



FESTIVAL HAND BOOK



rain | international
nature film festival

ON 24 - 26 JANUARY 2020 @ KUMARAKOM



rain | international
nature film festival

24 - 26 JANUARY 2020

@ KUMARAKOM

Organized by:

Birds Club International

Jayaraj foundation, Narayaneeyam, Muttambalam, Kottayam, Kerala, India, Pin: 686004
E-mail info@birdsclubinternational.org | www.birdsclubinternational.com



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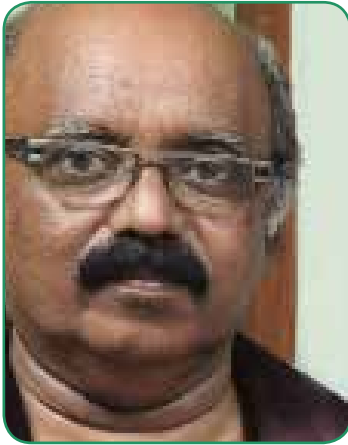
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TRIBUTE



Ramachandra Babu
[1947-2019]



M J Radhakrishnan
[1958-2019]



It is with great happiness I learned that the 2nd edition of RAIN International Nature Film Festival by Jayaraj Foundation is being held from 24th to 26th January at Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary.

RINFF is a great initiative to connect the audience to nature and ignite the passion for nature through films. Protecting nature and wildlife means that you are preserving it for future generations. It helps in promoting biodiversity for a healthy and functional ecosystem. The conservation of the natural habitat of animals & plants enriches our planet and keep nature's balance.

I extend my warm greetings and felicitation to the RAIN International Nature Film Festival and to the future activities of Birds club International and Jayaraj Foundation.

KADAKAMPALLY SURENDRAN

Minister for Co-operation, Tourism and Devaswoms,
Government of Kerala

Message



It gives immense pleasure to learn that the Second Rain International Nature Film Festival is being organised by Birds Club International in Kumarakom from January 24 to 26, 2020.

This festival would act as a fora for award films, honouring stalwarts and for interaction among the intellectuals in the field of film, art and nature. No doubt this multifarious activities will not only enlighten the activists in the field but also throw light for the betterment of the fields of concern.

I wish the festival a grand success.

K. RAJU

Minister for Forests, Wildlife Protection,
Animal husbandry, Dairy Development
Milk co-operative and Zoos
Government of Kerala



I believe Rain International NATURE Film Festival gives us the good opportunity to think of the NATURE and its Circustances on the Earth where we live in now.

KYOKO DAN

International Festival Advisor,
RINFF 2020

Message _____

_____ Message



It gives me great pleasure to welcome all nature lovers to the second edition of the RAIN International Nature Film Festival (RAIN INFF) here at Kumarakom, Kerala. RAIN INFF celebrates the natural world around us – the water bodies, landscapes, living forms and the air we breathe.

The festival will offer screenings of critically acclaimed and important films from around the world as well as highlight students and emerging filmmakers, and will offer a platform to nurture their original visions and voices. The relevance of this green endeavour is that, film scholars as well as established and emerging filmmakers from around the world engage the audience in a lively dialogue about the environmental perspectives contained in their work. It will certainly be a new learning experience to all. I am sure that RAIN INFF would explore the reality of Anthropocene era from around the world, from intimate changes to massive transformations.

The village of Kumarakom on the Vembanad Lake is an ornithologist's paradise and is the apt venue to propel meaningful dialogue on cinema and conservation. I am delighted to have this opportunity to offer my sincere wishes to RAIN INFF 2020. May this initiative generate fresh ideas for a serious visual culture on Nature Conservation.

DR. ABHILASH R.

State Coordinator, Birds Club International



Film festivals like these are an important part of the cultural ecosystem because they teach us to value the non-duality of man and nature. I congratulate the organizers of Rain International Nature Film Festival for raising the awareness of the general public regarding the protection and conservation of biological diversity, natural resources, values and beauties of the world.

SUMITRA BHAVE

Film Maker

Jury Chairman, RINFF 2020

Message

Sumitra Bhawe, a social - work teacher and a social scientist-researcher turned to filmmaking in 1985 to communicate her research findings with the illiterate women in India. Throughout her journey the effort has been to combine filmmaking as an effective tool for education, and as an art form. She has four books to her credit. Sumitra Bhawe and Sunil Sukthankar, her associate as a co-director, have directed 16 feature films, more than 70 short films, 3 TV serials and 5 telefilms, all of which were written by Sumitra Bhawe. Their films have received six international awards, 11 national awards (including the Golden Lotus for the Best Indian Film for *Kaasav*) and more than 45 state awards. She has won several individual awards for story, screenplay, lyrics, art direction, costume design and direction. Her films revolve around the socio-political and economic conditions and hence are more relatable to all the classes of society. The films have been screened right from the grassroots level of rural parts to the international platforms in all the six continents. *Astu*, *Kaasav*, *Welcome Home*, *Dithee*, 40 short films, 5 telefilms and 3 TV serials to her credit. Their films have received 5 International Awards, 11 National Awards (including the Golden Lotus for the Best Indian Film for *Kaasav*), several National level awards including the prestigious Arvindan Puraskaram, more than 45 State awards and several State level awards.



Message



I sincerely wish the 2nd Rain International Nature Film Festival had a great success; And pray for Sino-Indian fruitful culture and deep friendship, for "Auld Lang Syne" as high as the sky. Two trees become forests, One song with the same melody. The dragon and the elephant dancing together. The Asian Century is coming.

PABLO REN BAOLU

Jury Member,
RINFF 2020

Message

Baolu Ren is the current Vice General of the entertainment company S.T. Culture & Mobius Entertainment, A Jury of European Film Festival in China and International Director of Silk Road International Film Festival; Consultant of China International Culture Exchange Center; Board of New China Cinema Association. A researcher of theological philosophy, Baolu's love for story telling led him to the world of cinema where he excelled as a filmmaker and film marketer. This led to him becoming a well versed producer and heading a production and distribution company that specializes in distributing foreign films in China. Baolu Ren has a strong understanding and knowledge of Indian and South Asian films. These factors have enabled Baolu Ren to be instrumental in leading his company to curate many films in more than a dozen International Film Festivals. He believes that films are no boundaries for expressing the common good of human beings, giving his passion and love to the cultural exchange between China and world.



I am honoured to get the invitation from 2nd Rain International Nature Film Festival (RINFF) as International Jury member. This is my first time at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Kumarakom. It's crucial there are festivals which showcase feature films, short films and documentaries about nature. I am sure about the high quality of the films selected. And will view these with much love, trying to understand their message and share their vision to other people. Yes, this invitation will be a marvellous experience to be remembered with joy someday ahead.

Thanks so much to the festival team !

QAZI ABDUR RAHIM

Jury Member, RINFF 2020

Message

Qazi Abdur Rahim. Born in 1962, graduated from UAM university he has been related to M-80 Radio and the famous comedians "Gomaespuma". Qazi is the first indian to be nominated to Spanish Film Awards for Best Original Music for the film *El Próximo Oriente*. He is the founder- director of the prestigious Imagineindia International Film Festival in Madrid, now on its 19th edition. He has been jury at many festivals.



രണ്ടാമത് റെയിൻ ഇന്റർനാഷണൽ നേച്ചർ ഫിലിം ഫെസ്റ്റിവൽ കമരകത്ത് തുടങ്ങുകയാണ്. ലോകം മുഴുവനും, പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും ഇന്ത്യയും കേരളവും മുൻപ് കണ്ടിട്ടില്ലാത്തവിധം പരിസ്ഥിതി പ്രശ്നങ്ങളെ അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കുക ആണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ഇത്തരം പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും, പ്രദർശനങ്ങളും നമുക്ക് മുന്നോട്ടു ജീവിക്കാനുള്ള ആർജ്ജവമാണ്. കിളികൾ പാടട്ടെ... പൂക്കൾ വിരിയട്ടെ... പുഴകൾ ഒഴുകട്ടെ... കാറ്റും മഴയും വിരുന്നവരട്ടെ. നമുക്കും അതിനൊപ്പം ചേരാം.

SHINY BENJAMIN
Film Maker
Jury Member, RINFF 2020

Message

Shiny Benjamin, has been a documentary director since 1999. Earlier, she worked with Malayala Manorama and Mathrubhumi, leading news papers in Malayalam as a feature writer. Later, she joined Asianet, the first statelet television channel in Malayalam followed by Indiavision, the first news channel in Malayalam. Later, she worked as chief producer for Jaihind Middle east. She won 20 prestigious awards including five National Award for her documentaries.



Rain International Nature Film Festival (RINFF) is a one kind film festival and I had the honour to be a part of it for its very first edition. With environmental disasters happening all over the world from Amazon to Australia we need to spread ecological awareness and a film festival is a very creative and fun way to engage the audience as well as send a message. Kudos to the founder, Mr. Jayaraj and best wishes to him and the second edition of the festival.

