

Work-in-Progress Lab 2021



Welcome to Film Bazaar Online

The Work-in-Progress (WIP) Lab 2021 was the second online-only edition of the Lab held from October 26 to November 17, 2021 with participants, mentors and the NFDC Film Bazaar team, all logging on from various places around the world, each from a different time-zone. Like the online WIP Lab 2020, this Lab too was a huge success and the participating filmmakers are now on their way to an almost finished edit for the NFDC Film Bazaar Online which is taking place from 20-25 November, 2021.

The WIP Lab gives selected filmmakers a chance to screen the rough cut of their films to an eminent panel of international advisors, which include a film festival director, a film critic, producers and editors. Selected filmmakers receive comprehensive one-on-one feedback on their films. The international editor assigned to the film then guides the Director and Editor of the selected film through multiple sessions of the Editing Lab. These advisors provide valuable feedback on the edit with the aim of helping the filmmaker achieve an accomplished final cut of the film. The Work-in-Progress Lab is open only for fiction features aiming for a theatrical release. A maximum of five films are selected for this Lab.

Since its inception in 2008, the Work-in-Progress at NFDC Film Bazaar has moulded films which have gone onto premiere at top international film festivals and receive critical acclaim.

Deepti DCunha has been the curator for the WIP Lab at NFDC Film Bazaar since 2011.

The details of the selected films for WIP Lab 2021 are available in this catalogue. The filmmakers are available for meetings at NFDC Film Bazaar Online.

We look forward to your support!

Work-in-Progress Lab Team





Work-in-Progress Lab

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Baghjan

Assamese, Moran

Synopsis

Fisherman Manab lives with his wife Bharabi in a small village, a fertile oil and gas field. One day, during oil extraction, a massive blast happens and the whole village catches fire. Bharabi dies in the fire. Manab can't take it. He feels that his wife is still alive, burning in the fire and trying to talk to him.

On the other hand, the affected people start living in relief camps. In the camp, Bimal is the only friend of Manab. Bimal feels he is responsible for the villager's sufferings, as he once welcomed the oil company to the village for his own benefit.

And Janeki, another affected woman, tries to protect her family. She pressures her husband Dharani not to stay in that village anymore and settle somewhere but doesn't know where to go.

Director's Statement

On 9th June 2020, the Baghjan oil well caught fire which had been leaking gas for 13 days. The fire quickly spread to a larger area and burned down nearby trees, crops and houses where several people were injured and four of them died afterward. The oil well was located near the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park in Assam, and is also in proximity to Maguri Motapung Beel, a natural wetland where the villagers used to survive by catching fish and doing other activities. I live in the same district and have tried to capture the images, and finally thought of a fiction film which was not so easy for me.

I feel and see that, in the name of progress of our modern human civilization, the general people and mother nature become victims every time. They suffer and our civilization grows! But we have to realise that if our mother is disturbed, how can we be at peace?

Jaicheng Zxai Dohutia
Director



Director

Jaicheng Zxai Dohutia

Producer(s)

Jaicheng Zxai Dohutia

Production Company

Mayamara

Writer

Jaicheng Zxai Dohutia

Director of Photography

Nihar Ranjan Gogoi
Jaicheng Zxai Dohutia

Lead Cast

Jadumoni Baruah, Sabita Borah, Monuj Borkotoky

Editor

Jaicheng Zxai Dohutia

Editor's Filmography

Haanduk, Jolsobi

Contact

Jaicheng Zxai Dohutia
Director & Producer
Mayamara
jaichengdohutia@gmail.com
+91 9435692040



Bailadila

Hindi, Chhattisgarhi

Synopsis

After his mother's death, Rinku (10) is sent off to live with his elder brother Jiten (23) in Bailadila. Jiten is a passionate artist struggling with a teaching job in a school. His student Dharmendra (11) befriends Rinku and together they explore the contours of Bailadila hills and its massive mining machinery. Rinku often falls at the receiving end of his brother's frustration, who is navigating between meeting up to his father's expectations and failing in his ambitions as an artist. Rinku is uninterested in preparing for the upcoming school entrance examination. Consequently, relations turn sour between him and Dharmendra. Jiten's friend Jonathan baits Rinku to help him in his sexual endeavours.

Rinku is exposed to guilt, lust, anger and agony and is left with a faded innocence. He tries patching up with Dharmendra before joining the new school.

Director's Statement

It was after decades that I visited the town of Bailadila. I had lived there for a couple of years myself as a young boy. The process of the film was refreshingly nostalgic. I ended up shooting at the exact location where I had stayed years ago. Shooting the idyllic mountains and the interiors of the Chhattisgarhi landscape in two different seasons was an adventure in itself. As the story revolves around a child, this film allowed me to explore innocence and tender ideas of young age, alongside subtle emotions at a very basic yet a deep level. The stoic imagery of the mining machinery contrasted well with the growing tension between the characters in the film.



