



**TEEN
INDIE
FILM
AWARDS**

2025

10 - 14 NOVEMBER

**India's Largest Teen
and Youth Film Awards**

RV University, Bengaluru, Karnataka



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

Ingmar Bergman

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Fonts Used: Montserrat (Various Styles), Rubik Mono One, Edwardian Script ITC,
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School of Film, Media, and Creative Arts
RV University

The Story comes first. The heart and soul of a film rests in the story, not in its scale.

We want the youth to make films, which introduces a new phase in the LIFE of cinema.

We want films to be made from every corner of the world, and be recognized.

Be Individualistic. Cinema is not to impress the world; it is for yourself.

Be inspired. No one is original, all our stories are inspired from the past.

Pay homage to what was there before.
Break the rules of the art, it will make the art better,
that is the beauty of it.

We here at TIFA, want the youth from every corner of the world to showcase and celebrate their unique experiences and perspectives which they put through the lens.

Because for us, Cinema is boundless.

PAWAN S RAJ

Festival Director, TIFA 2024



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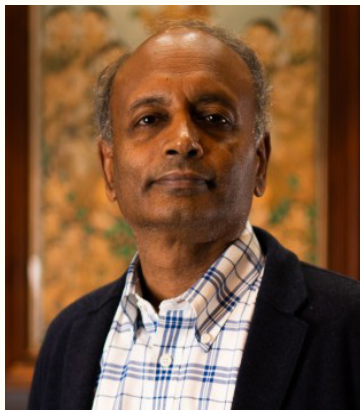
— **TIFA²⁰₂₅** —

messages

PRESIDENT'S

(RV EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS)

message



M. P.
SHYAM

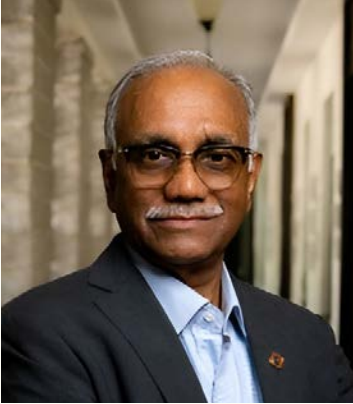
**PRESIDENT,
RV EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

The Teen Indie Film Awards is an exceptional initiative that platforms the young and emerging talent of the future, and facilitates their future, both as auteurs and stars. In this regard, the Teen Indie Film Awards is a valuable stage for every aspiring filmmakers to not only understand and adapt to the Festival circuit early on, but also shine in their chosen fields amongst peers from across the globe.

This year's TIFA, in its 4th edition, has expanded its scope from films to media and AVGC verticals as well, and has therefore become a launchpad to all those who aspire to be in the field of the creative arts. In its continuing mission to enrich the lives of young creatives, the Teen Indie Film Awards has our full support.

———— **TIFA²⁰₂₅** ————

CHANCELLOR'S *message*



A.V.S.
MURTHY

CHANCELLOR,
RV UNIVERSITY

At RV University, we are committed to building an institution that is future-focused, globally connected, and dedicated to empowering the next generation of creators. The School of Film, Media and Creative Arts (SoFMCA) stands as a vibrant pillar of this vision.

Integral to this endeavour is the Teen Indie Film Awards (TIFA). Founded by our Dean, Dr. Piyush Roy, TIFA is a remarkable “of the students, by the students, for the students” initiative that has blossomed into India's largest platform for young, global storytellers.

From 300+ films across 30+ countries, TIFA 2025 brings ‘Global stories on local screens,’ showcasing a powerful tapestry of youth perspectives.

This synergy between SoFMCA's academic excellence and TIFA's real-world platform embodies our core belief: that the future belongs to those who can imagine, create, and connect. We are proud to host this next global phenomenon and celebrate the creative voices that will shape our world.

————— **TIFA²⁰₂₅** —————

PRO CHANCELLOR'S *message*



**D. P.
NAGARAJ**

**PRO-CHANCELLOR,
RV UNIVERSITY**

RV University was envisioned as a crucible for innovation, where academic rigour meets transformative real-world impact. The School of Film, Media and Creative Arts (SoFMCA) is a testament to this commitment. As a Government-recognised centre of excellence, SoFMCA is uniquely positioned to redefine media education in India, blending critical theory with hands-on creative practice.

A shining example of this unique pedagogy in action is the Teen Indie Film Awards (TIFA). It's incredible journey—from inception to receiving 300+ films from over 30 countries—showcases a powerful global exchange of ideas and stories.

TIFA 2025's theme, 'Global stories on local screens,' perfectly captures our mission. It is more than an awards ceremony; it is a dynamic ecosystem where the creators of tomorrow are discovered and celebrated today. We are immensely proud that this global phenomenon is nurtured within our university, reflecting our steadfast focus on a future built on creativity and connection.

———— **TIFA²⁰₂₅** ————

VICE CHANCELLOR'S

message



**RAM
KUMAR
KAKANI**

**VICE CHANCELLOR,
RV UNIVERSITY**

It is with immense pride and joy that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the young filmmakers, storytellers, and creative visionaries participating in this year's Teen Indie Film Awards. TIFA is more than a festival—it is a movement. A celebration of youthful imagination, bold experimentation, and the power of cinema to transcend boundaries.

At RV University, we believe that creativity is not confined by age, geography, or convention. The spirit of TIFA—“of the students, by the students, and for the students”—embodies our commitment to nurturing voices that dare to challenge, provoke, and inspire. This festival is a testament to the global language of cinema and the boundless energy of youth.

Indie cinema holds a mirror to society's most intimate truths. It is raw, authentic, and often revolutionary. Through TIFA, we witness the emergence of a new generation of filmmakers who are not only artists but also changemakers—using the contemporary lens to explore identity, justice, and hope.

To every participant, jury member, and organizer: thank you for making TIFA a beacon of creative excellence. May your stories continue to shape the world, one frame at a time.

DEAN'S

message



PIYUSH ROY

**AUTHOR, CURATOR,
CRITIC & FILMMAKER**

Founder-Mentor of TIFA
Dean of School of Film, Media and Creative Arts, RV University

Being at a film festival reminds one of the impact of cinema as a medium of documentation, exploration, and revelation. Seeing stories from different regions of the world, and the diverse life journeys of their characters, can be an immersive education and empathetic encounter in building cross-cultural understanding, exchange of ideas, and connecting with dreams – big, small, new and evolving!

The Teen Indie Film Awards (TIFA), hosted by the School of Film, Media and Creative Arts at RV University, Bengaluru is a unique film festival initiative to recognise and celebrate excellence, ideation and creativity in short film productions by school and college level students and filmmakers from across the world. These short films also showcase creators taking risks, pushing more boundaries and attempting new ideas. At 300+ submissions, from 40 countries and six continents, TIFA, in its fourth edition has truly emerged as India's largest student-led global film festival dedicated to teenage and young adult filmmakers.

This year, with the introduction of cash prizes and production opportunities worth above Rs 5 Lakh, courtesy the festival's Premium Sponsor and one of India's fastest growing production and distribution company, Hombale Films, TIFA has also emerged as one of the most rewarding international film festivals for teen and young filmmakers.

The festival continues with its ambitions for becoming an all-round destination for thinking about cinema and its influence today, through panel discussions on emerging themes and evolving representations in the media, entertainment, and AVGC (Animation, VFX, Gaming and Comics) industry, masterclasses by achievers from film, media and academia and competitions ranging from RJ Hunt to gaming challenges.

So, calling all budding filmmakers, animators, media influencers and cinephiles in Bengaluru and beyond to join us at this annual carnival of films by teenagers and young adults from 10 – 14 November 2025 for the fourth Teen Indie Film Awards. Let us, together, toast this spectacular craft of moviemaking and make memories and friendships of a lifetime over that shared passion, called – 'loving cinema'.

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S

message



VEDANT PANAMGIPALLI

CRITIC & FILMMAKER

Student of Filmmaking and Literature at
the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
RV University

Over the course of its history, the Teen Indie Film Awards has seen a metamorphosis across its various aspects, so much so that it has gained the moniker, "India's Largest Teen and Youth Film Festival". We have reached this new frontier in our story because of the exceptional films we curate. They are what gives our Festival its character.

TIFA is a very special initiative in myriad ways, but its films are what give it its unique flavor, and its curation is what sharpens and hones the people behind the festival. It shapes the world that TIFA itself inhabits. As students of cinema, the opportunity and ability to have a glimpse at the filmmaking world of our age, affected by the same global context as us, and to see the culmination of our collective psyche realised in their frames is a strikingly one-of-its-kind chance that develops our abilities as curators and lovers of cinema. Watching and curating the films submitted to TIFA is a chance to have a conversation with filmmakers and creatives from around the world, and it trains us in film appreciation, programming, but above all, in empathy.

However, the relationship between the curator and the Filmmaker is not a solely personal one, as the films we receive each year serve as a sign of the shape of cinema to come. TIFA is a chance to give the Stars of the future their first break, a chance for them to see their name on the Marquee, and a chance for them to experience a crowd for their own films. The most unique opportunity that TIFA presents to its audience, its curators, and its filmmakers, is the opportunity to put their finger on the pulse of the future of cinema, and to have the frames on the screen unfold the names and faces that will govern the film world to come. As the credits roll, a diamond emerges in the rough.

To take over and carry forward this legacy in its fourth edition is a gift and a privilege for which I will be forever grateful. I will always find the value of TIFA to be immense, not merely as a Festival Director, but as someone who has worked for and loved its philosophy since my first days of University life. TIFA represents a primordial wish for all young filmmakers, the wish for a platform that empowers, enriches and emboldens them. TIFA is the apotheosis of the dreams seen by young filmmakers, captured in their frames and projected on our screens.



Center of Excellence

School of Film, Media & Creative Arts

CREATE WHAT YOU DREAM

Welcome to India's First Film and Media School in a Liberal Arts University

At RV University's School of Film, Media and Creative Arts (SoFMCA), the mission is to provide the best university offered undergraduate and postgraduate education in film, animation, acting and gaming in South Asia, by preparing students for existing and emerging careers in the creative industries of filmmaking, new media, OTT and AVGC-XR, along with training in research and teaching pathways on the entertainment industry.

We are committed to provide dynamic and multi-disciplinary learning in a liberal and creative educational environment that combines theory and practice to hone students' talent and employability. Our faculty hail from the disciplines of Arts, Humanities, Filmmaking, Media, Animation, VFX and Gaming, and comprise of legendary filmmakers, global studio heads, media editors, influencers and millennial industry professionals as professors-in-practice, to ensure that students receive hands-on training and mentoring to develop the skills and vision to succeed in their chosen field of specialisation.

**TIFA
2025**

jury

**AMANDA GROOM**

CEO and Founder | The Bridge

Amanda Groom is the CEO and Founder of The Bridge, a global media company specializing in East-West co-productions across drama, lifestyle, documentary, and factual formats. With over 20 years of experience as an award-winning international producer and executive, she has worked with major broadcasters and platforms worldwide including PBS, Discovery, ARTE, ZDF, NHK, Tencent, and SBS Australia. A member of the British Screen Advisory Council and finalist for UK/Australian Media-Business Woman of the Year, Amanda is also a seasoned industry speaker, moderator, and mentor.

**AMIT BEHL**

Veteran Actor

Amit Behl is a veteran actor and cultural leader with a prolific career spanning over three decades across film, television, theatre, and OTT platforms. Known for his versatility and powerful performances in over 150 television shows and 50 feature films, Amit is also a prominent voice artist and educator.

**ED VOLLANS**

Deputy Director of Education | University of Leicester, UK

Dr. Ed Vollans is a university academic and Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts, specialising in Screen industry studies and short-form screen content. He currently works for the University of Leicester, in the UK, where he is the Deputy Director of Education. He teaches across many different subjects within the School of Arts, Media and Communication, and his published work is widely available online.



H.N. NARAHARI RAO

Film Critic | Founder-Secretary | Suchitra Film Society

H.N.Narahari Rao is a film critic from India and is the secretary of FIPRESCI India. He is also a noted film society activist for over 35 years, now serving as the Vice President of the Federation of Film Societies of India. He has authored several books, including his latest, *The Most Memorable Films of the World from the Diaries of the Film Societies*.



JUBIN MISHRA

Business Advisor & Strategy Consultant | Start-up Mentor
Leadership Coach | Certified Independent Director | Author

Jubin Mishra is an accomplished business executive and strategy consultant with nearly a quarter-century of diverse experience spanning multiple industries and functional domains. He has collaborated with global giants such as Accenture, HSBC, LG Group, Sony, and Newscorp, and has held influential roles in Staffing & HR Services companies like TeamLease and his wealth of experience has positioned him as a partner at Blue Helion. There, he serves as an advisor, mentor, and integral member of CXO and Founder's core teams. Beyond his professional endeavours, he is passionate about nurturing the next generation of business leaders and drives positive change through strategic initiatives.



KARTHIK MAHAJAN

Founder | IBK Productions, Dehradun

Kartik Mahajan is the founder of IBK Productions, an award-winning animation studio based in Dehradun. He is an animator, director, and recipient of the Award of Excellence for Best Direction from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, India, and India Gold at Digicon Asia (Tokyo). His work has been celebrated internationally, as his production house continues creating films that blend traditional Indian storytelling with contemporary animation.



LAKSHMI ARYA THATHACHAR

Dean-Research | RV University

Dr. Lakshmi is Dean- Research and Professor in the School of Law, RV University. In her capacity as Dean-Research, she also chairs the Office of Doctoral Studies. A historian by training, she earned a PhD in Modern Indian History from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has been awarded several prestigious fellowships, including a Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, a Charles Wallace Fellowship, and a Fellowship of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. Lakshmi also writes creatively. Her poems and short stories have appeared in literary journals.



M. N. GUJAR

Founder | Custard Apple Pictures

MN Gujar is the founder of Custard Apple Pictures, a transmedia consulting, production, and distribution firm dedicated to promoting independent cinema across borders. A recipient of the Festival Academy Scholarship from the British Council, UK, he is the lead festival programmer and international partner at the Indo-German Film Week in Berlin. His work focuses on fostering Indo-European cinematic collaborations, mentoring South Asian filmmakers, and facilitating global distribution and financing of independent films.



NEHA GOENKA

Head of Communications | RV University

With over two decades of experience in Public Relations and Strategic Communication, Neha Goenka has mastered the art of crafting meaningful connections through words and ideas. A postgraduate in Strategic Management and Planning from UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, Dublin, she blends strategic thinking with creative intuition to help brands tell their stories with authenticity and impact.



RAMAKRISHNAN SRIDHARAN

Editor-International | TV-9 Network and News 9

Ramakrishnan "Sri" Sridharan is the Editor-International at TV9 Network and News9. Prior to joining TV9, he was an editor with more than 25 years of experience in print, television and digital media in India and the US. He was part of the team that launched India's youngest business news channel and made it the market-leading channel. He serves on the Foundation board of the Alfred Friendly Press Partners, which is a US-based media training organisation based out of the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri.



S. VISWANATH

Film Critic

S. Viswanath is a career film critic with over 40 years in the field. Mr Viswanath is associated with Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) since its inception (1996) spearheading its programming and curating activities. Mr Viswanath has been a jury at several National & International Film Festival. He was Member of Selection Committee for Indian Panorama 2018. He actively writes about film festivals and also critiques films for several online cinema portals and print media, having authored *Random Reflections: A Kaleidoscopic Musings* on Kannada Cinema targeted at overseas cinema enthusiasts and film studies students.



SAHANA D. GOWDA

Registrar | RV University

Dr. Sahana Gowda is a career educationist whose 26 year career has been dedicated to the enriching of students' lives through explorations of hand-on teaching methods and multiple valuable industry connects that allow for students to grow and find their footing beyond the classroom. She is now bringing this wealth of experience and administrative excellence to her role as Registrar of RV University.



SHALINI NAGARAJ

Ikebana Practitioner | Cinephile

Ms. Nagaraj holds a degree in Commerce from Osmania University, Hyderabad, and brings a multifaceted perspective to her role. She is an accomplished practitioner of Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement, having attained Level 4 certification. This formal training in aesthetic composition complements her keen analytical skills. Furthermore, she is a passionate cinephile with a discerning eye for narrative structure, visual storytelling, and creative execution.



