

Knowledge Series 2021



Knowledge Series 2021

Day 2 – 21st November 2021	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Understanding the Ecosystem of Film Festivals and Markets	2
Day 2 – 21st November 2021	2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Film Bazaar Recommends	3
Day 3 – 22nd November 2021	10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Filmmakers' Pitch	4
Day 3 – 22nd November 2021	2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Camera on Wings - Filming with Drones made easier	5
Day 3 – 22nd November 2021	4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Casting It Right	6
Day 4 – 23rd November 2021	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	The Voice of South Asia	7
Day 4 – 23rd November 2021	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Filming in the Hills...Run Run Run...with your Cameras	8
Day 4 – 23rd November 2021	2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Animation and VFX in the era of OTT Platforms	9
Day 5 – 24th November 2021	10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	A Compelling Screenplay bringing a Picture in motion	10
Day 5 – 24th November 2021	2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Forging Paths for wider reach – Local Going Global	11

Understanding the Ecosystem of Film Festivals and Markets

Moderator

Samir Sarkar, Producer, Magic Hour Films

Speakers

Beth Barrett, Artistic Director, Seattle International Film Festival

Guillaume Esmiol, Deputy Director, Marche Du Film

Javier Porta Fouz, Festival Director, Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival

The session hopes to explore the opportunities of navigating film festivals and markets. It seeks to offer insights into festival and market strategies for films so that Filmmakers are able to get an overview of what makes a successful festival presence, how to create adequate audience awareness and garner market attention.

Moderator



Samir SARKAR

Samir Sarkar, an alumnus of National Film School, France, is a national award-winning film producer. He has produced 6 feature films and more than 50 TV commercials, documentaries, and music videos under the banner of Magic Hour Films, an award-winning film production company he founded in 2008.

Some of his award winning feature film productions include: Arun Karthik's IndoDutch co-production *Nasir* that travelled to 32 international film festivals and has won 11 awards till date including a Netpac award at IFFR Tiger Competition 2020. Aditya Vikram Sengupta's critically acclaimed Netflix title *Jonaki*, that won a Silver Gateway award at the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival in 2018, *Paka* directed by Nithin Lukose, an official selection in the Discovery section of the Toronto International Film Festival TIFF 2021 and National award winner *Kalla Nottam* an experimental film directed by Rahul Rijji Nair. Samir offered production support and consultancy on Ang Lee's Oscar-winning movie *Life of Pi* and has played pivotal roles of Executive & Line Producer on more than 25 international feature-length projects, documentaries, and TVCs.

Speakers



Beth BARRETT

Beth has been with SIFF since 2003, and is responsible for managing the artistic vision of SIFF, including all aspects of programming for the Seattle International Film Festival, SIFF Cinema's 5 year-round screens, and the SIFF Education team. She secured SIFF's status as an Academy Award® qualifying festival for short film in 2008. Beth currently serves on the Board of the Film Festival Alliance and the City of Seattle Film Task Force. In addition to her daily work in programming, Beth has served on juries and panels in Palm Springs, Park City, Cleveland, Calgary, Vancouver BC and Berlin, Germany.



Guillaume ESMIOL

Guillaume Esmiol is the Co-Executive Director at Marché du Film - Festival de Cannes. He joined the Marché du Film in 2020 with the mission to develop its activities in these challenging times. He was previously the Innovation Director of TFI group and the CMO of a startup studio.



Javier Porta FOUZ

He has been working at the BAFICI since 2001, as a programmer since 2005 and since 2016 as artistic director. He has been content curator for the VOD platform Qubit.tv since its beginnings, in 2011, and is also a film columnist and critic with the La Nación newspaper and Hipercrítico. In 1998 he started working for the El Amante-Cine magazine as a writer, becoming its editor in 2003 and later its director. His subjects, as well as films and directors, tend to look at film economy and policy, although sometimes he lets himself go and engages in controversial debate over Argentine gastronomic and food customs. He debuted as an actor, starring in the web series Cine Terapia.

He has taught in primary, secondary and higher education. He wrote the book *Estudio crítico sobre El aura* and co-wrote *El libro de oro del helado argentino*. He has collaborated in diverse publications on the work of Tsai Ming-Liang, Julio Cortázar, New Chilean Cinema, Fernando Solanas, Abbas Kiarostami, Leonardo Favio, Lucrecia Martel and New Argentine Cinema. He is preparing a new book about his city, Buenos Aires.

Film Bazaar Recommends

Moderator

Deepti DCunha, Programmer, WIP Lab & Viewing Room

Moderator



Deepti DCUNHA

Deepti DCunha is a Mumbai based Film Programmer specialising in Contemporary Indian Cinema. She has been working on Indian and International Film Festivals for over a decade. In 2018 she was appointed the India Correspondent for the Director's Fortnight, Cannes and is now their South Asia Correspondent. She is the India Consultant to Artistic Director, Marco Mueller, since 2011 for Venice film festival, Rome film festival, and several film festivals in China including Pingyao International Film Festival (PYIFF), China. She is the sole curator of films for the 'Viewing Room' section and the 'Work-in-Progress Lab' for NFDC Film Bazaar since 2011. She has been in the Selection Committee of Locarno Open Doors since 2016 choosing projects and participants for the Co-production Hub and Producers Lab from South Asia, South East Asia and Mongolia. She has also been a mentor at SEAPITCH (Thailand) in 2021. Her earlier assignments include programming for the Indian Selection at Jio MAMI Mumbai International Film Festival with Star from 2015-2019, Chicago South Asian Film Festival (CSAFF), the International Children's Film Festival of India (ICFFI), Osian's Cinefan film festival and reading for Doha Film Institute. She is deeply committed towards independent Indian cinema; a passion that keeps her driven to scout for new films and fresh talent from all across the country and subcontinent

NFDC Film Bazaar Online is pleased to share the list of films in the online Viewing Room. This year 159 films will be available to view in the Viewing Room Library of which 101 are feature films and 58 are short films. Film Bazaar Recommends (FBR) list highlights 19 feature films. The filmmakers from the FBR list will pitch their films to potential investors, producers, sales agents, distributors, festival programmers in an open pitching session online. The individual pitch videos will be available to view at the 'Pitch Zone' on the Film Bazaar Online platform.