Shailendra Sahu
Director

Director

Shailendra Sahu

Editor

Shiva Nagri

Producer(s)

Raju Biswas

Editor's Filmography

Cocrunda (Short Film)

Production Company

TOH21asia

Consulting Editor

Paramanand Kumar

Writer

Shailendra Sahu

Consulting Editor's Filmography

Aani Mani (Feature Film)

Aiz Maka Falea Tuka (Feature Film)

Director of Photography

Shailendra Sahu

Contact

Shailendra Sahu

Director

sahu.shailendra1@gmail.com

+91 7389093743

Lead Cast

Takshay Kumar Sona, Farrukh Seyer, Priyanka Verma, Ghanshyam Lalsa, Aditya, Saurabh Ananth



Ek Jagah Apni

A Space of Our Own

Hindi

Synopsis

Two trans women are looking for a house in a city. A search for a place to live but also a search for a place in this world and society that wants to keep them away in a section that cannot be the centre. As the two of them continue their search, we get a glimpse of their lives and ambitions, friendships and relationships that nurture each other.

The two are connected by gender but are different in outlook - one wants to try to fit in, while the other wants the mould which shapes us to change.

Their families' inability to accept their true gender adds another layer of issues that they have to contend with.

But with tenacity and grit, they work towards building their lives and also creating a community around them, where the search for home transcends a physical space.

Director's Statement

Ek Jagah Apni is set in the city of Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh, India) at the current time. It offers a glimpse into the lives of the transgender community in the city. It follows two protagonists' lives as they are looking for a house to rent. It shows the challenges they face in their daily lives, whether it is their workspace or other interactions. The prejudices of the wider society, when it comes to transgender people and the stereotypes that need to be overcome, the lack of understanding about their situation and the discrimination, exploitation and oppression they face through their lives is reflected. At the same time, their courage, resilience and humanity shines through the difficulties they face. The film casts many first time non-professional actors who play characters close to their lives which also helps shape the story and brings in an authenticity that blends fiction and reality.

Ektara Collective
Director

ektara
collective

Director

Ektara Collective

Producer(s)

Ektara Collective

Production Company

Ektara Collective

Writer

Rinchin
Avani
Muskan
Maheen Mirza

Director of Photography

Maheen Mirza

Lead Cast

Avani, Muskan, Akash Jhamra

Editor

Paramita Gosh

Editor's Filmography

A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings
Cargo
Sandeep aur Pinki Farar
Sitara
Uma

Sound

Priyanka Gaikwad
Sushil Kumar
Pushpa Verma
Priyanshu

Contact

Maheen Mirza
Cinematographer & Scriptwriter
tomaheen@gmail.com
ektaracollective@gmail.com
+91 9425019577



Follower

Marathi, Kannada, Hindi

Synopsis

In a small town riddled with regionalism and politics in Southern India lives Raghu (M, 26). He is a radicalized journalist who finds satisfaction in exposing the atrocities committed against his community. These are his beliefs and they, thus, must be true. They are reported as facts. Except they are not. They are just one side of the coin. When Raghu's half-truth is exposed in the public by his estranged socialist friend Sachin (M,25), he is left disillusioned. But now Raghu has come too far fighting for his beliefs. And he will stick to it even if it means perpetuating a lie.

Little does Raghu know that his lies can have far-reaching consequences. Raghu comes face to face with reality, forcing him to reflect back on a simpler time. A time when he was a man who had not yet succumbed to the identity crisis perpetuated by a divided society.

Director's Statement

The directionless and misguided youth in the current political and social environment of India is the primary inspiration behind making this film. Although the film is talking about a specific issue of a specific town in South India, it resonates with a culture of populism that is on a rise. In India, minority communities are looked upon as a threat. The mind-set towards immigrants is getting more and more hostile. *US vs THEM* has become the motto of every society and our story tries to encapsulate it.

This culture has polarized the country and divided it into extreme liberals and conservatives. The liberals are gagged or shot dead for raising their voices while the conservatives are made to believe that it is upon them to bring back the nation's lost glory. This story is an exploration of one such individual, his pursuit of identity and the hate that drives them.



Harshad Nalawade
Director

Director

Harshad Nalawade

Editor

Maulik Sharma

Producer(s)

Vinay Mishra
Saket Gyani
Maulik Sharma

Editor's Filmography

Overtime (web-series)
Aryan and Meera (web-series)
The Pickled Factory (web-series)
Home Stories (web-series)

Production Company

Humara Medialabs Pvt. Ltd.