SRI KRISHNAPRIYA

Festival Director | TIFA 2023 | RV University

Krishnapriya is a Student Mentor for the Teen Indie Film Festival & Awards (TIFA) 2025, having previously served as Festival Director in 2023 and Events Director in 2024. With her leadership across these roles, she has played a key part in shaping TIFA's vision as a platform that empowers young storytellers and celebrates emerging voices in cinema.



UTPAL DUTTA

Multi-Award Winning Filmmaker, Film Critic, Author

Utpal Dutta is a multi-award-winning filmmaker, film critic, author, and media educator with an illustrious career spanning radio, cinema, literature, and journalism. Currently serving as Professor of Practice in Performing Arts at Assam Downtown University, he has previously held key positions such as Head of Programme at All India Radio and Political/Social Media Consultant at NeetiShastra Global Services. He is a two-time National Award Recipient who has changed the landscape of writing on Assamese Cinema.

**TIFA
2025**

faculty mentors

faculty mentors

TIFA



**BAIDURYA
CHAKRABARTI**

Catalogue and Programming

Assistant Professor, School of Film,
Media and Creative Arts, RV University

DEEPAK B.J.
PR and Communication.
RJ Hunt

Assistant Professor, School of
Film, Media and Creative Arts,
RV University



SANDIPP
Treasury

Assistant Professor, School of Film,
Media and Creative Arts, RV University



**SNIGDH
BHATNAGAR**
Branding and Marketing.
Pixelstorm

Assistant Professor, School of Film,
Media and Creative Arts,
RV University





**KITTY
MUKHERJEE**
Hospitality

Assistant Dean, School of Film,
Media and Creative Arts, RV University

**RAHUL DEV
RAMAN**
Event Management

Assistant Professor, School of Film,
Media and Creative Arts,
RV University



JULIANNA JAMES
Event Management

Assistant Professor, School of
Film, Media and Creative Arts,
RV University

TANMOY GOSWAMI
Supervising Producer - TIFA

Assistant Professor | School of
Film, Media and Creative Arts,
RV University



TIFA²⁰₂₅



RAHUL JAYARAM Newsletter

Associate Professor, School of Film,
Media and Creative Arts, RV University



ARVIND KAILASAM Event Coverage

Assistant Professor, School of Film, Media
and Creative Arts, RV University



DEBARGHYA SANYAL Panel Discussions

Assistant Professor, School of Film,
Media and Creative Arts, RV University



KARTHIK GOWDA Technical Director

Editor, School of Film, Media and Creative
Arts, RV University



NARENDHAR S. Registrations

Assistant Professor, School of Film,
Media and Creative Arts, RV University



MANISH RAGHAVENDRA Technical Director

Studio-in-Charge, School of Film, Media
and Creative Arts, RV University

**TIFA
2025**

student leaders

student mentors



SRI KRISHNAPRIYA

Student, School of Liberal Arts
and Sciences, RV University



ADYA REDDY

Student, School of Liberal Arts
and Sciences, RV University

student directors



VAISAKH MOHANDAS

Artistic Director

Student, School of Film, Media,
and Creative Arts, RV University



VANDANA V.

Secretary, Treasurer

Student, School of Film, Media,
and Creative Arts, RV University

TIFA

organizing committee



**KSHAUNISH
CHHABRA**

Programming Director

Student, School of Film, Media,
and Creative Arts, RV University



**DHARITRI
V. GIRISH**

Deputy Festival Director

Student, School of Film, Media,
and Creative Arts, RV University

Branding and Marketing



Co-Head

**NAVEED F.
MANZOOR**

Student, School of Computer Science
and Engineering, RV University

**ADITHRI G.
RAO**

Student, School of Film, Media,
and Creative Arts, RV University



Co-Head

PR and Communications



Head

SURIYA KIRAN

Student, School of Film, Media,
and Creative Arts, RV University

ROSANNE D'SOUZA

Student, School of Film, Media,
and Creative Arts, RV University



Deputy

TIFA

organizing committee

CONT'D...

Hospitality



Head

AMITH K.

Student, School of Film, Media,
and Creative Arts, RV University



Deputy

GOWRISH G.

Student, School of Film, Media,
and Creative Arts, RV University

Event Management



Head

K. NITYA

Student, School of Film, Media,
and Creative Arts, RV University



Deputy

ANUDEEP CHOWDARY M.D.

Student, School of Film, Media,
and Creative Arts, RV University



SHREYAS ABHIRAM

Deputy Treasurer

Student, School of Computer Science
and Engineering, RV University



HARSHITA RAGHU

Head, Graphic Design

Student, School of Film, Media,
and Creative Arts, RV University

TIFA

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school - in - focus



**DEPARTMENT
OF
THEATRE, FILM, AND
TELEVISION STUDIES**

ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY, U.K.



Aberystwyth University, Aberystwyth, Wales

The Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies at Aberystwyth University is a prominent, interdisciplinary centre for creative education and research. It provides high-quality learning and teaching, attracting and nurturing students from Wales, the UK, Europe, and across the globe.

As one of the few departments of its kind in the UK, it offers a unique, integrated experience that combines creative and critical approaches across all its disciplines.

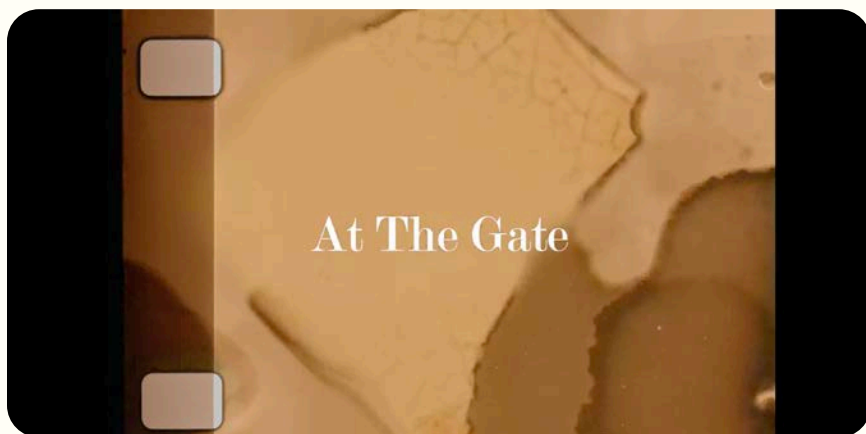
The department's teaching is directly informed by the cutting-edge research and professional practice of its staff. Students are taught by a community of active playwrights, performers, directors, scenographers, filmmakers, media communicators, and academics. This creates a vibrant culture of shared exploration where making, writing, and theorizing coexist. The department is renowned for the quality of its teaching and learning environment, reflected in its national rankings: it is placed in the top 5 in the UK for satisfaction with teaching in Media & Film Studies (The Guardian University League Table 2025) and top 10 for student experience in Drama and Dance (Good University Guide 2025, The Times and Sunday Times).

By leveraging excellent facilities, the department ensures students gain valuable practical experience through its well-established relationships with key industry partners and is dedicated to developing talented individuals, equipping them with the intellectual, practical, and transferable skills necessary to excel in the creative industries and beyond.

We are honoured to screen films by the students of the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies of Aberystwyth University at TIFA 2025.

AT THE *gate*

United Kingdom | 2022 | 15"20 | English | Documentary



SYNOPSIS

At The Gate follows a group of anti-fracking activists in East Surrey and the ways they are trying to engage local people with environmental issues. The film focuses on the importance of place in environmental activism and advocates for an embodied experience of community in the landscape. A hybrid of digital and analogue techniques is employed to bring different styles of filmmaking and activism into conversation with each other.



DIRECTOR
PATRICIA KIY

Patricia Kiy is a documentary filmmaker exploring how communities engage with the more-than-human. She is interested in ecocritical ideas and working with digital and analogue techniques. She graduated from Prifysgol Aberystwyth University with an MA in Documentary Filmmaking: Landscape and Ecology in 2022 and currently works in the voluntary sector.

BITTER *greens,* TANGLED *roots*

United Kingdom | 2024 | 19"36 | Arabic | Documentary



SYNOPSIS

Framed as a telephone conversation between two siblings, *Bitter Greens, Tangled Roots* delves into the trauma inherent in immigration and native to expatriates, as it builds upon the memories of its subjects. As they reminisce, they are confronted with the beautiful and ugly aspects of the country they used to call home, and struggle to arrive at a comfortable resolution to the weight their remembrances burden their shoulders with. Exploring the phrase, "When your roots are deep, you have no reason to fear the wind", this film effectively carries the weight of a generation in a conversation, and speaks to the quest for immigrants to find catharsis in their new homes.

Born on the 2nd of October 1995, and hailing from Tripoli, Lebanon, Abdallah Dannaoui began his cinematic journey in Wales where he honed his skills and nurtured his passion for filmmaking at Aberystwyth University. Through events videography and portraiture of his friends and family, he ventured into directing his first award-winning documentary short, *Bitter Greens, Tangled Roots* (2024).



DIRECTOR
ABDALLAH DANNAOUI

FIBRES

THE ROOTS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP

United Kingdom | 2023 | 12"55 | English | Documentary



SYNOPSIS

Hemp is often affiliated with marijuana, giving it a sullied reputation. It is criminalized and demonised. But is that all there is to talk about when we think of hemp? In this documentary, the filmmakers investigate the properties, benefits and applications of industrial hemp. The potential it carries, and how a part of that potential is being realized already. The propaganda owing to its criminalization is also effectively portrayed in this film. From paper to concrete, from textile to food, medicine, plastics and beyond, hemp has the potential to revolutionize industry and open economic avenues heretofore undiscovered. This film documents hemp's association with cannabis and its hidden power for change by speaking to campaigners, growers, biologists and researchers.



DIRECTOR
VICTOR KOLBE

Victor Kolbe is an eco-conscious filmmaker from the US, passionate about telling creative stories focused on the relationship between culture and the environment. *Fibres* is his first documentary short, investigating the history, properties and uses of industrial hemp.

I *love it* **HERE**

United Kingdom | 2024 | 10"42 | English | Drama, Romance



SYNOPSIS

A woman who believes that she is not ready to be the bride to a stranger yet, and that she's too young to be married, is being forced into an arranged marriage by her father. He wants her to marry a noble man in order to raise her status in the social hierarchy. Somehow, she comes to terms with that idea. However, now the actual problem takes the center stage; to find a suitor who wants to marry her for who she truly is, instead of what everyone else expects her to be. She travels through time and space in her imagination in search of the suitor of her dreams.

All of Eloise Bailey's experience with filmmaking has been learnt and developed during her course at Aberystwyth, where she thoroughly enjoys every aspect, particularly directing and cinematography. She loves being able to collaborate with like-minded filmmakers and creatives and she strives to make the most out of these experiences, hoping to carry on within the future of her career.



DIRECTOR
ELOISE BAILEY

mari LWYD

United Kingdom | 2024 | 14"55 | English | Drama



SYNOPSIS

An English writer, with a baby on the way, is under pressure from his publisher to produce a sequel to his successful horror novel. Taking a trip to a small Welsh village for some inspiration and time to write he encounters the local tradition of 'Mari Lwyd'. At first sight this tradition appears horrific, and the writer appropriates and misrepresents this tradition for his next book. This sparks the disappointment of the locals who welcomed him to their town and tradition.

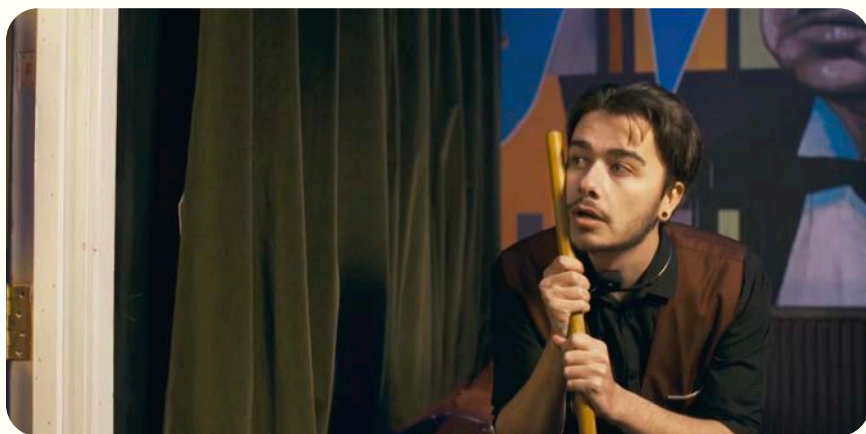


DIRECTOR
MICHAEL SZALCER

Working in film since 2020, Michael Szalcer has made films focusing on social justice and exploring themes that encourage critical thinking in society. He has worked as an actor and now director on several projects and is now moving into documentary filmmaking to further explore key issues in society.

SAVIOUR *complex*

United Kingdom | 2022 | 18"14 | English | Drama



SYNOPSIS

After a recent break up with his girlfriend, a cinema worker finds a phone while cleaning the floors. The call is from a distressed woman who needs his help. He goes to meet her in an attempt to be the kind of man he admires, the hero in film noir crime films he watches daily. The situation he finds is not what he expects, and after a horrific encounter, he has to face the facts of reality.

Joshua grew up in South Wales but moved to Aberystwyth in West Wales to pursue a love for film and television at Aberystwyth University. During this degree he met fellow course mates Samuel, Brandon and Alistair who he worked alongside to direct and act in the short film Saviour Complex. Joshua has since worked on many different production sets in British film with hopes of further pursuing his career in acting and directing.



DIRECTOR
JOSHUA JONES

SPELT

United Kingdom | 2024 | 4"16 | English | Experimental



SYNOPSIS

Spelt, explores the digital representation and manipulation of the self-image, which is ever-pervasive in our modern society. Directed by Mali Foote, this film is an experimental film that crosses the boundaries of our perceived imaginations and realities.



DIRECTOR
MALI FOOTE

As a filmmaker exploring experimental techniques, I have used my work to investigate a vulnerable and distinctly human way of production as a direct protest to the rise of AI and its creative bankruptcy.

WOE

United Kingdom | 2023 | 13"53 | English | Drama



SYNOPSIS

As a woman struggles with the recent death of her sister, she remembers their recent interactions. Inside her mind's void, her 'guilty conscious' directs her memories so that she cannot sugarcoat the truth. Remembering the good moments as well helps her navigate her feelings.

Jordan Higgs (right) is a freelance motion designer and video editor based in Bristol. He works with clients from London to Dubai in marketing, finance, and renewable energy. When not working, he's reading, baking, playing guitar, or programming.

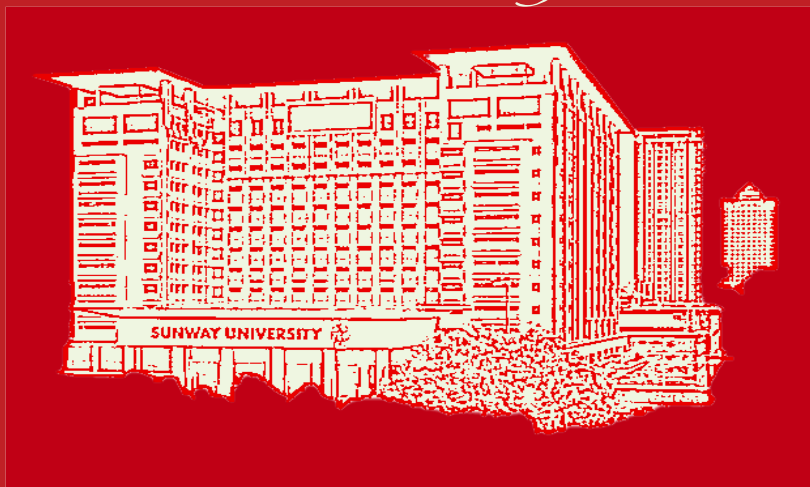
Paulina Baran (left) is an AI Creative Lead and content creator with a BA in Film-making. She develops narrative content for digital audiences, leads strategy across platforms, and explores AI-driven creativity. Her work focuses on audience engagement, innovation, and brand storytelling.



DIRECTORS

———— **TIFA** ²⁰₂₅ ————

school - in - focus



**SCHOOL OF FILM
AND
PERFORMING ARTS**

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY, MALAYSIA



Sunway University, Sunway City, Malaysia

The **School of Film and Performing Arts** at Sunway University is a vibrant centre for creativity, performance, and innovation. Bringing together the disciplines of film, theatre, music, and audio technology, the School offers an interdisciplinary education designed to prepare students for a wide range of careers in the creative industries.

