st</sup>**  
**TUE** Inauguration Ceremony

6.00 pm  
**Pinky Beauty Parlour**  
Feature/ India/ 127 mins

**NOVEMBER** 10.00 am  
**22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**WED** **Premi O Premi**  
Feature/ Bangladesh/ 127 mins

3.00 pm  
**Naked Among Public**  
Short/ Sri Lanka

6.30 pm  
**Age Asa Aga**  
Feature/ Sri Lanka/ 104 mins

12.00 pm  
**Song of the Innocent**  
Short/ Sri Lanka

3.15 pm  
**Anil Bagchir Ekdin**  
Feature/ Bangladesh/ 120 mins

8.20 pm  
**Hum Chewai Zamling**  
Feature/ Bhutan/ 145 mins

1.00 pm  
**Onaatah**  
Feature/ India/ 112 mins

6.00 pm  
**Water**  
Short/ Afghanistan

**NOVEMBER** 10.00 am  
**23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**THU** **Serga Mathang**  
Feature/ Bhutan/ 145 mins

3.15 pm  
**Vishka**  
Feature/ Maldives/ 130 mins

1.00 pm  
**Oh My Man**  
Short/ Nepal

6.00 pm  
**Mah-e-Mir**  
Feature/ Pakistan/ 150 mins

1.20 pm  
**The Bird was not a bird**  
Feature/ Afghanistan/ 90 mins

**NOVEMBER** 9.00 am  
**24<sup>th</sup>**  
**FRI** **Master Class**  
at The Russian Cultural Centre,  
Colombo 07

3.15 pm  
**Sayapethi Kusuma**  
Feature/ Sri Lanka/ 90 mins

8.00 pm  
**Ormayude Athirvarambukal**  
Short/ India

12.15 pm  
**Bin Roye**  
Feature/ Pakistan/ 120 mins

5.45 pm  
**Taandav**  
Short/ India

8.30 pm  
**Veeram Macbeth**  
Feature/ India/ 104 mins

3.00 pm  
**Year of the Bird**  
Short/ Nepal

6.00 pm  
**The Black Hen**  
Feature/ Nepal/ 90 mins

**NOVEMBER** 10.00 am  
**25<sup>th</sup>**  
**SAT** **Oggatonama**  
Feature/ Bangladesh/ 107 mins

6.30 pm  
**Awards Ceremony**

12.00 pm  
**Dying Candle**  
Feature/ Nepal/ 126 mins

7.00 pm  
**Hansavilak**  
Feature/ Sri Lanka/ 90 mins

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

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