Film Name	Director
1. Baghjan	Jaicheng Zxai Dohutia
2. Bailadila	Shailendara Sahu
3. Bardovi	Karan Chavan
4. Barir Naam Shahana (A House Named Shahana)	Leesa Gazi
5. Chhaad (The Terrace)	Indrani Chakrabarti
6. Ek Jagah Apni (A Space of our Own)	Ektara Collective
7. Follower	Harshad Nalawade
8. Gandhi & Co.	Manish Saini
9. Hadinelentu (Seventeeners)	Prithvi Konanur
10. Kadu God (Bittersweet)	Ananth Mahadevan
11. Kura Pokkhir Shunye Ura (The Golden Wings of Watercocks)	Muhammad Quayum
12. Nishiddho (Forbidden)	Tara Ramanujan
13. Orilathanalil (In the Shade of a Leaf)	Asok R Nath
14. Saaya (Shadow)	Aranya Sahay
15. Shivamma	Jai Shankar
16. The Curse	Satindar Singh Bedi Maria Sigrist
17. The Unbeatable	Amar Maibam
18. Vaat (The Path)	Miransha Naik
19. Vazhakku (The Quarrel)	Sanal Kumar Sasidharan

Filmmakers' Pitch

Moderator

Abhra Das, Sr. Programming Coordinator, NFDC

Filmmakers' Pitch is a platform where filmmakers can pay and pitch their films to all registered delegates of NFDC Film Bazaar Online. This is a non-curated section, open only to registered delegates who have their feature-length films in the Viewing Room Library and Industry Screenings. The video pitch will be presented at the Filmmakers' Pitch event at Film Bazaar Online platform. This event will be attended by registered delegates of Film Bazaar which includes buyers, distributors, content aggregators, sales agents, film festival programmers, producers, financiers among others attending the market. The individual pitch videos will be available to view at the 'Pitch Zone' on the Film Bazaar Online platform.

Moderator



Abhra DAS

Abhra Das works full-time at the National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC). He is the Sr. Programming Coordinator for the Viewing Room and Work-in-Progress Lab at NFDC Film Bazaar since 2015 and the NFDC Screenwriters' Lab since January 2019. He has worked with film programmer Deepti DCunha as a coordinator on film festivals like Chicago South Asian Film Festival (CSAFF) and Pingyao International Film Festival (PYIFF) in China. He is also a film programmer for KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film Festival since 2018.

In the past, he has worked as a research assistant for film critic Anupama Chopra at Film Companion and was a part of the organizational team for MAMI Mumbai Film Festival in 2014. He is a freelance writer and a cinema enthusiast.

	Film Name	Director
1.	15 Seconds A Lifetime	Divya Kharnare
2.	Antoo ki Udantashitari (Antoo's Spaceship)	Himanshu Pandey
3.	Dhatura	Vimal Pandey Sandeep Mishra
4.	Gamit	Rahul Nair
5.	Geometry Box	Sainath Ponna
6.	Hucch	Thinesh Kumar
7.	Korangi Nunchi (Who Will Marry Thomas)	Kanala Jayadev
8.	Lords of Lockdown	Mihir Fadnavis
9.	Napaak	Kaun Bhatia
10.	Panisokori (In the Swirls)	Arindam Barooah
11.	Patent	Dhananjay Mote
12.	Rogues	Wanphrang K. Diengdoh
13.	Soo Jaa Mukesh (Go to sleep Mukesh)	Devvrat Mishra
14.	Sudhu Kichu Din Ar Raat Pore Ache (Those Remaining Nights and Days)	Amitabha Chaterji
15.	Tak-Tak (Knock-Knock)	Vishal Kudale
16.	The Tails of Boo-Boo & Cuddly Poo	Salil Fernandez
17.	Ticha Shahar Hona (City Personified)	Rasika Agashe

Camera on Wings – Filming with Drones made easier

Moderator

Rahat Kulshreshtha, Founder, Quidich Innovation Labs & President, Drone Federation of India

Speakers

R P Kashyap, Director of Operations (Drones), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

Pravesh Sahni, Co-Founder, ITOP Film Productions

Syed Zaid Ali, Line Producer, Zeal Z Entertainment

Moderator



Rahat KULSHRESHTHA

Rahat Kulshreshtha is a film-maker turned entrepreneur. He is the founder and CEO of Quidich Innovation Labs Pvt Ltd. Rahat is also the President of the Drone Federation of India. At Quidich, Rahat combines his previous film-making experience with over 2000 hours of drone operations to deliver products and services in the broadcast and film industry. Quidich provides an end to end service with remotely operated cameras, ranging from drones, RC Buggies and suspended wire cameras, along with a new dimension of technology of augmented reality on all its products. The team at Quidich is driven by the passion to create innovative and inspiring experiences for the sports and film industry, so if you watch TV or Films, you've probably already seen some of the work. From live streaming of the drones at the IPL along with data and statistics shown in augmented reality, to the buggy system being used for Kaun Banega Crorepati. Projects like the ICC T20 World Cup, Caribbean Premier League, Gully Boy and Brahmastra have been some of the recent projects Quidich has been involved in.