Students can pursue a variety of specialised programmes, including Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Digital Film Production, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Contemporary Music (Audio Technology), Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Music Performance, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Theatre Production, and Diploma in Performing Arts. These programmes combine rigorous technical training with artistic development, encouraging students to explore, create, and refine their craft in an environment that balances practice and theory.

Students are guided by an experienced team of academics, artists, and industry professionals, and benefit from a dynamic learning environment that integrates lectures, workshops, rehearsals, performances, field trips, and project-based learning. With access to state-of-the-art studios, recording facilities, and performance venues, students are encouraged to collaborate across disciplines, create original work, and engage meaningfully with the broader creative community.

At the School of Film and Performing Arts, creativity, critical thinking, and professional excellence are nurtured, shaping the artists, performers, producers, and creators of the future.

We are honoured to screen films by the students of the School of Film and Performing Arts of Sunway University at TIFA 2025.

BREAD

Malaysia | 2025 | 16"09 | English | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Hiding behind her cute and cheerful attitude, Alyssa, a 20-year-old university student, struggles with severe depression and a hidden addiction. Living in a single unit apartment and hiding in her messy room. She secretly eats moldy bread to escape and feel a sense of relief. When she inadvertently fidgets with her moldy bread in class, leaving bread crumbs everywhere, her concerned friend snaps her back to reality. Panicking, Alyssa rushes to the bathroom and is then confronted by YUI (20) who tries to help her. After pushing Yui away, Alyssa runs home and breaks down, crying uncontrollably as her phone is bombarded with missed calls and messages, but she shuts the world out, consuming more moldy bread until she chokes and gags. As she tries to clean herself up and tries to throw away the bread, she knows that in the end, she's trapped in a cycle of despair, knowing her addiction to moldy bread is too strong to quit.



DIRECTOR
KHIRA AMMAR

Khira Ammar is a 22-year-old film student at Sunway University. With a background in writing, she now translates stories into films. Her works, like *Bread* (2024), have screened at international festivals. She aims to disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed, creating raw, thought-provoking cinema that challenges viewers emotionally and intellectually.

LAST *dance*

Malaysia | 2025 | 10"05 | English, Cantonese | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Nicholas, struggling to let go of his relationship, plans a final date to win back Chloe. Revisiting spots they used to visit; he hopes rekindling memories will change her mind. As the day unfolds, things don't go as Nicholas planned, deepening his insecurity and confidence. Their unresolved feelings erupt in an argument. Despite his efforts, Chloe remains firm in her decision to part ways. As the day, and this chapter of their life draws to a close, they share a bittersweet dance, cherishing their last moments together.

Chew Yun Han, also known by his nickname "Chewing Gum" is from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His passion in filmmaking stemmed from a desire to craft and bring ideas to life onto the silver screen. He kickstarted his filmmaking journey as a student in Sunway University, where he adopted his philosophy "If we don't tell our own stories, nobody else will."



DIRECTOR
CHEW YUN HAN

NOMBOR *dua*

Malaysia | 2025 | 08"17 | English/Malay/Chinese/Tamil | Comedy



SYNOPSIS

After a while of going to the hairstylists, Wei Zheng decides to save money on haircuts by visiting a familiar Indian salon in his hometown instead. There, he meets barber Sateesh instead of the one he remembers.

Wei Zheng asks Sateesh for “Nombor Dua” (Number Two), the haircut on the barbers’ chart. Throughout the haircut, Sateesh behaves unprofessionally, and Wei Zheng wonders if his haircut will turn out well. Eventually, Wei Zheng leaves the salon with his brand new haircut.



DIRECTOR

DARREN CHU YI YANG

Darren Chu is a student filmmaker from Sunway University, Malaysia, with a background in mass communication, theatre, and film. Inspired by everyday occurrences, he is passionate about transforming them into original cinematic stories, to evoke emotions from audiences.

out **OF THE** *chat*

Malaysia | 2025 | 10"05 | English | Drama



SYNOPSIS

In the poignant short film *Out of the Chat*, two high school best friends, Aidan and Jake, embark on a long-awaited hike. They begin their ascent with the familiar, easy banter that has defined their years of friendship, a comfortable rhythm against the backdrop of the trail. Yet, as they climb higher, a palpable tension grows; an uncharacteristic silence hangs between them, and Jake senses something is deeply off. Amidst the towering trees and sweeping vistas, Aidan finally musters the courage to shatter the quiet. He reveals the painful truth he has been holding onto: his family is moving abroad imminently, and his flight leaves in just two days.

Caleb Kan is a multidisciplinary creative in film media and design. He is currently pursuing a film degree in Sunway University. He makes films inspired by and for the community around him. He is a person who explores ideas and aspires to contribute to the creative scene with openness and compassion.



DIRECTOR
CALEB KAN

puteri **BERTULANG** *duri*

Malaysia | 2024 | 18"52 | Malay, English | Coming-of-age, Drama



SYNOPSIS

Along their walks home from school, two childhood best friends, Puteri and Zhi Yan explore the confusing rites of growing up through getting your period, diverging beliefs and bitter coffee. Desperate to belong, Puteri fakes her period to gain entry into a group of rebellious senior Malay girls. When teachers of the secondary school begin conducting a humiliating period spot-check, Puteri coincidentally gets her first period, leaving her shaken. Despite the strain in their friendship, Zhi Yan gently guides Puteri through the experience, drawing from her own limited understanding.



DIRECTOR
NOELLE RICHARDS

Noelle Richards was born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She attended SK and SMK Assunta, an all-girls missionary school, where her love for the arts blossomed through participation in the school band, literature, and theatre. She spent time honing her skills in piano and the saxophone, and though music isn't as central to her now, it influences her filmmaking. Cinema has always been a joy for her. At Sunway College, directing a short film sparked her filmmaking passion. Currently, she is studying Digital Film Production at Sunway University, freelancing in product shooting and video editing.

rumah KITA

Malaysian | 2025 | 7"32 | Bahasa Indonesia | Drama



SYNOPSIS

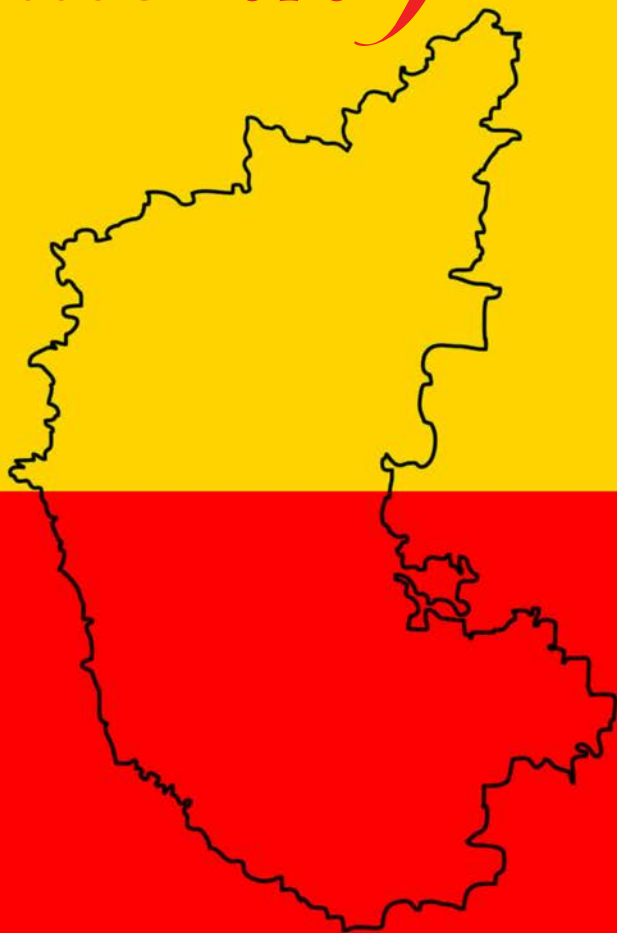
Bibik, an Indonesian domestic worker in Malaysia striving to support her children back in Lampung, and Isa, a university student battling homesickness and emotional distance from his own family. When their paths cross, an unexpected bond begins to form. Bibik, missing her son, sees a part of him in Isa, while Isa finds comfort in the maternal presence he longs for. Their connection deepens through quiet conversations, shared meals, and moments of unspoken understanding, gradually forming a surrogate family rooted in empathy and care. As Isa's time in Malaysia nears its end, he reflects on the fragile, temporary nature of this connection and what "home" truly means.

Isa Yoga Narotama is an Indonesian student filmmaker based in Malaysia. He has directed, shot, and edited various short films across genres including drama, horror, and most recently a documentary for FYP. He is passionate about telling emotional stories paired with captivating visuals. He aims to elevate Indonesian cinema on the international stage.



DIRECTOR
ISA YOGA NARATOMA

state-in-focus



KARNATAKA



Lucia (2013)



Pawan Kumar (born 29 October 1982) is an Indian filmmaker, screenwriter and actor working primarily in the Kannada film industry. He began in theatre, progressed to writing and assisting, and made his directorial debut with *Lifeu Ishtene* (2011). His 2013 film *Lucia* became a landmark for Kannada independent cinema.

SYNOPSIS

In the psychological thriller *Lucia*, Nikki (Sathish Ninasam) is an usher in a dilapidated cinema hall in Bangalore who suffers from frequent insomnia. In his quest for restful sleep, he is introduced to a mysterious pill named "Lucia" which allows him to lucid-dream a glamorous alternate life as a film star. As Nikki's waking and dream lives begin to merge, the boundaries between reality and illusion blur. With Shwetha (Sruthi Hariharan) playing a pivotal role in both of his worlds, Nikki's ventures spiral into confusion, addiction and danger. The narrative unfolds in two parallel threads — one in colour and one in monochrome — leading to a mind-bending climax that forces viewers to question what is real and what is imagined. The film explores themes of desire, identity, escapism and the cost of chasing fantasy.

Director: Pawan Kumar

Writer: Sanjeev Tiwari

Producer: Audience Films & Home Talkies

Main Cast: Sathish Ninasam, Sruthi Hariharan, Achyuth Kumar, Rishab Shetty



ಮೋಹನದಾಸ

KANNADA · HINDI · ENGLISH

A FILM BY

P. SHESHADRI

TOI

DOP GS BHASKAR EDITOR BS KEMPARAJU MUSIC PRAVIN GODKIINDI

ER BOLWAR ART HOSMANE MURTHY SOUND VG RAJAN COSTUME MEERA

CAST ANANTH MAHADEVAN, SHRUTI, JIG DATTATREYA, SAMARTH, PARAM SWAMY

VFX MANISH CREW ANUPAMA, SAMPIIL, MURALI, JEEVAN, VINAYAKA

MC

MITRA CHITRA

150



Mohandas (2019)

P. Sheshadri (born 23 November 1963) is a highly acclaimed Kannada filmmaker celebrated for his thought-provoking works on social issues and children's themes. Holding a postgraduate degree in Kannada literature and a diploma in journalism, he began his career in television before transitioning to feature films. Renowned for his consistency and depth, he became the first director to win eight consecutive National Film Awards for Best Feature Film in Kannada.



SYNOPSIS

In *Mohandas*, director P. Sheshadri presents a seldom-told chapter of the life of Mahatma Gandhi: his formative childhood years, from about age six to fourteen. Born as Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi in affluent surroundings, the film traces how young Mohandas's early influences, mis-steps and introspections shaped the man he would become. Drawing on the book *Papu Gandhi, Babu Gandhi Aada Kathe* and Gandhi's own *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, the narrative explores the boy's exposure to mythic tales of truth and integrity, his childhood impulses, the temptations and lies he wrestled with, and ultimately his awakening of conscience.

The film focuses on the domestic and moral world of Mohandas: the expectations of his mother Putlibai, the guidance of his father Karamchand, and the social and cultural milieu of the time. As Mohandas grows, he is confronted with actions—stealing, lying, smoking, eating meat—that conflict with his upbringing, and a crucial incident involving his older brother forces reflection and confession. Through this, the film shows his early journey of self-realisation, guilt, redemption and the shaping of his values. It's depicted not as grand historical spectacle, but as an intimate, child-centred drama aiming to reach young minds and rekindle awareness of Gandhi's human side.

Director: P. Sheshadri

Writer: P. Sheshadri

Producer: M/S Mitra Chitra

Main Cast: Param Swamy, Samarth Hombal, Shruti, Anant Mahadevan, H. G. Dattatreya (cameo)

SANDALWOOD SHORTS

Kannada visions through youthful eyes.



Achintya, p. 50



Dasha, p. 85



Dhaara, p. 86



Regret p. 59



Surya Muluguttiddante, p. 64



TIFA²⁰₂₅

*opening
— — — — —
feature film*





Goodbye Guruji (2024)



Arunjit Borah is an independent filmmaker from Assam, currently based in Mumbai. An MBA by qualification, he transitioned from the corporate world to cinema, directing acclaimed works such as *Midnight Song*, *Mini*, and *Goodbye Guruji*. He has directed more than ten short films, including *Zibah*, based on the sensitive subject of FGM. He explores diverse genres, blending social realism and human emotions.

SYNOPSIS

Set in rural Assam, a culturally vibrant state in Northeast India, *Goodbye Guruji* is a heartfelt story of transformation through education, perseverance, and human connection. The film follows Prayash Saikia, affectionately yet teasingly called Guruji, a young and dedicated teacher who arrives in Kinkinía village, where both children and villagers have long lost faith in the power of learning.

With the support of Tamuli, the loyal caretaker of Kinkinía Primary School, Guruji begins to employ innovative and unconventional methods to spark curiosity and bring joy back into classrooms. His mission, however, extends beyond academics—it becomes about restoring dignity, hope, and a sense of purpose to an entire community. His journey intertwines with a quiet admiration for Konpahi, the village's most educated girl, and a formidable challenge issued by the local MLA: to ensure that every child in Kinkinía receives an education.

The narrative is beautifully enriched by the parallel staging of Bhaona, Assam's 500-year-old theatrical tradition, dramatizing the mythological tale of Kansa Badh. This cultural thread mirrors Guruji's struggles and triumphs, emphasizing the timeless truth of good prevailing over adversity.

With authenticity, cultural depth, and emotional resonance, *Goodbye Guruji* celebrates unsung educators and reminds us that one individual's vision can transform many lives, leaving behind an enduring legacy.

Director: Arunjit Borah

Story: Sanjeev Tiwari

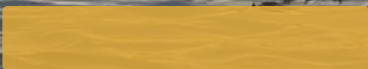
Screenplay: Arunjit Borah, Maharshi Tuhin Kashyap

Producers: NFDC (National Film Development Corporation), Cinecraft Productions

Main Cast: Partha Pratim Hazarika, Aimee Baruah, Rupjyoti Goswami
Rupjyoti Bora, Naba Mahanta, Ayun Kashyap

TEENAGE FILMMAKERS



13 AGE 
to
19 CATEGORY

A Still from 'Supernova,' winner of Best Film, TIFA 2024

achintya

India | 2025 | 8"19 | Kannada | Psychological Fiction, Poetry



SYNOPSIS

Achintya is a thoughtful short film that explores the two sides of the human mind, the part that accepts and the part that rejects. It raises questions about who really controls these two sides and what inspires our inner spark, exploring a story of a young writer who takes inspiration from Kanti, a contemporary of the Jain poet Nagachandra to create a short film, and in doing so, blends historical, imaginative poems with modern introspection. The concepts of symbolism, creativity, realism, using mood and metaphors to express the writer's internal dialogue. Through a simple yet powerful story, the film makes us reflect on the choices we make and the inner conflicts we all experience. With clear visuals and a strong message, *Achintya* is a film that rejects convention and essays originality with ease. *Achintya* leaves a lasting impression, inciting us to join on the voyage that engulfs the time and space of past and its effect on the present.

Hrutheek P Vasista, with a background in science, is a passionate storyteller, filmmaker, and performer. Active on school and college stages from an early age, he joined the Bangalore Players Theatre Association in 2022, bringing deep curiosity and a creative flair to every role. As a member of Mayurikaa Studios, Hrutheek explores scriptwriting and songwriting, aiming to bridge expression and art through student-led, impactful productions across stage and screen.



