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Welcome to Work-in-Progress Lab 2016

Since its inception in 2008, the Work-in-Progress Lab has moulded films which have gone on to premiere at top international film festivals and receive critical acclaim.

The Work-in-Progress Lab, which is conducted at the NFDC Film Bazaar, gives selected filmmakers a chance to screen the rough cut of their film to an eminent panel of international advisors. These advisors include a film festival director, a producer, a world sales agent and editors.

The rough cut of the selected film is watched by the panel of mentors after which they provide valuable feedback on the edit. The international editor assigned to the film, then guides the director and editor of the selected film through two sessions of the Editing Lab which takes place at the Film Bazaar itself. The Work-in-Progress Lab, 2016 is open only for fiction features.

This year we received 58 applications for the Work-in-Progress Lab of which 7 films have been selected. The mentors this year are Derek Malcolm, Marco Mueller, Philippe Bober, Olivia Stewart, Soren Ebbe and Jacques Comets.

Deepti DCunha has been the consultant and curator for the Work-in-Progress Lab at the NFDC Film Bazaar since 2011.

Some of the successes of the previous editions of the Work-in-Progress Lab are:

Miss Lovely by Ashim Ahluwalia (World Premiere at Cannes Film Festival 2012)

Ship of Theseus by Anand Gandhi (World Premiere at Toronto Film Festival 2012)

Killa (The Fort) by Avinash Arun (World Premiere at Berlin Film Festival 2014, won Crystal Bear)

Titli by Kanu Behl (World Premiere at Cannes Film Festival 2014)

Attihanu Mattu Kanaja (Fig Fruit and the Wasps) by M S Prakash Babu (International Premiere at Beijing International Film Festival, 2015)

Thithi by Raam Reddy (World Premiere at Locarno International Film Festival 2015, winner of 2 awards, including Best Debut)

Nil Battey Sannata (The New Classmate) by Ashwiny Iyer (had a successful theatrical release)

Tu Hai Mera Sunday (You Are My Sunday) by Milind Dhaimade (World Premiere at BFI, London Film Festival, 2016)

Lady of the Lake by Haobam Paban Kumar (World Premiere at Busan International Film Festival, 2016)

Lipstick Under My Burkha by Alankrita Srivastava (World Premiere at Tokyo International Film Festival, 2016)

Work-in-Progress Lab Team 2016



सत्यमेव जयते

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Work-in-Progress Lab

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Hindi
India, France

Director

Gitanjali Rao

Producer

Gitanjali Rao
Marina Fuentes

Production Company

Gitanjali Rao Films,
Cinestaan Film Company,
Les Films DiCi, France

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Writer

Gitanjali Rao

Editor

Gitanjali Rao

Sound

PM Satheesh
FireFlies Post Sound



Gitanjali Rao
Director

Bombay Rose



Synopsis

Kamala, a 21 year-old migrant from Madhya Pradesh, lives in a hut on the pavement of Juhu beach, weaving jasmine garlands to feed a paralyzed grandfather and educate a 12-year-old sister. Salim, a migrant from Kashmir, lives and sells flowers across the street where Kamala works. He falls in love with Kamala and declares his love by gifting her a red rose. Everything was turning out perfectly fine like a Bollywood movie, until Salim finds out that Kamala works in a dance bar at night to make ends meet.

Bombay Rose is an animated film, painted frame by frame, telling the story of love through a red rose. It talks about the love of an old woman who grows the said red rose, the love of Salim who steals the rose for Kamala, the love of Bombay, the living, the dead, and everyone else in between.

Director's Statement

Life for most Indians is a day-to-day struggle for survival. Steeped in deprivation, homelessness and lacking basic human rights, people escape to the cinemas to forget reality. Bollywood, for a few hours, offers a fantasy. But when the same fantasy begins to influence and substitute reality, the balance is lost. I have always wanted to tell the stories of these unsung heroes who live and love in Bombay, never become success stories, yet their struggle for survival makes heroes out of them. *Bombay Rose* is homage to the undying romantic, living the celluloid dream. Having made films in 2D animation painted frame by frame over the years, I have understood the power of the medium of animation to be able to tell harsh truths in a poetic way. This would be a unique coming together of documentary, fiction and animation that celebrates love through a tragedy.

In The Shadows

Hindi, English
India



Synopsis

In the walled city of Old Delhi, Khuddoos, a lonely man who obsessively watches people through his hidden cameras, begins a search for a boy he hears getting beaten up through the walls of his house. The obsession to find the boy takes over him. When the boy's condition goes from bad to worse, the man starts to lose grip of time and reality. He eventually breaks the wall, revealing the truth... there's no one on the other side.