Speakers



R P KASHYAP

25 years of experience in Aviation Industry, Started carrier in 1995 at Civil Aviation Training College CATC Allahabad, Asia's top most college for Civil Aviation. After Training, he joined Airports Authority of India in 1995 at Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel –SVP International Airport as an Asst. Air Traffic Controller. Joined DGCA Directorate General of Civil Aviation through UPSC in 2002, worked in Air safety Directorate for 12 years and carried out regulatory functions for Airprox Investigation and Bird/Wildlife Management, drafted regulation for safe and efficient flow of air traffic and smooth work flow of Civil Aviation.

As per recommendations of Government of India, he has taken over charge in December 2020 as First Director Operations Drone Directorate of DGCA, Ministry of Civil Aviation, presently responsible for operations of Drone, Standard operating procedures, formulations of Rules and Regulations for safe and expeditious flow of drone operations and projects related with Drone Technology in India."

The Ministry of Civil Aviation recently announced the new Drone Rules 2021, which has liberalised and simplified filming with drones in the country. The session throws light on the basic rules, how filmmakers can apply for permissions, timelines as well as the challenges filmmakers face while using drones.



Pravesh SAHNI

In the global film production industry, Pravesh Sahni is regarded as one of the most respected Line Producers for foreign films in India. With experience spanning over three decades, he has worked with some world-renowned filmmakers including Ang Lee, Danny Boyle, Oliver Stone, Kathryn Bigelow, Sam Hargrave, John Madden, Ryan Murphy, Gurinder Chadha, Joe Pytka and Fredrik Bond. In the early 1990s, Sahni co-founded India Take One Productions (ITOP), a film production services based out of New Delhi, India. ITOP started with providing location services to foreign studios before expanding the portfolio to cater to end-to-end production needs in India.

Sahni has been integral to ITOP's success that currently boasts of an enviable client portfolio including Warner Bros., Netflix, Sony Pictures, 20th Century Fox, Annapurna Pictures, Working Title, Paramount Films and Walt Disney. He has been pivotal in the Indian production for movies such as *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Eat Pray Love*, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, *Mission Impossible 4 – The Ghost Protocol*, *Zero Dark Thirty* and *Life of Pi*. Lately C Produced *Extraction* and *The White Tiger* for the OTT Platform. His ability to "get things done" in line with ITOP's brand promise has rightly earned him recognition and appreciation from all stakeholders alike."



Syed Zaid ALI

Syed Zaid Ali is the founder and director of Zeal Z Entertainment Services Pvt. Ltd. An MBA graduate with a distinction in Human Resources Management, Zaid has line produced over 300+ feature films, TV Shows, Commercials, Documentaries, etc. to date for ZEAL Like Prakash Jha's *Raajneeti*, *Aarakshan*, *Chakravayuh*, *Satyagraha*, *Jai Gangajal*, *Lipstick Under My Burkha*, Anil Sharma's *Singh Sahab The Great*, Ashutosh Govarikar's *Mohenjo-Daro*, Neeraj Pandey's *Toilet-Ek Prem Katha*, Rajkumar Hirani's *Sanju*, Dinesh Vijan's *Stree*, and most recently Zee Studio's *Manikarnika – The Queen of Jhansi*, Karan Johar's *Kalank*, Fox Star Studio's *Panga* and Anurag Basu's *Ludo* and provides the company with his expertise of film production and high-level Bollywood as well as Hollywood connections.

Casting It Right

Moderator

Gautam Chintamani, Indian Film Critic

Speakers

Mukesh Chhabra, Director

A L Vijay, Director

Abhishek Banerjee, Actor & Casting Director

Kirti Kulhari, Actor

Moderator



Gautam CHINTAMANI

Gautam Chintamani is a film historian and the author of *Rajneeti* (Penguin-Random House, 2019), the first biography of Rajnath Singh. He is the author of the bestselling *Dark Star: The Loneliness of Being Rajesh Khanna* (HarperCollins, 2014), *The Film That Revived Hindi Cinema* (HarperCollins, 2016) and *Pink- The Inside Story* (HarperCollins, 2017). His upcoming book *The Midway Battle: Narendra Modi's Roller-Coaster Second Term* (Bloomsbury) will release in September 2021. He hails from a literary tradition that runs deep on both sides of his family—the late Telugu poet Arudra is his maternal grandfather and the liberal thinker Sir C.Y. Chintamani is his paternal great-grandfather. Gautam's writing has featured in national publications, including a compilation on Dadasaheb Phalke awardees published by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, *Legends of Indian Silver Screen*. He was on the National Film Awards jury for Best Writing on Cinema in 2016. Gautam Chintamani is currently working on *A Class Act - The Life of Vinod Khanna*.