Best Wishes

BIJAYA JENA
Actress, Director
Festival Advisor, RINFF 2020
Jury Member, 1st RINFF 2019

Message

Bijaya Jena is an Indian actor, film director and producer. In 1992 she made her directorial debut with the Oriya feature film *TARA* which won the Indian National Film Award (Best director). In 1997, she scripted, directed and produced her second film *ABHAAS (PROLOGUE)*. Both the films participated in festivals abroad and received critical acclaim. Bijaya Jena was on the Governing Council of the Film & TV Institute of India from 1992-95 and on the National Feature Film Awards Jury in 1993.



Birds Club International District Co-ordinators



1. S. Zonal Coordinator Dr. Amina Surya [Principal, MSM College, Kayamkulam], 2. N. Zonal Coordinator Sri. Harisankar S Nair 3. Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. Babida Abdul Salam [Asst. Professor, Dept of Zoology, Iqbal College, Peringamala, Thiruvananthapuram], 4. Kollam, Dr. Jean Jose [Asst. Professor, Dept of Zoology, St. Gregorios College, Kollam], 5. Alappuzha, Dr. Dhanya Sethunarayanan [Asst. Professor, Dept of Zoology, S D College, Alappuzha], 7. Kottayam, Dr. Bindhu B. K. [Assoc. Professor, Dept of Civil Engg. RIT, Kottayam], 7. Idukki, Afsal Rahman, 8. Ernakulam, Dr. Vinod Kumar Kallollockal [Asst. Professor, History, Maharajas College, Ernakulam], 9. Thrissur, Dr. Anto P.V. [Asst Professor, Dept of Botany, St. Thomas College, Thrissur], 10. Palakkad, Dr. Lakshmi Priyadarsini [Asst. Professor, Dept of Zoology, Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad], 11. Malappuram, Sri. Ahammed Salim T.P. [Jr. Suprdnt, Amal College of Advanced Studies, Nilambur], 12. Kozhikkodu, Dr. Abdul Riyas K. [Asst. Professor, Dept of Zoology, Govt Arts & Sci College, Calicut], 13. Wayanad, Sri. Vinod Pullenchery [HSA, GHSS Kaniyambetta], 14. Kannur, Dr. Swaran P.R [Asst. Professor, Dept of Zoology, Payyannur College, Kannur], 15. Kasargod, Dr. Abdul Jaleel K. [Asst. Professor, Dept of Zoology, Govt. College, Kasargod]



Birds Club International is a noncommercial organisation that aims at promoting global interest in birds, conservation of nature and the environments through public campaigns and education. Started in 2010, by National and International award winning Indian filmmaker, Jayaraj Rajasekharan Nair, as part of Jayaraj Foundation, it is registered as a charitable organisation to revive and conserve environment, by tapping and utilising optimum natural resources with the focus on BIRDS to convey our message. Birds are beautiful, inspirational, appeals to all geographies and also serve as excellent flagships and vital environmental indicators of the climate and weather conditions of any place. By focusing on birds, and the sites and habitats on which they depend, the Birds Club International aims at improving the quality of life of birds, other species of insects and animals (biodiversity), and people at large.

Birds play a number of roles in any ecosystem. They play a balancing role in the ecosystem and are part of cultural enhancement and part of tasks such as predation, pollination and seed dispersal.

Birds Club Intl. aims at evolving rain groves in the rather dull concrete jungles of our world. These groves will build sustainable ecosystems which would also help in soil and water conservation. These would become homes to a number of birds' species, insects, animals and plants that help preserve nature.

The vision of Birds Club International is to provide a forum for all across countries, to share their interest in birds and preserving the nature at its best, aiming at gradual and sustainable developments in the process.

We strive to address, in all ways we can, a number of issues that affect us, our wildlife and habitats; by undertaking activities and projects, we seek to persuade people to revive, protect and preserve our environments. As much as we appreciate the beauty of birds and nature, it is as well a need of the hour to protect it as we are a part of this all-embracing nature and our survival also inevitably depends on it; as also on the vital role we play in preventing to the extent we can, the adverse effects such as rising temperatures, climatic changes and so on.



A FESTIVAL FOR NATURE CELEBRATE THE FILM FESTIVAL

After the grand success of first edition of Rain International Nature Film Festival, held last year in Munnar, we are back with its second edition on January 24, 25 and 26, 2020, in Kumarakom.

Situated on the shores of the the longest lake in India, Vembanad, its land braided by intertwined backwaters, Kumarakom is home to a rich variety of flora and fauna in addition to being a retreat for several species of rare migratory birds.

Keeping in mind the unique location of this venue with its distinctive geographical and ecological features, we have designed this edition of the RINFF as a floating film festival. Films will be screened on house boats as they ply the tranquil waters. Foreign guests and celebrities will mingle with participating student filmmakers, delegates from across the state and country, and the local people – the farmers and villagers of Kumarakom. Thus the festival as we envisage it will combine elements as diverse as Nature, Cinema and Tourism, all three in a single event. Our slogan for this edition of the festival reflects this spirit: *Let lagoons purify as birds rejoice*.

I am truly grateful for the support of the people of Kumarakom and the representatives of its local governing bodies who have made it possible to conduct the festival here.

Organized by Birds Club International and the Jayaraj Foundation, this film festival aims to bring together ecologically aware filmmakers from around the world in order to showcase their works, facilitating an authentic platform for raising environmental awareness. The festival, as usual, will showcase feature films, short films and documentaries from across the globe with the central theme of nature. There is a competition in each category, and the winners will be announced and awarded at the closing ceremony

on January 26. This year too, we have a competition for student films from schools and colleges all over Kerala. It is one of the festival's core missions to engage with the younger generation and to ensure their participation, thereby encouraging them to take up the responsibility of nature conservation, and to spread awareness to the rest of society. This is vital today in these times of rapid environmental degradation primarily at the hands of self-centered and exploitative human beings.

The Prakriti Puraskar lifetime achievement award for nature conservation this year will be conferred upon Saalumarada Thimmakka, India's oldest living environmentalist and recipient of the 2019 Padma Shri award. We have two additional sections this time – a country focus on China and a retrospective featuring the work of one of India's leading wildlife filmmakers, Subbiah Nallamuthu. In addition to film screenings, there will be interaction sessions and discussions on various environmental topics related to the film medium.

Other programmes include a visit to the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary to observe closely its rich variety of bird species, local and migratory, a unique opportunity to view the red water lilies in full bloom, glimpses into the traditional performing arts of Kerala, and cruises through the backwaters in houseboats combined with film screenings.

I hope you will enjoy this festival and that the experience stays with you for a long time to come. And if after this festival you find that you have become a little more conscious of the world we live in and our place in it than before, I will consider it a great success.

JAYARAJ
Film Director,
Festival Director - RINFF 2020
Founder, Birds Club International



RINFF AWARDS

PRAKRTI PURASKAR - GOLDEN ELEPHANT
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

CRYSTAL ELEPHANT
FOR THE BEST FEATURE FILM

CRYSTAL OWL
FOR THE BEST SHORT FICTION

CRYSTAL HORNBILL
BEST DOCUMENTARY

GOLDEN OWL
BEST SHORT FICTION (YOUTH)

GOLDEN HORNBILL
BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY (YOUTH)

SILVER OWL
BEST SHORT FICTION (CHILDREN)

SILVER HORNBILL
BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY (CHILDREN)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS





PRAKRTI PURASKAR GOLDEN ELEPHANT

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR
NATURE CONSERVATION

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SAALUMARADA THIMMAKKA

Karnataka's Saalummarada Thimmakka is the oldest living environmentalist in Karnataka. She is a recipient of many awards other than her latest honour, Padma Shri, which she received in 2019.

Born to a family without means, she could not go to school, so Thimmakka started working as a laborer at the age of 10. She was later married to Bekal Chikkayya, who too hailed from a modest background. When she was unable to give birth to a child, Thimmakka and her husband decided to plant trees and care for them like their children. Thimmakka's husband died in the year 1991 but she continued the mission they began together. She planted around 385 banyan trees between Hulikal and Kudur in Magadi Taluk of Ramnagar district. She has given more than 70 years of her life to planting trees and has reportedly planted over 8,000 trees in these years.

Thimmakka proves that age is no deterrent to help the environment. The term of endearment used for her — Saalummarada — means rows of trees in Kannada. She is a recipient of over 50 awards for her contributions to the environment including the National Citizens Award (1996) and the Godfrey Phillips Award (2006).

We, the organisers of Rain International Nature Film Festival are proud to have Saalummarada Thimmakka as the recipient of the Prakrithi Puraskar this year, the lifetime achievement award to honour exceptional work in environmental conservation.

OPENING FILM



2040

Australia/ 2019 / English,Bengali,Swahili,Swedish / 92 '

Direction **Damon Gameau** Production **Nick Batzias, Anna Kaplan, Virginia Whitwell** Cinematography **Hugh Miller**
Editing **Jane Usher** Music **Bryony Marks**

Concerned about his young daughter's future, filmmaker Damon Gameau travels the world in search of new approaches and solutions to climate change. He meets with innovators and changemakers in many fields to draw on their expertise.



