



2023  
**VIEWING ROOM**



**NFDC**  
cinemas of india



## MESSAGE



It brings me great joy to extend a hearty welcome to all of you at the 17th edition of the NFDC Film Bazaar, an event that has etched its name in the annals of the Indian Film Industry as a crucible of creativity, collaboration, and cinematic innovation.

Over the years, the Film Bazaar has excelled in connecting the global filmmaking industry while making a substantial impact on our creative economy. With a steadfast focus on discovering, nurturing, and showcasing South Asian content, the Bazaar has established itself as a pulsating hub for filmmakers, producers, distributors, and industry stalwarts from across the world. In its essence, this unique platform mirrors India's youthful energy and dynamism in the realm of creativity. The vibrancy and innovation that emanate from these emerging filmmakers exemplify India's dynamic cultural landscape, and the Bazaar provides a stage for these burgeoning talents to shine.

In its 17th edition, the Film Bazaar has meticulously curated and showcased a diverse selection of over 300 international film projects, offering opportunities for production, distribution, and sales. The bazaar has also broadened its horizons featuring exciting new pavilions and stalls representing film commissions, multiple states, production houses, institutions, and more. It also includes a "Knowledge Series" designed for talented filmmakers and a "Book to Box Office" section catering to creative authors.

India's increasing participation in major film festivals across the world showcases our nation's ability to resonate with global audiences and reinforces the universal appeal of Indian storytelling. This resonance is, in part, attributed to platforms like the Film Bazaar, which play a significant role in connecting Indian filmmakers with the international industry. Films originating from India are now embraced and celebrated on international platforms, not only for their artistic brilliance but also for the unique perspectives they bring to the global cinematic discourse.

Further fortifying our creative industry are the policies and initiatives that have been set in motion, such as co-production incentives, a focused approach on animation and VFX, and the creation of Indian intellectual properties. These measures not only strengthen our creative sector but also re-establish India's position as a global exporter of culture and universal values.

As we navigate through the vibrant offerings of NFDC Film Bazaar 2023, let us celebrate not only the films themselves but also the collective spirit that unites us in this creative endeavour.

I extend my heartfelt wishes to all participants, organisers, and creative minds involved in crafting this spectacular event.

**Shri. Anurag Singh Thakur**  
Hon'ble Union Minister of Information &  
Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports  
Government of India





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## MESSAGE



The 17th edition of the NFDC Film Bazaar is poised to be an unparalleled hub of creativity and collaboration, with dedicated pavilions showcasing the cutting-edge world of Visual Effects (VFX) and technology. These showcases are set to redefine the boundaries of storytelling, underscoring the dynamic and ever-evolving nature of the film industry.

We take immense pride in introducing the 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow initiative, a testament to our commitment to nurturing young talents in various facets of filmmaking. These budding creatives will participate in an exhilarating film challenge, pushing their creative boundaries in an intense 48-hour sprint of ideation, execution, and storytelling.

In the spirit of inclusivity, IFFI 2023 is dedicated to ensuring accessibility for all delegates. Specially-abled individuals will enjoy enhanced viewing experiences, with embedded audio descriptions and sign language support, ensuring that the magic of cinema is truly inclusive. Furthermore, the introduction of multiple language dubbing opens up new avenues for enjoyment, transcending linguistic barriers.

The inclusion of a VFX and Tech Pavilion marks a significant step towards showcasing India's prowess in visual effects, a field that continues to redefine cinematic storytelling. This addition is a testament to the Bazaar's commitment to staying at the forefront of industry trends.

I am also pleased to witness the continued partnership with various film commissions and states, highlighting the wealth of locations and incentives offered for filmmaking. This collaborative effort is pivotal in creating a conducive environment for filmmakers.

As we embark on this cinematic odyssey, let us not only celebrate the art of storytelling but also revel in the rich tapestry of cultural diversity that unites us all. The IFFI Cine-mela, Gala Premiers, and a myriad of other attractions promise to make this festival an unforgettable experience for attendees and visitors alike.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all the stakeholders, partners, and participants who have poured their passion and dedication into making IFFI 2023 a reality. Together, we shall craft an unforgettable celebration of cinema, leaving an indelible mark far beyond the sun-kissed shores of Goa.

**Shri. Apurva Chandra**  
Secretary

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
Government of India





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## MESSAGE



It is with immense pleasure that I extend my heartfelt greetings to the participants, industry leaders, and creative minds at the 17th edition of the NFDC Film Bazaar. This edition of South Asia's largest film market, Film Bazaar, which is the business segment of the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), encourages creative and financial collaborations between the South Asian and International film fraternities. Over the years, this platform has nurtured filmmakers, industry professionals and buyers and sellers by providing them access to the best in Indian and international opportunities.

In alignment with global markets, this year's Film Bazaar has expanded its scope of the country, state and industry pavilions, enabling them to showcase locations, incentives and services to film makers from across the world. It is a wonderful opportunity for diverse stakeholders to network and draw synergies. This year, the new VFX & Tech Pavilion will help filmmakers explore the world of Visual Effects (VFX), which is now an integral element of contemporary filmmaking. I am sure that other sections like Book to Box Office, Co-production

Market, Knowledge Series, etc. will be as useful to the delegates. The panel discussions, workshops and networking sessions will further encourage filmmakers and practitioners to access the best of financial resources and knowledge.

I use this opportunity to send a warm welcome to all the delegates and filmmakers. I also thank the organisers for providing a platform that is unique in the South Asian region.

**Smt. Neerja Shekhar**

Additional Secretary

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Government of India





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## FOREWORD



Dear Esteemed Guests, Filmmakers, Distributors, and Industry Professionals,

Welcome to this 17th Edition of the NFDC Film Bazaar, a place where the magic of cinema comes to life. As the Market Director, I am thrilled to host this vibrant hub of creativity, collaboration, and commerce. The Film Market is a unique opportunity to connect with the heartbeat of the industry, discover the next big thing, and forge valuable partnerships.

In the ever-evolving world of filmmaking, the Film Bazaar team has tried to curate a market which will help in bringing together the finest talents, the boldest ideas, and the most innovative technologies. We are here to celebrate the art of storytelling, the craftsmanship of filmmaking, and the spirit of innovation that drives our industry forward. This year, our focus turns to the world of Visual Effects (VFX), an integral element of contemporary filmmaking. A newly curated in Film Bazaar 2023, the “VFX & Tech Pavilion”, is to make the film makers explore the possibilities

of story telling by not just “taking the shot”, but also by “creating the shot”.

Our goal is to provide a dynamic platform for networking, deal-making, and showcasing the latest trends in international cinema. Whether you are a filmmaker looking to find the perfect distributor, a producer seeking the next ground-breaking project, or a distributor on the hunt for the next blockbuster, this is the place to be.

We have curated a rich and diverse selection of films, from thought-provoking independent productions to big-budget blockbusters. The films in our lineup represent the full spectrum of human emotions, from laughter to tears, from excitement to reflection. We believe in the power of cinema to entertain, educate, and inspire.

The Co-Production Market will have 12 additional documentary projects apart from its 20 international feature film projects. For the 17th Edition this year, we received 142 projects from 19 countries featuring a diverse range of 27 languages.

The Work-in-Progress Lab will have Documentary & Animation Film projects besides feature film projects. The Screenwriters’ Lab and Producers’ Workshop verticals have also been scaled up. These indispensable pillars of the Bazaar, each fostering collaborations and serving as a launchpad for innovative projects, have been curated through eminent jury and expert mentors from international project applications received, which have been substantially higher than the last year.

Combined 190 submissions have been received for Viewing Room and WIP Lab. A total of 10 projects have been shortlisted for the Lab and 10 films from the Viewing Room submissions have been selected for Film Bazaar Recommends (FBR).

This year, Book To Box Office has partnered with 'The Story Ink', - India's Largest Book to Screen Adaptation Company, with the objective is to provide creative authors a platform to submit their work and introduce these stories to our producers and content creators.

In addition to the films themselves, our Market offers a plethora of industry insights through this years 'Knowledge Series' comprising of panel discussions, workshops, pitching, and networking events. These opportunities are designed to foster collaboration and empower you with the knowledge needed to thrive in this ever-changing landscape.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the filmmakers, producers, and distributors who have entrusted us with their creations. Your hard work and dedication to the craft are what make this Market a true treasure trove of cinematic experiences. To our industry partners, we thank you for your continued support in making the dreams of these filmmakers a reality.

To our guests, I encourage you to seize this opportunity to connect, explore, and engage. The Film Market is a place where careers are launched, and where deals are sealed. Your participation in this event is not just a transaction; it's an investment in the future of storytelling.

As we navigate the bustling aisles, attend screenings, and engage in stimulating discussions, let's remember the essence of why we are all here—to celebrate the art of filmmaking, to push boundaries, and to bring stories to life.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. Here's to a successful and enriching Film Bazaar, 2023 for all. Let's make magic happen!

**Prithul Kumar**  
Market Director, Film Bazaar - 2023



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NETFLIX

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CONTENT INDIA SHOW • MUMBAI  
17 - 19 October 2024  
Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai

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## Welcome to Viewing Room at NFDC Film Bazaar 2023

The Viewing Room (VR) was introduced in the 2011 edition of NFDC Film Bazaar. The aim of the Viewing Room is to present Indian and South Asian films that are recently completed or in the final stages of editing and post production to buyers, film programmers, distributors, world sales agents and investors attending Film Bazaar. It uses software that has been exclusively designed for this purpose.

NFDC Film Bazaar pivoted successfully online for the first time in January 2021. The Viewing Room software was available to be viewed worldwide 24/7 by film professionals on their individual computers, which resulted in a huge increase of film views. NFDC Film Bazaar also achieved a 100% safety record for all the films presented via the Viewing Room software.

The Viewing Room is a highly restricted zone, where the first level of filter is via NFDC granting access to a delegate based on their Market Guide profile that should clearly be aligned to the function of a 'Buyer' i.e. someone who is attending the Film Bazaar with the intention of sourcing content for their company, festival, platform etc. These delegates are given 'VR Access' indicated by a Play Button Icon ( ) on their badge. The filmmakers are further invited to decide who, from the VR Access list, would be further given access to watch their films. The aim is to ensure that the filmmaker is always comfortable and confident about presenting their films which are usually in a stage of progress to a professional online market.

Delegates with 'VR Access' can watch the films or film excerpts on the VR Software by using pre-designed filters to sort films by criteria of length, premiere status, completion status etc. They can directly contact the director or producer of the film through this software.

This VR catalogue also contains the details of all the films playing in the Viewing Room software this year. A delegate can choose which film to watch on the software by shortlisting titles from this catalogue.

A delegate without 'VR access' can also reach out to filmmakers via information given in this catalogue. This catalogue will be available on the NFDC Film Bazaar website in the Archive section post Film Bazaar.

A total of 190 films will be presented in the Viewing Room this year, including a section on Restored Classics.

The films presented are seeking finishing funds, world sales, distribution partners and selection in film festivals. This catalogue contains information on these films divided into four main categories –

### **Film Bazaar Recommends (FBR) – Features and Mid-Length –**

Film Bazaar Recommends – Features and Film Bazaar Recommends Mid-Length, as the names suggest, is a curated section of films selected from the total feature film and mid-length film submissions to Viewing Room. FBR films in Viewing Room are looking for either or all of the three main criteria i.e. Finishing Funds, Distribution & Sales and Film Festivals. These films are absolutely new; most are works in progress, unreleased and are yet to have their world premiere at any film festival. Most of the films in this section are having their first market screening at this Film Bazaar. This year we have 12 feature films in the FBR section. The FBR section is curated by Jitin Hingorani, Head of Programming, Film Bazaar 2023.

The Film Pitches of the directors and producers of these films are presented at Knowledge Series at the 'FBR Pitch'.

### **Film Bazaar Recommends (FBR) – Shorts –**

This is the second year of Film Bazaar Recommends – Shorts (FBR/S) which is a curated section of shorts from the total short film submissions to Viewing Room. There are six (6) short films in this section. The Film Pitches of the directors and producers of these films are presented at Knowledge Series at the 'FBR Pitch'. The FBR shorts section is curated by Arkava Banerjee, Senior Programmer, Viewing Room & Work-In-Progress Lab.

### **Film Library (FL) –**

All feature length submissions to the Viewing Room are showcased in a section called Film Library (FL), which includes both Fiction and Documentary Features. This year we have 165 films in the Film Library Section.

We hope you return to this catalogue at different times across the year to get in touch with various filmmakers to either invest in their films or source films for your festival, market, company or platform. Happy Viewing!