Speakers



Mukesh CHHABRA

Mukesh Chhabra is an Indian Film Casting Director, Filmmaker, Acting Coach, Actor and Writer. He has cast for several movies & web shows for directors like Rajkumar Hirani, Kabir Khan, Abhishek Kapoor, Nitesh Tiwari, Imtiaz Ali, Hansal Mehta, Richie Mehta, Anurag Kashyap, Vikas Bahl and many more. After winning million hearts with his casting in *Chillar Party*, *Kai Po Che*, *Gangs of Wasseypur*, *Dangal*, *Sanju*, *Kabir Singh*, *Super30*, *scam 1992*, *Delhi Crime*, *Sacred Games*, *Family Man* and many more, he made his Directorial Debut in Bollywood with *Dil Bechara* and has added one more feather to his hat. Mukesh Chhabra's only Guru Mantra is - There is no shortcut to Success, Hardwork is the key. In recognition of his outstanding work, he has been made a member of the Casting Association of America (CSA).



A L VIJAY

Director Vijay is an Indian film director. He debuted as a director with films such as *Kireedam* and the critically acclaimed *Madrasapattinam*. Vijay later directed films such as *Deiva Thirumagal*, *Thaandavam* and *Thalavi*.

Cast is one of the most important elements of any project – touching every stage from financing to distribution. A Director, Actors and Casting Agents share their advice and expertise for casting wisely across genre, budget and the international market.



Abhishek BANERJEE

Abhishek Banerjee also known as Hathoda Tyagi is an Indian actor and casting director. Banerjee rose to fame with roles in films such as *Rashmi Rocket*, *Stree*, *Dream Girl*, *Bala* and in the web series' *Paatal Lok* and *Mirzapur*. He made his acting debut in films through a cameo performance in *Rang De Basanti*. Besides films he has also acted in web series like *TVF Pitchers* and *Typewriter* where he played a key role as 'Fakeer'. He runs Casting Bay" along with his friend Anmol Ahuja where they cast actors in advertisements, films as well as web series.



Kirti KULHARI

Kirti Kulhari is an Actor who has made her presence felt in the industry through her powerhouse performances in both films and OTT. Some of her work includes films like *Pink*, *URI*, *Mission Mangal*, *Shaitan*, *Indu Sarkar*, *Girl on the Train* and the recently released *Shaadistan*, and series like *Four More Shots Please* on Amazon and *Criminal Justice - Behind Closed Doors* on Hotstar have not only made her a household name but also strengthened her positioning as a bankable actor.

The Voice of South Asia

Moderator

Naman Ramachandran, International Correspondent, Variety

Speakers

Pradip Kurbah, Director, India

Deepak Rauniyar, Director, Nepal

Rasitha Jinasena Producer, Sri Lanka

Dechen Roder, Director, Bhutan

Moderator



Naman RAMACHANDRAN

Naman Ramachandran is an international correspondent with Variety, a critic with Sight & Sound and a world cinema columnist for The Hindu. He is the author of Rajinikanth: The Definitive Biography (Penguin) and Lights, Camera, Masala: Making Movies in Mumbai (IBH).

Speakers



Pradip KURBAH

Pradip is born and brought up in Shillong. An open-minded but focused person, who is profoundly passionate about films. A self-taught filmmaker with more than 20 years of experience in the field of film making. His work includes –

- * Direction, including pioneering film making, in Meghalaya.
- * Created 7 Khasi music albums as a Music Composer.
- * Produced (number) films in various dialects of Meghalaya.
- * Directed 3 Khasi feature films namely, *Ri*, *ONAATAH* and *ĪEWDUH*.
- * Directed more than 150 music videos in different languages."



Deepak RAUNIYAR

Deepak Rauniyar is a director, screenwriter, and producer. In 2010, Deepak co-founded Aadi Production with his wife, actor Asha Magrati. He became the first Nepali filmmaker to screen at a prestigious international film festival. His debut *Highway* premiered at the 62nd Berlin International Film Festival in 2012 and later also played the Locarno. His second feature, *White Sun*, surpassed the success of his first and won numerous awards, including the Interfilm award at the Venice Film Festival, Best Asian Feature at Singapore, the New Voices/New Visions Grand Jury Prize at Palm Spring, and four prizes (Audience, Ecumenical Jury, Don Quixote) at Fribourg Film Festival. *White Sun* was Nepal's official selection for Best Foreign Language Film at the 90th Academy Awards! He is currently developing and financing *Wiring Utopia* by David Barker (TFI Sloan Fund award 2019), *The Palace* by Anil Baral (Busan Co-pro and Asian Cinema Fund 2018), and *Devi* by Subina Shrestha (Cannes Doc 2021). The New York Times was recently described as one of The 9 New Directors You Need to Watch.

As consciousness about representation is precipitating in prominent world cinema stages, diverse voices are still finding their way beyond tokenism in those spaces. We at Film Bazaar have gathered here to celebrate the voices emerging from South Asia that have made space for their films on the festival scene.



Rasitha JINASENA

Rasitha Jinasena is an internationally acclaimed producer and the current president of producer's guild of Sri Lanka, with films such as *Karma*, *28*, *Leopard Do Not Bite*, *Withered Leaf* and *Uthuru Sulaga* to his credit. He awarded Emerging Producer / Film Producer at the 2017 Open Door Labs Awards at the Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland. An Award winning Executive Producer with 20 years of experience in local and international productions, who envisions a comprehensive involvement in Sri Lankan production industry nurtured by sustainable values. He is the Co-founder and Charmin of Sky Entertainers (Sky Colombo), a fully-fledged Production House.