Damon Gameau is an Australian television and film actor who is the director of, and lead role in, *That Sugar Film*. Gameau graduated from Australia's National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) with a degree in Performing Arts in 1999. His most recent documentary film, *2040* premiered at the Berlin Film Festival and has recently become one of the highest grossing Australian documentaries of all time in Australia. He also wrote an accompanying book, *2040: handbook for the regeneration*.





Amori

India/ 2019 / Konkani / 107 '

Direction **Dinesh P Bhonsle** Screenplay **R M Vardhan, Dinesh P Bhonsle** Cinematography **Bhushan Vani** Editing **Virendra Gharse**

Shirish kelekar left Goa and settled in London 25 years ago. Then one day his past comes back to haunt him, taking him all the way back to his native place. He must deal with broken family ties, a powerful politician and most importantly, the harsh reality of the village resources. Can he make the community aware of something it has ignored for so long?



Dinesh P. Bhonsle is best known for directing movies, writing many documentaries, ad films, video albums and television series. He is in the Mumbai Film Industry for the last 15 years. He is associated mostly with the Marathi film industry. He has also directed Konkani films.



One Man Dies A Million Times

USA/ 2019 / Russian / 92 '

Direction **Jessica Oreck** Screenplay **Jessica Oreck**
Production **Jessica Oreck , Donald Bartling , Yulia Lukashuk**
Cinematography **Sean Price Williams** Editing **Jessica Oreck**
Music **Cody Martinez**

A true story, set in the future. About seeds and genetic diversity, about growth and decay, about love and war, about hunger of all kinds. About what it means to be human, even when all your humanity is stripped away. Caught in the grip of a war-torn Russian winter, the city is starving to death. Despite their hunger, Alyssa and Maksim heroically work to preserve the treasures of the world's most important seed bank - treasures that hold the key to the future of their country's food supply - even though its sustenance could mean their survival.



Jessica Oreck is a writer and director. Her first film, "Beetle Queen Conquers Tokyo," was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award in 2010 and aired on PBS' "Independent Lens" series, as well as playing theatrically around the world.



Paani

India/ 2018 / Marathi / 140 '

Direction **Adinath M Kothare** Screenplay **Adinath M Kothare**
Production **Priyanka Chopra, Madhu Chopra**

Hemant 'Babu' Kendre is a common man living in a village plagued with drought. Paani revolves around his journey towards making the village a self-sufficient place, all while dealing with local goons, a budding romance and other disruptions of daily life. Tale of human struggle and true love, and aims to drive home a key message, critical to the world we live in today.

Adinath M Kothare, an Indian Marathi film actor, director, film and television producer. Paani is his debut feature, which is being produced by Priyanka Chopra. Adinath also plays the lead in Paani and won the Best Actor award at the New York Indian Film Festival. He is also the son of veteran film maker and actor Mahesh vW.



The Sun Above me Never Sets

Sakha Republic/ 2019 / Yakut, Russian / 108 '

Direction **Lyubov Borisova** Production **Dmitry Shadrin, Lyubov Borisova** Cinematography **Semen Amanatov** Editing **Lyubov Borisova**

Young Altan arrives at an isolated island in the Arctic. There his solitude is interrupted by an old man, Baybal, who asks Altan to bury him beside his wife's grave. Altan decides to help him, to make him want to live yet another day.

Lyubov Borisova was born in 1982 in Verkhnevilyuisk. She graduated from the Financial and Economic Institute of Yakutsk State University in 2004 with a degree in World Economy. Since 2011, she has worked in film as an assistant director, second director, executive producer, editing director, screenwriter and director. Currently, she is working as a director in the film company Sakha'film.





Turtle

India/ 2018 / Hindi / 75 '

Direction **Dinesh S. Yadav** Screenplay **Dinesh S. Yadav**
Production **Ashok H Choudhary** Cinematography **Yogesh Koli**
Editing **Aseem Sinha** Music **Kunaal Vermaa, Repariyaa Baalam**

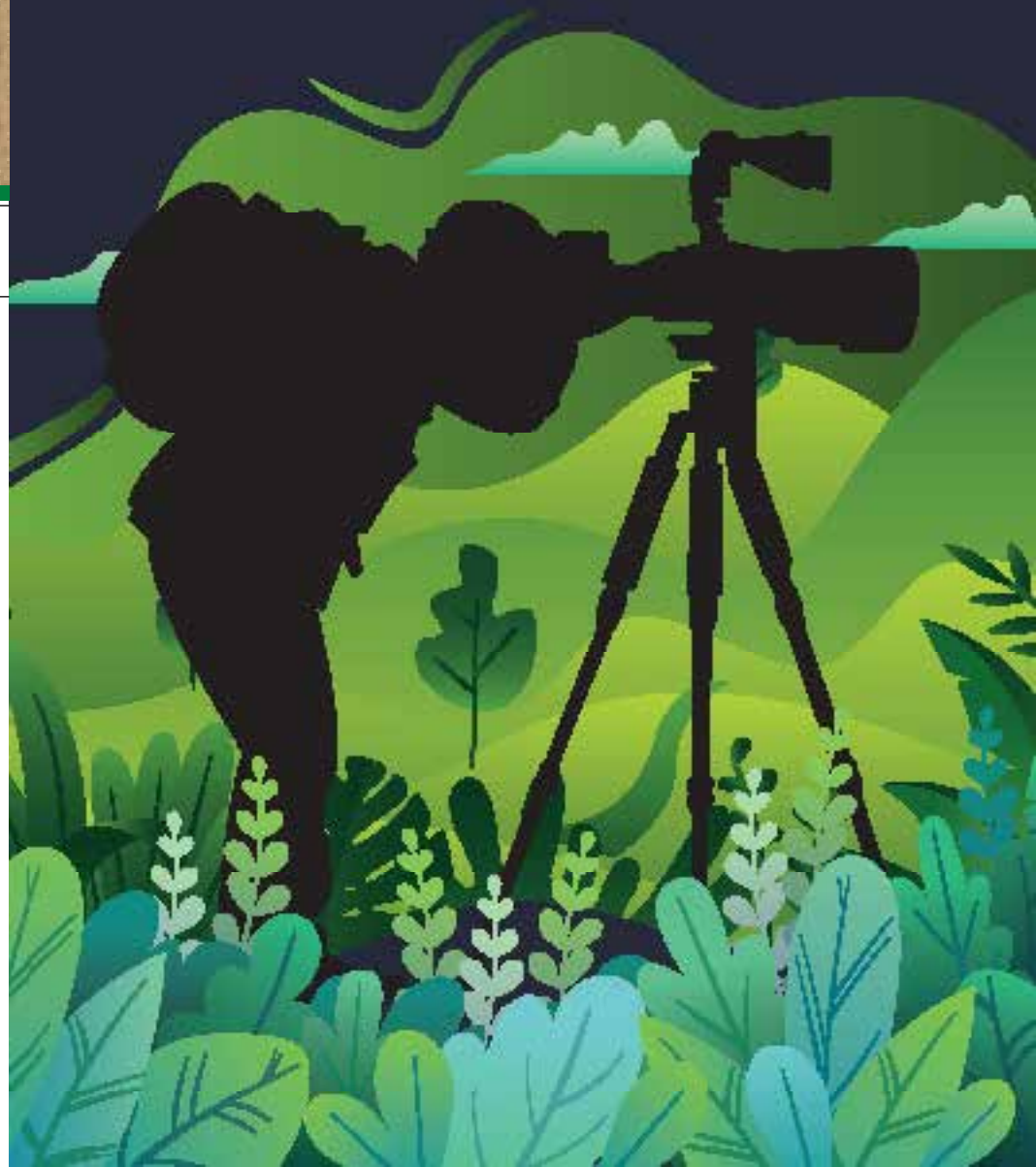
The film is a metaphorical depiction of the mythical turtle. In a drought struck village of Rajasthan, Ramkaran Choudhary, is churning the parched, sun baked earth, to extract water and the common folk indulged in a tug of war, rotating on his shell, desperate to quench their thirst. The film is inspired by a real story of Mr. Ramkaran Choudhary (Bagod) from Village Dehlod, Rajasthan.

The film had its premiere at the Jagran Film Festival on 2nd July 2018 and has been selected in China Film Festival, Third Eye Asian Film Festival and Rajasthan International Film Festival. At 66th National Film Awards, Turtle received the National Film Award for Best Rajasthani Film.