#### **Jitin Hingorani**

Head of Programming (Film Bazaar 2023), Viewing Room & Work-in-Progress Lab Curator, FBR Features & Mid-Length Curator

#### **Arkava Banerjee**

Sr. Programmer, Viewing Room & Work-in-Progress Lab, FBR Shorts Curator



## Film Bazaar Recommends

Anu	21
Ammraa	23
Dammam	25
Giddh	27
Gopi	29
Iron Women of Manipur	31
Ladakh 470	33
Lasya - The Documentary	35
Putul Nacher Itikatha	37
Rehearsal for a Funeral	39
Return of the Jungle	41
Roti Koon Banasi	43
Safarnama	45
The Exile	47
The Gift	49

Tuesday's Women	51
Vaghachipani	53
Waste Side Story	55
Where do we go from here	57
Where My Grandma Lives	59

## Film Library

1 Museum of Rape Threats	60
251	61
A Broke N Story	62
Aaighali Kutri	63
Aajoor	64
Adim	65
Ajoli - Whispers of Womanhood	66
Alakshye Ritwik	67

Appendix	<b>68</b>
Aribam Syam Sharma – Laparoscopic Cinemascesapes	<b>69</b>
Automagic	<b>70</b>
Avani	<b>71</b>
Avoidable Scar	<b>72</b>
Ayesha	<b>73</b>
B-One Twentyeight One	<b>74</b>
Back To The Future	<b>75</b>
Bal Naren	<b>76</b>
Banwari Ki Amma	<b>77</b>
Bayaar	<b>78</b>
Be-Qayaam	<b>79</b>
Bharti	<b>80</b>
Bijoyar Pore	<b>81</b>
Bodh	<b>82</b>

Breaking The Barriers – India’s Race To Glory	<b>83</b>
Breakking Barrier	<b>84</b>
Broken Wall	<b>85</b>
Bus No. 7	<b>86</b>
Butterfly	<b>87</b>
Chidiyaa Udd	<b>88</b>
Chinchi	<b>89</b>
Cineman	<b>90</b>
Dare To Dream	<b>91</b>
Darkaak	<b>92</b>
Dhatura	<b>93</b>
Dhool	<b>94</b>
Discovering Devika	<b>95</b>
Don’t Tell Mother	<b>96</b>
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Now And Then	<b>97</b>

Dushu	<b>98</b>
EBB	<b>99</b>
Ek Din Toori O Jana	<b>100</b>
Ek Kaalpnik Aurak Kaa Udaas Khwaab	<b>101</b>
Entanglement	<b>102</b>
Epitaph	<b>103</b>
Ghich Pich	<b>104</b>
Ghor	<b>105</b>
Giraki	<b>106</b>
Global Aadgaon	<b>107</b>
Grandmother	<b>108</b>
Haklu	<b>109</b>
Halves	<b>110</b>
Hari-Om	<b>111</b>
Hashtag Home	<b>112</b>

Hiraeth	<b>113</b>
Hyderabad Nights	<b>114</b>
Inland	<b>115</b>
It's All In Your Head	<b>116</b>
Ithiri Neram	<b>117</b>
Jananam 1947 Pranayam Thudarunnu	<b>118</b>
Jannal Pookal	<b>119</b>
Jhanjharpur	<b>120</b>
Ji Ben Daa	<b>121</b>
Jo Reh Gaye	<b>122</b>
Johnny Phd – Tass Part II	<b>123</b>
Joote	<b>124</b>
Jooyein	<b>125</b>
Kaansya	<b>126</b>
Kaaye Rajju	<b>127</b>

Kadalaama	128
Kal	129
Kanaphusi	130
Karikanu Guddada Mele Ondu Adhika Prasanga	131
Kodai Kaala Kaatre	132
Kottukkaali	133
Kuch Sapney Apne	134
Laal Pari - A Road Fairy	135
Letters Unwritten To Naiyer Masud	136
Ma	137
Maachh	138
Main Hoon Lallu Singh	139
Mann Behka	140
Manu	141
Mau The Spirit Dreams of Cheraw	142

Meloncholy	143
Men In Blue	144
Mikka Bannada Hakki	145
Milan Hoga Kab Jaane	146
Moi Eti Nixhasor	147
Mwnabili	148
My Search For Dalai Lama A.k.a Compassion	149
Nam Saali	150
Nanda Master'nka Chatasali	151
Napaak	152
Neela Nira Sooriyan	153
Nellier Kotha	154
Nightmares I Cannot Explain Part One It And The Other	155
Nukkad Naatak	156

Nyakra	157
Nybreum - The Unsettled Shade	158
O Abhagi	159
Occupied	160
Pachola Kadambariwar Adharit	161
Padmashri Professor Waman Kendre	162
Palama Do You See Me	163
Papa Ko Pani Se Dar Lagta Hai	164
Parijaat	165
Parjya	166
Part 2 Side B	167
Pichchar	168
Ponna Kadathu	169
Prashant Ke Kuch Khwaab	170
Punarvasu	171

Punch Me Hard	172
Qandeel	173
Rechan	174
River In The Rain	175
River Tales	176
Roojh	177
Ruma Devi - The Crusader	178
Ruthupavanalu	179
Second Chance	180
Seven Lives of Slumber	181
Shakota Dulche	182
Shambhala	183
Shavagalu	184
Shawlwala	185
Shirshak-Heen	186
Shuddhi	187

Shwaas	188	The Counterpart	203
Signal Man - 1971	189	The Curse	204
Somantoral	190	The First Film	205
Srishti	191	The Girl Who Lived In The Loo	206
Strange Destiny	192	The Investigator	207
Svyatoi Archipelag	193	The Journey of ISRO	208
Swaha	194	The Man And The Monkey	209
Synaesthesia	195	The Rabbit House	210
Tale of Two Indians	196	The Steering	211
Tara & Akash Love Beyond Realms	197	The Story of A Casteist	212
Tass - Part I	198	The Super Dad	213
Technical Teacher	199	The Way Back Home	214
Tenzing Bodosa - A Story of A Tribal Entrepreneur	200	The Woodcutter - Gos Kota Manuh	215
The Art of Revolution	201	Theatre	216
The Broken Mirror	202	Thou Shalt Not Steel	217
		Tiger Army	218

---

Tingl Belku	<b>219</b>
Touched As Water	<b>220</b>
Ullarivu	<b>221</b>
Ullozhukku	<b>222</b>
Unfinished Story	<b>223</b>
Ustaad Anwar Khan Manganiyar	<b>224</b>
Vairadaya	<b>225</b>
Vanjeevi	<b>226</b>

---

## **Restored Classics**

---

Charulata	<b>227</b>
Jai Baba Felunath	<b>228</b>
Mirza Ghalib	<b>229</b>
Nadiya Ke Paar	<b>230</b>
Sargam	<b>231</b>
Disclaimer	<b>232</b>

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FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
**SHORT**

Awaiting World Premiere

## Anu

Hindi, English, Maori | New Zealand, India

Fiction | 14 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2023



When a recent widow moves from New Zealand to India, she clings on to the vestiges of the partner she lost almost a year ago. But a faraway crisis forces her to confront her grief with an ordinary ritual in an extraordinary circumstance: quarantine.

**Contact**

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Looking for  
Sales & Distribution  
Film Festivals



FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
FEATURE

Awating World Premiere

## Ammraa

We Are

Bengali | India

Documentary | 95 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2024



A tenderly observed documentary about a children's theater group in a remote Bengal village. In following the group and its dedicated leader over the course of seven days leading up to the big play, we get curious glimpses into Bengali village life and the colorful characters that endow it with a spirit of play. They stay together with free thinking, engaged together in drama, dance-song, colors, puppets & masks. This group of children creates a rainbow in seven days with their fun, joy and happiness.

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Looking for  
Gap Financing/Finishing Funds/P&A Funds  
Sales & Distribution  
Film Festivals



FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
FEATURE

Awaiting World Premiere

## Dammam

### Rhythm of Dammam

Konkani | India, USA

Fiction | 105 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



Jayaram Siddi, a twelve-year-old boy in Uttara Kannada, is possessed by the spirit of his late grandfather, Rama Bantu Siddi. Despite seeking help from local black magicians, his condition remains unchanged. Jayaram escapes into a dream world, using magical instruments from his grandfather to connect with his ancestors. However, he becomes overwhelmed by the agonizing history of his ancestors' chattel slavery, losing touch with reality. Dropping out of school, Jayaram's family strives to restore his balance by embracing tribal rituals and Dammam music, vital to their cultural heritage. The film delves into Jayaram's struggle with intergenerational trauma, emphasizing the challenges faced by him and his family in finding healing and stability.

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**Producer(s)** Jayan Cherian



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FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
**SHORT**

**Giddh**

The Scavenger

Hindi | India

Fiction | 25 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2023



An old man is struggling to make ends meet. He fails to save his dying son, with just a few Rupees in his pocket, he can afford either medicine or food, but not both. Work is hard to come by, and the emaciated old man doesn't appear to be a capable laborer. Things are grim until he stumbles upon an unlikely means of survival, but it comes at a cost. He must put his conscience at stake for just a few morsels. A calamity strikes, and the old man can benefit from it. Helplessness and desperation don't distinguish right from wrong, but isn't right and wrong subjective? An internal struggle ensues, and soon hunger collides with guilt. With the food on his plate at stake, what will weigh heavier: his hunger or his guilt?

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**Producer(s)** Radhika Lavu



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Film Festivals



FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
**SHORT**

## Gopi

Kannada | India

Documentary | 14 mins

Tentative Completion Date May 2022



Gopi Siddi is a middle-aged storyteller who identifies herself with the Siddi community (African Diaspora in South India). Inspired by the oral form of storytelling, Gopi desires to get her stories self published; however, she must first face her battles with alienation, social standing, and environmental catastrophe. The plight of a master storyteller brings several overarching human emotions together into one character. As an outsider, I could see the distance between social classes that often cannot be ignored. Though Siddis have lived in India for centuries, their social status has made acceptance into mainstream Indian culture nearly impossible.

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Looking for  
Sales & Distribution  
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한국가스공사

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안양 <sup>안양시</sup> 트튼병원  
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국가대표 보일러:  
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척추·관절 네트워크

FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
**SHORT**

## Iron Women of Manipur

| India

Documentary | 26 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2022



This film is a tribute to the sports personalities of this country who have contributed tremendously to the development of women in sports. The inspiring stories of these women weightlifting pioneers, Kunjarani Devi (Padmashri Awardee, 2011), Anita Chanu (Dhyanchand Awardee), and Mirabai Chanu (Padmashri Awardee, 2018, and Silver Medalist at Tokyo Olympics 2020), have inspired a whole generation of Indian athletes and the country, as a whole.

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Looking for  
Sales & Distribution  
Film Festivals



KARGIL  
VIJAY  
RUN

FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
MID-LENGTH

Awaiting World Premiere

## Ladakh 470

Hindi, English | India

Documentary | 38 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2023



Sufiya- Runner from Ajmer, Rajasthan, an ultrarunner with five Guinness world running records is gearing up for her most ambitious endeavor - a marathon no one has ever undertaken. She plans to run 470 kilometers at 11,000 ft plus altitude from Siachen base camp to Kargil war memorial in 7 days to honor all Indian army battle heroes of the Kargil war. As she runs through terrain upto 17980 feet, Sufiya's coach, her partner and the Indian army are all working hard to help her achieve her goal. She and her Sufi mindset make this run one meditative experience for herself and she crosses the finish line.

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FEATURE

Awaiting World Premiere

## Lasya - The Documentary

English , Hindi | India, Thailand

Documentary | 84 mins

Tentative Completion Date September 2023



Lasya, the documentary tracks the journey of a 21-year-old boy from Agra, India – Surya – who takes the decision to get his sex realignment surgery done to become a girl – Lasya. The surgery which is an inversion of the male reproductive organ is one of the toughest surgeries to go through. While Lasya has made up her mind, the next three years are about the emotional, psychological, physical, familial and mental impact of surgery of this proportion. Through the next 3 years, it becomes clear that Lasya's need to be seen as a woman is a battle she has with her family and the society at large

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FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
FEATURE

Awaiting World Premiere

## Putul Nacher Itikatha

A Puppet's Tale

Bengali | India

Fiction | 133 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2023



Sashi, a doctor, returns to his village but desperately wants to leave. Sashi's father, Gopal, wants him to settle down. Kusum, a married woman, flirts with the doctor, but Sashi is a pessimist thirsting for intellectual romance that can only be found in deeper wells of culture. Sashi stands in opposition to Jadav's hermetic way, but he mutely witnesses how the prediction of one's own death becomes a cause for public celebration. Sashi's options to leave the village no longer seem viable.

### Contact

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## Rehearsal for a Funeral

Konkani, English | India

Fiction | 70 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2024

Rehearsals for a local play are underway in a village in Goa. Joe, an aspiring actor, seeks out his dream role, while the director, Francisca, has other plans in mind. She has one role that no one is ready to take: the role of the dead body in the coffin at the climax. Thinking Joe is soft and easy to manipulate, Francisca and other cast members corner him into the role. Despite his anxieties and superstitions about the role, Joe reluctantly agrees. On the day of the show, Joe finds himself overcome with anxiety while laying in the coffin while he is still alive. He absconds from the theatre at the last minute. With the success of her show hanging by a thread, Francisca embarks on a chaotic chase across the village. She tries at all costs to bring Joe back, meeting a comedic cast of characters along the way.

### Contact

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FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
FEATURE

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## Return of the Jungle

Hindi | India

Animation | 105 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



Nine-year-old Mihir and his friends are faced with the daunting task of outwitting the biggest, meanest bully in school- Rahul Malhotra. To help them ride through this challenging journey, they have the coolest grandpa in town-Thatha and his fantastic tales of inspiration from the ancient jungles of India! Together, they must build a ruthless dinosaur, engage in a nerve-racking game of cricket, and travel all the way to Rajasthan to rediscover the power of friendship, compassion, and determination. Return of the Jungle is a contemporary Indian animation-like never seen before! As an inspiring family entertainer, it is hugely nostalgic, relatable, & local.

### Contact

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FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
**SHORT**

Awating World Premiere

## Roti Koon Banasi

Who will bake the bread

Marwari | India

Fiction | 25 mins

Tentative Completion Date September 2023



Set in a rural household in Rajasthan, *Who Will Bake the Bread?* is a film about Santosh. Santosh, a husband to Roopa and an elder son to Ranjeet, is a character trapped in the conventional ideas of patriarchy and masculinity. He's constantly reminded of his failures and unworthiness by his father. Contrary to his father's belief system of keeping women housebound, he wishes to encourage his wife, Roopa, to go for her last chance at a government job exam. The film explores the ideas of hundreds of years of patriarchy and how they propagate from one generation to another through a father-son relationship. The film is a forthright portrayal of the everyday struggles of women in Rajasthan as well as the whole of society, raising concerns about inequality, wrongful ideas of manhood, and the various sections where men and women are both oppressed due to patriarchal practices.

### Contact

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FEATURE

Awaiting World Premiere

## Safarnama

### The Invisible Wayfarers

Bengali, Hindi | India

Documentary | 70 mins

Tentative Completion Date March 2024



An annual pilgrimage in which thousands of marginal Sufi followers walk for thirteen days through the rough terrains of north India to reach the abode of their patron saint. Through the eyes of a disabled biker, a wistful cook, a jumpy mechanic, a mendicant tramp, and other fellow travelers a syncretic journey of love, faith and amity gets unfurled. The marching followers traverse over four hundred kilometers from Delhi to Ajmer, carrying standards, chanting and walking in tableaux throughout the day and camping on the roadside during the night to cook, sing and rest. They share mythic stories of food and water, of abundance and scarcity, of mundane and magic to heal their heart and cool their sore heels.