DIRECTOR
HRUTHEEK P. VASISTA

A flower **TO** *you*

Hungary | 2025 | 13"22 | Hungarian | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Grief is a universal struggle that everyone experiences, and Hungarian student filmmaker Nelli Nádja Kovács encapsulates its ins and outs in *A Flower To You*, a gentle and emotional short film that captures the quiet pain of loss and mourning. The film follows the story of Misi, a young boy struggling to accept his mother's death. The film beautifully portrays how loss can blur the line between reality and memory, as Misi imagines his mother still around him. As the story unfolds, he is slowly faced with the truth and the need to let go, even if it hurts. With its soft tone and heartfelt message, the film speaks to anyone who has experienced loss and shows that healing takes time, and courage. The use of minimal dialogue with expressive and evocative language allows the characters' emotions to unfold naturally, and makes *A Flower To You* a quiet but impactful story on loss and acceptance.



DIRECTOR

NELLI NÁDJA KOVÁCS

Nelli Nádja Kovács is a 17-year-old student and studies media and film. She aspires to be a filmmaker. She love when people can sit down together and let themselves feel the emotions that film brings out. She hopes that the audience will love her first ever film: *A flower to you*.

channel 9: **PERIL**

Spain | 2025 | 5"35 | Spanish | Horror, Thriller



SYNOPSIS

In *Channel 9: Peril*, a chilling short film crafted by 13-year-old filmmaker Sergi Rodríguez, two friends—Leo and Stevenson—embark on what begins as a routine trek into a less-trodden path in a secluded forest. However, their adventure takes a dark and twisted turn when they stumble upon an abandoned signal transmission site—Channel 9—long thought to be defunct. As they delve deeper, they awaken a vengeful entity bound to the frequencies of a forgotten past. What follows is a spiralling descent into horror, as the forest becomes a maze of fear, and reality blurs into static. This Spanish student film blends youthful imagination with tropes of classic horror, creating a suspenseful narrative that tells a tale of curiosity, revenge, and a story that refuses to remain untold. *Channel 9: Peril* is a testament to the potent mix of influences that shape and inform much of the work of a nascent filmmaker.

Sergi Rodríguez is a 14-year-old filmmaker. His films reflect the interest he has for horror stories and creating tension between the viewers. He has written and directed over 10 films. Even though he is young, his passion is notable in his work.



DIRECTOR
SERGI RODRIGUEZ

dreamers

India | 2025 | 8"53 | English | Drama, Comedy



SYNOPSIS

Dreamers by Aadhyantha Rajaraman, a student of the School of Film, Media and Creative Arts at RV University, is a poignant and relatable fiction short that captures the emotional highs and lows of student filmmaking. The film follows a group of young, passionate filmmakers in the final, nerve-racking minutes before the premiere of their first short film. Brimming with anticipation and cinematic dreams, they meticulously prepare for their big moment—only to be met with a crushing silence: no one has arrived to watch. What follows is an unraveling of the group's morale, as confusion turns to disappointment, and frustration gives way to self-doubt. Tensions rise, egos clash, and their dreams seem on the verge of collapse. Yet, in the heart of that chaos, they find clarity. They remember why they started—an unshakable love for storytelling and the magic of cinema. *Dreamers* is a heartfelt tribute to creative passion, perseverance, and youthful hope.



Aadhyantha Rajaraman, a filmmaker and composer, left engineering to pursue storytelling through film and music. He writes, directs, and scores works like *Dreamers* and several college projects. A Student Ambassador at IFFI Goa, he aspires to be known as a versatile filmmaker, crafting cinema driven by instinct and emotion.

DIRECTOR
AADHYANTHA RAJARAMAN

GANPATI — BAPPA *morya*

India | 2025 | 2"10 | Hindi | Slice-of-Life | Animation



SYNOPSIS

In Gayatri Memane's heartwarming short film, *Ganpati Bappa Morya*, a young boy's profound devotion for Lord Ganesha is met with the harsh reality of his family's poverty. Unable to afford a traditional idol for the festival, his heart is heavy with sadness. Refusing to let his circumstances diminish his faith, the resourceful child finds a beautiful solution. With love as his tool and the soil from his own small plants as his medium, he lovingly sculpts a humble yet perfect idol of Ganpati Bappa. His unwavering joy and pure faith are poured into this personal creation, demonstrating that true devotion is not measured by material wealth but by the sincerity of one's heart. The film is a poignant tribute to innocence and the immense power of belief.

Gayatri Memane is a passionate second-year Animation student at Symbiosis Institute of Design, Pune. Growing up in Maharashtra, She has always been enchanted by its rich culture and timeless folk tales. She loves observing everyday moments, writing about them, and transforming them into stories that speak to the heart. Her storytelling often explores themes of life and emotion, influenced by the warmth and subtlety of Japanese cinema. She aims to capture the small, beautiful truths that make us feel connected and human.



DIRECTOR
GAYATRI MEMANE

GUESS MY *name*

India | 2025 | 15"12 | English | Horror, Thriller



SYNOPSIS

Guess My Name by Pranesh G is a chilling and unsettling short film that dives into the terror of a student being haunted by a mysterious ghost with an eerie obsession. The film creates a sense of constant dread as the ghost lingers, watching and waiting, making the viewer feel just as trapped as the protagonist. The use of the color red throughout the film adds to its haunting atmosphere, symbolizing danger, fear, and the unknown. With the use of minimal dialogue and a strong visual style, *Guess My Name* leaves a lingering sense of unease long after it ends. The film's clever use of sound design and editing build suspense without depending on jumpscare. As the story unfolds, the viewer is drawn deeper into a web of paranoia, obsession, and unresolved trauma. It's a gripping take on horror that keeps the audience questioning reality until the very last frame.



Pranesh G is a student filmmaker exploring the art of visual storytelling. His debut short film marks an early step into cinematography and framing, using the camera as a tool of discovery. With curiosity as his guide, he crafts stories that blend experimentation, learning, and raw creative vision.

DIRECTOR
PRANESH G.

IN *the backstage*

[NOS BASTIDORES]

Portugal | 2024 | 6"11 | Portuguese | Drama, Comedy



SYNOPSIS

In the Backstage, a sardonic look into the delicate moments before the spotlight is on, chronicles the nerves, thrills and chills a young band faces as they prepare for their first live concert. In this short fiction film, which takes the viewer just an inch behind the scenes. Their intimacy, confidence, and skill are put to the test as tensions soar, fears emerge, and beliefs are held onto with the most stubborn conviction. The story depicts the emotional highs and lows that accompany taking a chance, capturing that tumultuous blend of nervousness, excitement, and friendship that characterises performers, artists and outcasts taking the limelight. *In the Backstage's* poignant depiction of youth, inventiveness, and conquering self-doubt serves as a reminder that the key to the best performances are found mere moments before the music even begins, and that the soul of art is born out of the magic of interpersonal friction, from a fusion of love and war.

Rui Paulo Silva, 18 years old, is a student filmmaker from Lisbon, Portugal. With this film, his main goal is to share his love for both cinema and music, and to demonstrate his value in these areas that he is so passionate about. At such a young age, he feels incredibly happy and grateful to already be able to show his work to the world.



DIRECTOR
RUI PAULO SILVA

MENU

India | 2024 | 09"49 | Tamil | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Menu, by director Vijay Rahul, is a subtle yet compelling short film that explores and captures the quiet revolution that occurs when an ordinary man dares to venture beyond the boundaries and boredoms of his established routines and comfort zone. Our protagonist, bogged down by the normalcy and monotony of life, sets out on a personal trip that questions the ennui of daily life in a society where routines govern existence and conformity determines all identity. Every choice he makes as he attempts to escape his predetermined life cycle starts to change how he perceives his world and himself. *Menu* offers up a serving of contemplation on how minor actions of resistance can lead to significant change, while serving enough humor to balance its portions, all the while examining themes of self-discovery, bravery, and the transformational power of choice that all people are granted, whether they know it or not.



DIRECTOR
VIJAY RAHUL

Vijay Rahul is a YouTube content creator who has a channel called "KARUTHU SORUGAL" and he has made 4 Short films on his writing and direction and this short film is his 5th one. He has also worked as an actor and assistant director in many other short films.

mystery OF THE keeper

Ukraine | 2024 | 14"34 | Ukrainian | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Ukrainian filmmaker and actress Elina Myshanych returns to the 4th edition of the Teen Indie Film Awards with her evocative short film, *Mystery of the Keeper*. Set against the backdrop of a war-torn world, the film boldly merges the harsh realities of conflict with the fantastical. In this allegorical tale, the fate of Ukraine—and symbolically, the world—rests in the hands of a young schoolgirl, Slava. As her reality crumbles, Slava discovers hidden strength within herself, navigating through emotional and physical trials that test her resolve. Alongside her is the enigmatic Keeper, a magical guardian spirit who represents nature itself—wounded, yet enduring. Through lush visuals and poetic symbolism, the film draws a powerful connection between resilience, youth, and the enduring pulse of life. *Mystery of the Keeper* reminds us that even in times of destruction, hope, nature, and the courage of the young remain unconquered and vital.

Elina Myshanych is a 15-year-old young actress and filmmaker, A student of Chubynsky Art Academy college (Kyiv) and the author of the five short fiction films and a short doc film, she has gotten festival prizes in Ukraine, Europe, USA and Australia. She's actress in the professional industry, and has acted as the leading teen role in a Ukrainian TV-series. She is based in Kyiv.



DIRECTOR
ELINA MYSHANYCH

REGRET

India | 2024 | 25"26 | Kannada | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Regret is a touching short film by student filmmaker Akash Raman that follows a son's emotional journey as he looks back on his past actions and tries to rebuild his bond with his family. Conflicts arise when the son admits he is ashamed of his mother for several decisions she took that almost cost him his happiness and stability. Haunted by guilt and the distance those emotions created, he begins to confront the unresolved pain that shaped his relationships. Through love, vulnerability, and self-reflection, he finds a way to honor his mother's values and better understand her choices. The film is filled with heartfelt moments that gently explore the complexity of family, forgiveness, and personal growth. As he reconnects with his mother's memory and beliefs, the story becomes one of redemption and hope. Simple yet powerful, *Regret* reminds the viewers that it's never too late to say sorry, seek understanding, and make amend.



DIRECTOR
AKASH RAMAN

Akash Raman, 19, is a young creative from Bengaluru. He's spent the last couple of years exploring different ways to tell stories, from staging theatre productions to crafting advertising campaigns. His first short film, *Regret*, found a quiet but meaningful audience, leading to a few awards. He continues to work on projects that blend his interests in film, theatre, and content creation.

ROTATION

Iran | 2025 | 9"58 | Persian | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Rotation is a short film by student filmmaker Kian Ranjbir, exploring the fragile balance between choice and compulsion in the lives of young people in Iran. The story follows Shahin and Bahram, two high school classmates on the verge of graduation. Faced with the looming threat of Iran's mandatory 24-month military service, the boys realize that failing their final exams will immediately force them into conscription. In desperation, they hatch a plan to steal the exam questions. What begins as a reckless attempt at freedom soon unravels into a series of events that tests not only their resolve but also the foundations of their friendship. At its heart, *Rotation* portrays how individuals are often caught in the cycles of circumstance, where laws, customs, and cultural pressures dictate the paths of life. Through Shahin and Bahram's struggle, the film reflects on captivity within systems beyond personal control.

Kian Ranjbar, born in 2006, is an Iranian film student. He holds a cinema diploma from Shiraz Fine Arts High School and studies cinema at Sooreh University. He wrote and directed "Rotation" (2024) and worked as cinematographer and editor on several short and documentary films.



DIRECTOR
KIAN RANJBIR

SECOND *chance*

India | 2024 | 4"21 | Hindi | Drama, Psychological Fiction



SYNOPSIS

Four strangers— a maid, a medical intern, a farmer, and a taxi driver— are trapped in a dark room, each of them drawn by the allure of an enigmatic ticket that holds the promise for a second chance at life. As tensions draw to a high, unravelled are the four, to their most vulnerable selves as they disclose all the hardships that have led them to this point, with each of them believing that the ticket will allow them to recover what they have lost— a loved one, a dream, or a life once within reach. But only one may lay claim to it. They each have to face their past and determine who deserves a second opportunity, a new lease on life, as time is running out. This compelling drama, *Second Chance*, examines the harsh truths and realities of life, as personalities clash and lives are brought to question, with one ticket having the capacity to alter everything.



DIRECTOR
ANISH PARAG SHAH

Anish is a 3rd-year Visual Communication student with a strong interest in filmmaking. He loves exploring storytelling, visuals, and creative expression through both design and cinema. He's always curious and eager to learn, and he enjoys blending design with narrative to create engaging and meaningful content.

Summer WITH diogenes

China | 2024 | 14"39 | Chinese | Magical Realism, Coming-of-Age



SYNOPSIS

In the *Summer with Diogenes*, two high school friends—Ocean and Alexander—embark on a life-altering journey that bridges the realms of reality and imagination. Ocean, an idealist who is passionate about philosophy and the quest for freedom, stands in stark contrast to Alexander, a realistic and pressure-bound student who is focused on his scholastic achievements. In a sudden, bizarre turn of events, they meet the reincarnation of the ancient Greek philosopher Diogenes, which tests, changes and catapults their friendship into new, philosophical realms. They embark on a lively, introspective journey that flips their perspective on life on its head and transforms their beliefs after this adventure. This picture turns into a profound meditation on youth, truth, and the eternal force of philosophical inquiry by building the viewer's perception of life from the ground up, and subverting it into a story only the youth can tell. Packing the punch of humor and heart, *Summer with Diogenes* is the cure for ennui.

Qu Bingkun, 18, is a Chinese filmmaker exploring themes of youth, memory, and resilience through poetic imagery. Her award-nominated short films have screened at Lift-Off Global Network, the Teen Indie Film Awards, and Ginkgo Film Festival. Additionally, she is a musician who releases original works on Tencent platforms.



DIRECTOR
BINGKUN QU

sunny days

New Zealand | 2024 | 10" | English | Drama, Family



SYNOPSIS

Sunny Days by 12 year old New Zealand filmmaker Maxwell Andrews is a heart-warming and wholesome short film that highlights the power of friendship in overcoming life's challenges. Following a boy, his dog, and his friend as they navigate growing up in a turbulent world, the film gently conveys that even in scary or uncertain times, the support of those we care about can make all the difference. With a simple yet impactful narrative, *Sunny Days* offers a reminder that no matter how daunting the world may seem, having a loyal companion by your side can turn even the darkest moments into brighter ones. The film also leaves an impactful lesson on how forgiveness goes a long way, and that it helps start meaningful connections and friendships. Maxwell's film was awarded was nominated and received awards at the Day One Film Challenge, including Audience Favourite, Best Mobile Phone Film, and best in his age group at the New Zealand International Film Festival (NZIFF).



DIRECTOR
MAXWELL ANDREWS

Maxwell Andrews is twelve and lives in New Zealand. His love of acting and movies have led him to create two short films, *My Superpower* and *Sunny Days*.

A quote from him:

"I hope you enjoy this film about the power of friendship and empathy, told through the eyes of my little dog named Sunny".

Surya MULUGUTTIDDANTE

India | 2024 | 06"14 | Kannada | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Surya Muluguttiddante by student filmmaker Aniruddha Girish is a quiet and touching short film that captures a heartfelt conversation between a father and son as they sit in a park sipping bitter coffee. As they reflect on memories and moments from the past, the film slowly reveals the layers of their relationship, a deep bond shaped by time. What begins as a simple moment slowly unfolds into a wholesome reflection on time, memory and the story of love shared within a family. As they share stories and silences, the film delicately reveals the emotional distance that life sometimes builds and the effort it takes to bridge it. The nuanced performances and natural setting emphasize the raw authenticity of their exchange, allowing viewers to witness a father and son rediscovering each other in the simplest of ways. *Surya Muluguttiddante* explores themes of nostalgia, reconciliation, and unspoken affection. It's a reminder that even the most ordinary moments can hold extraordinary meaning.

Aniruddha Girish (born June 26, 2006) is a young Kannada actor, writer and filmmaker. Also a skilled mridangam player and drama artist, he directed *Surya Muluguttiddante* (2024) and worked on acclaimed shorts like *Gudugu* (2025). At just 19, he's an emerging voice in Kannada cinema.



DIRECTOR
ANIRUDDHA GIRISH

THE *ceiling* of WISHES

Iran | 2024 | 8"47 | Persian | Family Drama, Psychological Fiction



So you mean you'll get better if I draw?

SYNOPSIS

The Ceiling Of Wishes tells the story of a father recently discharged and now bedridden and his little daughter who dearly missed him. Confined to his bed, spending his days supine and motionless with only the ceiling in his line of sight, it slowly becomes a window of sorts through which he sees the world outside his room as envisioned by his daughter. Much of what the film wants its audience to know is left unsaid for there is simply no easy way to say it. One can almost hear the monologue of worries and tirades of self-reproach as he gazes, despondent and knowing, fully conscious of his body that is deteriorating. What would happen to his wife and daughter? What will they remember him by? With his passing would he be a thief of his daughter's infectious laughter and invigorating spirit? Or is it what will cure him of his illness?