Dinesh S Yadav, Before taking up film editing from The Film & Television Institute of India, Pune, he did his masters in Television Direction & Graduation in Film & Television Production from EMRC, Indore. He had already made a couple of music & animation videos, theatre & short films. *Turtle (Kachhua)* is his debut feature film, has participated in various international film festivals and won awards including the National Film Award for Best Rajasthani Film. His second bollywood feature is *Wah Zindagi*.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION DOCUMENTARY (Feature length)





Curiosity and Control

Sweden/ 2018 / English, French / 57 '

Direction **Albin Biblom** Screenplay **Albin Biblom**
 Production **Adam Marko-Nord and Sara Waldestam**
 Cinematography **Albin Biblom** Editing **Berhard Winkler, Albin Biblom**

Curiosity and Control is about our relation to the natural world. Filmed in New York, Cheter, Pais, Berlin and Stockholm, the film is journey through museums of natural history and zoological gardens with reflection upon these by historians, architects, zoo directors and museologist. The stories deals with wonder, curiosity, control, the urge to protect and how to connect with the natural world. The films also portrays the legendary explorer Carl Akeley, who is often called "the father of taxidermy" and his creation of the dioramas at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Curiosity and control explores the thin line between curiosity, dominion, love and control.



Albin Biblom is a photographer and filmmaker who has made several exhibitions internationally. H has also worked as a DoP on many award winning documentary films. He made his first film, *Marchkar- The story of a Bulgarian Bear Owner* in 2005. *Curiosity and Control* is his first feature documentary.



Elephant Path

USA | Central African Republic | Israelv/ 2018 / English / 86 '

Direction **Todd McGrain** Production **TODD MCGRAIN, SCOTT ANGER** Cinematography **SCOTT ANGER** Editing **SARA KHAKI**
TODD MCGRAIN Music **ALEXANDER BALANESCU**

An indelible tale of friendship and commitment set against the luminous beauty of the Central African Rainforest. Together, elephant behavioral biologist, Andrea Turkalo, and indigenous tracker, Sessely Bernard, will be tested by the realities of war and the limits of hope for the majestic animals they have committed their lives to study and protect.



Todd McGrain turned his attention to documentary film after a 25-year career as a sculptor. In 2010, McGrain's work to create permanent public memorials to birds driven to extinction in modern times became the subject of a documentary film, *The Lost Bird Project*. This experience led him to his current focus on the plight of the Forest Elephants of Central Africa. Though *Elephant Path* is his first feature length documentary, his understanding of the value of storytelling to raise awareness of our current extinction crisis has been formed over decades of dedication and commitment.



King of Beasts

USA, Tanzania, Israel/ 2018 / English / 86 '

Direction **Tomer Almagor, Nadav Harel** Production **Bryan Gambogi, Gabrielle Almagor, Mark Steele, Tomer Almagor**
Cinematography **Nadav Harel** Editing **Nadav Harel**

An up close and personal film that takes you inside the hunting of African lions, a controversial trophy sport enjoyed by a select few of the world's wealthiest. Many hunters consider themselves conservationists, and animal lovers. They justify their right to hunt as central to the preservation of the species, and defend the benefits of their concession fees. King of Beasts follows one so convinced hunter, deep into the Tanzanian bush, on a determined and at times surreal pursuit of the ultimate trophy - *the king of beasts*. With never before seen access and footage, this film will make you question man's very nature, as well as our place in the animal kingdom.



Tomer Almagor was born in Israel and has traveled extensively, Tomer's films played film festivals world-wide and won awards. He is an accomplished screenwriter and the creative director at Urban Tales, where he has been developing a slate of films including his next project, Reciprocal Beat.



NADAV HAREL is an award-winning documentary filmmaker based in Israel. Nadav's shorts and TV work screened worldwide in high venues such as BBC World, Museum of Natural History NY, Harvard Medical School, Berlin Film Festival etc.



Queen without Land

Norway/ 2018 / English / 70 '

Direction **Asgeir Helgestad** Screenplay **Anne Elvedal, Asgeir Helgestad** Production **Asgeir Helgestad**
Cinematography **Asgeir Helgestad**

A film about the encounter between Frost, a beautiful polar bear mother, her cubs and Asgeir Helgestad, a Norwegian wildlife filmmaker, since their first encounter in Svalbard, and their struggle for survival, as the ice is melting away at record speeds. Rising temperatures are responsible for dramatic changes in their ecosystem, but the beauty of the Arctic remains dazzling. While avoiding didactic and normative interpretations, the film is a reflection on man's place on earth and an homage to life. This film explores the question "this planet is home to all of us, can we afford to ignore it?"

Asgeir Helgestad has worked as a wildlife filmmaker and photographer since 1991. He has a broad background as a film photographer, but he is particularly experienced in filming birds and mammals, as well as people during outdoor activities. He is trained in working under cold and harsh conditions since many of his projects are from the Arctic and Antarctica.





River Silence

Canada/ 2019 / English / 90 '

Direction **Rogério Soares** Production **Bob Moore, Annette Clarke** Cinematography **Glauco Bermudez, Aldo Oviedo Tejo** Editing **Ryan Mullins**

The Belo Monte Dam, one of the world's biggest and most controversial infrastructure projects, is causing massive ecological and social devastation along Brazil's Xingu River. Director Rogério Soares travels into this mythic and brutalized world to encounter some of its most vulnerable and inspiring inhabitants.



Rogério Soares, Montreal-based filmmaker, the Amazon is his soul home. He first moved to the Amazon at the age of 18 after hearing his father's many tales of endless rivers as big as the sea. Rogério's deep love and understanding of the Amazon's fragility and complexity, as well as its people, is at the heart of River Silence and the family stories he followed over three years. He has previously directed documentaries in the region for Al-Jazeera (USA) and TV Cultura (Brazil). River Silence is Rogério's first feature documentary.



The Secret Life of Frogs

India/ 2019 / English / 59 '

Direction **Ajay Bedi, Vijay Bedi** Script **Bahar Dutt** Production **Bedi Universal** Cinematography **Vijay Bedi** Editing **Ajay Bedi** Music **Roy, Jeff**

Deep in the jungles of India, a handful of scientists are at work, trying to save a species smaller than a thumbnail. The film unravels fascinating secrets of the 'Dancing Frog', a frog that breeds without any physical contact, another species that uses its unique 'pottery' skills to build a nest in the swamps of Southern India. Every creature, the film maker encounters on this journey has a unique story to tell. Told in an easy lyrical way, the filmmakers hope to draw attention to fossorial creatures that seldom receive conservation attention. The film is an ode to amphibians it is also a plea to save them.



Ajay Bedi & Vijay Bedi are the third generation of wildlife film makers in a family, that has a long history of expertise in this highly specialized field. Starting young, they are in fact the youngest Asians to have won the Wildscreen Awards known as Green Oscar for their films *The Policing Langur* and the *Cherub of the Mist*. The twin brothers have worked on natural history documentaries, films with a social message and corporate films for some of the biggest international names in the industry. They have worked with various national and international channels.



The Time of Forests

France / 2018 / French / 103 '

Direction **François-Xavier Drouet** Production **Raphaël Pillosio, Fabrice Marache, Emeline Bonnardet, Philippe Raynal**
Cinematography **Karine Aulnette, François-Xavier Drouet, Nicolas Duchêne, Georgi Lazarevski, Colin Lévêque**
Editing **Agnès Bruckert**

As the symbol of authentic, preserved wild nature, forests are undergoing an unprecedented phase of industrialization. Heavy mechanization, monoculture, fertilizers and pesticides, loss of traditional know-how, forest management... all follow the intensive agricultural model at an accelerated rhythm.

The Time of Forests is a journey to the heart of industrial forestry and its alternatives. A living forest or a green desert, the choices of today will define tomorrow's landscape.



François-Xavier Drouet graduated in political sciences and anthropology, and worked as a reporter before pursuing a degree in creative documentary filmmaking at Lussas. He travelled the world with his first film, *The Initiation* and co-wrote *Gangster Project*.

Youth Unstoppable

Canada / 2018 / English / 86 '

Direction **Slater Jewell-Kemker** Screenplay **Albin Biblom**
Production **Wendy Jewell, Daniel Bekerman**
Cinematography **Slater Jewell-Kemker, Wendy Jewell, Nick Taylor, Daniel Bekerman** Editing **Mike Munn, Nick Taylor**

A film 11 years in the making, *Youth Unstoppable* documents the struggles and events of the largely unseen and misunderstood Global Youth Climate Movement. Beginning at age 15, Slater Jewell-Kemker tells the story of a generation fighting to be heard within the frustrating and complex process of UN Climate Change negotiations. From flood ravaged villages in Nepal to the Alberta Tar Sands to the riots in Copenhagen, *Youth Unstoppable* shows a powerful vision for the future of our planet and the youth who will lead us there.