#### Contact

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FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
FEATURE

Awaiting World Premiere

## The Exile

Bengali | India

Fiction | 82 mins

Tentative Completion Date September 2023



The film tells the story of Gouranga, a young man from a village in Bengal who has lost his wife recently. This loss is not only looming large on the family, which has been through a series of tragedies over the years, but also on Gouranga's psyche, who is unable to accept his wife's death. Eventually, Gouranga embarks on a journey where he is able to confront not only his own demons but also myths centered in these rural locations that verge on the supernatural. The film is set in the late 1960s and deals with themes like loss, superstitions, sexual deviance, the supernatural, and the role of the female in a society that, at that time, was at a crossroads between waning, age-old traditional belief systems and the ushering of postmodern thoughts and politics.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Samman Roy, Abhijit Baruah



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FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
FEATURE

Awaiting World Premiere

## The Gift

Manipuri | India

Fiction | 100 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



In the valley of Manipur, a little boy named Boong plans to surprise his mother with a gift. In his innocence, he believes that bringing his father back home would be the most special gift for his mother. His plan is disrupted when his father, who works in a border town called Moreh, is pronounced 'dead'. When suspicious details reveal that something is amiss, Boongset sets out on a journey to the Indo-Myanmar border in search of the truth. The quest for his father shakes Boong's world, which at its core is a triangle—His fiery, protective Mandakini, who forms the base of that triangle. The short perpendicular line is his Marwari best friend Raju Agarwal, who is considered an 'outsider'. The hypotenuse is his absentee father, Joykumar, who unwittingly shapes his son's world from afar. The journey to find his father disintegrates Boong's triangle, yet he is emboldened and free to reshape his world.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Alan McAlex, Vikesh Bhutani



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## Tuesday's Women

English | India

Fiction | 29 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023

An idyllic morning. Spaghetti bubbles on the stove, classical music plays on the radio, and our protagonist stirs the pot calmly. The moment is broken by the piercing ring of the telephone. When he finally answers it, he hears a soft, husky voice that he doesn't recognize. She says she wants just ten minutes of his time. Ten minutes to come to an understanding. Come to an understanding? he asks. Of our feelings. He wants to put the phone down but is unable to. He asks and tries to find out who she is, but the mystery woman hangs up on him instead, and the spaghetti gets overcooked. This innocuous conversation sets into motion a surreal day where all he wants to do is write in his diary, but the phone keeps ringing and mysterious, fascinating women interrupt his domestic routine, and provide strangely profound insights into his life. With this film we have hoped to create a world that reflects the beautiful strangeness of the writing and to apply it in an Indian setting. It is an adaptation of three short stories by Haruki Murakami, woven together to form a day in the life of our protagonist. He has lost his job and is in a pensive mood. Our efforts to play with language and music are an attempt to find a cinematic depiction of the pace, tone, and storytelling style of this beloved Japanese author. The film of course does hope to stand alone, as a take on the subject material, while constantly being irreverent and setting it in the Indian context.

**Director(s)** Imaad Shah

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FEATURE

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## Vaghachipani

Tiger's Pond

Kannada, Malayalam | India

Fiction | 105 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2024



In the sleepy hamlet of Vaghachipani, an underage shepherdess is discovered to be pregnant. Her employer, who is hellbent on becoming the chairman of the village council, is making every effort to cover it up, resulting in more cover-ups threatening to be exposed. Mentally deficient, the young shepherdess has no idea what a pregnancy is.

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FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
FEATURE

Awaiting World Premiere

## Waste Side Story

Bengali | India

Documentary | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



In 2010, an unconventional musical band from Kolkata's landfill area Tangra, enthralled audiences on the stage of the popular reality show "India's Got Talent" by creating music out of waste materials. Their leader, Sanjay Mondol, an ex-gangster, formed the band to steer young kids and teenagers away from the grim reality of their slum existence - being prey to notorious syndicates that use recruits to engage in regular skirmishes, for control over the booming real estate industry. However, once the sheen of their glory on the national stage faded away, Sanjay cannot stop the group members from succumbing to the web of violence and poverty. However, his story takes a turn for the better when a new generation of talented slum kids inspire him to form the band again.

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FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
FEATURE

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## Where do we go from here

Marathi, Gujarati, Hindi | India

Documentary | 65 mins

Tentative Completion Date March 2024



This film tells turbulent stories of fragile human settlements in Mumbai, the space-crunched financial and entertainment capital of India. Heena's resilient family which cannot afford to make repairs to their crumbling house, the fierce, socialist Nani who fights for housing rights and the eccentric Mahesh who refuses to move out of his generational house although it is being demolished. These are the protagonists. The film, through them, shows us the loopholes in housing and rehabilitation policies, unaffordable rental housing, migration and the meaning of home outside the state's diction. The film raises awareness about the constantly overlooked key components of the universal right to adequate housing—habitability.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Prateek Pamecha



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FILM BAZAAR RECOMMENDS  
MID-LENGTH

Awating World Premiere

## Where My Grandma Lives

Bengali | Bangladesh

Documentary | 51 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2023



Filmmaker Mou goes to her beloved Nanu's house to film her. In her 100-year-old home, Nanu lives alone since her husband's death 27 years ago. For Mou, Nanu's place means a peaceful village memory full of marshes and greens and the majestic family pond. In that pond, for generations, neighborhood children grew up learning to swim. Rawnak, Nanu's another maternal grandson, lives with his family next to her house. In Rawnak's house, there is a small pond still surviving, but many of the heirs from Rawnak's father's side want to sell this pond too. Rawnak doesn't want to sell their own family pond containing his father's memory. Ironically, his own business is to buy marshes or ponds, "develop" them as residential plots by filling them with sand and sell them. The "development" is going on all over the country, destroying the waterbodies and obliterating all the creatures living in them.

### Contact

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**Director(s)** Tasmiah Afrin Mou

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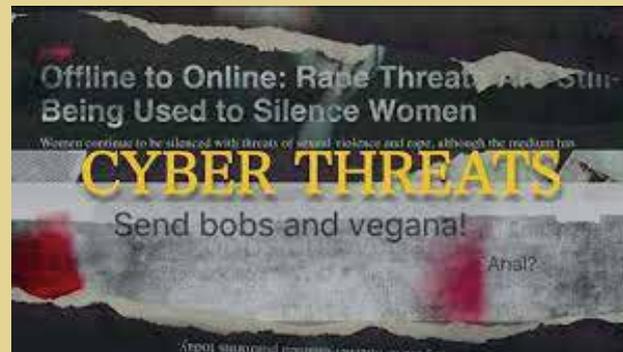
Awaiting World Premiere

# 1 Museum of Rape Threats

English | India

Documentary | 42 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2023



Amidst the framed horrors, three delicate pieces of cloth emerge as powerful allegories, weaving together the collective consciousness of affected women communities. These threads represent the interwoven narratives of countless women whose voices have been stifled by the burdens they bear in the face of relentless harassment.

As the camera delves deeper, we witness a community that rallies around the scholar, offering support and solidarity. With echoes of the Guerrilla Girls and the #MeToo movement, this collective endeavors to break the chains of silence that bind women in virtual spaces. The museum becomes a cathartic haven, an emotional redemption for those who have suffered in silence.

## Contact

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**Director(s)** Rahul Yadav

**Producer(s)** Aditya Bharadwaj



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# 251

Bengali | India

Fiction | 16 mins

Tentative Completion Date April 2023



As COVID spreads during the first wave, many horror stories unfold in India, some of them in inglorious send-offs. Based on true events, *251* is the touching story of a son who is asked to come over to a makeshift crematorium to bid his dead mother the final goodbye. What unfolds is a heartbreaking saga of human endurance and the never-ending trauma that we all went through.

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**Producer(s)** Adesh Prasad



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## A Broke N Story

Hindi | India

Fiction | 100 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2023



Ashok, an idealistic writer/director, aspires to make his way in the Indian film industry on his own terms. His wife Nishi supports his dreams financially and emotionally, but her practical approach to life contradicts Ashok's idealistic beliefs.

She's waiting to start a family, but Ashok is not ready as he wants more financial stability. Temporarily separated by the pandemic lockdown, they're trapped in two different cities when, one day, Nishi confesses that she's pregnant with her ex-boyfriend's child. She accepts her mistake and calls it an accident. Several apologies and forgiveness later, Ashok asks her to abort the child. But Nishi refuses. Struggling to keep his life together, he fails to convince Nishi to come back to him.

Cornered by adverse circumstances, he becomes extremely desperate and helpless, and eventually, he finds himself facing death squarely. Debating with himself, he contemplates: which would be easier, to fight back or to die?

**Director(s)** Ashok Patel

**Producer(s)** Ashok Patel

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## Aaighali Kutri

### Kill The Dogs

Marathi, English, Hindi | India

Fiction | 18 mins

Tentative Completion Date



In a world where anarchy reigns, a lone survivor flees from his enemies. Injured and desperate, he seeks refuge in a dense forest but soon finds himself hunted by a gang of merciless thugs.

To protect himself and keep his secrets safe, he must make unimaginable decisions that set off a dangerous chain of events, blurring the lines between prey and predator. With each move, he plunges deeper into the treacherous jungle, where survival means breaking all the rules.

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## Aajoor

Not Listed | India

Fiction | 124 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2023



In a village in North Bihar, Saloni, a 10-year-old schoolgirl struggles every day to reach her 7-kilometer-away school. She takes the shortcut and traverses the river, forest, and farmlands, which brings her closer to nature, and eventually, she develops a special relationship. Saloni has a creative bent of mind and tries to overcome all her odds in an innovative way, paddling through her life to reach her dreams. On the other side, a group of boys who are fascinated by the world of social networking, about which they know almost nothing, are planning to get their Facebook accounts opened at the village cyber cafe, for which they have to pay a hefty amount to the computer shop man. Aajoor is a tale of Saloni's aspirations and those of the boys and how their lives intersect in an interesting manner amidst the pristine beauty of a free-flowing river, monsoon rains, and a green-dense forest.

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Adim

Primitive

Bengali | India

Fiction | 115 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



This is the story of a couple in their 30s facing a year-long struggle to revive their physical intimacy. At their wits they choose to take a vacation to a remote hill station. However, their tranquil escape takes a mysterious turn when they meet some intriguing people who plunge them into a world of suspense and danger. They become engrossed in this strange encounter, delving into the more dreadful than desirable parts of themselves, all while dealing with unresolved issues in their relationship. This riveting journey pushes them to their limits as they navigate the jungle's dangerous terrain and confront their own inner demons.

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**Producer(s)** Sourav Sanyal



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## Ajoli - Whispers of Womanhood

Assamese | India

Fiction | 140 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2023



The film transports the audience into the heart of rural Assam, unveiling a tale of dreams, desires, and the hard reality of societal norms. It follows the life of Ajoli, a young woman skilled in the art of traditional household chores and harboring fervent aspirations for city life. Her dreams seemingly turn into reality when she marries a city man, promising the fulfillment of her aspirations. However, Ajoli's joy is short-lived, as she finds herself confined within the four walls of her new house instead of basking in the vibrant hues of city life. The film mirrors the way our society nurtures women, conditioning them to accept and practice misogynistic and patriarchal values for themselves. The film traces Ajoli's journey as she grapples with her new life, fueling her strength to carve out a path for herself.

### Contact

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## Alakshye Ritwik

Unseen Ritwik

Bengali | India

Documentary | 133 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2023



An Object can be a powerful subject. Or moments are remembered in the life beyond. Or a cinema without a Story and can still be an all-time epic to remember. The man, who chiselled out these ideas, lived the realms of black-and-white but painted life of colours throughout his cinematic canvas. That is Ritwik Kumar Ghatak, a filmmaker, born ahead of time for the content he created. His cinema brought forward the irony-of-life. Being theatrical he partitioned himself from the regular form of achievements and pick up the medium of cinema to portraying sorrows to bring epic sense of life and its continuity. He could neither become a caring husband, nor an optimum father but left behind many stalwarts of Indian cinema.

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**Producer(s)** Milan Bhowmik



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## Appendix

Assamese | India

Fiction | 26 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



*Appendix* unfolds the complex dynamics within Maloti's world as she attempts to forge a connection with Bhovesh, driven by both emotional and physical yearnings. Bhovesh remains indifferent, preoccupied by a locked washroom door that obstructs his basic needs. The narrative takes an unexpected turn when another client confronts Bhovesh, leading to a power struggle for dominance.

Amidst their ego clash, Maloti finds herself navigating the uncharted waters of their conflicting desires. The men hardly bother about her emotions, and she is left on her own with her unfulfilled desires, with no one to hear her out.

### Contact

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## Aribam Syam Sharma - Laparoscopic Cinemascapes

English | India

Documentary | 63 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2023



On the occasion of Manipur Cinema Completing 50 Years from 'Matamgi Manipur' an epic - dimension oral history project with the Manipur master Aribam Syam Sharma.

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**Producer(s)** Films Division-NFDC



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SHORT

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## Automagic

Kannada, English | India

Fiction | 14 mins

Tentative Completion Date September 2023



On his return home, an androgynous-looking Madhu attempts to seduce Ratnakar, his rickshaw driver, who is practicing celibacy in preparation for a religious pilgrimage.

**Contact**

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**Director(s)** Ashok Vish

**Producer(s)** Shaji Mathew



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## Avani

Hindi, English | India

Fiction | 110 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



In her 30s, Avani lives separately from her husband and child, in two minds over a divorce notice. At the airport, after missing her flight, she unexpectedly meets an old friend/lover. Curiosity about his current life prompts her to accept his offer to stay at a hotel before her next flight. As they reminisce and relive the good old days, Avani comes to a realization about what has been missing in her life all these years—love, companionship, and respect. While getting to know him and trying to make amends for past wrongs, she also grapples with her own personal issues. The journey over a single night promises to be a challenging one for her.