Dechen RODER

Dechen Roder is one of the first female directors from the Kingdom of Bhutan. She has been making small shorts and documentaries since 2005. Her most recent short film *Lo Sum Choe Sum* (3 Year 3 Month Retreat) competed in the Berlinale Shorts 2015, and later screened in multiple festivals around the world, including Palm Springs Short Fest, Melbourne, Fribourg, and Seoul International Women's Film Festival. She is also the co-founder and organizer of the only film festival in Bhutan: Beskop Tshechu Film Festival, which had its most recent edition in October 2021. When not working on her own films, she works as a visual editor on other projects and as a producer/writer/director for commissioned projects. *Honeygiver Among the Dogs* (2017) is her debut feature film and was nominated for an APSA for the Cultural Diversity Award Under the Patronage of UNESCO. She is currently developing her second feature film *I, the Song* to enter production in 2022.

Filming in the Hills...Run Run Run...with your Cameras

Moderator

Nitin Tej Ahuja, CEO, Producers Guild of India

Speakers

(Keynote Address) Shri G.K.V Rao, Director General, Tourism, Ministry of Tourism

Shri KS Chauhan, Joint Director, Department of Information and Public Relation, Government of Uttarakhand

Vikesh Bhutani, Co-founder Chalkboard Entertainment

Shri Afaq Gadda, Nodal Officer J&K film Policy, Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Shri Mahesh Patania, Director, Department of Information and Public Relation, Government of Himachal Pradesh

Shri Sunzu Bachaspatimayum, Secretary, Manipur State Film Development Society

Khawar Jamsheed, Line Producer, K J Productions

Speaker



(Keynote Address) Shri G.K.V RAO

G. Kamala Vardhana Rao is an IAS officer of 1990 batch from Kerala cadre. He has earlier served as Principal Secretary, Public Works Department and as Principal Secretary, Finance and Expenditure, Government of Kerala. He had also served as Secretary, Kerala Tourism in 2014-16, and as Director Culture, Government of India. In a span of about three decades, Rao has served in diverse positions including Chairman of Indian Tobacco Board, Joint Secretary, Industries, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh and PS to Union Minister, HRD, Government of India. Presently, he is holding the post of C&MD, India Tourism Development Corporation with additional charge of Director General (Tourism), Government of India.

Moderator



Nitin Tej AHUJA

As CEO of the Producers Guild of India, Nitin is charged with championing the cause and spearheading the development of the film, television and new media production sector in India. His responsibilities include focusing on policy matters, copyright protection, government regulations, taxation, production incentives available nationally and internationally, cinema tourism, international co-production treaties and exchange programs. He joined the Guild after a career spanning more than two decades in various sectors in the Media & Entertainment industry including film, music, television, radio and publishing.

Speakers



Shri KS CHAUHAN

Mr KS Chauhan, Joint Director, Uttarakhand Information Department has been working as the Nodal Officer of Uttarakhand Film Development Council since 2016. He has been instrumental in establishing Uttarakhand as new filming destination. His efforts in easing the filming process in Uttarakhand enabled the state to bag a Special Mention Certificate in 2017 and Most Film Friendly State Award in 2019 under the aegis of National Film Awards, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. An actor, social worker, environmentalist and debater, Mr Chauhan is the recipient of Uttarakhand Government's highest award Chief Minister Excellence and Good Governance Awards, 2020.



Vikesh BHUTANI

With an experience of over 10 years in the industry, Vikesh Bhutani has been an Executive Producer for multiple path-breaking films like *Gully Boy*, *Dil Dhadakne Do*, *Talaash*, *Fukrey* franchise & *Rock On 2!* He also co-produced three original series for Amazon - *Mirzapur*, *Made in Heaven*, and *Inside Edge*, under the banner of Excel Entertainment. Stepping into the role of a freelancing EP, Vikesh worked on the Netflix original film *Yeh Ballet* for Roy Kapur Films. He also worked on Shakun Batra's untitled next produced by Dharma Productions. In 2019, he co-founded Chalkboard Entertainment with Shujaat Saudagar, slated to produce multiple original films across leading platforms.

Filming in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur has never been easier with the States launching their Film Policy in an endeavor to attract domestic and international projects to shoot in their regions.



Shri Afaq GADDA

Presently working as Film Production Officer (Deputy Director) in the Department of Information and Public Relations, JK Government. Mr Gadda in the last 17 years has held several responsible and important posts such as Press Secretary to Deputy Chief Ministers, Cabinet Ministers and Advisors to the Hon'ble Governors of Jammu and Kashmir. He has also served as incharge of the Audio- Visual wing of the Department of Information and Public Relations. With over 20 years experience in Production of Short Films, Serials, News Programs, Documentary Films and Videos Mr Gadda is a Post Graduate in Mass Communication with certificate courses in Television Production and Cinematography.



Shri Mahesh PATANIA

Presently working as Joint Director (Films), I am serving in the department from last 22 years and has held several responsible and important posts as, Press Secretary to Hon'ble Governor and to the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh for long time. I framed the Himachal Pradesh Film Policy which was notified in 2019 by the Government and developed the web portal to ease filming in the State which will be launched soon.



Shri Sunzu BACHASPATIMAYUM

With over 25 years of experience, Sunzu is a passionate media practitioner of Manipur, delving in journalism, filmmaking and writing. While he has demonstrated his craft both in fiction and non-fiction storytelling, his growing contribution in documentary filmmaking got him selected for the International visitors' leadership program on documentary filmmaking in the US, in 2010 under the sponsorship of United States Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, US Government.

Currently, he is the secretary of Manipur State Film Development Society, an autonomous institute of the government of manipur mandated to promote Manipuri Cinema.