Slater Jewell-Kemker is an award-winning director/editor/writer/videographer with a passion for film and all that is strange and magical. Born in Los Angeles to filmmaker parents, she has grown up with the idea that she could change the world by making her own media. At age 15 Slater became an unschooler, effectively taking control of her education and devoting her time to film and music. Slater has been recognized by the United Nations, Toronto International Film Festival, Sidewalk Film Festival, Telluride Mountain FILM Festival, SilverDocs Documentary Film Festival etc.



rain international
nature film festival

*The most beautiful gift of
nature is that it gives one
pleasure to look around and
try to comprehend what we see.*

Albert Einstein

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INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION SHORT FILM



An Advocate of the Oasis

India/ 2019 / English / 12'

Direction **Jyotirmay Deb** Production **Jyotirmay Deb**
Cinematography **Debasis Sarkar, Anirban Mukherjee,**
Saumyajit Ghosh Editing **Jyotirmay Deb, Gaurav**

This is a story of a green warrior who is an Advocate by profession (Mantu Hait). He has been planting trees in a barren land owned by Port trust of India, since last 15 years in the heart of the city of Kolkata. 15 years of nourishment transformed that barren land into an urban forest creating that part of the city a safe abode for wildlife. This was his dream and he is working tirelessly to achieve it. Richness of the biodiversity has gradually increased with the time but the struggle starts from mid of 2019 when part of the forest was cleared off by the authority by felling more than 300 full grown trees. But his indomitable spirit has inspired citizens of Kolkata and this has become a peoples initiative now.



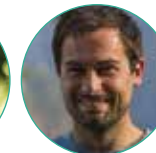
Jyotirmay Deb

Bare Foot / Echilibru - Dans la peau de l'ours

France/ 2018/ French / 26'

Direction **Eve Cerubini, Jérôme Fatalot, Victor Jullien**
Production **Alexandre TALPE, LES AMIS DE L'IFFCAM**
Cinematography **Jérôme Fatalot** Editing **Eve Cerubini**

In a country that hosts the largest bear population in Europe, men and bears have been close neighbours for centuries. Nowadays, the borders between their territories are thinning. To the point they sometimes intertwine. Echilibru offers an insight into a world without borders, at the dawn of anew equilibrium.



Eve Cerubini
Jérôme Fatalot
Victor Jullien



Boy Nomad

Canada / 2018 / English / 21'

Direction **Niobe Thompson** Production **Niobe Thompson**
Cinematography **Aron Munson, Daron Donahue**
Editing **Scott Parker**

Boy Nomad follows a year in the life of 9-year old Janibek, who lives with his family in Mongolia's Altai Mountains. His first love is racing horses, but this winter, his father will bring him on the toughest journey in a nomad's life: the winter migration. When the film crew arrives, they discover the Altai is gripped in a "zhut", a hard winter that blocks the passes and threatens to wipe out the family's only possession: their animals.



Niobe Thompson is a Canadian anthropologist and documentary film maker. The founder of Handful of Films, he produces and hosts one-off and series documentaries in partnership with CBC's science-and-nature program The Nature of Things.



Fracas / Clatter

France / 2018 / No dialogue / 6'

Direction **Rémi Rappe** Cinematography **Rémi Rappe**
Editing **Rémi Rappe** Music **Anthony Touzalin, Jordan Proença**

Isolated on the Salvation Islands, a troop of monkeys and peacocks are living a mysterious epic. The magnificent beauty of nature are slowly erasing the vestiges of this remembrance place, known for being the home to one of the toughest penal colony in French Guiana.

Rémi Rappe





*Study nature,
love nature,
stay close to nature.
It will never fail you.*

Frank Lloyd Wright



Green Moksh

India/ 2019/ Hindi/ 15 '

Direction **Vinay Goswami** Cinematography **Vipul Pal**
Editor **Shailendra barde**

According to the Hindu belief, cremation is considered as necessary to get salvation. But the sticks being used for cremation, directly affects trees in the forest. Hence the forest is seen to be in danger. Keeping this in mind, new innovations are coming out. Funeral processions are being done at many places with cow-dung wood. Certainly, this positive step can lead to change in the environment, but is the society ready for this change? And what are the practical difficulties of this attempt? A humble attempt to know these same questions is being made through the film *Green Moksha*.

Vinay Goswami





Lost World

Cambodia / 2018 / English / 16'

Direction **Kalyanee Mam** Production **Emmanuel Vaughn Lee, Adam Loftén, Kalyanee Mam** Cinematography **Kalyanee Mam** Editing **Adam Loftén**

As Singapore dredges sand out from beneath Cambodia's mangrove forests, the threat of erasure looms over an ecosystem, a communal way of life, and one woman's relationship to her beloved home.



Kalyanee Mam, Award-winning filmmaker, lawyer, is committed to telling stories that help change the way ourselves and our place in this world. Her film *A River Changes Course*, which she directed and produced, has won several awards, including the grand jury award for World Cinema Documentary at the 2013 Sundance film festival and the Golden Gate Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 2013 San Francisco International Film Festival. She has also worked as cinematographer and associate producer on 2011 Oscar-winning documentary *Inside Job*.



Mangroves – Custodians of the Coast

Pakistan / 2018 / English / 26'

Direction **Anam Abbas** Screenplay **Anam Abbas** Cinematography **Yasir Ali Changezi** Editing **Yasir Ali Changezi**

The documentary beautifully covers the rich biodiversity that is hidden in these mystical forests on the coastal areas of Pakistan. *Mangroves – Custodians of the Coast* shows the interconnection of various flora and fauna with each other as well as human intrusion.



Anam Abbas grew up in Pakistan and studied Cinema at the University of Toronto and Documentary Production at Sheridan College, Canada. She is a documentary Director, Cinematographer and Photographer, and has worked in Canada and across Pakistan with her company Other Memory Media. She participated in Locarno Film Festival's Open Doors Hub in Aug 2017. She was also selected to participate in 2018 Berlinale Talents program and a 2019 Film Independent Global Media Makers Fellow. One of the founding members of the Documentary Association of Pakistan.



The Call of Pashmina

India/ 2018 / English / 16 '

Direction **Taira Malaney** Production **Emaho Films**
Cinematography **Krish Makhija**
Editing **Taira Malaney, Dheer Kaku**

After news of a tragic snow storm in Changtang, a Kashmiri man quits his job and embarks on a journey to become a shepherd. Six years later, he starts the Pashmina Goat Project – an NGO to protect the Changpa community and their goats from the harsh implications of climate change in Ladakh.

Taira Malaney is a Director and Editor based in Goa, India. After completing a documentary film course at the San Francisco School of Digital Filmmaking in 2016, Taira founded Emaho Films. Today, she is driven by the idea that positive storytelling can be used as a tool to educate and inspire change. Her second documentary, *The Call of Pashmina* has been showcased across many film festivals in the USA, Australia, Canada, and Europe and was last screened at the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capitol, in Washington DC.



The Pangti Story

India/ 2018/ Nagamese, English/ 26'

Direction **Sesino Yhoshu** Screenplay **Sesino Yhoshu**

The Film explores the transition of an entire village from one that slaughtered hundreds and thousands of Amur Falcons, the longest travelling raptors in the world, who fly from Siberia every fall to roost in Pangti, a small village in Nagaland, to becoming their most fervent preservationists.

Sesino Yhoshu is a filmmaker from Nagaland who specialised in Electronic Cinematography from FTII, followed by a Master's in Documentary from Royal Holloway, London. She has made several films. Her film *Apfütta* was screened at the National Portrait Gallery, London and The Rubin Museum, New York.





The Rifle, The Jackal, The Wolf And The Boy

Lebanon / 2016 / Arabic / 19 '

Direction **Oualid Mouaness** Screen Play **Oualid Mouaness**
 Production **Jinana Chaaya, Oualid Mouaness**
 Cinematography **Elsy Hajjar** Editing **Jad Dani Ali Hassan**
 Music **David Wingo**

Lebanon. Two young brothers. A household rifle. A perceived threat. *The Rifle, The Jackal, The Wolf And The Boy* is a parable that considers the ethics of seemingly innocuous violence in a warning against the perils of telling lies, misjudging enemies and engaging in actions that perpetuate the cycle of violence.



Oualid Mouaness, a RAWI Sundance Screenwriting Fellow, grew up between Lebanon and Liberia. He received an MFA in Writing and Directing from Florida State University in 1997. As a producer, he has worked on fiction features, music videos, commercials and documentaries; most notably *Rize* (Sundance/Tribeca 2005). Oualid's work has been nominated for numerous awards. In 2012 his projects with Drake, Rihanna, Lana Del Rey and Taylor Swift were nominated at the VMA's, MVPA's and the CMA's.

The River of the Kukamas

Peru/ 2018/ Spanish/ 7 '

Direction **Nika Belianina** Screenplay **Nika Belianina**

Being born from the spirit of the river, Kukama people have a special connection with the water. The river shrinks and grows throughout the year, affecting lives of its citizens. Gorgeously filmed at its wildest state at the end of the rain season, we learn of the history and challenges Kukama people face in Peru today.



Nika Belianina, Moscow-raised, Toronto-based, has been making award-winning fiction and documentary films since 2005. Her work has been screened on television in Russia and USA and at more than 60 film festival across the globe, including Tribeca, Sheffield, Atlanta, Sao Paulo and Kiotavr. Her photography has been exhibited more than 25 galleries worldwide. A number of her films have been co produced with an acclaimed filmmaker Clark Johnson. Her main visual language is magical realism.