In The Shadows is the story of a man trapped within the walls of an old city and his attempts to break free to find human connection.

Director's Statement

The seeds of *In The Shadows* were planted years ago when, as a kid, I used to visit my grandfather who lived in the walled city of Old Delhi. All his life, he lived in the same old house and never went out of the alleys. My father would comment, "people living in Old Delhi are trapped there forever. They can never get out."

Those words got etched in my mind. I would walk through the maze of alleys, fearing that if I took a wrong turn somewhere I'll be trapped forever. While researching for a documentary on child abuse, I came upon articles proving that adults with a history of child-abuse were more prone to developing schizophrenia. I decided to tell the story as a fictional narrative that would talk about a pressing social issue – a story that is simple to follow and connect emotionally, but structurally intricate.

Director

Dipesh Jain

Producer

Lena Verma,
Dipesh Jain, Shuchi Jain

Production Company

Dragonflyfilms
Exstant Motion Pictures

Contact

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dipeshjain.film@gmail.com

Writer

Dipesh Jain

Lead Cast

Manoj Bajpayee, Ranvir Shorey, Shahana Goswami, Neeraj Kabi, Laura Verlinden

Director of Photography

Kai Miedendorp

Editor

Olena Kuhtaryeva

Sound

Bob Kellough



Dipesh Jain
Director

Hindi
India

Nimmo

Director

Rahul Shankhya

Producer

Aanand L. Rai

Production Company

Colour Yellow
Productions Pvt. Ltd.

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Writer

Peeyush Srivastav

Lead Cast

Master Karan Dave,
Anjali Patil, Aryan,
Sunaina, Sarika & Amar

Director of Photography

Sangram Giri

Editor

Ninad Khanolkar

Sound

Krsna Solo



Rahul Shankhya
Director

Synopsis

Set in rural India, the film is a love story of an eight-year-old boy who is not old enough to fall in love, but mature enough to understand that he should keep it to himself. It is a journey of this village boy who is trying hard to grow up into a man so that his love for a girl is taken seriously.

Director's Statement

Some stories are a part of all of us – stories that feel like yesterday when we think of them. It is only this emotion of nostalgia that I expect from my audience.

Once Again

Hindi
India, Germany,
Austria



Director

Kanwal Sethi

Producer

Holm Taddiken

Production Company

Neufilm GmbH

Contact

49 34135003580

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Synopsis

Amar is an ageing film star. Wherever he goes, he is immediately surrounded by a mass of people, yet he lives alone, hidden away in Mumbai, a city of 15 million souls. Tara is a passionate fan of Amar. A widow of some 20 years, she delivers meals to his home. But she has never seen him except on the big screen. What began by pure chance has now turned into a ritual, for hours on end they talk to each other on the phone. Until one day, when Amar sets off to see Tara.

Director's Statement

Two years ago, as I was working on my last film, I met a wonderful actor. He recounted a short anecdote from his life and since then this story has not let go of me. It is the story of being alone in the middle of a great city. It is the story of being a film star who eats alone. It is the story of burgeoning love in a 60 years old man. This meeting with him and this brief anecdote from his life was the impetus for this story. Mumbai, the Megacity – with the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean at its doorstep. Home to the film stars and home to the homeless, a place of extreme glamour and the mundane, Mumbai is the perfect stage for this fairy tale.

Writer

Kanwal Sethi

Lead Cast

Shefali Shah, Neeraj Kabi

Director of Photography

Eeshit Narain

Editor

Anja Siemens

Sound

Ajush Ahuja



Kanwal Sethi
Director

Malayalam
India

Pratibhasam

The Tetrahedron

Director
Vipin Vijay

Producer
Vipin Vijay

Production Company
Box Office Cinema India
Pvt. Ltd.

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Writer
Yama, Vipin Vijay

Lead Cast
Athira, Kani, Baiju, Usha,
Pradeep, Vinayan

Director of Photography
Manoj Narayanan

Editor
Vipin Vijay, Athira

Sound
Sandeep Sreedharan,
Vipin Vijay



Vipin Vijay
Director

Synopsis

A girl living in a tropical hamlet in Kerala encounters the news of the sudden appearance of an unexplained object in some other part of the world. The encounter puts her into self-reflection and reflective observations in her surroundings, which finally results in her mysterious disappearance.