Khawar JAMSHEED

KJ Productions is Kashmir's most reputed and trusted Line Producing Firm aimed at facilitating film-shoots in the beautiful Kashmir Valley and in Kargil. We began our journey a decade ago when film-director Imtiaz Ali on a family holiday got mesmerised with the culture and scenic locations of Kashmir and decided to shoot his film *Rockstar* here. *Rockstar* became a block-buster and also marked the comeback of film-shoots in Kashmir.

Since then we have facilitated and organised film shoots for top names of the Indian Film Industry such as, Late Yash Chopra, Karan Johar, Kabir Khan, Abhishek Kapoor, Amir Khan Films, Meghana Gulzar, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Vishal Bharadwaj and many more.

Animation and VFX in the era of OTT Platforms

Moderator

Chaitanya Chinchlikar, Vice President & Business Head, Chief Technology Officer & Head of Emerging Media, Whistling Woods International

Speakers

(Keynote Address) Smt. Neerja Sekhar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Saraswati Vani Balgum, Writer, Director & Creative Producer

Bimal Poddar, Director (Radha, 67th National Film Awards Winner, Best Animated Film)

Charuvi Agarwal, Character Design (The Legend of Hanuman), Disney+ Hotstar

Becca Topol, Creator & Developer (Mira Roy Detective), Disney+ Hot star

Speaker



(Keynote Address) Smt. Neerja SEKHAR

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

Moderator



Chaitanya CHINCHLIKAR

Chaitanya has had a multi-faceted 2-decade career in the Film & Creative Arts industry. He is currently the Vice President & Business Head at Whistling Woods International - India's premier Film & Creative Arts institute. He also serves as the Chief Technology Officer for the institute and heads its Emerging Media Technologies initiatives. He has been instrumental in the strengthening of Film & Creative Arts education in India and the evangelising of multiple new & emerging technologies both into the mainstream education at Whistling Woods and into the Film, Media & Entertainment industry at large.

He also currently serves on the global Board of Governors of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) and is the Cinematic Virtual Reality co-leader for Asia Pacific for the global VR/AR Association. He is also a strategic advisor to several startups in the M&E, Technology & Education verticals.

Speakers



Saraswati Vani BALGUM

Saraswathi "Vani" Balgam is a critically acclaimed creator-director and is the founder of Dancing Atoms, a boutique animation development studio. Vani is also a story consultant and mentor with the Unreal Fellowship Program for Epic Games. She is currently dabbling with Virtual production, Immersive storytelling, writing and creating original animated IP. With over 20 years of experience in the VFX and animation industry, Vani has served as the Head of Creative Management for DreamWorks Animation in Shanghai, and as the Executive Director for Rhythm & Hues Studios in Asia, a multiple Academy Award winning studio.

The Animation and VFX Industry is tipped to become one of the fastest growing in India's Media and Entertainment Sector, and the advent of OTT platforms has been a catalyst. The number of IP, produced in India has increased and the pandemic has changed the storytelling patterns further.

In the session, the speakers will shed light on the scope of animation and Vfx, in the era of OTT platforms, for the Indian market.



Bimal PODDAR

Bimal Poddar is an independent filmmaker and founder of Fairycows Animation Studio based in Mumbai, India. He made his first animated short film *Home Delivery* during his student years at National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, India (NID) that won the best director award under the student category at the Toonz Animation Festival also screened in several film festivals. He founded Fairycows Animation studio. The studio has worked with many national and international firms. It has also worked with Khalsa Museum, Nanded, sadhu vaswani museum, pune and Zoological Garden, Kolkata.

Radha, is his first attempt as an independent film maker. The film received immense reception in the national and international film festival circuit and has been awarded the National Film Award, India's most prestigious among others.



Charuvi AGARWAL

Charuvi is an animation film director, producer, and an immersive artist. She is the co-creator of *The Legend of Hanuman*, an animated series currently airing on Disney+Hotstar. Her studio CDL (Charuvi Design Labs) today is a multi-award-winning innovative firm with the goal of creating extraordinary IP and content across a variety of mediums including tv-series, films, VFX, AR, VR, idents, projection mapping and physical large-scale sculptures. Her films have been screened and awarded at various film festivals across the globe while her large-scale sculptures have been displayed at various public forums besides being in homes of discerning collectors in India. Her projects have been supported by the Prince Claus Fund and The British Council. She has been a speaker at Google, IIT, TEDx, SIGGRAPH, India Design Forum, Anifest, Edinburgh University, Animation Master's Summit and holds two LIMCA records. She recently served as a mentor for Epic's first batch of "Women Creators Program" in India.



Becca TOPOL

Becca Topol is a writer of both film and television series. In animation, Topol's writing credits include Disney's Emmy® and Imagen Award-winning "Elena of Avalor". She developed (created) and currently serves as co-producer & head writer on the Disney series "Mira, Royal Detective," which features an all-star South Asian cast including Frida Pinto, Kal Penn, Jameela Jamil and Hannah Simone. She is developing other projects for Dreamworks Animation and Spin Master.

In live action, she wrote the feature rom-com *The Ramen Girl*, which is inspired by her experience living in Tokyo and eating at the neighborhood ramen shop, as well as dramedy *Sugar Babies* starring Alyson Stoner, and drama/thrillers *Wicked Moms Club*, and *Psycho-In-Law*. She is currently developing a female action-comedy feature as well as a dramedy television series with Emmy® and Golden Globe winner Kyra Sedgwick and Valerie Stadler's production company, Big Swing Productions. After growing up in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., Topol earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in East Asian Studies at Brown University and a Juris Doctor degree at Harvard Law School.