*I can find God in nature,
in animals, in birds and
the environment.*

Pat Buckley



COMPETITION SCHOOL

SHORT FILM /
DOCUMENTARY





Aamiyude Lokam

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 10 '

Direction **Rahul Raj Pillai**
Chinmaya Kasargodu



Environmentalist

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 22'

Direction **Rishikesh**
Girideepam Bethany School , Vadavathoor

Aanakkadu

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 4'

Direction **Abel / Philip**
Girideepam Bethany School , Vadavathoor



Kaado

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 7'

Direction **Mohammed Sadaf Kunnil**
Chennamangallur Hss, Mukkam





Kavalal

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 7'

Belmount School, Manipuzha



Mazhathullikal

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 8'

Direction **Arjun / Aswin / Nikhil / Amruthanadhan**
Sree Narayana Central School, Puthupally

Life

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 10'

Direction **Rohan / Adhitya**
Don Bosco School, Puthupally



Nananju

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 10'

Direction **Jishnu C**
Buddha Mayoore Nature Club, GVHSS, Kozhikode





Punarnava

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 7'

Direction **Geetha**
Netaji HSS, Piramadam



To Love Birds

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 7'

Direction **Arpith**
Mar Baselios School, Devalokam

The Rythm of Nature

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 10'

Direction **Aromal**
THS, Puthupally

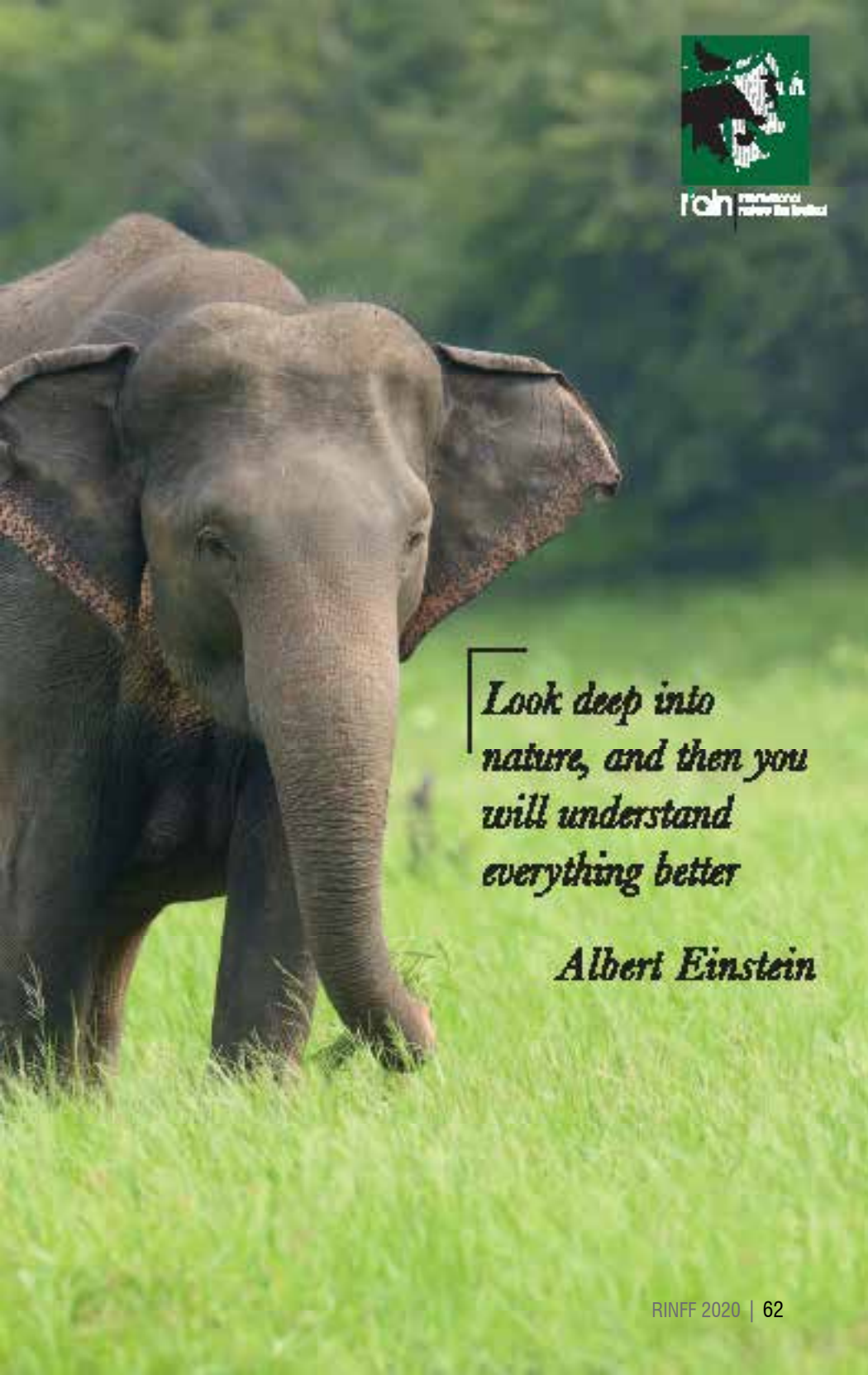


Voice

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 2'

Direction **ASHAY / ASHIK**
Pulari CMC 12, Cherthala





*Look deep into
nature, and then you
will understand
everything better*

Albert Einstein

COMPETITION YOUTH

SHORT FILM /
DOCUMENTARY





Dhwayam

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 4'

Direction **Nithin**
Govt. College, Nattakam



Nila

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 6'

Direction **Shyam / Jeeva / Krishnamohan**
Achuthamenon GC, Thrissur

Kaavukal

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 9'

Direction **Sooraj**
SN College, Kumarakom



Nishantham

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 10'

Direction **Anand Aji**
St. Stephans College, Uzhavoor





Puna / The Rebirth

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 11'

Direction **Amith**
Sree Budha Engineering College, Patoor



Saamam

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 8'

Direction **Christy Joseph**
Christian College, Chengannur

Punarjani

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 11'

Direction **Sargam**
St. Gregorios College, Kottarakkara



Warning

India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 4'