DIRECTOR
AMIRHOSSEIN BAHMANI

Amirhossein Bahmani is 19 years old and from Iran. He has been working in the field of cinema for three years now. In those three years, he participated in the production of more than 200 teasers, 15 music videos, 10 short films and 10 documentaries as a cameraman and editor.

the **LAST HEIST**

India | 2024 | 24"28 | English | Drama, Suspense



SYNOPSIS

College student and comic book artist, Arun, is shocked to find out that the crimes depicted in his work, Swindler The Thief, are playing out in real life. Sidharth and his family are victims of one of the thefts Arun unknowingly illustrated and together they discover that a group of criminals are taking inspiration from Arun's drawings and using them as blueprints to conduct actual heists. As they join forces in unravelling this eerie connection, things take a turn for the worse with a police raid that turned out to be a setup allowing the criminals to escape and the final chapter of Arun's book lost. As he digs deeper, Arun discovers a larger conspiracy at play and must contend with formidable players in organised crime and a sinister figure that emerges from the chaos. He must now try to confront the dangers behind his creation before fiction claims reality.

Adarsh U Nair, once a civil service aspirant, found his true calling in cinema. A passionate writer and actor, he now steps forward as the writer, director, and lead of his crime fantasy *The Last Heist*, aiming to connect with audiences and capture major OTT platforms' attention.



DIRECTOR
ADARSH U. NAIR

THE *mirror behind* the BARS

India | 2024 | 11"08 | Hindi | Drama, Thriller



SYNOPSIS

The Mirror Behind The Bars is a gripping psychological thriller that delves into the troubled mind of Kavya, a young woman who was diagnosed with multiple personality disorder. The film paints a haunting portrait of her fractured reality, blurring the line between what is real and what exists only in her mind. With intense performances and an immersive atmosphere, it captures the emotional and mental turmoil of a college student who is pushed to her limits. After the tragic loss of her parents and relentless bullying at college, Kavya's emotional and psychological state begins to unravel. Her mind becomes both a refuge and a prison, and her inner voices begin to take over, leading her into a spiral of confusion, fear, and isolation. *The Mirror Behind The Bars* is both unsettling and thought-provoking, shedding light on the stigma surrounding mental health, the fear of not being accepted, and the silent battles many fight beneath the surface.



DIRECTOR
AKSHAT ASOLKAR

Akshat Asolkar is a filmmaker and VFX artist passionate about blending reality with fantasy. Beginning in 2019 by creating imaginative YouTube videos, he discovered his love for storytelling. His debut short film marks the first step in his journey to bring bold, visually rich, and emotionally resonant visions to the screen.

TOUGH DAY

India | 2024 | 6"46 | English | Comedy



SYNOPSIS

Everyone has a tough day in their life—sometimes even more than one. Maybe your car runs out of diesel on the way to work. Maybe your tire bursts. Or maybe, just maybe, an assassin on the run breaks into your room and threatens to kill you. *Tough Day*, a short film by Vaisakh Mohandas, student of the School of Film, Media and Creative Arts, RV University, explores what unfolds when the third scenario becomes a terrifying, surreal reality. Set in the confines of a single room, the film escalates quickly from ordinary annoyance to life-or-death stakes. Through sharp dialogue, shifting power dynamics, and moments of dark humor, the film keeps viewers guessing: would you panic, resist, or... offer your would-be killer a drink? With an unpredictable narrative and a strong emotional payoff, *Tough Day* turns absurdity into suspense. A must-watch for fans of psychological standoffs and black comedy.

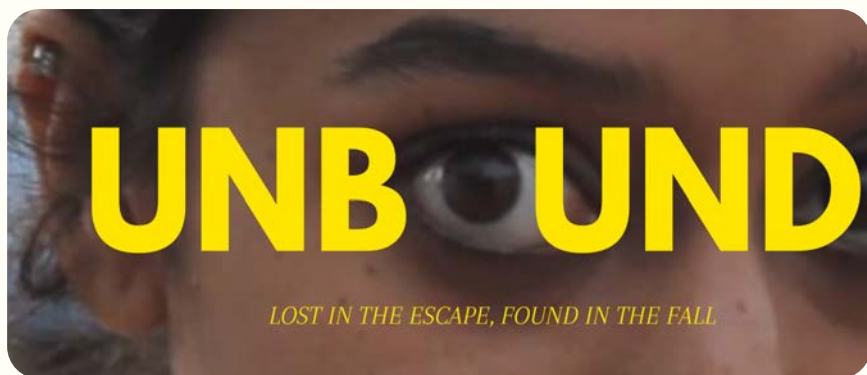
Vaisakh Mohandas, a student of the School of Film, Media, and Creative Arts, RV University, is an aspiring filmmaker, actor, author, and singer. With almost 5 short films under his belt, and a few more scripts, along with an experience acting in over ten short films, he's slowly gaining his experience in the world of cinema. This was his second short film.



DIRECTOR
VAISAKH MOHANDAS

unbound

India | 2025 | 11"43 | Malayalam | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Unbound is a stirring narrative about liberation and self-discovery in an age that demands conformity and quiet compliance to social norms. Niranjana, a young woman with a love for dancing is at the heart of this movie. It chronicles her journey as she breaks free from a life that is governed by traditional duties and the social pressure to fit in and the life of nagging she leaves behind to pursue her dream of becoming a student of the performing arts. The emotional and psychological costs of negotiating ambition, identity, and gender in an unforgiving society are examined in the movie. This is an inspirational tale of artistic and emotional catharsis. It effectively conveys the visceral conflict between inhibitions, both self-imposed and societally imparted, and freedom through strong performances and a style of visual storytelling that is truly a new frontier in teen and youth filmmaking. *Unbound* is a cinematic celebration of what makes each of us unique, and why we matter.



DIRECTOR
XENA SEN

Xena is a psychology student fascinated by the human mind and behavior. She's passionate about films and love exploring cinema as both an art form and a mirror of society. Analyzing characters, stories, and emotions excites her, letting her blend psychology with her creative love for storytelling.

NON - FICTION

a visual **POETRY**

India | 2025 | 4"05 | English | Experimental



SYNOPSIS

A Visual Poetry by Advait Ashok, student of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is an alluring look into the beauty of life and love through the lenses of a hopeless romantic. The words uttered complement the visuals we see and give us a feeling of peace as we join the narrator on his journey through the magnificent Nagaland.

Advait Ashok, is a 20-year-old aspiring filmmaker, studying at RV University, making his film festival debut. Having a keen sense for the human nature and emotion, Advait blends his curiosity of both worlds, reflecting the subtleties that shape human connections, leaving no space for the grey to thrive. He aspires to create stories that connect his lived experiences with that of the universal. His films aim to capture the authenticity of the complex human, while exploring various genres and themes to create stories that not only resonate universally but also root to honesty.



DIRECTOR
ADVAITH ASHOK

glorious SMALLNESS

Korea | 2024 | 14"40 | Korean | Documentary



SYNOPSIS

Glorious Smallness is a deeply personal self-documentary that traces the emotional and psychological journey of a young girl who lived through the trauma of an African civil war. In the midst of strife and mayhem, chaos and fear, at the young age of 10, she discovered her spark—the need to create and tell stories. That spark would grow into a passion for filmmaking in the years to come. The film, which was helmed by eighteen year old Yeha Kwon, explores the recollections, early experiences, and emotional undercurrents that influenced this significant, life-altering decision. It is a love letter to her craft, it's coming to be and of her very own in the process—a bildungsroman. In addition to documenting the tenacity of a young girl impacted by the ravages of the war, *Glorious Smallness* honours the silent, significant choices that characterise a creative life through introspective narration, historical video, and personal tales.



DIRECTOR
YEHA KWON

Yeha Kwon is a student currently attending the Korea National University of Arts and she has directed two short films. She has won awards at various film festivals, including the 11th edition of the Sharjah International Film Festival, and the Child Rights Film Festival with *Save the Children*.

IN ORDER *green* THEN *red*

India | 2025 | 5"52 | English | Experimental



SYNOPSIS

In Order Green then Red is a short film by student filmmaker Prasidh J that is about experiencing the uncertainty that exists in order, that talks about the concept of chaos in human beings and their existence through the medium of conversations. A young man and woman happen to meet by chance but have already met in a sphere of thought. It is random, unevenly spread and an eventful lot of dialogue. It is in this randomness the film finds its order with its two characters, buildings and colours.

Born and brought up in Bangalore, Prasidh is 19 years old and loves writing and writes short stories as and when they arrive. He is fascinated by all medium of expression and cinema fascinates him the most. He loves his characters. He loves chairs. He loves yellow.



DIRECTOR
PRASIDH J.

THE *anomaly*

India | 2024 | 2"07 | Telugu | Experimental



SYNOPSIS

A boy is racing through deserted streets, desperately and hurriedly. Nothing seems to stop him and something just doesn't feel right to the onlooker. And as for the audience— we are left puzzled, taking on the responsibility of figuring out what exactly is going on in the boy's world which seems to be spinning without any rhythm or rhyme. What is he fleeing from? Or could it be that he is running towards something? *The Anomaly*, directed by Deb V.C., is a short experimental film that explores the concepts of time, perception, and narrative expectation with fast-paced action, ridiculous, absurdist humour, and suspenseful, enthralling pacing. This film breathes life into experimental cinema by using brilliant subversions and bringing its subject matter back home in nuanced and groundbreaking ways. *The Anomaly* is the sign of the times for the future of experimental and visceral filmmaking. Director Deb V.C., in our curators' eyes, is proof positive of the Teen Indie Revolution in Filmmaking.



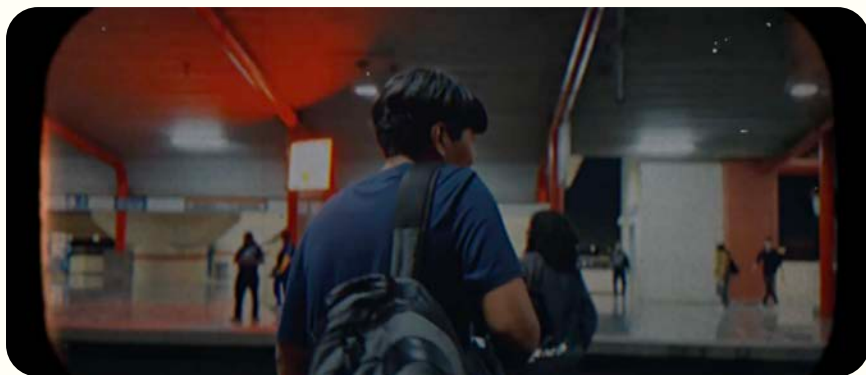
Deb V.C. is a 16-year-old actor, director, editor and musician. He has directed four short films, including this one.

DIRECTOR
DEB V.C.

VERTIGO

A ROLLERCOASTER OF EMOTIONS

Mexico | 2024 | 5"00 | Spanish | Experimental



SYNOPSIS

VERTIGO – A Rollercoaster of Emotions, directed by Mexican student filmmaker Armando Betancourt Esparza, is a strikingly immersive short film that delves into the psychological concept of emotional vertigo—when overwhelming sensory and emotional stimuli distort perception and response. Set in a crowded subway in Monterrey, the story unfolds through a surreal newscast covering the mysterious disappearance of an entire train. Teenagers aboard the subway begin to hallucinate, their minds unraveling into vivid imaginary worlds that reflect distorted fragments of reality. These inner worlds—shaped by emotional pressure, sensory overload, and social change—are visualized through poetic narration and brilliant, chaotic color palettes. As emotional thresholds are pushed, the characters drift deeper into a shared, fictitious dimension.

Armando Betancourt, a filmmaker born and raised in Monterrey, Mexico, is a student at one of the most prestigious universities in Mexico: Tecmilenio. His passion for filmmaking, cinematography, and technology has led him to innovate, break paradigms, and create remarkable projects.



DIRECTOR
ARMANDO BETANCOURT

where DOES a BODY begin AND end?

India | 2024 | 5"27 | English | Experimental



SYNOPSIS

Where Does a Body Begin and End? is a film by Suriya Kiran T, student of the School of Film, Media and Creative Arts, RV University. This experimental film, which captures the spirit of indie, boundary pushing cinema, is a reflective and poetic short piece that blurs the lines between body and soul, asking the eternal philosophical question about where the self truly resides. Through abstract visuals and a meditative tone, the film encourages viewers to look beyond the physical and consider the unseen energies and emotions that define who we are. The film lures its audience with its apparent introspective and when the viewer least expects it, it lurches at them with the intensity of a heart attack. It's a film that chooses not to hand out any answers and revels more in sparking thought, leaving a quiet impact with its immersive depth and haunting beauty, all the while provoking the viewer with its rock-n-roll raw power. The film uniquely displays an imprint of what the adolescent mind is like, quietly energetic and nurturing in its thoughtfulness.



Suriya Kiran T is a young filmmaker who began his journey with short films. Passionate about directing, editing, cinematography, and colour grading, he leans towards the technical side of filmmaking. With the eye of an editor, he approaches direction thoughtfully, blending creativity with precision to tell compelling visual stories.

DIRECTOR
SURIYA KIRAN T

RJ HUNT

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AIRWAVES. THE HUNT FOR THE NEXT RADIO STAR
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- 2. VOICE TEST**
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- 4. IMPROMPTU TALK**
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NOVEMBER 13TH @TIFA





TIFA²⁰₂₅

documentary

showcase





The Eternal Ram (2025)



Himanshu Joshi is a singer, music composer, poet, writer, photographer and filmmaker. Greatly influenced by his uncle Mohan Upreti - a folk theatre and music legend - Himanshu started training in Hindustani classical music at a very young age. He is a part of Indian Ocean, one of India's most popular bands, known for its unique compositions.

Himanshu is also an avid poet and short-story writer, choosing Hindi as his language of creative expression. An alumnus of MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia, he co-owns MIME TV Pvt

Ltd, a film production outfit that produces corporate films, chat shows, game shows, news & current affairs programs and documentaries.

SYNOPSIS

The Eternal Ram, produced by Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) division, INTACH, is an in-depth look at the cultural history and diversity surrounding the traditions and narratives of the Ramayana across India, and how it is represented either in the form of a dance-drama, ritualistic performance, and even puppetry.

Witness the rhythmic passionate performance of Yakshagana and Lankapodi Jatra; delight yourself with the unique Uppinakudru puppets and the Ravana Chhaya shadow puppetry; immerse yourself in the spiritual fervour of the Ramnami Samaj and the Sattriya ritualistic performance; and observe how the effervescent presence of Shri Rama breaks religious boundaries with the Mewati Bhapang.

Whether written text or visual or performance, the story of Shri Ram always captures our attention. The divine idea of *The Eternal Ram* is relevant and inspiring for all humanity, beyond the boundaries of religion. His divine form not only connects our collective consciousness but also makes it brighter. That is the key message and tone throughout the film.

The Eternal Ram
Critics Award for The Best Documentary



The Eternal Ram
Best Feature Documentary



Director: Himanshu Joshi
Writer: Himanshu Joshi
Producers: INTACH, Ministry of Culture
Cast: Dr. Dwarika Prasad Uniyal (anchor)





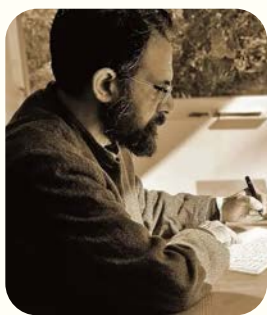
TIFA²⁰₂₅

*mid-festival
feature film*





Phool ka Chhand (2024) “Rhythm of a Flower”



Amit Dutta was educated in film and television at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in 2004, and is now regarded as one of the most successful experimental filmmakers from his country. Dutta has made more than 40 films and published six books. His works range from literary adaptations, fiction, documentation, video-diary and animation, often blurring genres in an attempt to engage directly with the subjects. He has won various awards, including the FIPRESCI Prize for his short film *To Be Continued* (2007) in Oberhausen and the Jury's Special Mention Prize for his first feature film, *The Man's Woman and Other Stories* (2009), in Venice. His project *The Invisible*

One was supported by the Hubert Bals Fund (Rotterdam).