Director's Statement

The visual treatment of the film is de-centered in nature, as the film shifts from the primary notional approximation of identifying with a single protagonist and following the thread to demonstrate what happened to her. Instead the film introduces several characters with their own modes of isolation from the average discourses about the time and society in general. These modes of isolation are marked by their specific nature of pre-occupations, which might not be accessible easily to the other person. The film, in a sense, is about boundaries that people have to negotiate, in order to find out who they are or to become complete in some way.

The Bioscopewala

Hindi, English,
Bengali, Dari
India



Synopsis

The film is an extrapolation of the story *Kabuliwala* by the Nobel Prize winning author Rabindranath Tagore. It is inspired by the characters created by Tagore and begins where Tagore left them in his story. The film tells the story of a father-daughter relationship and the redemption of a daughter's emotion. Moreover, it pays tribute to the fact, 'cinema is alive and well' and thus becomes homage to the magic of Cinema. One can think of it as another *Cinema Paradiso*.

Director's Statement

My tribute and take on *Kabuliwala* featuring Mini and Rehmat Khan as *The Bioscopewala*. It is the story of Mini and Rehmat and her father Robinson Basu and how she comes to terms with the stranger in Rehmat Khan, a displaced and lost identity individual in Kolkata, the death of her father and thus redemption in mourning and her tribute to 'cinema kept alive!'

Director

Deb Medhekar

Producer

Sunil Doshi

Production Company

Handmade Films Pvt Ltd

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Writer

Deb Medhekar, Sunil Doshi

Lead Cast

Danny Denzongpa,
Gitanjali Thapa, Adil Hussain, Tisca Chopra

Director of Photography

Rafey Mahmood

Editor

Deepika Kalra

Sound

Resul Pookutty



Deb Medhekar
Director

Pahadi
India

Director

Ridham Janve

Producer

Ridham Janve, Akshay
Singh

Production Company

Dark Matter Pictures

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gmail.com

Writer

Ridham Janve, Akshay
Singh

Lead Cast

Arjun Singh, Lokendra
Gurung

Director of Photography

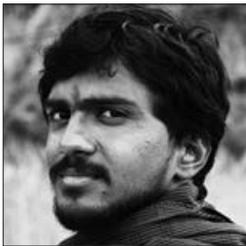
Saurabh Monga

Editor

Kratika Adhikari

Sound

Bignya Dahal



Ridham Janve
Director

The Gold-Laden Sheep & the Sacred Mountain



Synopsis

The solitary, unyielding lives of a shepherd and his servant in the Upper Himalayas are shaken, when an Air Force jet crashes in the vicinity of their mountain. No mere mortal could find anything near the Sacred Mountain, and even the news of a hefty reward and extensive searches by helicopters and local rescue teams yielded nothing. The only man, who has returned from there, rubbishes the Shepherd's intentions of going there. Yet, the old Shepherd leaves his herd to his servant and sets out towards the Sacred Mountain. Outplayed by his own plan, the servant heads there too, though unaware of the forbidden grounds he steps on. Their separate journeys become a struggle across dimensions of the supernatural. The herd, left behind, disintegrates as predators roam around and are left headless.

Director's Statement

My intention is to transport the audience to these unforgiving mountains, to experience the conjecture of belief and emotion that forms the story of *The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain*. Set in the Dhauladhar Mountains, the Gaddi have never been represented in cinema before and since my first visit, I knew I wanted to set a story there. Those primordial and archetypal mountain landscapes fascinated me and acquainted with stories of people who went missing, their search, myths, and Gaddi anecdotes inspired the story for the film. I wanted to tell the story of a Shepherd as it is; which is one of the oldest human stories, and for it to resonate with its natural environment. The narrative is told like a folk story, a contemporary myth. It was a subconscious approach, which denied all ornamentation and simply concentrated on the divinity of the subject.

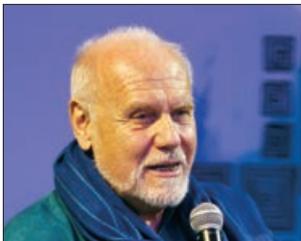
Mentors

Work In Progress



Derek Malcolm

Derek Malcolm is a film critic with the Huffington Post which is an entirely online American and British news aggregator and blog with a massive readership all over the world, including India. Derek has an illustrious background in film journalism and criticism, and he covers festivals all over the world. He is also the Honorary President of International Film Critics Association (Fipresci) and President of British Federation of Film Societies. He has served on juries at the three main European Festivals in Berlin, Cannes and Venice, as well as at the Moscow, Istanbul, Goa, Singapore, Chicago, Dinard and Rio Festivals. He was formerly the Director of the London Film Festival during the 1980s and a former Governor of the British Film Institute. He had also been the Chief Film Critic at The Guardian for 35 years before moving to the Evening Standard, which he left in 2015 to join Huffington Post.