Direction **Manesh**
SNGM College, Cherthala





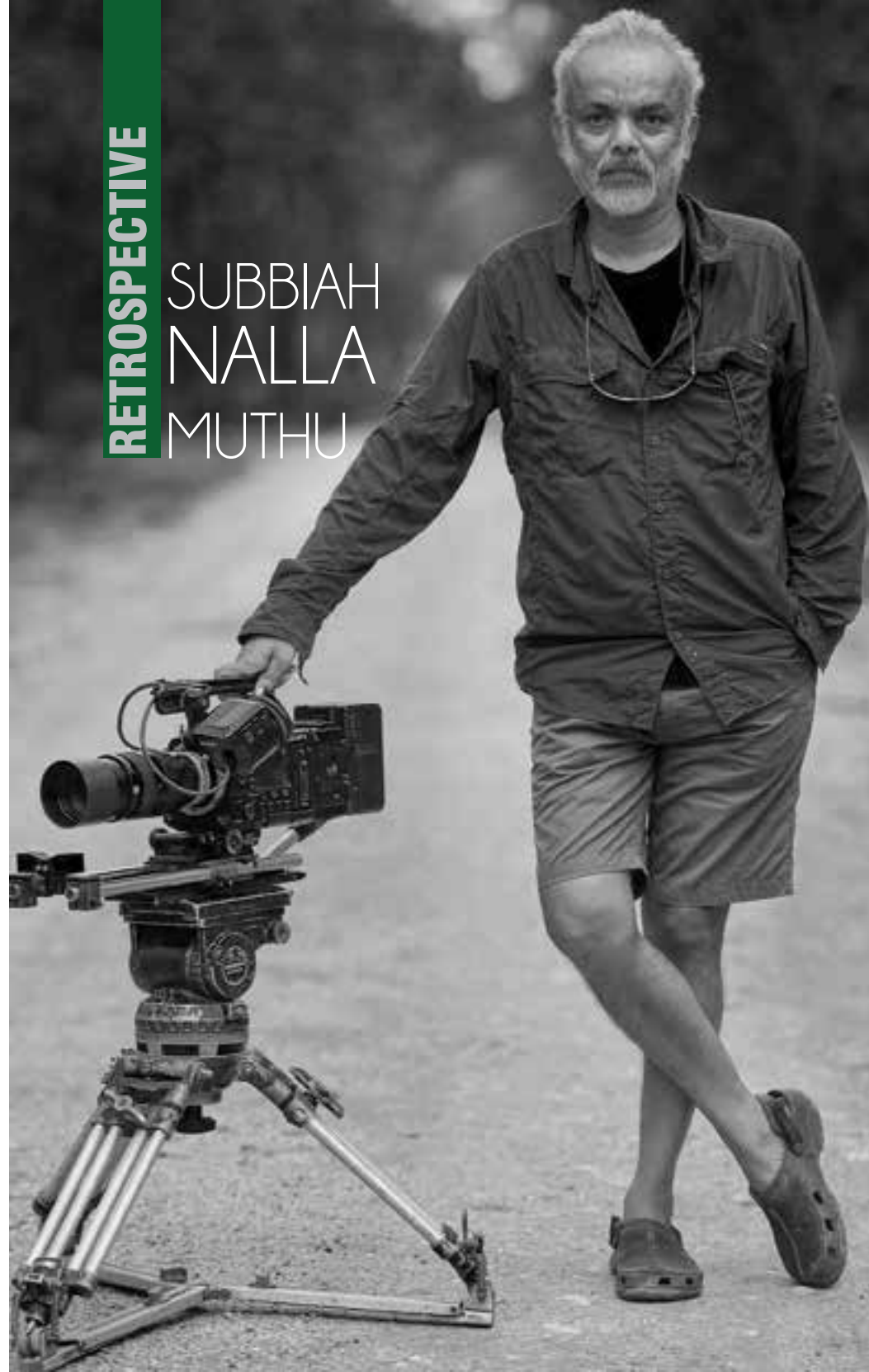
Parasu

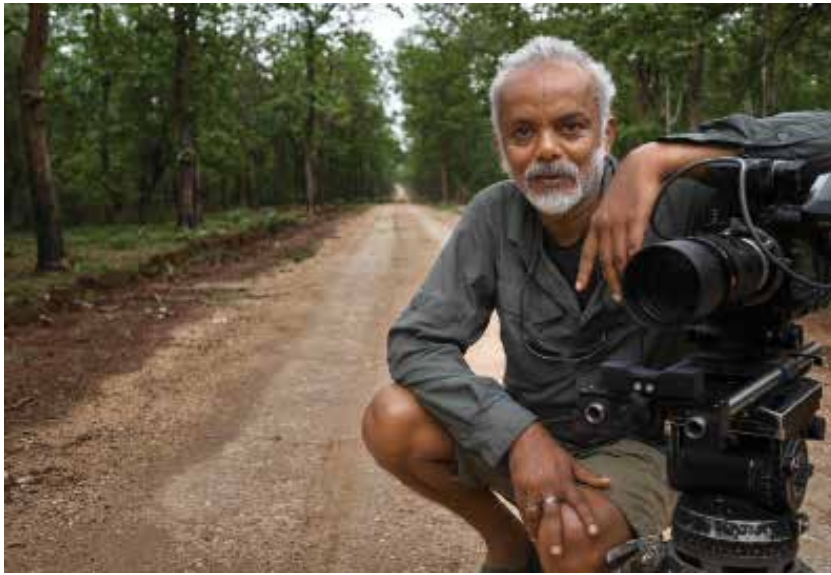
India/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 5'

BVM college, Cherppunkal, Kottayam

RETROSPECTIVE

SUBBIAH
NALLA
MUTHU





Grey's Director and cinematographer Nallamuthu is India's leading wildlife filmmaker specializing in tiger centric films. A cinematographer from FTIT, Chennai, Nalla has earlier worked as a cameraman with ISRO and Films Division. He has had the pleasure and privilege of working with some of the industry's best directors and networks worldwide such as National Geographic Channel, BBC, Discovery, Channel 4, Animal Planet, Star TV, Doordarshan and the like.

There are many firsts associated with Nallamuthu's work. He shot India's first and longest-running Panda Award-winning Environment series *Living on the Edge*, the first travel show *Off the Beaten Track*, first automobile show *Wheels*, first the reality show *Hospital*, first Hindi feature film in full HD and one of the first to use 4K resolution in wildlife filming. Nallamuthu has dedicated the past decade to filming in India's forests producing some India's most iconic tiger and wildlife films for National Geographic Channel, BBC, Animal Planet and Discovery Channel. His ability to add a theatrical touch to factual story-telling and his technical skills combined with a poetic visual style has won him several awards including the prestigious Indian National Film Award for Best Cinematography and Best Environment Film. Nallamuthu's fascination for beautiful visuals and his compassion for wildlife have resulted in him spending most of his time in the forests in India searching for unique characters and stories. Through his films, Nallamuthu hopes to bring to life every second of the raging the struggle for survival that persists in the unpredictable wild and gives conservation a fresh perspective.



Tiger Queen

India| 2010/ English/ 50'

Direction **Subbiah Nallamuthu** Production **Uday Singhwala**
Cinematography **Subbiah Nallamuthu**

Tiger Queen is a theatrical tale of power and rivalry set in the forests of Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan. Machli, the legendary Ranthambore tigress, has ruled over the beautiful Fort territory she snatched from her mother 11 years ago. She reigns supreme taking care of her young litter of 3 cubs, unaware that danger lurks within. T-17, her youngest daughter from this litter sets her sight on the land ruled by her mother and is now out to claim her crown. *Tiger Queen* is the dramatic story of this young tigress and her journey from being an inexperienced cub to fearsome cunning adversary; a tigress who first systematically overcomes her two siblings and is ready to take on her 14 year old mother. She is a fast learner and has learned the skills of survival well from her iconic mother. But will these be enough for her to overthrow her more experienced mother?

Tiger Queen showcases the dramatic battle that ensues between the Queen of Ranthambore and her ambitious daughter. Will history repeat itself and the Queen Mother be forced to dethrone or will her legacy continue?



Tiger Dynasty

Indian/ 2012 / English / 58'

Direction **Subbiah Nallamuthu** Writer **Susan McMillan**
 Production **Subbiah Nallamuthu** Cinematography **Subbiah Nallamuthu** Editing **Marc Fox** Music **Brett Aplin**

A young tiger, called Baghani, is taken from her home in Ranthambore National Park and released in the unknown territory of Sariska National Park where all 24 tigers were killed by poachers. Baghani is not alone at Sariska - Rajore, a hot blooded young male tiger, is released into the park with her. They will face many obstacles if they are to survive and make Sariska their home. For two years the camera follows every aspect of their lives - to capture the success - or failure - of the first scientific translocation of tigers. Tiger dynasty is the intimate story of the young tigress Baghani and the challenging journey she undertakes to reclaim lost tiger territory and begin a new dynasty.

Tiger's Revenge

India/ 2015/ English/ 44'

Direction **Subbiah Nallamuthu** Writer **Julie Nadezna**
 Cinematography **Subbiah Nallamuthu**

Tiger's revenge is a compelling story of two tiger sisters whose life journeys intermingle and clash against backdrop of a breathtaking ancient fort in Ranthambore National Park. Dominant sister Sundari rules over the fort and lake area after ousting her older sibling Krishna who raises her 3 cubs in a nearby territory. Sundari too desired motherhood, an ambition that leads her to make many unexpected choices - of mates, territories and finally a decision which results in her disappearance. Though Sundari's choices were ruled by an instinctive desire to protect her cubs, ironically they leave them motherless and vulnerable with her tragic death. The film unravels a poignant tale of motherhood even as it features the rivalry, jealousies and love stories of the two tiger sisters.



The World's Most Famous Tiger

Indian/ 2017/ English / 44 '

Direction **Subbiah Nallamuthu** Writer **Julie Nadezna**
Cinematography **Subbiah Nallamuthu**

Machli, the legendary Tiger Queen of Ranthambore National Park in western India known for her determination, bravery and confidence. She captured the imagination and hearts of tiger fans like no other. Machli died at the record age of twenty years but not before she had played a key role in the regeneration of tiger population in the Ranthambore and Sariska National Park. This film chronicles Machli's journey from her prime to her death; telling the incredible stories behind Machli's rise to power, her heartbreaking descent and the extraordinary legacy she left behind. Machli taught us a valuable lesson that protecting one tiger can create a forest.



Clash of Tigers

India/ 2019/ English/ 19'

Direction **Subbiah Nallamuthu**
Cinematography **Subbiah Nallamuthu**

A tiger mother called Krishna faces unusual challenges while raising her family of 4 cubs in the Ranthambore National Park of Western India. Even though Krishna loses one of her young cubs while shifting them to a safer den, she raises the remaining three cubs- two daughters and one son with instinctive maternal care. But her troubles are far from over as the greatest danger comes from within! Krishna's dominant daughter Lightning bullies and heckles her weaker sister Arrowhead. It's a tightrope act for Krishna- she must keep her dominant daughter in check, protect her family and train them to become ace hunters. Incredibly, and perhaps because of Krishna's training, her weaker daughter learns to stand her ground against her strong sister. In her quest for independence and power, the daughter Arrowhead leaves her family, relocating to a territory at the edge of her mother's kingdom. Shot over a period of two and half years, *Clash of Tigers*, an observational documentaries drama, captures extraordinary behavior in a powerful story of tiger family.