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**Producer(s)** Jitender Pal Singh



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## Avoidable Scar

Hindi, English | India, Australia

Documentary | 75 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2024



The documentary, *The Avoidable Scar*, delves into the alarming rise of C-section rates within India's private healthcare sector. Highlighting a stark contrast between private and public health facilities, the film exposes the overuse and misapplication of C-sections, influenced by systemic and societal factors. The scarcity of adequately trained midwives in Indian hospitals emerges as a critical theme, given their importance in the process.

The documentary further explores arguments from medical professionals, attributing the surge in C-sections to shifting urban and rural lifestyles, the pain tolerance threshold among women, and even astrological beliefs. Amidst all the debates and statistics, though, the feelings and experiences of mothers are often neglected. Many women are scared into having a cesarean section. An experience that should be a delight turns into a bad memory. Having a safe and calm birth is considered a human right, but can an Indian woman exercise it?

**Director(s)** Anubhuthi Rose Antony

**Producer(s)** Anubhuthi Rose Antony

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## Ayesha

Hindi | India

Fiction | 14 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



Ayesha, a Muslim house-help, reluctantly takes a one-day job at a Hindu household. She initially intends to be upfront about her identity, but a misunderstanding leads the house owner to mishear her name as Asha, a common Hindu name. As Asha, she works diligently—fixing their broken tap, cooking food, tending to a crying baby, and earning their trust. However, throughout the day, she overhears the household members making derogatory remarks about Muslims, unaware that their Asha is also one!

At the end of the day, her true identity is accidentally revealed, and she faces a difficult choice—confront or conform.

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**Director(s)** Nihit Bhave

**Producer(s)** Vikramaditya Motwane Shikha Jain



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## B-One Twentyeight One

Hindi | India

Fiction | 140 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



B-1/28/1 holds a profound significance in my heart. My longstanding acquaintance with Bhaveen allowed me to witness his unwavering dedication to caring for his mother, Savitri, leaving an indelible impression on my soul. Within the comforting confines of their home, I bore witness to the transformative strength of love, transcending the formidable challenges of Alzheimer's and Dementia.

Bhaveen's dual commitment, both as a classical musician and a selfless caregiver, embodies a narrative of remarkable resilience and beauty. My aspiration was to convey the profound impact of my stay in their sanctuary, where harmonious strains of classical music offered solace and daily routines transformed into rituals of joy and fulfillment. I hope this film serves as a poignant reminder that even when confronted with life's most daunting challenges, love and meaningful connections provide an anchoring force, infusing purpose into each precious moment.

**Director(s)** Prabhash Chandra

**Producer(s)** Prabhash Chandra Sukriti Khurana

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## Back To The Future

Hindi, English | India

Documentary | 86 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2022



Is it good...or bad...Or both: A critical assay to fathom the momentous journey of Cinema, from analogue to digital. Pepered with questions & answers, sighs and pauses!

**Contact**

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**Director(s)** Manohar Singh Bisht

**Producer(s)** Films Division-NFDC



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## Bal Naren

Hindi | India

Fiction | 99 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2022



The film is about a young boy named Naren who loses his father because of dengue. The unfortunate incident teaches him about cleanliness and how it can eradicate diseases due to a dirty environment. When he learns about Swachhta Abhiyaan, a cleanliness drive undertaken across the country, Naren and his friends take it upon themselves to educate the villagers about the cleanliness drive in order to keep the village clean.

While all is going well, a pandemic strikes the world, and the coronavirus is proving to be fatal. With the help of the village sarpanch (head), a doctor, and his friends, the villagers adopt the traditional ways of cleaning their hands and making sanitizers and masks to fight the virus. They also educate the villagers about the importance of vaccines, and their efforts ensure that the village averts the pandemic.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Deepak Mukut



Looking for  
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Film Festivals

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MID-LENGTH

## Banwari Ki Amma

Banwari's Mother

Hindi | India

Fiction | 65 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2023



*Banwari Ki Amma* (Banwari's Mother) is a film set in central India in a town called Lucknow. The central character of the film is an old maidservant who does the job of grinding dal (pulses) in various houses in the locality and specialises in making kachoris (an Indian snack). The story, script, and direction of the film are by O. P. Srivastava. The film uses Hindi, Indian English, and Awadhi. It tells the story of middle-class, aspirational India in the 1970s, with the changing socio-economic ecosystem being impacted by the winds of modernization.

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**Producer(s)** Usha Srivastava



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Awaiting World Premiere

## Bayaar

### Dust And The Wind

Hindi | India, Singapore

Fiction | 105 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



Three friends reach Shiv Shakti Lodge after their jeep breaks down. This pleasant and quiet mountain abode, filled with travelers, turns into a trap when its caretakers tell them they are all dead. Shiv Shakti Lodge is the last stop to make peace before going to the promised land called Bayoul, a place beyond time and space. They face a trial by fire and confront their past, sometimes with horror, sometimes with despair. From denial to grief, backlash to murder, the three friends try to fight the inevitable. Can they make peace with their past, reclaim lost love, and reach Bayoul? This is an urgent and timeless story of celebrating life through death.

#### Contact

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Film Festivals

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Awating World Premiere

## Be-Qayaam

In Retreat

Ladakhi, Hindi | India

Fiction | 78 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



A man in his 50s is standing in front of his childhood home in the mountains and is looking out its window. He has returned after many years to attend the funeral of his elder brother. At the moment of crossing the threshold of the old door to his home, he wavers. And drifts in a circuitous journey of a whole night, encountering other characters deep into the town, always delaying his arrival.

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**Producer(s)** Thanikachalam Sa



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Awaiting World Premiere

## Bharti

### Recruit

Hindi, Nepali | India

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



In the dusty outskirts of suburban Delhi, a young Nepali misfit yearns to be recruited as a soldier in the Indian Army.

Joining the ranks of countless other aspirants, he finds himself lost in a sea of suffocating competition while his brother struggles to salvage a rundown poultry farm in the area. Their fate takes a turn for the worst when a disease wipes out the stock of birds at the farm, leaving them at the mercy of the underbelly of the metropolis.

*Bharti* is a poignant coming-of-age tale that explores the fragility of carefree spirits and an unforgiving system destined to consume them whole.

#### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Faraz Khan



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Awaiting World Premiere

## Bijoyar Pore

Autumn Flies

Bengali | India

Fiction | 149 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2023



Amidst the celebratory atmosphere of Durga Puja, a family grapples with hidden emotions and personal dynamics. After the unexpected passing of Ananda, protagonist Alokanda conceals his death from their children, striving to maintain the illusion of his presence. As Aloka confronts the self-centeredness within their relationships, a poignant journey unfolds, leading to a climactic revelation of the truth on the auspicious day of Bijoya.

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**Producer(s)** Sujit Raha



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Awaiting World Premiere

## Bodh

Hindi | India

Fiction | 72 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



*Bodh* is the story of an orphan girl, Beera, who finds solace and strength within herself. Beera becomes an orphan during her childhood. Witnessing Beera's unfortunate circumstances, her mama (Uncle) brings her to his own home. Being a girl is a challenge in itself, and Beera realizes this when, despite being a brilliant student, she cannot go to college in a distant city because she is a girl. The next struggle arises when her mama arranges a marriage proposal for Beera without his permission. Reluctantly, Beera remains silent once again.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Mahesh Bhatt



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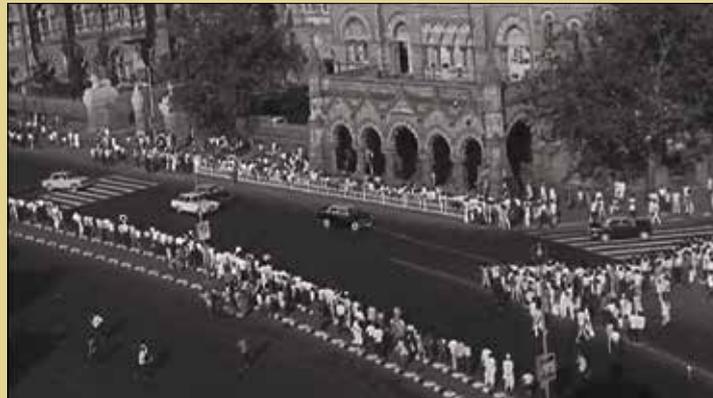
Awaiting World Premiere

## Breaking The Barriers - India's Race To Glory

English | India

Documentary | 35 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2023



The first bit of Motorsports started in the year 1894, from Paris to Rouen, and exactly 10 years later, in 1904, the first motor racing started in India, Racing in the Land of Maharajas.

*Breaking the Barriers, India's Race to Glory* is an inspirational story of Indian motorsports and the convergence from then on to becoming the largest audience and athletes reaching the pinnacle of the sport. Starting from 1949 onwards until the present day, this series captures the sequence of true events on how these fine young men achieved unimagined feats and created a niche in the global arena that led to the development of motorsports in India.

Contact

This is an inspirational story of these passionate men & women with a never-die attitude who broke all the barriers and emerged victorious.

**Director(s)** Sujith Aradhya

**Producer(s)** Sujith Aradhya



Looking for  
Sales & Distribution  
Film Festivals

## Breaking Barrier

Ladakhi, Hindi | India

Fiction | 92 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2022



In the small, struggling village of Katangi, four inseparable friends – Athrav, Vedu, Om, and Rahul – find their lives taking an unexpected turn. Sagar, their quiet and brilliant friend, has secured a spot in a prestigious engineering program but is unable to afford the hefty admission fees. With his mother toiling away in the mines, hope seems distant. Unbeknownst to Sagar, the quartet embarks on a mission to raise the required funds. They engage in a series of unconventional activities, from competing and triumphing in a local cricket tournament to selling old books, and even taking on part-time jobs in a samosa shop. Along the way, they encounter challenges that test their friendship and determination. Sagar, unaware of sacrifices, forges deep camaraderie on their journey, concealing an inspiring tale. A coming-of-age story of friendship, determination, and education's life-changing power unfolds silently.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Pratik Girish Bhoyar



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SHORT

## Broken Wall

No Dialogue | India

Fiction | 18 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2023



An old retired man, living in an almost deserted house in Kolkata, feels lonely and suffers from an existential crisis. He seeks meaningful relationships with people around him. He finds a connection with a neighborhood kid. Both the old man and the kid are living in an adverse situation that lacks compassion and love. The old man saves the kid from an incident of abuse. But he chooses to disappear from this ugly world because the perpetrator continues his relationship with the kid's mother.

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MID-LENGTH

## Bus No. 7

Hindi, Punjabi, English | India

Fiction | 61 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2023



Ehsaas, a talented guitarist, and Sanaa, a passionate dancer, try to fill the void that life's situations have left them with through their art. They study at an elite school in Chandigarh, a city in northern India.

On a quiet, foggy winter afternoon, after facing rejection in school band and dance auditions, they reluctantly open their broken hearts to Raano, the school bus attendant. Within the confined space of the school bus, the three of them forge a sweet bond that transcends age, background, and culture.

As the story progresses, we discover the circumstances that each of them faces in their personal lives and how those few minutes on the bus together become a window that breathes fresh air into their lives

### Contact

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**Director(s)** Zubin A Mehta

**Producer(s)** Vikram Mamik



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Awaiting World Premiere

## Butterfly

Marathi | India

Fiction | 122 mins

Tentative Completion Date April 2023



In the heart of Mumbai, Megha, a dedicated homemaker, stumbles upon a weathered shuttlecock, reigniting her passion for badminton. Sahil, an unexpected mentor, guides her on a transformative journey of self-discovery. Megha's metamorphosis from a caterpillar-like existence to a confident badminton player defies societal norms, all concealed from her ambitious husband. *Butterfly*, a Marathi film, weaves this captivating tale. With its powerful storytelling and mesmerising performances, it has transcended Marathi cinema, inspiring audiences of all ages. Critics praise its authenticity and emotional depth. This enchanting cinema encourages viewers to chase their dreams and embrace life's limitless possibilities.

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**Producer(s)** Abhijeet Satam



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Awaiting World Premiere

## Chidiyaa Udd

Hindi, English | India

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2024



Chidiyaa Udd is a gripping survival drama that takes viewers on an emotional journey through the eyes of Ayush, a young architect interning in a new city. Accompanied by his loyal pet bird, Noddy, Ayush arrives at an old house arranged by the senior professor, Dr. Goel, for research. However, he finds himself trapped when violent riots erupt, leaving him isolated and vulnerable. Cut off from the outside world, Ayush must navigate scarce resources and constant danger as he battles for survival. The film delves into Ayush's psychological and emotional journey, exploring the consequences of shattered communal harmony and urging viewers to reflect on the fragility of peace and the transformative power of compassion. *Chidiyaa Udd* is a haunting tale that reminds us of the urgent need for unity and empathy in a world marred by violence.

### Contact

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MID-LENGTH

Awaiting World Premiere

## Chinchi

Kannada | India

Fiction | 84 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2023



In his early to mid-thirties, Chinchi is driven to any lengths for financial gain. His partner in crime, Basri, joins him in their unlawful pursuits, working for their employer. One fateful day, they hatch a plan to abduct Madhu, relocating him to a distant warehouse far from the city.

However, their scheme takes an unexpected twist when Chinchi sustains an injury, leaving him stranded in the warehouse. Meanwhile, Chinchi's pregnant wife resides alone at a remote farmhouse, devoid of assistance. She desperately requires help. Chinchi makes phone calls in an attempt to reassure her, but the situation turns extremely serious when his phone abruptly loses power, cutting off his connection to the outside world.

As the story unfolds, we are left to ponder whether Chinchi can escape from the warehouse in time to save his wife or if their predicament will culminate in a tragic outcome.

### Contact

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Awaiting World Premiere

Cineman

Marathi | India

Fiction | 105 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



Anand (age 56), a voluntarily retired teacher, has started a movement to show films to school children in remote villages since 10 years. Taking seriously the power of film as a medium and its impact on children, Anand continues to work to promote film literacy despite public opposition. One day, while showing a movie in a school in a remote village, suddenly the lights go out and the children get to see only half of the movie. There Anand meets a 9 year old boy named Ankur who is very talkative, mischievous and intelligent. While talking, Ankur tells the story of a half-watched movie. From here things take an interesting turn and the story goes straight to "Hollywood" in America. The journey takes different turns to create a bridge to connect two different ends together.