SYNOPSIS

Kumar Gandharav, a child prodigy who subsequently became one of the finest and most original geniuses of Indian classical music, was struck by tuberculosis at the height of his abilities. For years, he lay in bed, barred from using his lungs, unsure if he would ever be able to rise or sing again. Meanwhile, his senses were gathering sounds from nature, from distant folk melodies, and from every vibration of life. Sometimes he practiced, singing so softly that it was hardly audible beyond his bed. This film takes this single moment of him lying on his sick bed and expands it, where his life of music and contemplation moves like a dream. When he rises after six years in bed, with only one lung spared, he writes, sings, and teaches again, giving voice to the six long years of silence and bridging the old and new with visionary insights.

Director:	Amit Dutta
Writer:	Amit Dutta, Kuldeep Barve
Animation:	Allen Shaw
Producer:	Amit Dutta
Cast:	Kuldeep Barve (voice)

EMERGING YOUNG FILMMAKERS



20 AGE 
to
25 CATEGORY

A Still from 'Crosswalk,' winner of Best Filmmaker [Animation], TIFA 2024

FICTION

aaj purani RAAHON SE

India | 2025 | 03"04 | Hindi | Drama, Romance, Musical



SYNOPSIS

Aaj Purani Raahon Se is created by returning student filmmaker Tanvir Islam, from the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, RV University. The film deals with the internal struggles of a janitor named Ayush Sagar. He ruminates on the unsaid love of his past. Portraying the repressed emotions of his soul, it opens a mind place to the audience. Here, an iteration of distorted memories and desires frame a narrative of longing and despair. A disembarkment from reality and imagination, the film aims to carve an endless void in one's heart.

Tanvir is a 24-year-old young filmmaker, deeply interlinked with the aesthetics of lighting, color, music and frame composition. Studying in RV University, Bangalore, he is very passionate with the craft of making cinema. Unlike other filmmakers, he pens down a narrative in every stage of its composition. Going solo and needling the fragments is his prime forte. In effective terms, Tanvir is a bona-fide thinker and doer with a vision to turn his art into a digital masterpiece.



DIRECTOR
TANVIR ISLAM

auntie **PATROL**

USA | 2025 | 05"55 | English | Comedy



SYNOPSIS

In an homage to detective and spy films, *Auntie Patrol* by New York University student filmmaker Athmika Bavauni Sriram tells the tale of a squad of Aunties on a quest to track down a rebellious daughter and prevent her from having sex on the eve of the Tamil New Year. With its heightened aesthetics and firmly tongue in cheek tone, Auntie Patrol's pastiche satirically portrays the struggle between orthodoxy and rebellion, and packs a lot of heart in its frames. Beyond its humor, the film cleverly delves into the concepts of generational conflict, sexual agency, and the fear of changing deep-rooted traditions. Hilarious and heartwarming, Auntie Patrol is youth cinema coming into its own through its influences and telling a unique story through its conceit. The film was awarded the Best Women's Short Film in Kollywood International Film Festival 2025, and was an official selection in Kodaikanal International Film Festival 2025.



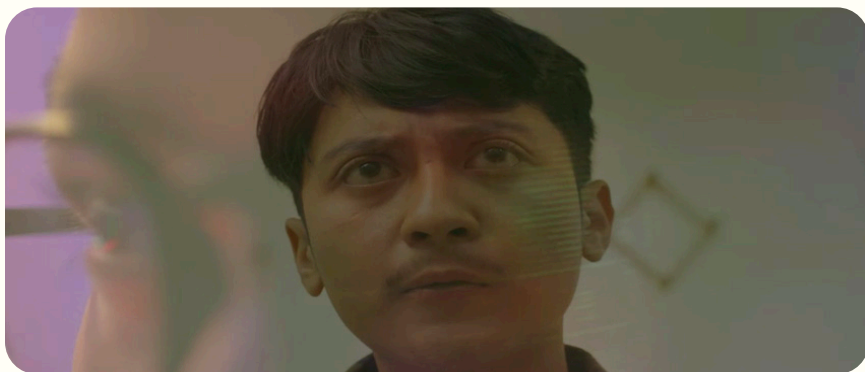
Athmika is a recent graduate from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts majoring in Film and TV and minoring in the Business of Entertainment, Media, and Technology. She is also an award-winning filmmaker passionate about writing for film, TV, and animation, and has a specialized interest in children's media. She cares deeply about uplifting South Asian stories, building community among Indian creatives, and ultimately wants to create better media representation for the next generation of South Asian-Americans.

DIRECTOR

ATHMIKA BAVAUNI SRIRAM

chaos VACATION

Indonesia | 2025 | 12"12 | Indonesian | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Chaos Vacation is a beautifully crafted short film created by Indonesian student filmmaker Dhiyaa' Ahnaf Hariyanta. The story follows a twenty-one year old college student and social media influencer Izul who recently received an external scholarship of 15 million rupiahs. Live-streaming his achievement, he decides to spend his vacation at a hotel. However, the excitement quickly fades and disaster strikes when Izul discovers all his scholarship money in his account is gone. Suspicion and panic set in as he begins to believe the villa's seemingly innocent receptionist may be behind the disappearance. As Izul spirals into confusion and distrust, the film subtly explores themes of digital vulnerability, impulsivity, and the pressures of maintaining an online image. With its clever use of humor, suspense, and relatable storytelling, the film captures the complexities of youth navigating between reality and social media. *Chaos Vacation* became an official selection at the Kinosuite International Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia in April 2025.

Dhiyaa' Ahnaf Hariyanta is a student of STMM MMTC Yogyakarta who has expertise in videography and filmmaking. He once worked as a freelancer for a year and won the national short video title while still in high school. He has managed to penetrate the international stage in Korea with his work. In a podcast, he discussed his journey to winning the Special Award at Yeosu International Webfest 2024 and the secret behind his work "Menunggu Dijemput" which is full of meaning and sincerity.



DIRECTOR
DHIYAA' AHNAF HARIYANTA

DASHA

India | 2024 | 20"13 | Kannada, English | Crime Thriller



SYNOPSIS

Dasha is a suspense thriller rooted in mythology. The film follows Jonathan Devis, a mysterious serial killer inspired by the ten-headed Ravana. Believing each head represents a human flaw — Ahamkara, Moha, Krodha, Chrina, Paschataap, matsarya, Lobha, Kama, and Bhaya — Jonathan embarks on a chilling mission to “eradicate” these traits by eliminating those who embody them. His killing spree in 1986 leaves nine victims, each symbolizing one of Ravana’s heads, but the tenth remains a haunting mystery. Decades later, Adhya, a determined journalist, stumbles upon the unsolved case and dives deep into the shadows of the past. As she pieces together the truth behind the forgotten murders, she discovers that the final “head” may be closer to her than she ever imagined, blurring the line between myth, morality, and madness.



DIRECTOR
YASHAS RAJENDRA

Yashas Rajendra is a filmmaker with a deep longing to tell stories of his own. He’s always been a film enthusiast, even before he could fully understand what a film actually is. Cinema, for him, isn’t an escape from reality it’s where he truly finds himself. There’s no escape from it, because he strongly believes that life imitates art, and art imitates life.

dhaara

India | 2025 | 24"47 | Kannada | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Dhaara, the debut short film by Yashas B. S, explores resilience, transformation, and empowerment in the face of adversity. Set in a modest neighborhood, the story follows a struggling flower seller and his wife whose lives are marked by financial hardship and his destructive drinking habits. When money runs low, he persuades his wife to take over the flower-selling business, expecting little to change. However, her resourcefulness and quiet determination begin to turn the tide. As the business flourishes under her care, she not only earns financial success but also finds a sense of agency long denied to her. With shifting fortunes, the household dynamics begin to change, forcing the husband to confront his insecurities and dependence. *Dhaara* is a sensitive, fictional portrayal of a woman's unexpected journey toward empowerment from within a marginalized community. It invites viewers to reflect on gender roles, self-worth, and the quiet strength that drives meaningful change.

Yashas is a passionate filmmaker from Bangalore, constantly pushing boundaries to become the best version of himself. A graduate of Srishti Manipal Institute, he has a deep love for storytelling, exploring themes of love, memory, and generational connections in projects like "Kal Ka Pal". A fitness enthusiast working towards a healthier lifestyle, he balances creativity with discipline. Whether traveling, seeking new experiences, or diving into meaningful narratives, he thrives on stepping out of his comfort zone and making each moment count.



DIRECTOR
YASHAS B. S

DORPON

India | 2025 | 10"00 | Bengali | Drama



SYNOPSIS

In the liminal space known as the 'Suicide Room,' two women meet at the fragile borderline between life and death. Each has been worn down by a society that offered more hardship than hope, leading them to the same desperate conclusion: to choose death over the pain of living. Their encounter reflects the profound and often invisible impact of social isolation, trauma, and despair. As they stand on the edge of oblivion, their stories mirror one another, revealing how deeply societal neglect can shape a person's will to survive—or to let go.



DIRECTOR
SHEULI MONDAL

Sheuli Mondal is a film lover and amateur actor-filmmaker. She is currently pursuing MSc in Media Science and Journalism from Brainware University, Kolkata. She's interested in literature, film, culture, society and people.

feelings FOR U

India | 2025 | 03"37 | Malayalam | Drama, Romance



SYNOPSIS

In *Feelings for You*, embark on a heartwarming journey that explores the extraordinary power of love. Set against the backdrop of everyday life, this romantic short film delves deep into the profound connection between two individuals, transcending any barriers or disabilities they may face. Through poignant moments and heartfelt gestures, the film beautifully depicts the strength and resilience of love, showcasing how it can overcome even the greatest of challenges. As the story unfolds, viewers are drawn into a world where emotions reign supreme, reminding us all of the transformative power of genuine affection. With a captivating storyline and authentic performances, *Feelings for You* is a testament to the enduring nature of love and its ability to illuminate even the darkest of days. Prepare to be moved, inspired, and reminded that love knows no bounds.

Aldo A Clement, a Masters student at SOFMC, RV University, is an emerging voice in Malayalam cinema. He has worked as Assistant Director on acclaimed projects including Udhaharanam Sujatha and the upcoming fantasy epic Kathanar. A three-time Kerala State Award (SIET) winner for his short films, Aldo has also earned recognition in the India and Asia Book of Records, and received honorary doctorates.



DIRECTOR
ALDO A CLEMENT

kharpat

India | 2025 | 17"23 | Hindi | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Kharpat, a short slice-of-life film by student filmmaker Anannay Namdeo is a quiet, heartfelt story on unlikely friendship and shared solitude. Set against the backdrop of a bustling college campus, the film follows two seemingly invisible figures: a 20-year-old sweeper weighed down by uncertainty about his future, and an elderly gardener who silently nurtures the grounds with dedication. Though separated by generations and life experience, both men navigate the same rhythm of routine and quiet resilience. Their paths, initially parallel, begin to intertwine as they find solace and subtle understanding in one another's company. Without grand gestures or dramatic turns, *Kharpat* finds beauty in the mundane—where a brief exchange or silent companionship offers profound emotional depth. Through restrained storytelling and intimate visuals, the film captures how human connection can bloom in the most overlooked spaces. It is a tender ode to unsung lives, quiet strength, and the bonds that anchor us in daily life.



DIRECTOR
ANNANAY NAMDEO

Anannay Namdeo is a filmmaker and visual storyteller who loves observing the little details of people and places around him. His films often explore human connections, resilience, and the stories we don't always notice. He enjoys collaborating with others and shaping narratives that feel honest, raw, and emotionally lasting.

lady **BIRD**

EK SE ANEK

India | 2025 | 24"05 | Hindi | Drama, Coming-of-Age



SYNOPSIS

In Sadakpur village, two sisters, Chukchuk and Asha, rely on each other after their father's death. Asha, the elder, takes on the responsibility of supporting the family by making deliveries. Asha's marriage has been fixed suddenly and she has to leave her home. Chukchuk constantly thinks about Asha with the cycle as a metaphorical remnant of her presence.

Will Chukchuk be able to ride her cycle again?

Shivi Ghakher, a 20-year-old filmmaker and visual artist, makes her directorial debut with *Ladybird: Ek Se Anek* while still in college. From representing India at an International Art competition at the age of 13 to crafting emotionally resonant narratives, she brings a deep love for visual storytelling and artistic expression to every frame.



DIRECTOR
SHIVI GHAKHER

Lolo

India | 2025 | 19"26 | English | Drama, Comedy



SYNOPSIS

Narasimha, an eccentric bachelor, is deeply in love with Nandhini. After a year together, Nandhini grows tired of the relationship and breaks up with him on Valentine's Day without explanation. Heartbroken and confused, Narasimha struggles to understand why. That's when Lolo, the quirky "Patch-Up Guru," appears. His magical rule is simple: until Narasimha convinces Nandhini to patch up, he will be stuck in a time loop. Each day resets to the moment of the breakup. Eager to win her back, Narasimha tries countless tricks, but his plans fail spectacularly. Even Lolo's advice only leads to comic disasters. Slowly, the tone shifts from comedy to reflection as Narasimha begins to see Nandhini's perspective. She reveals that she doesn't want endless attention—she simply needs space and independence. Narasimha finally accepts her truth. The loop breaks, not with reunion, but with his growth and newfound peace alongside Lolo.



Rekan Vijayakumar is from Karnataka and is now currently studying in Manipal Institute of Communication and is doing a degree in media and communication.

DIRECTOR
REKAN VIJAYAKUMAR

LUTHER

India | 2025 | 27"32 | English | Drama, Thriller



SYNOPSIS

LutHER is a mystery thriller short film that follows a multi-perspective narrative. Luther, a man with a dark past, harbors a hidden vengeance against women who are consumed by their own vanity. His world turns upside down when he meets Irine, who sees him for who he truly is until she uncovers his terrifying secret. As guilt consumes him, Irine's sister, Tina, a determined journalist, sets out to uncover the truth behind her tragic loss. She uncovers the truth with the help of a police officer, David, leading to a tense confrontation where the past and present collide.

Devika is a passionate director and script writer who is currently pursuing Media and Communication. She has directed two short films including *lutHER* as well as scripted and produced various ad shoots. She loves art, creativity and cinema alongside do poetry as well as manages business.



DIRECTOR
DEVIKA DUO

MENUNGGU *dijemput*

Indonesia | 2025 | 12"12 | Indonesian | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Menunggu Dijemput by Indonesian student filmmaker Dhiyaa' Ahnaf Hariyanta is a tender, thought-provoking short film about connection, childhood innocence, and the quiet wisdom of waiting. Willy, an 8-year-old new student, finds himself alone after school on his very first day as his parents are late in picking him up. Soon, he is joined by Farel, another boy whose parents are often late. What begins as small talk between strangers blossoms into a heartfelt exchange, as the boys proudly share stories about their families, their imaginations creating a bond as strong as friendship. Beyond the playful surface, the film offers a poignant reflection on separation—not as an end, but as a beginning. It invites audiences to rethink departures as preludes to new meetings, new growth, and new meaning. Awarded at the 1st Yeosu International Webfest 2024 and officially selected by the Fuse Kids Film Festival 2024, this film is a gentle ode to childhood, destiny, and the beauty of fleeting encounters.



Dhiyaa' Ahnaf Hariyanta is a student of STMM MMTC Yogyakarta who has expertise in videography and film-making. He once worked as a freelancer for a year and won the national short video title while still in high school. He has managed to penetrate the international stage in Korea with his work.

DIRECTOR

DHIYAA' AHNAF HARIYANTA

once UPON A love IN madras

India | 2025 | 20"58 | Tamil | Romantic Drama



SYNOPSIS

In Madras, Mahalingam, a man in his sixties, carefully dresses to meet the love of his life. As he prepares, memories pull him back to his youth in the city's crowded slums, where he first fell for Nazreen. Mocked by her friends for his shabby clothes, Mahalingam nearly lost his confidence—but with the support of his uncle Thumbli, he found the courage to confess his feelings. He took Nazreen to an old British café, a place where his love and sincerity were tested.

Now, decades later, Mahalingam is a grandfather, reflecting on how that tender, uncertain chapter continues to shape the man he has become. *Once Upon a Love in Madras* is a poignant tale of longing, nostalgia, destiny, and the enduring weight of his first love.