A Compelling Screenplay bringing a Picture in motion

Moderator

Shekhar Kapur, Actor, Director, Producer

Speakers

Shoojit Sarkar, Director & Producer

Vani Tripathi Tikoo, Actor, Producer & Member, CBFC

Rumy Jafry, Writer & Director

Pratiksha Rao, Director Original Films & Licencing, Netflix

Moderator



Shekhar KAPUR

Shekhar Kapur is an obsessive visionary. A creator of transformative work that challenges category. As a storyteller his work has been depicted in film, TV, literature, theater, comic books, multimedia and most recently large-scale live shows. He has told all sorts of stories through his extensive and prolific career. Whether as an actor, a director, a writer his passion for art has never been defined by the media he uses to span his imagination. MIT has invited him to share his knowledge of new media. Shekhar Kapur has moved the audiences with his art.

As a perennial visionary he looks to widen his storytelling means constantly.

Some of his most recognizable works include:

- Cultural phenomena film *Mr. India* (1989)
- Academy Award Nominee film *Elizabeth* (1998)
- EXPO 2020's hallmark show *Why? The Musical*

Speakers



Shoojit SARKAR

Shoojit Sircar has managed to carve a distinct place in the world of contemporary Indian film makers. His directorial debut, *Yahaan*, on the turmoil faced by the Kashmiri people – won him the best director award in the Osian Film Festival 2005. He followed that with *Vicky Donor*, went on to win three national awards including Best Entertainer of the year. Followed by the hard – hitting political thriller *Madras Café* throwing light on one of the most tumultuous periods in the sub-continent history – the Sri Lankan civil war. A year later, he brought us the much loved slice of life, *Piku* winning over 18 awards from across the nation. And then came, *Pink & October* with the absurdist satire, *Gulabo Sitabo*, an unapologetic take on human greed! And now, the historical drama, *Sardar Udham*, with Vicky Kaushal playing the Indian revolutionary Udham Singh, Sardar Udham which has been receiving positive response from around the globe.

Besides bringing us such varied cinema, Shoojit Sircar has also taken up the mantle of backing quality projects as a producer, producing the much appreciated and well received (Bengali) features, *Aparajita Tumi* and *Open Tee Bioscope*

A strong script is the backbone of good films, some of the masterpieces such as *Udham Singh*, *Pink*, *Piku*, *Chichchore* and *Chehere*. It depicts how a film pans out and becomes its soul. However, not every script can leave a lasting mark on the audiences, and it goes beyond brilliant dialogue and intriguing concepts.

The craft of writing an engaging screenplay needs to be honed, and the session brings forth leading film personalities, both, from traditional and OTT cinema, to discuss how to write screenplays masterfully.



Vani Tripathi TIKOO

Vani Tripathi Tikoo, an Actor and a producer by profession is one of the youngest ever member of the Central Board of Film certification popularly known as "censor board". She's been a socio political activist and her campaigns and outreach programmes have focused on encouraging women's participation in politics and bringing the youth to a universal platform that addresses issues including education, empowerment and employment. She has been closely involved in theatre, films and television, having worked in projects in India as well as abroad. As an actor, she has about 50 plays, 40-odd TV serials and six films to her credit. She has worked in plays by legends like Anton Chekov, Peter Shaffer, Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams and several Indian playwrights. After graduating in political science from the Delhi University, she went to the Living theatre academy of drama and learnt acting under the guidance of the legendary theatre guru Ebrahim Alkazi. Her close links with theatre further manifesting in her founding country's first state run drama school in bhopal- MADHYA PRADESH NATYA VIDYALAYA – in Madhya Pradesh in 2011

She currently works closely for broadcasting with the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Govt. of India and was part of the Core steering committee for the International Film festival of India, Goa (IFFI) since the past four years.



Rumy JAFRY

A creative and trained filmmaker with 30 years of experience in script writing and film direction. Comes from a literary family from Bhopal. Since childhood had exposure to Hindi, Urdu poetry and literature. Has been doing theater from the age of 10, continues doing the same in Bombay. His father Mr Kausar Siddiqui, is a renowned Urdu and Persian writer. He is a national award winner; who has written over 40 books. He came to Mumbai in '86, since then has written 50+ Hindi films and has directed 3 films. Since then has worked with all the super stars of Bollywood. He is currently writing a film with Mr David Dhawan and Mr Boney Kapoor. As a Director, is to start a film with Mr Amitabh Bachchan and Priyanka Chopra. Many nominations to Film Fare and Screen Awards.



Pratiksha RAO

Pratiksha joined Netflix in 2018 to build and oversee Netflix's content licensing strategy in India across films, series, and kids & family. Her role was later expanded in early 2021 and today, she leads the original films team as well. In a film loving market like India with a rich history of cinema and storytelling, Pratiksha has championed the film strategy for Netflix in India. She has spearheaded deals with major local studios in bringing box office successes and audience favourite films to Netflix, while also building strong partnerships with leading Indian Filmmakers. In addition to building a slate of Hindi films, Rao has led Netflix's expansion into non Hindi language films including *The Disciple* (Marathi), *Jagame Thandhiram* (Tamil), and *Navarasa* (Tamil). Prior to Netflix, Pratiksha worked with Twitter where she led content partnerships in different APAC markets and NDTV where she first learnt visual storytelling.