**Contact**

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**Producer(s)** Sumit S. Patil



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## Dare To Dream

Hindi | India

Documentary | 84 mins

Tentative Completion Date March 2024



This compelling documentary delineates the transformative journey of a 16-year-old Rabari girl named Ganeshi. The film follows her for five pivotal years, capturing her pursuit of self-worth, education, and independence. Facing resistance within her community, where women seldom assert themselves, Ganeshi's determination shines through. As she prepares for government teaching jobs in Jaipur while staying with her in-laws, the film delves into the complexities of her life. In 2018, after two attempts, Ganeshi secured a coveted position as the only secondary-level English teacher in her district. The film unfolds in real time as her sister's wedding brings it full circle. Beyond documenting child marriage and patriarchy, the film delves into the Rabari community's way of life, societal ills, and the dichotomy of modernity and tradition in contemporary India. It serves as a poignant social commentary on these social evils through Ganeshi's inspirational journey and the voices of those around her.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Ranu Ghosh



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SHORT

Awaiting World Premiere

## Darkaak

### Raven

Bengali | Bangladesh

Fiction | 10 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2023



Torab Sheikh, an old man dependent on his family members, grapples with an existential crisis. At some point, regarding an important family decision, he realizes his unimportance. This realization leads him to withdraw from the family and become rebellious and aimless.

#### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Zayed Siddiki



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## Dhatura

Hindi | India

Fiction | 108 mins

Tentative Completion Date September 2023



*Dhatura* is a psychological thriller set in Banaras, focusing on Inspector Neelkanth Tiwari. Once a loving husband, son, and a dutiful police inspector, he finds himself at the mercy of circumstances that shatter his marriage and turn him into an abusive, unemployed addict. His friend Samar betrays his trust, leading Neel to kill his wife in a state of intoxication. He suffers brain damage and becomes trapped in an inescapable maze within his mind. During his journey in this mental maze, Neel encounters another life where he finds himself as a happy man and learns a lesson too late – that the key to a harmonious life is balance and contentment. Hidden within this layered tale of family, betrayal, revenge, and guilt, lie key messages about life, including the relationship between Consciousness (Purush) and Nature (Prakriti), the dynamic between man (Shiva) and woman (Shakti), and the interplay of Truth (Satya) and illusion (Mithya).

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Kunal Sharma



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## Dhool

Hindi | India

Fiction | 110 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2023



The story begins with Kaaru, a young labor-class man searching for a livelihood for his family in extreme unemployment and crime. His family includes his seven-month-pregnant wife, Dhelki, and Raju, their domestic goat. Kaaru finally gets a job; he picks up flour sacks in the nearby market.

While Dhelki is waiting with joy for the kid to come, Bela, her neighbor, tries to persuade her husband Turka to have a kid. Out of anger with her alcohol-drinking habit of Kaaru, Dhelki stumbles down in her house and needs serious medical assistance. Kaaru asks his friend Turka to take his wife to the bigger hospital so that he can arrange for the money. He asks his owner for help and is forced to sell Raju, but he still needs more to save Dhelki. Finally, he succumbs to crime and gets the money. But it's late. Dhelki and Kid both didn't survive.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Akshay Nayak



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## Discovering Devika

English, Hindi | India

Documentary | 67 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2022



Devika Rani, known as the First Lady of Indian Cinema, was the very first recipient of Dadasaheb Phalke Award. Along with her husband Himanshu Rai, she was the co-founder of the Bombay Talkies Studio through which she acted in many films dealing with social issues like the iconic film 'Achhut Kanya'. She also gave break to remarkable talents like Dilip Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Madhubala and many others. Many successful directors, writers and technicians in the film industry were mentored by her. This film traces the eventful life of Devika Rani, to highlight her achievements and to underline the indelible influence she has left behind on the Indian Cinema of past, present and future.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Films Division-NFDC



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## Don't Tell Mother

Kannada, English | India, Australia

Fiction | 95 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



Set in Bangalore in the early 90s, we follow the adventures of mischievous 9-year-old Aakash and his innocent younger brother Adi as they explore the ups and downs of childhood. Their mother is a frustrated housewife with unfulfilled dreams. Like other parents, they use violence to discipline their kids. At school, Aakash gets hit mercilessly by his math teacher. Filled with shame and guilt, Aakash hides his scars from his family.

As the film progresses, it shows the prevalence of casual violence against children in its various forms. The fear of this violence is the reason that Aakash is often secretive and lies to the adults in his life. When tragedy arises, his strict but caring mother begins to question her parenting.

### Contact

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Awaiting World Premiere

## Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Now And Then

Hindi, English, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati | India

Documentary | 111 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2023



Dr. B. R Ambedkar: Now & Then is a feature length documentary film that explores deep questions of human condition. Questions of liberty, equality, fraternity, social justice, exclusion and marginalized representation through, Jyoti Nisha, a Bahujan feminist filmmaker's gaze in an upper caste Indian film industry. The film aspires to translate the praxis of Ambedkarite politics to image making and representation of marginalized subjects' culture, history, politics in popular cinema and media. Driven by Dr. Ambedkar's philosophy epistemologically, the film symbolically and politically documents the representation and assertion of Bahujan people in the contemporary era. Questioning the institution of caste in India, this film is a commentary on religion, revolution, politics, and the freedom of speech.

### Contact

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Director(s) Jyoti Nisha

Producer(s) Pa Ranjith



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Awating World Premiere

## Dushu

Hindi | India

Fiction | 96 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2023



A 12 year old boy, DUSHU, is rushed out of his boarding school by his uncle, SHIVA, to attend his father's funeral. Later, he comes to know that his father was murdered for his Human rights activism. Dushu spends his mourning days alone and is keen on returning to his boarding school. However, the attack on his mother shakes his inner core. He refuses to listen to everyone's advice and seeks justice. On hearing the news of Shiva's arrest, he runs away from his school. He hoped Shiva would ensure his family's safety. Dushu ventures into the police station hoping to meet Shiva. He, later, eludes his anxious mother and the police and disappears into the city to pursue his father's murderer. Will young Dushu take the path of violence like his confidante, Shiva or choose the path of Non-Violence like his school play character Gandhiji forms the climax of the story.

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**Director(s)** Himanshu Mishro Mondal

**Producer(s)** Himanshu Mishro Mondal



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Awaiting World Premiere

**EBB**

Malayalam | India

Fiction | 73 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



Adarsh and Maria are a married couple who also seem to share the warmth and freedom of the best of friends. Both of them have relationships outside their marriage with mutual consent. Adarsh, Maria, and Maria's male friend Sidharth decide to have sex together. However, after the act, Adarsh finds himself disturbed and distressed. *Ebb* explores how love, sex, and their many nuances affect both women and men.

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**Director(s)** Jeo Baby

**Producer(s)** Jomon Jacob



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## Ek Din Toori O Jana

I Will Leave Soon

Dogri, Pahadi, Hindi | India

Documentary | 80 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2024

*I Will Leave Soon* is a poignant and intimate documentary that chronicles the deeply personal journey of an actor, filmmaker, and a son as he grapples with his mother's life-threatening illness. Faced with the harsh realities of Santosh's battle, her son, Mohit, chooses to use his artistic talents to capture every moment of their shared experience.

The film unfolds with Mohit's mother's journey from diagnosis through treatment, blending raw honesty with moments of heartwarming tenderness. As Santosh undergoes painful treatments and confronts the uncertainties of her condition, Mohit's camera becomes his bridge to understanding her pain, strength, and the profound bond they shared.

As the story unfolds, Mohit and Mrs. Santosh Mattoo's relationship deepens through their shared commitment to this creative project.

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**Director(s)** Mohit Mattoo

**Producer(s)** Mohit Mattoo



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Awaiting World Premiere

## Ek Kaalpnik Aurak Kaa Udaas Khwaab

A Sad Dream of An Imaginary Woman

Hindi | India

Fiction | 83 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



Nidhi, a 40-year-old single middle-class woman unable to deal with the trauma of her childhood, wants to be invisible. She resides with her mother, Meera (70), in a dilapidated ancestral home, haunted by past events. The decrepit state of the house mirrors the decay of their lives. A lonely, inquisitive child, younger Nidhi had her peculiar interests, as both parents were emotionally absent.

During her mother's birthday party, younger Nidhi announces her mother's secret affair. Enraged by public ignominy, her father beats her and throws her out on the street, naked. 30 years pass, and Nidhi is still standing, disillusioned & naked. The old, guilty mother is surviving only to tend to her ill daughter, but she is still lost in the pain of a love long gone. Nidhi finally decides to become invisible through magic, and her mother also decides to join her. Together, they slowly fade away, becoming free of their lifelong misery and memories.

### Contact

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MID-LENGTH

## Entanglement

Hindi, English | India

Fiction | 32 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2022



*Entanglement* is a science fiction relationship drama about love in the face of cosmic collusion. Chitra and Amir are a perfect couple, except that they find themselves in a crisis they can't comprehend or resolve. Chitra believes Amir has physically assaulted her. She is plagued by searing pain in her head and graphic flashes of the incident. She even reports him to the cops. To her surprise, there is no evidence to back her claims.

Amir is an extremely loving husband who is supportive even though he cannot make sense of Chitra's motivations. Is she delusional? Does she want to end their relationship?

Chitra seems to be struggling too when her version of the truth doesn't add up. The story is set against the backdrop of quantum physics and a new planet in the sky that has seemingly appeared out of thin air.

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SHORT

Awaiting World Premiere

## Epitaph

Bengali | India

Fiction | 29 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2023



The story of the film revolves around a girl who lives alone with her pet dog. Though the girl is innocuous, she is standoffish too. But all of a sudden, she commits suicide, and we never get to know the reason behind it. Hence, a buzz arises. People start raising questions about her well-to-do livelihood. Some even suggest that she has gone astray. But no one cared about her solitude. In the meantime, before the suicide, a dead fetus was found in the locality, and the gossip takes an even more undesirable turn. However, in the apartment where the girl used to live, there are two families whose lives are deeply affected by this suicide. A young married couple and an octogenarian father with his bedridden daughter. These two families begin to churn their own agony while discussing this suicide, leading to introspection for them.

### Contact

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## Ghich Pich

Entangled

Hindi, Punjabi | India

Fiction | 104 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2024



Set in Chandigarh in the 1990s, *Ghich Pich* tells the story of three teenage school friends on the brink of adulthood, each grappling with their relationship with their fathers. Gurpreet, a Sikh boy, wishes to cut his hair against his father's wishes, Gaurav uncovers a dark secret about his father, and Anurag struggles to cope with his father's aggressive ambition and authority. This coming-of-age tale follows these young boys, capturing the essence of teenage life in India in the 1990s, while celebrating themes of family, friendship, and the joie de vivre of middle-class Indian life.

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Awating World Premiere

## Ghor

Home

Assamese | India

Fiction | 96 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



*Ghor* is a heartfelt journey in a flood-prone village near the Brahmaputra River. In this landscape of dreams and despair, Maina, a young football enthusiast born into poverty, dares to chase his passion amidst adversity. His quest for football glory intertwines with the struggles of his father, Bichitra, who battles bureaucratic hurdles to secure a safe haven from the relentless floods. Eventually, Dulal and Rimjhim, diverse-faced Panchayat workers, come to Bichitra's aid. As the monsoon clouds gather, there's a glimmer of hope as Bichitra's name is finally included. But when the river unleashes its fury, dreams are submerged, and the family is swept away. In the aftermath, Bichitra finds himself in a new house, symbolizing dreams achieved yet emptier than ever. It explores human desires, the resilience of dreams, and the enduring spirit in the face of adversity, shedding light on Assam's annual flood crisis.

### Contact

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## Giraki

Twirl

Marathi | India

Fiction | 152 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2022



A girl paragliding lands in a forest due to a sudden technical problem. All alone, she takes a walk to get out of there, but stumbles upon a ruined and deserted fort. She feels relieved to meet a boy there. Teenagers, they engage each other in interesting conversations and get assimilated into the nature, until they come across a village. *Giraki* (Twirl) is a journey of getting away from civilization and landing back into it.

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**Producer(s)** Ganesh Shinde



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## Global Aadgaon

Marathi | India

Fiction | 120 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2022



Ever growing cement jungles, human minded urbanization, Industrialization, smart cities, metro capitals, foreign economies are coming at the speed of tornado, social globalization hitting the villages like at sunami, are trying to devour village relations, self sustainment of village, agriculture and its culture like a giant python. Destruction of agriculture and rural culture in the wirlwind of globalization. In the name of modernization, neo-renaissance and development, the hopes, aspirations and rural self dependence of the village are being uprooted from core existence. Ferocious animals are rampaging over the lofty spirit of the villages, and the farm less villagers, the people are burning like pyre in the wake of globalization. The unprecedented conceit that underpins this perverse hypocrisy, a melancholy pain of village culture

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Manoj Kadam



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## Grandmother

Hindi, Punjabi, English | India

Documentary | 75 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



Amidst the bustling rhythms of modern India, Tariq's world slows as he confronts the fading health of his two beloved grandmothers. One, trapped in the repetitive maze of dementia, surprises Tariq with bursts of lucid love. The other, with a looming brain tumor, passionately recounts tales of the harrowing Partition, painting history with personal strokes. Tariq, consumed by grief and grappling with sadness, finds purpose in preserving their narratives.

As he documents their stories of trials, love, and undying hope, he confronts the inexorable cycle of life and death, understanding the power of memories in bridging past and present, and life and afterlife.

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Awaiting World Premiere

## Haklu

English, Hindi | India, UK

Fiction | 19 mins

Tentative Completion Date March 2023



Haklu, a South Asian domestic worker, travels to the UK on an Overseas Domestic Worker Visa with his employer and lives in modern slavery working conditions that are commonly accepted in the Global South. Haklu's interactions with a British South Asian girl (who is unaware of his class and caste context) leaves him struggling to accept equality and kindness, but also gives him the courage to dream of his escape.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Aanchal Kapoor



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## Halves

English | India

Fiction | 32 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2023



As a young man & woman go on their second date, the lingering question from their intimate encounter leads them on a soul-searching journey. Amidst conversations about culture, art, and their past, they delve into the depths of their innermost thoughts, questioning the transience of love in an ever-changing world.