Raghu is a filmmaker from Chennai who views cinema as more than an art form—it is a lifeline. For him, filmmaking is the purest experience of witnessing ideas transform into living, breathing worlds at 24 frames per second. Drawn to the magic that unfolds both in front of and behind the camera, Raghu believes cinema is the greatest drug of all, capable of reshaping imagination and reality alike. His storytelling is driven by emotion, atmosphere, and the thrill of capturing life as it happens. Dedicated to crafting meaningful narratives, Raghu continues to explore new ways of merging vision with craft in his journey as an aspiring director.



DIRECTOR
RAGHU

Stella AMOR

India | 2025 | 14"58 | Malayalam, Kannada, English | Romantic Drama



SYNOPSIS

Stella Amor by Aldo A Clement, student of the School of Film, Media and Creative Arts, RV University, is a poetic romantic drama that explores the fragility and depth of young love. Set over a single emotional night, the story follows Aldo, a laid-back, movie-loving youth, who is surprised by a late-night visit from his girlfriend, Ria. Their reunion is filled with unspoken tension, playful banter, and unresolved feelings. As they share a quiet moment under the stars, Ria speaks of eternal love, narrating a hauntingly beautiful tale from history that subtly reflects their own bond. Through heartfelt dialogue and soft, lingering moments, the film delicately unpacks themes of memory, connection, and emotional presence. *Stella Amor* reminds us that true love often exists beyond the visible, and sometimes the most unforgettable nights are the ones that leave us with silence, wonder, and stars.



DIRECTOR
ALDO A. CLEMENT

Aldo A Clement, a Masters student at SOFMC A, RV University, is an emerging voice in Malayalam cinema. He has worked as Assistant Director on acclaimed projects including Udhaharanam Sujatha and the upcoming fantasy epic Kathanar. A three-time Kerala State Award (SIET) winner for his short films, Aldo has also earned recognition in the India and Asia Book of Records, and received honorary doctorates.

the SKIN

Vietnam | 2025 | 11"13 | Vietnamese | Drama, Thriller



SYNOPSIS

What does it mean to crave to be somebody else? Vietnamese student filmmaker Nguyễn Thị Anh Thơ leaves this question suspended in haunting ambiguity with her visceral and evocative short film, *The Skin*. Told through a gripping narrative laced with body horror and psychological intensity, the film follows a young man who desperately longs to live as a woman. As he undergoes a transformation both mental and physical, the film becomes a powerful exploration of gender dysphoria, self-identity, and the terrifying beauty of change. Bleeding and bruised, *The Skin* does not shy away from the emotional and bodily cost of becoming. It reflects the inner chaos of those who dare to dream beyond the identities assigned to them—those who wish to live truthfully but are shackled by fear, shame, and society's rigid gaze. *The Skin* dares its viewers to question not just identity, but the price of authenticity in a judgmental world.

Nguyễn Thị Anh Thơ is a Vietnamese filmmaker and screenwriter. *The Skin* is her debut short film, where she explores themes of identity, isolation, and the fragile boundary between reality and imagination. Through cinema, she aims to translate personal emotions into poetic narratives that resonate with audiences.



DIRECTOR
NGUYỄN THỊ ANH THƠ

the tragic theft **OF THE ANIMA SOL**

India | 2025 | 24"04 | English, Hindi | Drama, Romance, Comedy



SYNOPSIS

The Tragic Theft of the Anima Sol by filmmakers Laxya Pahuja and Devjyoti Ghosh, is a film that delves into the depths of the troubled minds and hearts of failed relationships, finding itself speaking a truth that clenches itself around our very soul and refuses to let go. This film portrays far more of the interiority and the dysfunctions of a relationship than a conventional narrative structure could. On its various levels, *The Tragic Theft of the Anima Sol* is about the person, the relationship, and the eyes that are on them. Through heart-rendingly beautiful frames and visuals that speak to cinema as a whole, this short film shows us that the world steals love, and those who feel it for each other must choose between each other and giving into the world. Such is the tragedy of the theft of the Anima Sol. As we watch this haunting film, we're reminded yet again that true love is about seeing into the soul of the other and when that doesn't happen, it crumbles and breaks, just like the hearts of the people forlorn.



DIRECTORS

Laxya Pahuja and Devjyoti Ghosh founded the experimental indie collective ScreenSlay in 2021 with their debut short, R&B, made fresh out of high school. The film organically reached over 7,000 viewers and quickly gained cult status among Indian cinephiles. Building on that breakthrough, ScreenSlay now returns with their boldest work yet, *The Tragic Theft of the Anima Sol*, already hailed as a favourite, marking a new chapter in their pursuit of boundary-pushing avant-garde cinema.

THE *wall*

India | 2024 | 9"32 | Tamil | Drama



SYNOPSIS

The Wall, directed by Kevin Jerome, is a poignant short film inspired by true events that shook the town of Mettupalayam in 2019. The narrative unfolds against the backdrop of a towering wall that physically and symbolically divides the rich from the poor. At the heart of the story is a devoted father who, despite his unwavering love, faces immense struggles to provide for his young son. His challenges reflect the crushing weight of systemic oppression, economic hardships, and the deeply entrenched social inequalities that deny dignity and opportunity to marginalized communities. Through the father's journey, the film highlights the resilience of the human spirit while laying bare the harsh realities imposed by unjust societal structures. *The Wall* ultimately serves as both a mirror and a call to action—urging accountability, social justice, and safer living conditions for society's most vulnerable.

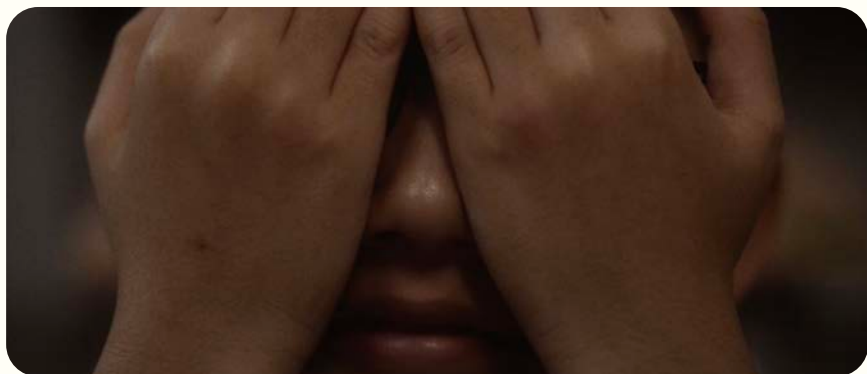
Kevin Jerome is an award-winning Indian filmmaker, actor and content creator working in the Tamil language. Known for his raw, emotional storytelling, he has directed viral content for Eruma Saani and the acclaimed short film *The Wall*, which won over 25 awards. He leads Yuva, a youth-led initiative merging art with social impact, and is currently developing his debut feature.



DIRECTOR
KEVIN JEROME

THIEF

China | 2025 | 9"00 | Chinese | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Thief, a poignant short film by Chinese student filmmaker and scriptwriter Hu Yuxiao, explores the delicate balance between innocence and authority through the eyes of a child. Set in a primary school where students' pens mysteriously go missing, the teacher appoints class monitor Bai Yu to investigate. Initially taking the role with a sense of duty, Bai Yu soon finds himself consumed by suspicion—especially when clues begin pointing toward his best friend. As he wrestles with the emotional weight of loyalty, guilt, and the pressure to maintain order, Bai Yu's journey becomes a quiet, powerful examination of how authority can subtly corrupt even the purest intentions. The film's minimal setting enhances its emotional impact, as a seemingly simple task spirals into a personal moral reckoning. *Thief* captures the painful loss of innocence and reminds viewers how even children are not immune to the temptations of power and the consequences of choice.



Hu Yuxiao, 24 years old, from Anhui, China, graduated from the Film Department of Shanxi University of Communication and Communication. During his undergraduate years, he shot many short films and served as short film director, screenwriter, editor, amongst other positions. At the same time, he also served as the documentary shooting and publicity team leader in theatrical film crews. Now he is studying for a master's degree in Film Practice in Arts University Bournemouth.

DIRECTOR
HU YUXIAO

upya

India | 2025 | 15"09 | Marathi | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Upya, a spirited 14-year-old boy, finds his joy in playing the halgi, a traditional drum instrument that connects him not only to music but also to his late father's memory. With the Waari festival around the corner, his colony prepares for a halgi competition, and Upya dreams of proving himself against his rivals. But when his beloved instrument is sold off against his will, his hopes collapse, leaving him in silence. Struggling with anger and helplessness, Upya wanders through the chaos of Waari, caught between the weight of his loss. Just when he feels silenced, life takes an unexpected turn.

Dev Kadam is a filmmaker from Pune, Maharashtra, currently pursuing his third year of B.A. Filmmaking at Dadasaheb Phalke International Film School, MIT-WPU. With several screenplays to his name and four short films, Dev continues to explore stories rooted in emotion and human resilience.

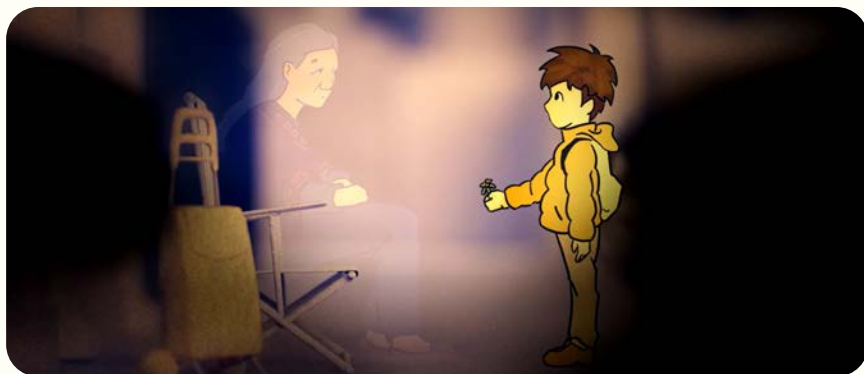


DIRECTOR
DEV KADAM

ANIMATION

ayni

Argentina | 2025 | 3"19 | Spanish | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Ayni by Argentinian student filmmaker and animator Tomás Ariel Marco is a tender, poignant short film that captures the quiet bond between two unlikely companions—an elderly homeless woman and a curious six-year-old boy—set against a world that often turns a blind eye to the vulnerable. In a society marked by indifference, the film delicately explores themes of empathy, shared humanity, and the power of connection across generations and social divides. With minimal dialogue and expressive animation, *Ayni* creates an emotional resonance that lingers, reminding viewers that even in the bleakest circumstances, small acts of kindness can offer warmth and meaning. Their fleeting relationship, simple yet profound, becomes a gentle protest against isolation and invisibility. The film won the Young Filmmaker Award at the 15th Latino & Native American Film Festival (LANAFF) and was officially selected at festivals including the 6th Social and Economic Justice Film Festival and the 25th 24Frame Future Film Festival.



DIRECTOR
TOMÁS ARIEL MARCO

Tomás Ariel Marco was born in Mar del Plata on June 26, 2003. He is an advanced student of 3D Animation at ENERC (Argentina).

He is the general coordinator and artistic director of the ENERC se proyecta Festival.

Ayni is his first animated short film.

prostastis THE LOST SUN

India | 2025 | 12"36 | English | Science Fiction



SYNOPSIS

Prostastis – The Lost Sun, by Indian student filmmaker and animator Vedanga Nag, is a visually gripping post-apocalyptic tale that blends heart, action, and emotional depth in a haunting oceanic setting. At the center of the story is the powerful bond between Eli, a gifted young boy with hidden powers, and Prostastis, a broken yet fiercely loyal robot guardian. Set in a remote village surrounded by vast waters and crumbling remnants of a fallen world, the film follows their fight for survival as a ruthless droid army closes in, led by a dangerous foe with a deep, personal connection to Eli's past. Through vivid animation and stirring music, *Prostastis* explores themes of sacrifice, memory, and the strength it takes to embrace one's destiny. Rich in symbolism and storytelling, the film delivers a powerful narrative about protection, redemption, and what it truly means to rise. It was officially selected for FABA Films Online Festival 2025 and Urbanite Arts and Film Festival.

Vedanga Nag is an imaginative and highly skilled filmmaker, animator, and visual storyteller, whose work is defined by an ability to fuse technical expertise with creative vision. Currently pursuing Bachelor of Design in Animation and VFX at UPES, Dehradun, Vedanga has developed a portfolio that demonstrates a remarkable range of talent and a dedication to impactful storytelling. From socially charged narratives to experimental visual projects, Vedanga's journey is one of passion, perseverance, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.



DIRECTOR
VEDANGA NAG

RAAKSHAS

THE DEMON

India | 2025 | 6"00 | English | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Indian student filmmaker and stop motion animator Tansheet Jain delivers a haunting and deeply symbolic tale in *Raakshas (The Demon)*. The film follows Sanjana, a woman trapped in a cycle of domestic abuse, as her husband's alcoholism manifests into a monstrous clay devil—Raakshas—that gradually consumes their home and their lives. As the demon grows with each drink, love deteriorates into fear, and the once warm household turns eerily silent. Through powerful visual metaphors and painstaking stop motion animation, the film explores the devastating impact of addiction and violence on women within patriarchal structures. Sanjana's silent resistance culminates in a desperate act, using a fragment of her past—one final flicker of hope—to sever the demon's grip. But just as relief sets in, a chilling twist unearths the lingering shadows of trauma. *Raakshas* was awarded Best Stop Motion Animation at the Golden Lion International Film Festival and officially selected at Festival l'Art en Chemin 2024 and Kalakari Film Festival.



DIRECTOR
TANSHEET BHATT

Tansheet Bhatt is a passionate Animator, Illustrator, Concept Artist, and Storyboard Artist who brings ideas to life through impactful visuals. He helps clients craft compelling stories with clarity, creativity, and purpose, turning concepts into engaging visual experiences that connect with audiences. With a strong focus on storytelling and detail, he ensures every frame speaks with meaning.

Sinag

THE LAST RAY OF LIGHT

Chile | 2025 | 5"17 | Spanish | Fantasy, Drama



SYNOPSIS

Sinag, The Last Ray of Light, created by Chilean student filmmaker Melissa Valentina Ahumada, is a powerful animated allegory about the clash between nature and industrial greed. The story is set in the enchanted Forest of Melkys-jar, a sanctuary brimming with harmony and life, the film follows the rise of a looming threat—the ruthless Kingdom of Ironhold. Their machines and weapons tear through the forest, seeking to exploit its resources without remorse. At the heart of the resistance is the Mother Goddess, an ethereal guardian who rises in defiance to protect her sacred home. A fierce and breathtaking battle unfolds, echoing the age-old struggle between ecological preservation and destructive expansion. With emotionally resonant visuals and a poignant environmental message, the film urges the audience to reflect on the delicate balance of ecosystems and humanity's role within it. Will nature endure, or will the last ray of light be extinguished?

Melissa Valentina Ahumada Bravo (Iquique, 2000) is a fourth-year Digital Animation student at Universidad Mayor, Temuco. A painter specialized in realism, she combines technical precision with strong visual sensitivity. She aims to work in VFX, background design, and organic modeling, blending traditional art with advanced digital tools.



DIRECTOR

MELISSA VALENTINA AHUMADA BRAVO

straight **AND** **IN** *A circle*

Belarus | 2024 | 4"24 | English | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Juxtaposed with a beautifully minimalistic visual language is a story that struggles to be defined, struggles to be told— often caught in the throat yet hard to swallow. This is characteristic of Belarus student filmmaker Palina Ramashka's work and *Straight and in a Circle* is no different. This animation attempts to tell the story of those who have been displaced from their homelands and what it means to carry fractured memories of a place you can't return to or become the person you were back there, back then. Through sparse imagery and deeply emotive pacing, the film evokes a sense of absence and longing that lingers beyond the screen. Also worthy of mention is its use of sound and the hauntingly restrained score, which brilliantly parallels the film's physical terrain and reflects its emotional climate. *Straight and in a Circle* is less about resolution and more about resonating with those unspoken truths that remain even after the story ends.



DIRECTOR
PALINA RAMASHKA

Born in Minsk in 1999, Palina Ramashka is a Fine Arts graduate specializing in animation and illustration. Based in Lithuania, she works as an animator and illustrator. Her film *Straight and in a Circle* was screened at over 60 festivals and won four Best Film awards.