Life Force 2: The Western Ghats

Indian/ 2017/ English / 44 '

Direction **Subbiah Nallamuthu**

Cinematography **Subbiah Nallamuthu**

Life Force 2, India's Western Ghats is a blue-chip documentary that celebrates and explores the unusual, the unexpected and the downright bizarre. Revealing incredible habitats where nature has allowed eccentric animals and unorthodox patterns of behavior to flourish through the miracle of natural selection and the magic of evolution. The Western Ghat is a moist tropical oasis thrust up above the arid Indian sub continent by an ancient super volcano. Over millions of years, this strip of stepped coastal highlands has become a refuge for unique collection of creatures, many of which cannot be seen anywhere else on earth like the slow moving Slender Loris, Lion Tailed Macaque, the strange looking Horn bill; and the living fossil- the purple frog, along with multiple species cats; the Asiatic lion of Gir, Tigers and Leopards. Considered Western Ghats has unexceptionally high level of biological diversity and endemic and is recognized as one of the world's eight 'hottest spots' of biological diversity. The documentary reveals the reasons behind the evolution of these species in the Western Ghats and the magnificent orchestration of nature which has allowed this extraordinary habitat to develop and thrive.

COUNTRY FOCUS CHINA



Looking China
Youth Film Project

Student Films from
Beijing Film Academy



A Home In Paradise

China / 2019/ Mandarin/ 13'

Direction **Remi Thevenart**

Liu Xueqin and Guo Shuyun are two people whose gender, work and background are very different. But one thing they have is the same, that is their dream. They want to restore the green Engebe in the endless vast desert. Liu Xueqin and Guo Shuyun battled the desert, but did not use the same weapon.



Bricks

China/ 2019 / Chinese/ 11'

Direction **Tomas Lerer** Producer **Li Jingwen**

New walls and roofs are emerging in traditional Lingnan style, but the materials are still the same - ecological and sustainable. Life is flourishing back into the streets of Huitong as tourists and children visit every day. The bricks of Huitong are coming back together.



Caring

China/ 2019/ Mandarin/ 11'

Direction **Julia Hortobagyi**

The film is an insight into the everyday working lives of two gardeners, who take care of the plants in the garden with respectful humbleness and tremendous experience. They nurture their "children" in a most peaceful surrounding with total commitment.



Embryo

China / 2019 / Chinese / 11'

Direction **Leutrim Voka** Producer **Hu Jiaying, Xiao Ying**

A film about the relation between us as human beings and animals, in the current case, chickens. Most of the story explores the ecological process of chicken egg making cycle which is explained by the president of the Hanovo Farm, Mr. Han Jian Chu.



Father Bird

China / 2019/ Mandarin/ 11'

Direction **Angels Melange**

This film explores the relationship and fascination of our main character with the endangered species of black-necked cranes and the reasons he began with this rare parenthood. Luosang Zhihua is Father Bird.



Mountain Folk

China / 2019 / Chinese / 9'

Direction **Christian Grobbelaar** Producer **Li Xiaoying**

An exploration of the artisans and creatives who take inspiration and materials from the mountain in order to create their craft.



Green China Dream

China/ 2019/ Mandarin/ 10'

Direction **Richard Ducros** Producer **Yu Zhou**

There is a place in the world where instead of destroying nature we use it as a weapon. People from the Kubuqi Desert have launched a war against the sand by building an historic green wall. This is the story of everyday fighters.



Mountains of Silver and Gold

China / 2019 / Chinese / 11'

Direction **Leila Basma** Producer **Li Renlin**

Hidden between the trees of the Gaofeng Mountain, the Wanhua temple is one of the oldest Buddhist Temples in Guizhou, China. Within its walls reside many characters of different backgrounds, with different stories and to each his own relationship to nature and Buddha.



Ranger Jia

China/ 2019/ Mandarin/ 12'

Direction **Brianna Burns** Producer **Yan Xin, Wang Xiaodong**

The story of Jia Daoerji, a ranger in the Halasha operation area of the Ilhohlo Banner, in the sands of the Horaming Farm, in the sand sea. According to the story of Jiadaoerji, the area is changed from yellow sand to full eyes.



Sealed

China/ 2019 / Chinese/ 11'

Direction **German Golub** Producer **Li Zhihang**

Film tried to understand air and found connection between human and nature. Meaning of Qi and what we should do with it. Can human kind keep air safe by sealing it in a can or humans are sealed with air on our planet.



The Concrete Meadow

China/ 2019 / Chinese/ 12'

Direction **Tomas Lerer** Producer **Li Jingwen**

The Concrete Meadow tells the story of a discovery path through the architecture scene in Shenzhen and its relationship with sustainability and green design.



The Eyes of Qingshan

China / 2019 / Mandarin / 12'

Direction **Bernat Ferrer** Producer **Hu Jiaying, Xiao Ying**

Through the historical video information and the comparison of now Daijia lake beautiful scenery, tells the story of Daijia lake about how it became a hill from a lake, and then became a lake from a hill.



Three Flavors of Chongqing

China/ 2019 / English/ 11'

Direction **Kyllian Roux**

The taste of lifeology, the taste of history, and the taste of nature. These three flavours intertwined with each other and make up the unique flavour of Chongqing.



The Garden in the Sky

China/ 2019 / English, Chinese/ 12'

Direction **Maria Fernanda Jaramilla Pintado** Producer **Chouky, Elkim**

The documentary is shot through the lens show us a unique ecological life in modern life. It goes back to nature and lets people understand the farming civilization. Let people slow down and experience life.



The Journey of Lake Baiyandian

China / 2019/ Mandarin/ 11'

Direction **Will Hayter** Producer **Rachel Zhang**

Lake Baiyangdian has undergone many changes over the years. No change will be greater than that of the development of Xiongan, a new city right by the lake which strives to become an ecological beacon for Northern China.



The Keepers

China/ 2019 / Mandarin/ 12'

Direction **Alina Pluzhnaya** Producer **Gao Tian**



The Life of a Seed

China / 2019 / English / 11'

Direction **Maria Liz Siccardi** Producer **Xu Lin**

Story about Wu Jianmei, a plant lover. After a few days of follow-up, we gradually learned something about her and her seeds. She works really hard for her dreams. This story is not only a story of a seed, but also a story of Mei.



Wish

China / 2019 / Chinese / 10'

Direction **Haseeb Jahangir** Producer **Peng Jingru**

The relationship of uncle John and his life dedicated to fishing, he a 63 year old living in a small village called Qi'ao in zhuhai with the son and his wife. He used ancient method of fishing called Aoyu.



Yishui Inkstone

China/ 2019/ Mandarin/ 11'

Direction **Jan Hema** Producer **Nelson Moreno**

The art of the Yishui Inkstones is deeply rooted in Chinese culture. The sculptors strive to create everlasting representations of nature and mythology, while preserving the characteristics of the stone itself.



Brighter Days

China/ 2019/ Mandarin/ 30'

Student Films from Beijing Film Academy

This film tells about the changes in the relationship between brother and sister, and also talks about the relationship between children and their parents. It also shows the appearance of the small county town in northern Xinjiang in that period.



Modern Babel

China / Animation/ 2019/ Mandarin/ 12'

Direction **Zhao Lin**



Where Does the Crane Belong

China/ 2019/ Mandarin/ 20'

Direction **Xiaowei Guo**

Mr. Crane, a longtime resident in a temple, finally came to realize that The temple is no more than a dilapidated hut among the mountains.



Memories of the Winter

China / 2019/ Mandarin/ 39'

Direction **Runqing Bai**

1980s , the popularization of zip gun and land reform made a big influence on the lifestyle of Mongolia prairie people. Siqintu, 12-year-old boy estranged himself from his dad, who was the best traditional hunter in the tribe. As yearly hunt units was coming, could they fix their relationship and finally protect the grassland?

OUT OF COMPETITION



Colors In Rain Shadows

India/ Docu/ 2019/ No Dialogue/ 3 '

Direction **Prabhu Mensena** Screenplay **Prabhu Mensena** Cinematography **Sudeep Elamon, Prabhu Mensena** Editing **Zian Sreekanth** Music **Robin Thomas**

Chinnar wildlife sanctuary, situated partly on the eastern aspect of southern western ghats in the state of kerala. This Wildlife film divulges the rich biodiversity, ethnicity & coexistence of life forms in this beautiful land in 'rain shadows'



Prakrithiyude Kanneer

India / 2019 / Malayalam / 5'

Direction **Sudharma, Kerala Kaumudi**

A short film contemplating the devastating floods of 2018



The Tree Doctor

India/ Docu/ 2019/ Malayalam/ 28'

Direction **Binu**

Tree doctor tells the story of a nature lover who can speak to trees and heal their suffering



Surroundings / Chuttupaadu

India/ Docu/ 2019/ No Dialogue/ 21'

Direction **Jayesh Padichal** Cinematography **Jayesh Padichal**

A short film with no dialogue, about experiencing the wonderful beauty of nature that surrounds us.



The Big Bang

India / 2019 / Malayalam, Tamil / 4'

Direction **Lalbijo** Screenplay **Lalbijo** Cinematography **Sreekuttan**

Editing **Rinto Kuriachan** Music **Vijun**

The story is about Lalu, an employed youth, who doesn't know the value of water. One day he came to take some water and he heard some sounds near him, he scared and run away to the room.



Birdman of Chennai

India/ Docu/ 2019/ Tamil/ 14'

Direction **Darsan Pisharody**

The film is about a man who lives in Chennai, who has dedicated his life to taking care of hundreds of birds that visit him daily and is fed by him twice a day.

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