Sound

Piyush Shah

Writer

Harshad Nalawade

Contact

Harshad Nalawade
Director
+91 7738658833
harshad.nalawade87@gmail.com

Director of Photography

Saket Gyani

Lead Cast

Raghavendra Basarimarad, Donna Munshi, Harshad Nalawade



Shivamma

Kannada

Synopsis

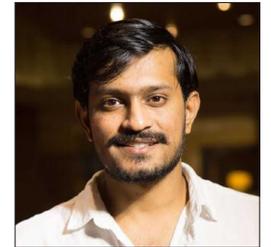
Shivamma, a school cook in a remote village in North Karnataka, firmly believes in a nutritional product after observing positive changes in her paralysed husband. She risks taking on more debts and investing everything in starting her own nutritional club in the village as a strategy to quickly quadruple her investment for her daughter's imminent wedding. This decision pushes her to an extremely critical situation when one of her customers suddenly dies. The whole village blames her for the death and decides to ban her club. Hence, Shivamma decides to sell her products in the neighbouring villages where only more humiliations and rejections await her.

When Shivamma's decisions turn her children's lives miserable, everybody starts blaming her business but Shivamma's resilient spirit doesn't stop her from hustling and moving forward.

Director's Statement

In a developing country like India, MLM and Chain schemes are huge businesses. Being born in a middle-class family, we were always approached with such different schemes. It was very easy to fall prey to these schemes for the bigger dreams and aspirations it showed us. After a few incidents around me, I was very keen on understanding the system deeper. What fascinated me the most was their strong determination and belief in the system even after everyone looked down upon these schemes. I started questioning and understanding their motto and drive and the result of all that is this film. This story is woven with my personal experiences and hence the film is shot in my own village. The artists are all non-professional actors who belong to the same village. I experimented with a hyper-real narrative style to capture the real essence of the place and people.

Jai Shankar
Director



Director

Jai Shankar

Producer(s)

Rishab Shetty

Production Company

Rishab Shetty Films

Writer

Jai Shankar

Director of Photography

Somyananda Sahi

Vikas Urs

Editor

Jai Shankar
Chandan CM

Editor's Filmography

Kathasangama

Sound

Shreyank Nanjappa

Contact

Jai Shankar
Director
jaishnkr15@gmail.com
+91 9739378245

Lead Cast

Sharanamma, Chennamma Abbigere, Shivu Gangotagi, Shruthi Kondenahalli, Shivanand Sadar, Chennappa Hansi

Work-In-Progress Lab Mentors

Philippa Campbell

Philippa is an Emmy, Golden Globe and PGA award nominee as the producer of both seasons of Jane Campion's international hit television series *Top of the Lake* starring Elisabeth Moss. A leading producer from Aotearoa New Zealand, she has worked with, among others, directors Christine Jeffs, Toa Fraser, Jonathan King, Florian Habicht and Jackie Van Beek. Her features have premiered and won awards at major festivals including Cannes, Berlin, Sundance and Toronto, and have been distributed in key territories. Philippa consults for International screen agencies and development initiatives including NFDC's Work-in-Progress Lab and Script to Screen's Story Camp. She has co-productions with the UK and Australia in development and is in post production with Loren Taylor's (*Eagle Vs Shark*) debut feature film *Going Going*.



Derek Malcolm

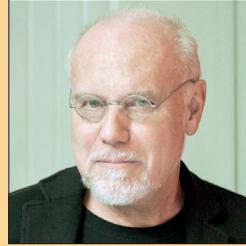
Derek Malcolm is a film critic with the Huffington Post. The Huffington Post is an entirely online American and British news aggregator and blog. It has a massive readership all over the world, including India. Derek has an illustrious background in film journalism and criticism, and he covers festivals 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 1980's 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 Derek left in 2015 to join Huffington Post.



Work-In-Progress Lab Mentors

Marco Müller

Film critic and historian, director and writer of documentaries about cinema, Marco Müller is the Director of the Film Art Research Centre at the Shanghai University (where he also teaches Film Curating and Programming/Film Production/Film Architecture). He started working in 1978 as a festival programmer in Italy (Consultant for Asian cinema at the Venice Film Festival from 1981 to 1995). He created the Ombre Elettriche (Electric Shadows) Festival in Turin (1981). Subsequently he was the director of the festivals of Pesaro (1982-1989), Rotterdam (1989- 1991) and Locarno (1992-2000), Venice Film Festival (2004-2011) and Rome Film Festival (2012-2014). After one year of head-programming festivals in Mainland China (Beijing IFF, Fuzhou Silk Road IFF), he directed until November 2016 the 1st Macau International Film Festival and Awards. He was through 2017-2020 the artistic director of PYIFF - Pingyao Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon International Film Festival, the festival the celebrated director Jia Zhangke and him have created together. After taking care of PYIFF's international selection in 2021, he has now embarked on new festival projects in Shanghai and other Chinese cities. In his parallel career as a film-producer, Müller has produced and co-produced 11 features that include award-winning movies (Academy Award for Best Foreign Film, top-tier honours in Cannes, Venice and other major festivals) from Russia, Central Asia, Bosnia, China, Turkey, Iran and Brazil. He has also produced short films and documentaries. He has written and edited several books about Indian cinema and filmmakers, programmed Indian films and monographic retrospectives about Indian films and filmmakers for all the festivals he has directed. For his contribution to the international promotion of non-western cinema, he has received the top honours granted to foreign citizens for cultural merits by nine different Asian governments and foundations.