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## Hari-Om

Hindi | India

Fiction | 111 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



*Hari-Om* is a poignant film that throws light on the generational divide. It journeys from Bhopal to Varanasi, exploring the clash of beliefs between Hari Prasad Sharma, a traditional retired government officer, and his non-conformist son, Om. When Hari suffers a heart attack, he predicts his imminent death and wishes to pass away in Kashi with Om. This journey of reconciliation uncovers hidden truths, clears misunderstandings, and rekindles their father-son bond. It's a tale of love, tradition, and generational divides, ultimately leading to unity and understanding, captured in the heartfelt chant Hari-Om.

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**Producer(s)** Anshuman Jha



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## Hashtag Home

English | India, Australia

Documentary | 70 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2024



*#Home* is the story of Tara, a feminist writer and childhood rape survivor, Sahil, a photographer and her soulmate, their two cats, and three dogs. Facing their private demons as they try to settle in Australia, they often wonder what Home means. Flying to India for the launch of Tara's feminist treatise *Why Men Rape*, they are grounded in a sudden lock-down.

The failing kidneys of their cat Britney jolt them out of their Kafkaesque despair. When the world is trying to save their skin, Tara and Sahil are trying to save their cat. With an acute sense of being stuck, Tara and Sahil hinge their happiness on an elusive ticket on a repatriation flight to Australia. Ironically, the ticket separates the lovers. Tara sets up home alone in the Gold Coast. A lot of drama and 18 months later, when Sahil joins her, Tara realizes that Home is where Love is.

### Contact

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## Hiraeth

Assamese | India

Fiction | 100 mins

Tentative Completion Date September 2023



A brutal monsoon rainstorm swept through the village, releasing its fury. The village was flooded whilst the dyke that protected the area broke under the rising pressure of the uncanny rainwater. Kom, with hopes of obtaining a better life, relocated to a nearby city with his wife, Pori. They resided in a low-cost room while Kom secured a job, first as a daily labourer at a construction site and later at a tea factory. Atrocities related to the unfriendly city and its people followed.

The socio-economic inequalities of society pushed them to the edge of their lives, and Pori deciphered her inner vigor and frailty as she walked through an emotional voyage that took her through that profound transformation, shattering her innocence and exposing her to society's dirtiest side in a way that was extremely ruthless. She navigated through these challenges in order to survive.

**Director(s)** Chow Partha Borgohain

**Producer(s)** Chow Partha Borgohain

### Contact

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## Hyderabad Nights

English, Telugu | India

Fiction | 85 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



Pavan, 29, a Nat Geo explorer, meets Geetha, 33, a techie from Hyderabad, at a stand-up comedy show. When Geetha realizes that her date is a no-show, Pavan tries to console her after the comedian roasts her during the 'crowd work.' Pavan shares his disappointment in meeting his investors in vain for a travel web series at a stand-up show. They admit to sharing a few laughs in the end, at least. As sparks flew, they decided to visit a nearby place of Geetha's interest. They drive to a hilltop and open up about their fears. They go to a lakeside and talk about their regrets from their past. Geetha becomes upset with Pavan's uncomfortable comment regarding her infidelity.

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## Inland

Malayalam | India

Fiction | 96 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2020



*Inland* is a censored, 1-hour, 36-minute long movie that depicts the vagaries of an individual engaged in a relentless battle with his own insanities. The inner self of the protagonist is a collage of angelic and devilish perceptions.

The events of his life and his expression of these events are juxtaposed with the ethnic art of Theyyam. The portrayal of Theyyam in the movie is in sync with the mood swings of the lead actor. The concept and the output are novel and have been executed by artists of mettle.

### Contact

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## It's All In Your Head

Marwari, Hindi, English | India

Fiction | 83 mins

Tentative Completion Date April 2023



What if Kardashians were born into a rural Rajasthani family and lived in Vadodara on a budget? *It's all In your Head* focuses on one day in the life of six siblings, rural but Americanized, living in Vadodara, all in their 20's. Together, they run an online thrift store called Durty Fits, while each hustles away individually to give some shape and meaning to their lives. 6 Siblings. 6 Problems. 1 day.

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**Producer(s)** Jyotsana Rajpurohit



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## Ithiri Neram

### A Little While

Malayalam | India

Fiction | 140 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2023



On the eve of his daughter's baptism, Anish heads to a long overdue drinks party with two of his close colleagues. He receives an unexpected call from Anjana, his ex-girlfriend, who is back in the city. They decide to meet before she leaves. The evening starts off with them catching up on their past but takes an unexpected turn, landing Anish in a situation where he has to seek his colleagues' help. *A Little While* is a romantic comedy that offers an intimate and subtle exploration of enduring love and uncertain friendships, unfolding over the course of one night's events in a conservative South Indian city.

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## Jananam 1947 Pranayam Thudarunnu

Love Ever After

Malayalam | India

Fiction | 120 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2023



Shivan, a 70-year-old caretaker of an old age home, falls in love with Gauri, a retired school teacher living in the facility. Gauri, discarded by her son, longing for the warmth of companionship and platonic love, dares to propose to Shivan, who's naive and uneducated. Their extraordinary love story ends in marriage. Their poignant marriage story, however, survives the initial hiccups and interference of onlookers.

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## Jannal Pookal

### Window Flowers

Tamil | India

Fiction | 105 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2023



*Window Flowers* dives into the mind of Ajay, a 23-year-old Tamil man in Mumbai. The film follows one day of his life; the day his love interest finally returns to Mumbai. But she refuses to open the door to see him.

The film meditates on the way he spends his nights in isolation in his flat with the frequent appearance of his flatmate Madan. We step into his memories as he stays up all night reminiscing about his past. A new layer of friendship blossoms when he finally opens up to Madan in his journey to acceptance.

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## Jhanjharpur

### Dancing Shadows

Hindi, Bhojpuri, Magahi | India

Fiction | 135 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



In rural Bihar, three young Dalits, Arun, Mukesh, and Binod, face stifled dreams. Arun, a passionate dancer and performer, is forced into a child marriage with Reshma due to family outrage.

Despite a brief separation, Arun and Reshma continue to nurture their friendship and pursue their dreams. Arun renounces the world of dance, while Reshma adopts a male persona for well-being. A traumatic encounter with Bhola leaves Arun scarred, and Reshma escapes to Mumbai, finding solace and self-discovery. They reunite in Mumbai, where Arun becomes a Bhojpuri film dancer.

However, Reshma's secrets resurface, forcing Arun to confront his past. Arun returns to his village and reunites with his old friends. During their reunion, they stumble upon an opportunity to seek revenge against Bhola Thakur, marking a journey of resilience, love, and justice in the face of adversity.

**Director(s)** Navin Chandra Ganesh

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## Ji Ben Daa

Marathi | India

Fiction | 110 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2023



During a strict COVID-19 lockdown, Kishor, a 32-year-old police constable, secretly plans to visit a girl named Dolly for a wedding. Upon learning of Kishor's intentions, Dolly becomes restless.

Hearing this news, Sandeep, her boyfriend who is stuck in a quarantine building, decides to escape and elope with her. As soon as Sandeep manages to escape, Kishor is assigned, along with a key figure from the village, to find him. Amid the chaos, the police receive news that Sandeep's test results have come back positive for COVID-19.

Meanwhile, Dolly's family realizes that she is not at home, and everyone starts looking for her. Along the way, Dolly couldn't get connected with Sandeep. Eventually, Sandeep, Dolly, Kishor, Dolly's father, the police, and Patil all come together in search of one another. The story of "Ji Ben Daa" unfolds to reveal what happens to Sandeep and Dolly.

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MID-LENGTH

Awaiting World Premiere

## Jo Reh Gaye

The Rest of Us

Hindi, English, Marathi | India

Documentary | 45 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2024



Chandra and Bhaskar are Naman's parents. Naman died by suicide in 2018 when he was barely 17 years old. Since then, the world has moved on, but they are forced to come to terms with their loss one day at a time. Naman suffered from depression and was seeking therapy. He also appeared to improve for a time, but then one night left home and never returned. The police believe he jumped off a moving train at the Vashi bridge.

In our conversations with experts, survivors, bereaved families, and helpline workers, we understand the unbelievable pain that guides this decision. The judgment we bring to suicide often proves to be an obstacle to understanding people suffering from immense psychological distress and acknowledging suicide and self-harming behaviors as what they really are – a cry for help.

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## Johnny Phd - Tass Part II

Punjabi | India, Singapore

Fiction | 65 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2023



In Masol, the last village in Punjab, Johnny, a PhD student, embarks on a field trip to the village. Nestled amidst treacherous roads bypassed by the government, Masol reveals a unique history. Once a treasure trove of Paleolithic fossils, it was exploited by fossil hunters from all over the world, who, after their exit, unconsciously created a community of children who had acquired the knack for fossil excavation. Johnny pitches his tent and encounters these remarkable children.

The village, steeped in ancient folklore and mythology, believes that they are part of a forgotten land. Its inhabitants worship a crocodile god, symbolizing chaos and disorder, with the fossils of the crocodiles being the most sought-after sacred remnants. Johnny, the outsider, during his research, sinks into an abyss of darkness due to a series of unexpected circumstances and finds himself sucked into the belief systems of the village, entering a dream-like scenario.

**Director(s)** Kabir Singh Chowdhry

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## Joote

### Shoes

Haryanvi, Hindi | India

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



Mahesh, a mute migrant farmworker, is shattered after the untimely death of his wife, Babita, allegedly at the hands of the village chief (Pradhan Ji). Babita's devout mother (Nani) is helping Mahesh raise his son, Mohit. While Mohit is now tackling trauma in his own way and also facing bullying at school, his aunt is bringing up his daughter, Chhoti.

When Pradhan Ji's daughter goes missing, villagers accuse Mohit of having abducted her to avenge his mother's death. Mahesh, knowing that Pradhan won't spare his son's life either, is forced to go on a run with Mohit and Nani to save his family. What ensues is the journey for the survival of a grieving family, led by the father, and the extent to which he goes to protect his child amidst the flourishing but casteist farmlands of Haryana (India).

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Jooyein

Lice

Hindi, English | India, USA

Fiction | 12 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



When 12-year-old Roshni's lice problem is noticed by the class outcast, Chakor, she fears exile in the social hierarchy of her Indian middle school. Roshni decides to invent rumors about Chakor to protect herself, but along the way, the two girls begin to form a genuine connection. When the pressures of popularity return, their new friendship is put to the test.

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## Kaansya

Hindi | India

Fiction | 89 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



*Kaansya* is an Indian adaptation of William Shakespeare's tragedy, 'Troilus and Cressida,' which was itself adapted by Shakespeare from Homer's 'Iliad.' The story revolves around two competing wrestling families in Haryana, India, and their decades-old rivalry. Hanuman Akhada has always been, and still is, a rich and powerful wrestling family. Meanwhile, Bajrang Akhada started from nothing over 80 years ago. Today, they are rivals with decades of festering wounds, unresolved conflicts, and incomplete vendettas. Things explode when Sonam, married to Bajrang Akhada's owner, Prithvi, runs away with Randeep, the son of the head of Hanuman Akhada. This event becomes a trigger for over a dozen people seeking to resolve their own problems or fulfill their dormant desires. Themes of pride, love, and vengeance dominate the narrative. The film explores the complexity of human nature amidst the backdrop of wrestling in a small town in India.

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## Kaaye Rajju

Hey Rajju

Hindi | India

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2024



Rajju is an intelligent kid; however, at school, Rajju is bullied by an upper-caste boy, Nandu, who doesn't let Rajju drink water from the school hand pump. Scared, Rajju often spends his day thirsty. Rajju's family is sad and helpless about the situation. Rajju's father, Shankar, returns from the city during the harvest. His sister Tara gets a teddy bear, and Rajju receives a water bottle. For Rajju, this bottle is the key to his happiness and a saviour at his school. He is happy.

Then, one day, Rajju's water bottle gets stolen, leaving him shattered and clueless. While his mother, Jamna, tries to convince Rajju to accept the situation and move on, Tara pushes him to start an investigation. Then, a rollercoaster journey between Rajju and Tara begins, which transforms Rajju as he finally confronts his bully Nandu and brings his bottle.

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## Kadalaama

### The Turtle

Malayalam | India

Fiction | 83 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2023



Water is life. The perpetual cycle of water is the basis of life on this earth. In a sense, it is rain that sustains and promotes life; the same rain can also destroy life on earth through floods due to the ecologically erroneous interventions of human beings.

The theme of this film pertains to coastal ecosystems, human interventions on them, and the resultant conflicts. The turtle in the title of the film is a symbol that connects the earth to the sea, land to water, and non-humans to humans. The treatment in the film is non-linear. Therefore, there are possibilities for multiple readings into multiple layers of meaning in the film.

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Kal

## Yesterday Tomorrow

Hindi | India

Fiction | 115 mins

Tentative Completion Date March 2024



Ritesh, an aspiring filmmaker, falls into a financial crisis after his relationship with his girlfriend Rhea went for a toss. He struggles to make ends meet while he has to face a constant barrage of humiliation from his broker due to the non-payment of his monthly rent. Ritesh's efforts to find solutions to his personal problems coincide with the fate of the protagonist of his own script, leading to a precarious situation and forcing Ritesh to flee from Mumbai. He goes to a desolate village in Himachal and starts shooting a documentary film.

However, the baggage of his past never leaves him, thus entwining him in a constant battle with guilt & grief. Sort of trapped in the village, Ritesh's inner battle takes an unexpected turn while he seeks salvation.

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## Kanaphusi

Grapevine

Hindi, English | India

Fiction | 80 mins

Tentative Completion Date March 2024



Renu attends a finishing school for women in Delhi. She is quiet, anxious, and lonely. Her eyes light up only when she is able to make up a good story to tell. She and her brother love to play a competitive game of rumor- making. Their success is measured by the effectiveness of their rumors – how many people can they fool? They hope to reach the newspapers someday! Their latest target is Rani, a Namkeenwali who has migrated to Delhi to make a living selling all sorts of snacks and potions, claiming that her products can reduce BP, clear skin, and grow hair. She peddles stories of her own. Something about her scares Renu, and so the witchly tale of the dangerous Namkeenwali Chudail is born – Renu's most grand rumor yet. But the thing about rumors is that ultimately, even those who create them don't own them.