Forging Paths for wider reach – Local Going Global

Moderator

Nyay Bhushan, Filmmaker & Industry consultant

Speakers

Pan Nalin, Producer & Director

S R Prabhu, Producer, Dream Warrior Pictures

Sunitha Tati, Producer

Nila Madhab Panda, Producer & Director

Moderator



Nyay BHUSHAN

With over three decades experience in participating in the globalization of the Indian entertainment industry, Nyay Bhushan is founder of Connectment Films. His credits include short films *Backdrop*, *The Saint*, *Stuck in Inner Traffic* and *Mango Shake*, which participated in Filmaka.com, a global digital platform pioneered by Hollywood producer Deepak Nayar. These four short films were also showcased in the inaugural online Bandra Film Festival 2021. Adding to his diversified portfolio, Nyay is an award-winning fine art photographer bagging over 30 honors at the IPA - International Photography Awards, PX3 - Prix de la Photographie Paris Awards and the Photography Masters Cup.

As an industry analyst, Nyay has tracked the entertainment business since the early nineties after co-founding Connect, India's first magazine on global entertainment. He has also contributed regularly as the first India correspondent for The Hollywood Reporter and Billboard for over two decades, covering all aspects of the Indian entertainment industry with a global perspective.

Speakers



Pan NALIN

Pan Nalin, award-winning filmmaker known for his innovative themes, and original cinematic styles, came into global limelight with *Samsara* (Miramax) a massive success worldwide, won thirty awards including Grand Jury Prize at AFI. Known for cult classics *Valley of Flowers* (Pandora Film), *Faith Connections* (TIFF Toronto), *Angry Indian Goddesses* (Mongrel / Netflix) Audience Award First RunnerUp Toronto and Audience Award, Rome Film Festival. Nalin recently completed a New Zealand – India coproduction *The Disappearance of Eva Hansen*, a spiritual thriller set in the Himalayas. *Last Film Show* (Shochiku / Samuel Goldwyn Films) is Nalin's latest movie that won the Best Picture Golden Spike Award at Seminci 66th Valladolid Film Festival Spain, Audience Award at Mill Valley California, and Audience Award First Runner-Up at Tribeca Film Festival NY. It has also been nominated for China's prestigious Tiantan Award, and it is slated for worldwide release in 2022.



S R PRABHU

S.R. Prabhu is one of the renowned and successful producers and distributors in Tamil cinema today who is conferred with National Award (Joker 2017). Prabhu is a partner in his production houses Dream Warrior Pictures (www.dwp.in) and Potential Studios, also the Vice President for Tamil Film Active Producers Association at the helm of affairs from 2020. Prabhu is a pioneer in OTT markets and early adaptor of Technology in all walks of business. Strongly believes that distribution is the backbone of this business and executes it with extreme planning.

Few Feathers on his cap are *Joker* (National Award), *Aruvi*, *NGK*, *Kaithi*, *Theeran*, *Raatchasi*, *Maya* and many more. His movies have been conferred with many regional and national awards. So far, he has produced 26 feature films with good box office records and a web series for OTT originals."

Vasudaiva Kutumbakam is the value imbibed in us, and as the word "glocal" has come into the mainstream, there is a need to forge pathways to let Indian content gain global acclaim! In the session, hear from India's film industry professionals, who have attained recognition around the globe for their craft.



Sunitha TATI

What others would call a job, comes as naturally as breathing to Sunitha Tati – the Art of Storytelling. A Telugu film producer, today, she makes movies under her own banner Guru Films, which is a South Indian Studio that tells stories globally.

Her story, however, began with her childhood in Vijayawada. After her schooling in JBM, Gandhinagar, at KBN college during her undergrad, she wrote a small note-to-self on the back of one of her notebooks – Win an Oscar. And from that day, it all fell into place – her immigration to the US with her family, her degree in business management from George Mason University and her PG course in film-making from New York University. Her recent Tollywood blockbuster hit *Oh Baby*, put her drive for unique storytelling on the big screen and made her a producer that everyone in the industry looks up to. Currently, she is producing 3 films this year – one that is being co-produced with Suresh Babu – directed by Sudheer Verma and starring Regina Cassandra and Nivetha Thomas, a Hollywood Production of an acquired popular book called *Arrangements of Love* by Timeri Murari, and another original motion picture called *13 Days*, which will all go on the floor by the end of this year.



Nila Madhab PANDA

Nila Madhab Panda is a unique filmmaker who has managed to create, a narrative of dense and critical insight into contemporary India and the psyche of its people in a short span of his career. He brings such experience to bear upon his exploration of contemporary, modern India, giving birth to unique visual poetry that is, at once, charming and thought provoking. For his achievements, he received one of the highest civilian honor "Padma Shri" in 2016, National Film Awards and was conferred with D.Litt. Honoris Causa in 2018, by Utkal Cultural University. Panda attained cult status with his maiden feature film, *I am Kalam* in the year 2010. Winning 34 international awards. His second feature film *Jalpari (Desert Mermaid)*, received the MIP Junior Award at Cannes. Later he directed *Babloo Happy Hai (Babloo is Happy)*, *Kaun Kitney Paani Mein (In Troubled Water)*, *Kadvi Hawa (Dark Wind)* – the story of winds received critical acclaim across the globe and then *Halkaa (Relief)*, about a child's dream to built a toilet for himself, traveled 32 international film festivals and won two Grand Prix awards in the international film circuit. His love for children continues with his new announcement of Hindi children feature film *Biswa* – which is already selected in 10 international film festivals across the world.