Olivia Stewart

Olivia Stewart's films as Producer or as a Mentor/Screenplay and Editing Advisor include *The Long Day Closes*, *The Neon Bible*, *The House Of Mirth*, *Brassed Off*, *The Browning Version*, *Velvet Goldmine*, *Titli*, *Chauthi Koot (Fourth Direction)*, *Juze*, *Village Rockstars*, *Eeb Allay Ooo!*, *Silent Roar*. Since 2014 her work, as Co-Trustee of the PJLF Arts Fund, also includes the Eye Prize with the Eye Film Museum Amsterdam; the PJLF Pangolin Sculpture Scholarship, PJLF Three Rivers Writing and Editing Residencies and workshops in India, Italy and Paris. In 2018, she curated an exhibition of the Photographs of Joan Leigh Fermor at the Benaki Museum in Athens and co-authored the Monograph/catalogue: *The Photographs of Joan Leigh Fermor*. From 2016-2019, she was the Director of BellRock's Script and Directing Workshops backed by Creative Scotland. She has been a Jury member for the Locarno, Fajr, Asiatica, San Sebastian Film Festivals, and is a member of AMPAS, BAFTA and EFA.



Work-In-Progress Lab Mentors

Jacques Comets



Jacques Comets has edited, among others, the films of Bernard Stora, Laurent Heynemenn, 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 and Frederic Guillaume. He has also co-edited or supervised the editing of feature films in Morocco (Narjiss Nejjar), Colombia (Maria Gamboa, Ruben Mendonza), Lebanon (Lamia Joreige), Switzerland (Jacob Berger, Germinal Roaux), Brazil (Beatriz Seigner) and Vietnam (Nguyen Hoang Diep). He has also edited Rohena Gera's film *Sir*. He is credited as a Creative Producer and Supervisor Editor on Miransha Naik's film *Juze*, Supervisor Editor on Rima Das' film *Village Rockstars* and on Prateek Vats's film *Eeb Allay Ooo!*. He headed the editing department of La Femis - the French National Film School - until July 2018. He was a part of many seminars, workshops and juries in film schools and universities in Switzerland, Chile, Cuba, Tunisia, Morocco, Albania, Iran, India (Goa, Dharamshala and Kerala) and Lebanon.

Marie-Pierre Duhamel



Graduated in Chinese studies and Cinema studies in Paris Universities, and after years spent distributing films in the French noncommercial cultural network, Marie-Pierre worked as a production manager for public television La Sept/Arte, before joining production company Pathé as a producer. She teaches in film and art schools both in France and abroad, including Paris' Fémis and Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. At Paris National Film School Fémis, she is part of the Editing Department teaching staff. She also worked as an editor and editing consultant for both fiction and documentary films, mainly from China and South-east Asia. She was a programmer for Locarno IFF and a member of the selection committee for Venice Mostra del Cinema and Roma IFF (2005-2014). She headed the film festival Cinéma du Réel - Centre Pompidou, 2004-2008. She is part of the team of the Pingyao Film Festival (China) headed by Chinese filmmaker Jia Zhangke. She curates retrospectives, film programs, workshops and tributes in France and abroad, and writes for various cinema publications, while continuing being an editor, editing consultant and film translator.

Work-In-Progress Lab Mentors

Lizi Gelber

Lizi Gelber was raised in Italy by American parents, and completed her education at Columbia University in NYC. She returned to Rome where she started working in film editing on feature films such as *Once Upon a Time in America* by Sergio Leone and participated in a prolific moment of filmmaking at Cinecittà. She then worked on feature films in Los Angeles for many years. She is grateful to have worked with many talented directors such as Roman Polanski, Michael Cimino, Robert Altman, Paul Schrader and Roland Joffé. She moved to Paris after meeting her French husband on a film in Zimbabwe, and became interested in the challenges of feature-length documentaries, which combined her love of drama and storytelling with her concern for social issues. When Jonathan Demme spent a year in Paris shooting a feature, she edited and associate produced his documentary *The Agronomist*. She was also at the origin of *Sacro Gra*, Gianfranco Rosi's documentary which won the Golden Lion in 2014. She has continued to edit both feature films and documentaries, often supervising and helping to find solutions for problematic narratives.