Marco Mueller

Marco Mueller is the Artistic Director of the International Film Festival and Awards, Macao (IFFAM). He began as a festival programmer in 1978 to become the Asian cinema consultant at the Venice Film Festival. In 1981, he created and directed *Electric Shadows*, a Chinese film retrospective. He has been the Director of film festivals of Pesaro, Rotterdam, Locarno, Venice and Rome. Marco has both produced and co-produced 14 features, which have won acclaim; produced shorts and documentaries, and written and directed TV documentaries about cinema. He initiated the Hubert Bals Film Fund and the Cinemart Project Workshop in Netherlands, the Montecinemaverita Film Fund in Switzerland and the South East Cinema Fund in Italy. He holds the chair of Film Styles and Techniques at the Academy of Architecture – Università Della Svizzera Italiana.



Philippe Bober

Philippe Bober is a French Producer who founded Coproduction Office in 1987. Coproduction Office produces and sells bold and award-winning films by directors with a strong personal vision. As a producer, he has worked on 30 films which got selected in various A-list international festivals including Cannes, Berlin and Venice. He was actively involved in the early films by Lars von Trier (*Europa*, *The Kingdom*, *Breaking the Waves*) Lou Ye (*Suzhou River*) Carlos Reygadas (*Japon* and *Battle in Heaven*) Roy Andersson (*Songs From the Second Floor* and *You the Living*) Jessica Hausner (*Lovely Rita*, *Hotel* and *Lourdes*) and many more such projects.

Mentors

Work In Progress



Olivia Stewart

Olivia Stewart is a producer and script consultant. In 2014, on behalf of the PJLF Arts Fund, she set up the EYE Prize with the EYE Film Museum Amsterdam to support & promote an artist or filmmaker whose work unites art & film. In 2016 she started The PJLF Three Rivers Residency Programme which offers writer/directors a one-month retreat to write with expert script advisors and the chance to present their projects at the Dubai Film Festival. She has been a Jury member for the Locarno, Fajr, Asiatica, San Sebastian Film Festivals and is a member of AMPAS, BAFTA and EFA. Some of her works as a producer/script mentor include *The Long Day Closes*, *The Neon Bible* and *The House of Mirth*. In collaboration with the Binger Film Lab, Amsterdam and NFDC India, she has produced/mentored Ritesh Batra's *The Lunchbox* (Audience Award at Cannes La Semaine de la Critique 2013, Best First Feature Toronto Film Festival), Kanu Behl's *Titli* (Un Certain Regard Cannes in 2014), Gurvinder Singh's *Chauthi Koot* (Fourth Direction) (Un Certain Regard Cannes 2015, Best Film Mumbai, Singapore and Belgrade Film Festivals) and Miransha Naik's *Juze*.



Jacques Comets

Jacques has edited, among others, the films of Bernard Stora, Laurent Heynemann, Raoul Peck, Christine Pascal, Joel Farges, Petr Vaclav, Djamshed Usmonov, Ramadan Suleiman, Pablo Aguero, Tsai Ming-liang, Tonie Marshall, Massoud Bakshi, Dima El-Horr, Pavel Giroud, Samuel et Frédéric Guillaume. He has also co-edited or supervised the editing of feature films in Morocco (Narjiss Nejjar), Palestine (Annemarie Jacir), Colombia (Maria Gamboa, Ruben Mendoza), Lebanon (Lamia Joreige), and Vietnam (Nguyen Hoang Diep). He is credited as the creative producer and supervising editor on Miransha Naik's film *Juze*. Jacques also co-heads the Editing Department of the French national film school, La Femis. He was a part of many seminars, workshops and juries in film schools and universities in Switzerland, Chile, Cuba, Tunisia, Albania, Iran, India, Lebanon, among others.



Soren Ebbe

Soren Ebbe graduated in 1996 from The National Film and Television School in Beaconsfield, England. He has been working on feature films, television dramas and documentaries ever since. His work is primarily in Denmark, but he also works in countries like USA, China, Germany, UK and Argentina. Lately he has been developing his own scripts from idea to treatment, in collaboration with various other writers.

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