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## Karikanu Guddada Mele Ondu Adhika Prasanga

An Incident of Officiousness on Karikanu  
Hillock

Kannada | India

Fiction | 130 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2024



The movie is set in the lush greenery of Malnad village. It depicts the ego clashes of a Central Government employee who always strives to do the right thing for village development. On the other hand, the village panchayat head will be trying to make things correct under government schemes.

### Contact

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## Kodai Kaala Kaatre

Born Yesterday

Tamil | India

Fiction | 72 mins

Tentative Completion Date Apr 2023



In Papakudi, a village outside Madurai, lives Eki. While his parents are struggling to make ends meet, Eki dreams of owning a bicycle. When his mother puts all their savings into buying him a bicycle, Eki's happiness knows no bounds. But the cycle is stolen. Eki tries to look for it without telling his fraught mother about the theft. That search leads Eki and his friends on a path that leads not only to Madurai but to new moral frontiers when their path crosses with Arasu, a local thug and aspiring politician. Against a ticking clock, the boys are lost and desperate in Madurai when they come up with the desperate plan of stealing another cycle to replace his cycle. The film plots the coming-of-age of Eki in that one summer as he learns what makes a person good or bad.

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## Kottukkaali

### The Adamant Girl

Tamil | India

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



When a 21-year-old girl falls in love with a boy from an oppressed caste, her infuriated family believes that she is possessed by his love spell. They ruthlessly drag her to a distant village shaman to break the spell and erase all her memories of him, until she forgets him by performing witchcraft and sacrificing a rooster. The girl's future is now dictated by the violent, misogynistic patriarchs. This one-day journey exposes the influence of caste and chauvinism on an average Indian family. Will the girl and the rooster survive this lunacy?

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## Kuch Sapney Apne

Dreams Such As Ours

Hindi | India

Fiction | 110 mins

Tentative Completion Date March 2024

Kartik and Aman have been in a happy, loving relationship for the past 7 years, and now at a photography workshop in Sweden, Kartik has a fling with Stefan. When Kartik returns with a hiccup, Aman and he have a huge fight, and Kartik storms out. Kartik comes to his hometown, where his aunt is getting married. Vasudha surprises him by inviting Aman. They both patch up, and along with Vasudha, they go on a picnic.

When they return, they realize that news of Kartik being gay has spread like wildfire across the town. When Vasudha defends Kartik, Damodar slaps her. Not able to bear this insult, Vasudha deserts him and goes to live in Mumbai. While Vasudha adjusts to her new life at the gay couple's home, Damodar misses her greatly. Things change dramatically when Damodar falls ill, and Vasudha is conflicted about whether to go back to her hometown or not.

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## Laal Pari - A Road Fairy

English | India

Documentary | 29 mins

Tentative Completion Date April 2023



The film depicts the deep penetration of public transport into rural Maharashtra. For the people, it's not just transport; it's the lifeline of their daily commute and business. They prefer ST buses over private transport as they are cheap, safe, and secure.

The film meticulously shows the companionship of the bus with rural people. It connects disconnected people. People call it *Laal Pari* (RED FAIRY). This fairy fulfills the dreams of peasants and cultivators, connecting them to the main business hubs in Maharashtra. Like for Mumbai, local trains are the lifeline, similarly ST buses are for Maharashtra. People from downtrodden, underprivileged sections, and tribal communities trade with cities.

The 75-year bond and trust have made women self-reliant; they travel from hamlets for trade. Almost 28 million school girls in Maharashtra benefit because of the bus. The film focuses on passengers, the economy run by Laal Pari, and the difficult task of drivers.

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**Producer(s)** Santoshee Mishra

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## Letters Unwritten To Naiyer Masud

English, Urdu, Malayalam, Hindi | India

Documentary | 64 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2023



A pilgrimage taken by a group of readers to the ancestral house of a writer (a space that haunts all of his stories), nested in the heart of a city, turns into an exploration and an exercise in mapmaking of the city. Told through the eyes of a newcomer walking through a modern bustling city, blanketed by a dream made of ancient lore, stories, and signs, the film tries to explore the alchemical process behind the art of storytelling that transmutes the real that inspired it. And the impossible mirage a body of work can create in an obsessive reader's mind that compels him to chase it.

A work about a specific author (Naiyer Masud), his body of work, and his city, a film that can speak to readers and non-readers alike, is quite a monumental challenge. But setting out, we felt that if ever the viewer had, at any point in his life, read an author that haunts spaces through his stories, writings that follow characters across multiple stories, or some other writer who, by the act of storytelling, engendered dreamscapes, then they would find correspondences within our film, with our search.

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**Ma**

Mother

Hindi | India

Fiction | 119 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2024



The debut feature film by Indian director Ananyabrata Chakravorty is a unique murder mystery about a lonely mother's endless pursuit to bond with her disrespectful son. Mother is a widow, who misses her husband and fails to bond with her thirty-something unmarried son, Uttam, who is a policeman. When a young girl is killed and the job of solving her murder is handed to Uttam, his mother tries to bond with him about the case, trying to help him in various ways. But in her obsessive quest to help solve the crime, and thereby gain the love and respect of her son, she ends up putting her own life at stake.

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## Maachh

### Fish

Maithili | India

Fiction | 40 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



Set in present-day Darbhanga, Bihar, Vivek and Kavita are a newly married couple who have come back home for Diwali and Chatth puja. Vivek, although well-educated, has never lived up to his father's expectations. Being an average performer at work, he is always on the edge of being shown the door. His wife, Kavita, is well aware of her husband's shortcomings. To steady the ship Kavita had appeared for the teacher's recruitment examination and had cleared it. Upon breaking the news to the family, Vivek received a lot of flak from his father.

In the midst of all this, Vivek receives the news of him being sacked. Shyam Jee stumbles upon the news by accident, and his change of heart forms the crux of the story. The realization dawns that maybe his expectations were way beyond what Vivek was actually capable of.

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## Main Hoon Lallu Singh

Hindi | India

Fiction | 80 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2023



In a financial crisis, a printing press disguises layoffs as voluntary retirements. A machine operator's life spirals in a loop, battling job loss and deteriorating mental health. He rallies coworkers against cuts, but indifference persists. Isolated, he crafts a statue from a blurred picture, blurring reality and hallucination on a haunting journey of self-discovery and redemption, leaving a legacy as the hero of his narrative.

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## Mann Behka

Hindi, English | India

Fiction | 77 mins

Tentative Completion Date



The film follows the life of Manav Aggarwal, a good-natured and naive 19-year-old who shares an extremely toxic relationship with his domineering girlfriend. Even after repeated suggestions from his friends to call it quits with her, he is unable to do so. All of a sudden, another girl with a contrasting personality to that of his girlfriend enters the picture. In a poetic tale of unconsummated first love, the film follows their strong connection over the course of a summer, during which Manav's perspectives, thought processes, and paradigms undergo significant changes while he navigates his personal life in the challenging phase of adolescence.

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## Manu

English, Hindi | India

Fiction | 18 mins

Tentative Completion Date May 2021



Set against the backdrop of bustling New Delhi, the story quietly follows a specific day in the mundane, routine-driven life of a young boy called Manu.

Manu is a nineteen-year-old, introverted, repressed boy who loves art and belongs to a middle-class religious family in India. On this particular day, a series of events brings him finally to confront.

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**Producer(s)** Deepanshu Chauhan



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## Mau The Spirit Dreams of Cheraw

Not listed | India

Documentary | 8 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2023



*Mau: The Spirit Dreams of Cheraw* is a performance documentary film from Mizoram. Through Cheraw (Bamboo dance) and ritual folklore, it reveals the forgotten memory of the story of the mother who dies at childbirth.

The film shows a re-imagined dance of the mother spirit. Bamboo Dance was performed as a way to pacify the soul of the mother who died in

childbirth. Bamboo is a part of the geo-political history of Mizoram and the many other states in the North-east of India.

Hence, the loss of this intergenerational maternal memory is the crisis

of culture, the climate of a place. This film is part of a larger series vision on stories of the human and non-human relationships emerging from North-east India.

### Contact

**Director(s)** Shilpika Bordoloi

**Producer(s)** Shilpika Bordoloi



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## Meloncholy

Malayalam | India

Fiction | 110 mins

Tentative Completion Date May 2023



This non-linear story explores the lives of three young women—Thara, Nikitha, and Irene—from different social strata, highlighting the problems they face in patriarchal families, complicated love lives, and a pernicious society. Nikitha, a middle-class woman in her twenties with bipolar disorder, lives impulsively, her world revolving around her boyfriend Pranav.

Thara, a 22-year-old from an upper-class, patriarchal family, is trapped with no identity beyond her impending marriage. She grapples with peer pressure regarding her sexual life. Irene, a 19-year-old Malayali student living a polyamorous lifestyle in Aluva, pursues her desires relentlessly, despite constant interpersonal issues and societal backlash.

The story revolves around these complex characters navigating a quarter-life crisis, striving to break free from societal norms etched into their surroundings. The main characters in the film are interconnected in some way, even without their knowledge, and their individual journeys continue beyond.

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MID-LENGTH

## Men In Blue

Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi, English | India, USA

Fiction | 35 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2022



Inspired by actual events, *Men in Blue* explores the effects of human trafficking and labour exploitation in the United States. Resistance brews among the Indian immigrants who were stripped of their dignity when a reputed shipyard in Texas conscripted them as guest workers to repair the oil rigs and ships damaged after Hurricane Katrina.

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## Mikka Bannada Hakki

Bird of A Different Feather

Kannada | India

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



*Mikka Bannada Hakki* is the coming-of age story of a 12-year-old girl with albinism.

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## Milan Hoga Kab Jaane

Hindi | India

Fiction | 135 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2023



There is a belief that love is the magic that can transform a human being, and love stories are the magic that can impact society. The story not only affects the society of that time but also the lives of generations that follow, whether it is the spiritual love of Radha and Krishna, the supernatural love of Meera and Mohan, the passion of Heer and Ranjha, or the lives of Laila and Majnu.

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## Moi Eti Nixhasor

### Koduwa – The Nightbird

Assamese | India

Fiction | 110 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2023



Like small towns everywhere, in Koduwa's village, everyone knows everyone else's business, and there are no secrets. Koduwa's open secret is that he is the town's thief. He doesn't love stealing but is compelled to make ends meet. And he is usually good at it. When people need a thief or someone who thinks like one, they rely on Koduwa.

Koduwa is an outsider in a black-and-white world who lives by his own rules until it catches up with him. And yet he manages to have the last laugh. As events and lives unfold in the small town, Koduwa grows from a youthful prankster to a principled professional who is sanguine about his standing in the village and knows that, among the pillars of village society, there are far bigger thieves than he.

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## Mwnabili

### An Evening Ballad

Bodo | India

Fiction | 97 mins

Tentative Completion Date May 2024



This film showcases the raw village landscape, natural calamities, friendship, and ever-changing bonds, as well as the resilience of a single mother navigating a patriarchal society. Mwnabili is a widow and a single mother who faces the daily struggle of life without her husband. In this story, age is shown to be irrelevant when it comes to matters of the heart. The poetic eroticism contrasts with the authentic scenes of daily life in their Indian villages, where carefree men and women face a pitiless reality. The experience of aging puts people under pressure from high expectations and strict moral principles.

This Bodo language film, which is about social commentary and how minor disagreements are accepted as a normal part of life rather than as conflicts, is set in a small village on the border between India and Bhutan.

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## My Search For Dalai Lama A.k.a Compassion

English, Tibetan | India, USA

Documentary | 52` mins

Tentative Completion Date March 2024



A filmmaker from Los Angeles is preparing to interview the Dalai Lama for a passion project. Suddenly, a trivial incident at an event of His Holiness derails the project, and his Indian producers leave him stranded. The filmmaker decides to go ahead in pursuit of the project, filled with anger and hate for the people who were trolling His Holiness.

Eventually, he realizes that his search for peace and compassion begins with the very project he was pursuing. In his struggle to make his passion project, the filmmaker eventually forgives and continues on his journey.

So, this film is essentially a struggle as an independent filmmaker as well as an internal journey of searching for what the Dalai Lama epitomizes: compassion, altruism, and universal brotherhood.

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## Nam Saali

### Our School

Kannada | India

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2023

Gangya is an innocent, brave boy from a village in the northern part of Karnataka. His grandmother aspires for her grandson to become an officer by getting a good education. In a single teacher's school, the teacher has given the student homework to write an essay about the school. Gangya writes about what he witnesses in and around the school. This provokes the schoolmaster, and he beats him up. Gangya is resisting going back to school.

Meanwhile, as his parents struggle to make a living with their daily wages, they decide to migrate to a city. Gangya is happy that he will learn at a better school. His parents promised they would take him with them, but they broke the promise and left him abandoned. Lonely and disappointed, Gangya goes back to the same school. He reads a different essay, looking at a blank page, which makes the schoolmaster happy.

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## Nanda Master'nka Chatasali

Nanda School of Tradition

Odia | India

Documentary | 133 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



A feature documentary biography on the life of the free education icon, Centenarian Padmashree Nanda Prusty, who ran one of the last traditional roofless schools of India called Chatasali. His real-life story spans over 90 years, set in remote Odisha, and portrays the extraordinary acts of an ordinary villager who embarks on a spiritual journey surpassing three generations of selfless giving towards the people of his village.

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## Napaak

Impure

Hindi | India

Fiction | 77 mins

Tentative Completion Date September 2023

*Napaak* is a compelling drama, set in the 1970s, that delves into the life of war veteran Subhash and his complex relationship with his wife, Binu. Subhash's violent past haunts him, making it difficult for him to find consolation and resulting in a repetitive existence. His days revolve around cycling through the village with his bioscope, keeping to himself. The only person he confides in is Farida, a young girl who runs the local bioscope repair shop.