THE *sugary reunion*

India | 2024 | 7"32 | English | Fantasy



SYNOPSIS

The Sugary Reunion by Indian student filmmaker and animator Sehardeep Grewal is a heartfelt animated short that blends whimsical imagination with emotional depth. The story follows 10-year-old Sky, a brave and curious girl whose father embarked on a mission to the stars but never returned. Determined to fulfill a promise she once made, Sky sets off on a magical journey to find him. Along the way, she meets Ginger—a sweet, sentient marshmallow with a fierce sense of loyalty. As they soar through a dreamlike world filled with glowing stingrays and celestial wonders, Ginger vows to protect Sky, even if it means defying its own marshmallow family. Through charming visuals and a tender narrative, the film explores themes of love, longing, the bond between a daughter and her father, and the courage it takes to follow one's heart. *The Sugary Reunion* was an official selection at the Chitkara International Animation Film Festival 2024.

Sehar is an emerging filmmaker passionate about breathing life into ideas that sprout in her mind, nurturing them into vast, expansive canopies for the world to see. She aims to bear fruit with her trees and spread their sweetness, their unique textures and flavours, some of which might just be new for the audience to witness and savour.

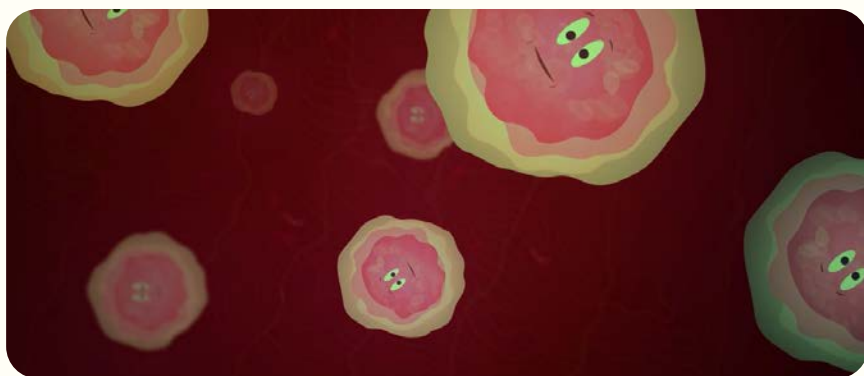


DIRECTOR
SEHARDEEP GREWAL

VIRAL PASSION

UNTIL IMMUNITY DO US APART

Portugal | 2024 | 5"04 | Portuguese | Educational



SYNOPSIS

Viral Passion: Until Immunity Do Us Part is a vibrant and witty animated short film created by Portuguese student filmmakers Pedro Loyola, Pedro Henriques, Isis Coutinho, and Júlia Köche. Blending humor with science, the film follows the microscopic battle that unfolds when a foreign bacterium invades a healthy human body. Through a fast-paced and visually engaging narrative, it explores how the immune system detects, combats, and adapts to new threats. Each stage of the infection is depicted with stylized characters and clever metaphors, making complex biological processes accessible and entertaining. This microscopic adventure reveals the surprising resilience of the human body in an intense internal war, offering both scientific insight and artistic flair. The film's originality and execution earned it the Best Animated Movie award at the Art Film Awards Festival 2024 and a nomination for Best Animated Short Film at the Sophia Student Awards 2025.

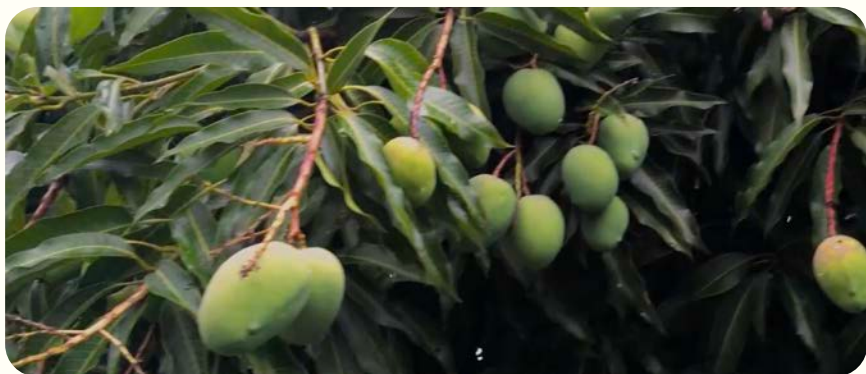


DIRECTORS

Pedro Loyola, Pedro Henriques, Júlia Köche, and Isis Coutinho are undergraduates in Multimedia and Communication Technologies. United by their academic journey, they collaborated on "Viral Passion: Until Immunity Do Us Part," an educational animation that creatively explores the virus life cycle in the human body. Pedro Loyola directed and wrote the narrative, Pedro Henriques animated the story, Júlia Köche and Isis Coutinho illustrated the characters. Supported by INIAV researchers, they fused science and art to inspire and educate young audiences.

WHAT WE *talk* WHEN WE *talk* ABOUT *fruits*

India | 2025 | 4"58 | Hindi, English | Stop-Motion, Experimental



SYNOPSIS

What We Talk When We Talk About Fruits is a stop-motion animated short by Indian animation student Nonisha Negi that invites viewers into a sensory, nostalgic journey. Set in kitchen fruit bowls, packaged bundles, in little plates and even found on the ground, the film features fruits that speak with the voices of those who once ate them, sharing tender, bittersweet, and humorous stories. A pomegranate recalls someone who craved its taste; a passion fruit speaks of a long-lost lover. Each fruit becomes a vessel for real human memories, revealing how even the simplest foods are woven into the fabric of our lives. As these fruits are slowly eaten, their stories linger, evoking themes of remembrance, intimacy, and transience. With a tactile, textured animation style and a uniquely immersive approach, the film aims to stir not just visual and auditory senses, but also memory and taste. It's a poetic ode to the overlooked details of daily life—where every bite is a story remembered.

Nonisha Negi, 23, is an animation student from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. Originally from Uttarakhand, she lives in Delhi. She has a penchant for stop motion in the way that it is so personal that one is physically a part of every single frame. Besides 'What we Talk when we Talk about Fruits' (2024) made under Otter Studios, she has another short in her bag, 'Fish out of Water' (2023), a claymation film which got screened at multiple festivals.



DIRECTOR
NONISHA NEGI

NON - FICTION

fadalous

Egypt | 2025 | 12"09 | Arabic | Documentary



SYNOPSIS

This documentary is a deep-dive into the life of Nubians and an exhibition of the beauty of Aswan, a city in Egypt. Through colorful frames and interviews, the documentary team pulls back a curtain and reveals to us a rich and elegant culture. It's a beautiful, enchanting, and cute look into the Nubian life, abound with music, crafts, and art. It's a must watch to make your day a little better. It's a hopeful glimpse into lives that asks us to think of cultures other than our own.



DIRECTOR
YAHYA ZEITAR

Yahya Zeitar is a 22-year-old Egyptian/Jordanian and a graduate of Media Production from Galala University. With a strong passion for filmmaking and storytelling, he has always been driven to create meaningful and impactful content. Currently, he's pursuing his career in marketing as the founder of his own marketing agency, where he combines creativity and strategy to help brands grow and connect with their audiences.

MOHENDRO

India | 2025 | 23"50 | Bengali | Experimental



SYNOPSIS

Adapted from Shakespeare's Macbeth, Al Minar Mahmudur Reza's *Mohendro* is a profound psychological exploration that transposes the classic tragedy into a potent contemporary context. It revolves around the psychosexual landscape of a murderer whose violent actions are motivated not by mere ambition, but by a deep-seated sense of homelessness and a crippling identity anxiety. The film delves into the character's fractured psyche, examining how these profound existential crises unravel his morality and ultimately consume his soul, leading to his inevitable downfall.

Al Minar Mahmudur Reza is a Poet, Writer, and award-winning filmmaker across several Universities. He is currently pursuing my Masters degree in English from Brainware University, West Bengal. He aspires to be a novelist and a filmmaker.



DIRECTOR
AL MINAR MAHMUDUR REZA

THE SLOW *train*

OLD ENGINE IGNITES NEW LIFE

China | 2025 | 6"00 | Chinese | Documentary



SYNOPSIS

The 5633 train is a relic of a bygone era, chugging slowly on in a world racing quietly ahead. Even when it preserves a way of living found only in what's remaining of countrysides, it is a symbol of modernity and development for its townspeople. Following the timeworn tracks of the old Chengdu-Kunming Railway, the train bridges the heart of the Daliang Mountains to the bustling city of Panzhihua. It hosts in its corridors people from all walks of life—students on their way to schools and university, workers trying to make a living and traders carrying livestock and produce—most of them from the Yi ethnic group. This short film is one that celebrates the heritage and resilience of the townspeople, the stories they craft and become a part of during their journeys and a homage to the last slow passenger train still in operation.



Ruixi NiU is a college student majoring in film in Zhongnan University of Economics and Law. Imbued with great expectations for the future, he thoroughly observes the world and meticulously feels the warmth of the surroundings. Taking advantage of the strength and influence of the film, he commits himself to recording and promoting values of our times. Greatly fond of film, he holds a firm conviction in its tremendous power.

DIRECTOR
XIRUI NIU

TRUTH *whispered*

India | 2025 | 6'10 | English | Experimental



SYNOPSIS

In a quiet household, lives a peculiar man named Rajesh- silent, observant, and unsettlingly persuasive. No one knows what he does for a living, but he claims to “change people’s minds... gently.” Through strange questions, subtle observations, and unnoticed swaps of objects, Rajesh plants ideas like seeds-never forcing, only nudging. His methods are bizarre yet strangely effective, making others question their thoughts, preferences, and even their truths. When the young narrator realizes her own beliefs may have been whispered into her by Rajesh, the film takes a haunting turn. What begins as a quirky study in influence slowly transforms into a quiet commentary on manipulation, autonomy, and the fragility of thought.

Truth, Whispered is a surreal, minimalist drama that explores how ideas can be rearranged like furniture- without us ever noticing.

Aarshik A, a Master’s student at SOFMCA, RV University, carves images into stories. His journey moves through Kerala’s film promotions, ad films, and intimate portraits of celebrities, finding expression as a DOP in many short films. Also a VFX and 2D artist, he is currently interning with Hombale Films.



DIRECTOR
AARSHIK A.

WE *used* TO BE *friends*

German | 2025 | 5"47 | German | Documentary



SYNOPSIS

We Used to Be Friends is a poignant look at a city's most neglected inhabitants- the pigeons. The director trio of Lena Dandanelle, Lea Majer, and Carolin Kubut gives us an extensive look at the lives of pigeons through haunting words spoken as if from the perspective of the pigeons, asking us to look past them and into their soul, and give them another chance for pigeons were once our closest friends, the trusted birds that we used to send messages across vast distances. Today, they live neglected, deemed problems. Instead of facing the homes that invited them with open arms, they now face homes whose windows are grilled and humans who turn their cold hearts and arms away from their dreadful plight. The pigeon is a relic of the past that still affects us today. Don't they, like every other animal, deserve a second chance? Watch, and your heart will surely be captured with a long-lost love for these birds who were the centre of communication and society... in a past we think, is well left alone.



Lena Dandanelle, Carolin Kubut and Lea Majer have been studying Film & Media Arts at Flensburg University of Applied Sciences since 2022. This is their first short film as a team.

DIRECTORS

sons **OF THE** *land*

Egypt | 2025 | 15"20 | Arabic | Documentary

ابناء الأرض

SYNOPSIS

This documentary follows the lives of children who wake up every day to the sounds and fears of war. From Sudan to Syria to Palestine, their stories reveal both the pain they endure and the strength they carry. Blending personal moments, staged re-creations, and rare archival footage, the film gives these children a voice that reaches beyond borders. It is a reminder that no child, anywhere, should have to grow up in the shadow of conflict.

Ziad Hesham and Badr Arafah, are Egyptian BBWfilm-makers who met while studying at Galala University's Faculty of Media Production. Since then, they have worked together as freelance directors and cinematographers, creating cinematic visuals and carefully crafted sound across documentaries, advertising campaigns, and event coverage. Their clients have included Galala University, and UNESCO. They share a visual language that blends narrative sensitivity with technical precision, adapting seamlessly to both artistic and commercial projects.



DIRECTORS

E-SET

Egypt | 2025 | 12"40 | Arabic | Documentary



SYNOPSIS

This documentary explores the power and determination of women breaking barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields. Through the stories of three remarkable women—a carpenter, a marriage officiant, and an underwater welder—it reveals the skill, resilience, and passion that drive them to excel in their work, challenging expectations and inspiring change.



DIRECTORS

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TIFA²⁰₂₅

closing
—
feature film





Mahavatar Narsimha (2025)



Ashwin Kumar is a prominent and distinguished Creative Visualiser who's been working in the field for about two decades, applying his visionary approach to make a peerless contribution to contemporary cinema. His spectrum ranges from working in ads and films both mainstream and independent, collecting many accolades and awards in the process. His creative visualization & art direction for the film- *Kshay* which was released through PVR cinemas across the nation as a special view won six International Awards. Kumar helms Kleem Productions, a prominent VFX studio .

SYNOPSIS

Mahavatar Narsimha chronicles two incarnations of Vishnu, Varaha and Narasimha. Varaha, a mighty boar, rescues Bhudevi (Mother Earth) from the asura (demon) Hiranyaksha. After his victory, the story shifts to Hiranyakashipu, Hiranyaksha's brother, who gains a boon, declares himself god, and oppresses Vishnu's followers. Prahlada, his son and devoted follower of Vishnu, remains faithful despite his father's threats. To save Prahlada and defeat evil, Vishnu appears as Narsimha, a half-man, half-lion form, who kills Hiranyakashipu while honoring the conditions of the demon's boon from Brahma. Blending two major episodes from the Dashavatara, Mahavatar Narsimha explores themes of divine justice, unshakable faith, and the eternal promise of protection to the righteous.

Director: Ashwin Kumar

Writer: Jayapurna Das

Production: Kleem Productions
Hombale Films (presenters only)

Main Voice Cast: Aditya Raj Sharma as Hiranyakashipu, Haripriya Matta as Prahlad, Priyanka Bhandari as Kayadu, Harjeet Walia as Lord Narasimha, Sanket Jaiswal as the Narrator

TIFA '25

*award
categories*

teenage filmmakers

BEST FILM

The Best Film Award acknowledges and honours the culmination of exceptional storytelling, creativity, and craftsmanship, influencing cultural narratives and fostering appreciation for cinematic art.

BEST DIRECTOR

The Best Director Award recognizes the visionary leadership and artistic guidance that shapes a film, celebrating the crucial role directors play in bringing stories to life with creativity, precision, and cinematic excellence.

BEST STORY

The Best Story Award recognizes the essence of compelling narrative craftsmanship, honouring films that excel in storytelling, captivate audiences, and leave a lasting impact on the art of filmmaking.

BEST TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT

The Best Technical Achievement Award recognizes innovation and mastery in filmmaking technology, pushing the boundaries of what is possible and inspiring advancements in the technical aspects of cinema.

BEST ENSEMBLE

The Best Ensemble Award celebrates the collective brilliance of actors working seamlessly together, contributing to the cohesive and impactful storytelling that defines exceptional ensemble performances in film.

emerging young filmmakers

BEST EMERGING YOUNG FILMMAKER (FICTION)

The Best Emerging Young Filmmaker (Fiction) Award acknowledges and honours the culmination of exceptional storytelling, creativity, and craftsmanship, influencing cultural narratives and fostering appreciation for cinematic art.

BEST EMERGING YOUNG FILMMAKER (ANIMATION)

The Best Emerging Young Filmmaker (Animation) Award honours the artistry, creativity and hard work put into an animated film, acknowledging the impact of imaginative worlds, character design, and visual storytelling that captivates audiences across ages and cultures.

BEST EMERGING YOUNG FILMMAKER (ESSAY/EXPERIMENTAL)

The Best Emerging Young Filmmaker Essay/ Experimental Award celebrates depth of research, clarity of expression, and compelling storytelling, this award honours works that shed new light on subjects, provoke thought, and engage audiences.

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

The Audience Choice Award (common to all categories) empowers viewers to actively participate in recognizing films, reflecting the diverse tastes and preferences of audiences while fostering a shared celebration of cinematic storytelling between the artist and their audience.

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BEST STORY

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BEST EDITING BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

The Best Editing and the Best Cinematography Awards recognize innovation and mastery in filmmaking technology, pushing the boundaries of what is possible and inspiring advancements in the technical aspects of cinema.

BEST ACTOR MALE BEST ACTOR FEMALE

The Best Actor Awards acknowledge and celebrate the exceptional talent and contribution of actors, recognizing their ability to bring characters to life with depth, nuance, and emotional resonance.



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