Binu, on the other hand, decides to fill her days by working at a tailor's shop. It's there that she encounters Rakesh, a man who becomes enamored with her and offers her the attention she's been missing. Over time, their friendship evolves into a passionate romance. When Subhash confronts the haunting specters of his past, he attempts to rejuvenate his marriage. However, it seems that the ship of redemption has already sailed.

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## Neela Nira Sooriyan

Blue Sunshine

Tamil | India

Fiction | 98 mins

Tentative Completion Date April 2023



Aravind, a high school teacher, wants to transition from male to female while working for a school in a small town in South India. Aravind's parents do not know that he is already taking hormone treatment for the transition. When his parents force a marriage upon him due to their financial situation, Aravind gains courage under pressure. He starts to live as a woman named Bhanu with the help of his friend, Haritha. The school administration creates problems by not acknowledging Bhanu as a woman. As Bhanu struggles to find happiness after her transition, she meets a student, Karthik, who is being bullied by his classmates for his feminine demeanor. Unable to withstand the bullying, Karthik retaliates by wearing makeup and nail polish to school. The school administration blames Bhanu for all the problems. The story unfolds as Karthik and Bhanu deal with these challenges.

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## Nellier Kotha

### The Nellie Story

Assamese | India

Fiction | 100 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2023



Rajiv Pator, a PhD candidate at Gauhati University, visits the isolated villages of Nellie to study the locals and what inspired the slaughter of Muslims on February 18, 1983, commonly known as the Nellie massacre. When he visits the location, Nellie, forty years after the slaughter, his quest turns up a tale that is distinct from recorded discourse.

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## Nightmares I Cannot Explain Part One It And The Other

English | India

Fiction | 79 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2023



Through the mental projections of two characters, *Nightmares I Cannot Explain* (NICE) explores the situation when our imagination exceeds us and begins to gaze back, complicating our boundaries between reality and fantasy. Struck by fragmentary projections of themselves locked up in a particular experience in time, the characters deal with fluctuating boundaries between themselves and others.

In-Between Reality and Imagination: Mental Projections We have no direct access to reality; there is always a mediation between external reality and the self. The optic-sonic projections of the mind are the mediation and the means through which a subject makes meaning of her or his reality.

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**Director(s)** Sourodeep Dey

**Producer(s)** Sourodeep Dey



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## Nukkad Naatak

Street Play

Hindi | India

Fiction | 95 mins

Tentative Completion Date April 2024



Molshri and Shivang are best friends and members of a college theater group. While Molshri is solely dedicated to theater competitions, Shivang is secretly gay and struggles with his sexuality. They witness the unjust treatment of canteen worker Mukund, compelling Molshri to take action. She plans to rob the canteen to help Mukund and convinces a reluctant Shivang to join her. Their rebellion results in expulsion, straining their friendship. After desperately pleading for redemption, they are granted a second chance by the college director. The catch? Enroll five underprivileged children from a nearby slum in a government school. These children beg all day for a living so convincing them to go to school is impossible. This impossible becomes a transformative journey. The duo learn to use their craft and compassion to connect with the slum community. Ultimately, Molshri opens a school for slum children, and Shivang comes out to his peers.

### Contact

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**Director(s)** Tanmaya Shekhar

**Producer(s)** Stephen Anderson



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## Nyakra

### The Tatters

Bengali, Silent | India

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date April 2023



In 2002, HCL, a government-owned telecommunications cable manufacturer, declared closure, leaving over 7,000 families jobless and homeless. Today, many of them are still striving to survive among us. One such family, an old father and his son, Nokur, take shelter in a dead, abandoned mansion in a city, hoping to rebuild their lives. Even then, their struggles have no end. Torn between caring for his bedridden father and longing for a secure future, Nokur is compelled to sell the mansion's valuable assets.

Contrastingly, the father, consumed with the guilt and shame of becoming a burden for Nokur, distances himself, unable to face him. The father, plagued by sorrow and shame for being a burden to Nokur, withdraws, unwilling to face him. Nokur's suffering eventually leads to paranoia, obscuring his reality from his unmet illusions. Believing that only Death can now set him free, Nokur eagerly anticipates his father's death, planning and plotting to sell his father's organs on the underground market after his death, bidding all his moral principles in the process.

**Director(s)** Abhishek Bhattacharjee

**Producer(s)** Kalpataru Jana

#### Contact

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## Nybreum - The Unsettled Shade

English, Hindi, Kashmiri, Bengali | India

Documentary | 45 mins

Tentative Completion Date September 2023



A growing community of discarded Bengali brides in the heart of J&K is now established, all due to rampant bride trafficking between West Bengal and J&K. Poor Bengali Muslim girls are being exploited by poor Kashmiri Muslim men due to religious similarities.

This is only the beginning of the victims' woes - racialism, perpetual abuse, and an impaired sense of belonging. The color of the Valley is not pristine after all. Kashmir is much more than terrorism or nature's bounty. Authorities are unbothered. Why?

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## O Abhagi

O Abhagi

Bengali | India

Fiction | 112 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2023



It depicts an unparalleled battle between the fantasy of a Sati and the casteism of society.

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**Producer(s)** Prabir Bhaumik



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## Occupied

English, Arabic | Palestine, Israel

Documentary | 123 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



*Occupied* is the story of young Palestinians debating the choices made and the path walked while decoding a future that is equal parts promising and uncertain.

Our story chooses to focus on the young, disenfranchised Palestinians who have chosen the path of creativity over conflict as a response to the world around them. The individuals featured and the experiences shared by them speak to a collective re-imagining of what resistance in the face of aggression can look like.

### Contact

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## Pachola Kadambarivar Adharit

The Residue

Marathi | India

Fiction | 102 mins

Tentative Completion Date



*Pachola Kadambarivar Adharit* is a screen adaptation of a renowned Marathi novel 'Pachola' (Residue) written by R. R. Borade, which was published fifty years ago. 'Pachola' is set in a remote rural part of Maharashtra, depicting the village economy collapsing due to rapid modernization and industrialization, leading to the gradual disappearance of Alutedar and Balutedars (terms used for specialized skilled workers in rural Maharashtra, such as tailors and cobblers).

The story is an autobiographical narrative of Parvati, who lives with love's humility while enduring the blows of time, and of Gangaram, her husband and a tailor, who crumbles from the roots due to tragic flaws in his character.

**Contact**

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**Producer(s)** Ankush Kadam



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Awaiting World Premiere

## Padmashri Professor Waman Kendre

Hindi, Marathi, English | India

Documentary | 50 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2022



Wareppa Naba, Padma Shri (2017), dedicatedly practices different forms of narrative arts starting from Indian Theatre to folk arts to classical dance to traditional populist open air touring theatre form of Shumang Leela. He strives to preserve different narrative art forms practiced as oral tradition as well as rituals. The aesthetic amalgamation of different art forms makes his work unique and saves some dying arts from extinction.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Films Division-NFDC



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## Palama Do You See Me

Malayalam | India

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



When Anil Kumar, a college teacher accused of raping a lesbian student Prakruti, returns to campus, things take a volatile turn. Prakruti's friends came up with the idea of a college magazine to grab public attention regarding the assault.

As the release draws closer, the students feel trapped within an unjust education system. Each of them has had an experience of being made to feel 'the other' on campus. This situation pushes them to take matters into their own hands and challenge the draconian system.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Jomon Jacob



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## Papa Ko Pani Se Dar Lagta Hai

My Father Is Afraid of Water

Hindi | India

Fiction | 28 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



While his older brother tends to their hospitalized mother, Prateek chooses to stay at home and care for his father with Alzheimer's. However, his patience and determination are soon tested as he navigates the daily challenges of caregiving for his father.

### Contact

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## Parijaat

Marathi | India

Fiction | 99 mins

Tentative Completion Date September 2023



Madhav, who has shifted to the city for his career, visits his native village after many years, feeling emotionally detached from the village, the people there, and his childhood memories.

Kaka Bavkar, a resident of the same village, lives his life surrounded by affectionate and caring people but is unable to see their love. He keeps praising his distant son, who is busy in his own world, seldom caring about his father. The film is a journey of individuals toward acceptance of self and the importance of previously overlooked relations.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Ashay Shantaram



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## Pariya

Kannada | India

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2023



Mythological deities have placed within man ample opportunities for creative life. There is a way of life called Jogappa/Jogavva in the heritage of Savadatti Yallamma of Uttara Karnataka. In the culture, if one has the body of a man but tends to live as a woman due to changes in the body, has been given the option of living as a Jogappa. Similarly, women are also given the option of becoming a Jogavva, when their body transits for male nature. Pariya is also a boy who inherits the legacy of that goddess. In this transition the male dominance of the society starts supervising him. In that supervision there is a pretense of decency, an eye of lust, a love of exploitative hypocrisy. In the end, even though the divine heritage is behind Pariya, there will be an inevitable situation where he will struggle to live the life he wishes.

### Contact

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## Part 2 Side B

Hindi, English | India

Fiction | 30 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



One morning, a depressed young man J wakes up in his apartment to find a random man K cooking breakfast in his kitchen. The random man, K, looks exactly like J's ex-girlfriend, DC. Except that K is a man and has a dense moustache. The duo embark on an adventure through J's world in Mumbai, India.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Prateek Pamecha Ayush Trivedi Harshdeep Singh



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## Pichchar

### The Film

Hindi | India

Fiction | 95 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2023



Ten-year-old Cheeku, a natural storyteller, aspires to make films, while his father, Omkar, runs an open theatre in their village. Omkar loves cinema but disapproves of Cheeku's dreams. In Mumbai, 32-year-old Akash struggles for a break as a director, unable to write scripts. Frustration mounts, straining his relationship with his girlfriend. During a chance encounter with Cheeku and Omkar, Akash is captivated by Cheeku's passion and storytelling skills.

Back in the village, Cheeku discovers the envious village photographer, Keshav, has a film camera. When Keshav refuses to collaborate, Cheeku plots to steal the camera, leading to a chaotic chase. Meanwhile, after a producer steals Akash's idea, he contemplates suicide but then hears the story Cheeku narrates. Akash finds Cheeku's village and helps rebuild Omkar's theatre, inviting Cheeku to join him in Mumbai to fulfill their filmmaking dream, a heartwarming tale of determination and collaboration in the world of cinema.

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**Producer(s)** Milind Vishnu



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## Ponna Kadathu

### Kidnap The Bride

English, Tamil | USA, India

Fiction | 27 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



*Kidnap the Bride* is a fish-out-of-water comedy that follows an Indian-American boy as he embarks on a journey to India in search of his missing Indian girlfriend. Clueless about his Indian roots, he finds himself in unexpected predicaments while chasing after his girlfriend, who's grown tired of his 'American-Born Confused Desi' ways. Along the way, he must not only outsmart his girlfriend's formidable brothers but also come to terms with his own Indian identity. With the aid of some unlikely allies, he must confront his denial about his complex Indian heritage, ultimately winning back the love of his life.

#### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Yugandhara Muthukrishnan



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## Prashant Ke Kuch Khwaab

Prashant Is Dreadful

Hindi | India

Fiction | 22 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2023



Prashant, a cab driver with a biased mindset, clashes with his wife, Perna, over learning English for income. His ego and traditional masculinity fuel the tension, while neighbor Asif's success adds to his inferiority complex and bigotry. Amid Perna's empowerment journey, Prashant's misogyny and compassion collide, leading to a gripping internal conflict.

This sets the stage for his choice: to confront his biases, redefine his beliefs, and undergo a transformative journey from prejudice to redemption.

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**Director(s)** Harsh Sangani

**Producer(s)** Harsh Sangani



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## Punarvasu

### The Renewal

Hindi, Bengali | India

Fiction | 15 mins

Tentative Completion Date September 2023



The film embraces the personal struggles of a railway cabin master working in a remote Indian hamlet, Sitapur, lacerated by the truths of his life. Upon being posted to Sitapur, city-bred railway cabin master Manoranjan Pan (53) finds it challenging to cope with the place and the people, beleaguered by caste politics. He does his best to manage a transfer or promotion but fails, succumbing to ennui.

Meanwhile, the railways hint at their policies about privatization. Manoranjan, a malcontent, colludes with some politicians to have the Sitapur line closed, assuming that this action would make his transfer inevitable. Things change when a political murder occurs, as the victim, Lalan Chumber (40), who belongs to the backward caste, is Manoranjan's friend. However, his hopefulness remains alive till the day he meets an accident; whether or not he is alive is not revealed.

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## Punch Me Hard

Hindi, Japanese | India, Japan

Documentary | 65 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2023



A retired Indian boxer, struggling to make a comeback, falls in love with a Japanese woman, and his life changes forever. The film follows Anuditya, who is trying to break into the professional boxing arena, and Ayako, a Japanese woman who falls in love with him and shifts to India to marry him. A chance meeting with a boxing trainer in Japan changes the course of life for both Ayako and Anuditya.

Will he realize his dream of becoming a pro boxer and maintain his relationship with his wife, Ayako?

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## Qandeel

### The Lantern

Hindi, Urdu | India

Fiction | 18 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2022



After seeing her mother crying all the time for her missing son, Nadeem, 6-year-old Qandeel sets out on a journey to earn 1100 Rupees so that she can make an offering at a local shrine, where it is believed that every wish comes true if one prays hard and makes a cash offering to the gods. To free her mother from the pain, the little girl attempts different ways to earn the required amount, from taking a job at the local woodcutter's workshop to selling off her favorite goat. She fights all odds to earn the money for the offering at the shrine.

#### Contact

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**Director(s)** Rabiya Nazki

**Producer(s)** Qismat Bukhari



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## Rechan

Maithili | India

Fiction | 26 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



Ashok, a homeopathic practitioner and a family man, is struggling to come to terms with the failure of his dream, a dream that Dr. Ahmad is living. Dr. Ahmad operates a large hospital with long queues of patients and a busy schedule, while all Ashok faces is the harsh reality of an empty waiting bench and long, monotonous hours. He shares his frustrations with Dr. Ahmad after leaning on his shoulder for support, and then he returns to his family, who have their own dreams. Malti aspires to start a Madhubani painting business, and Ashok encourages and supports his wife, even though he knows he may not be able to fulfill her financial needs. Despite having sympathy for Ashok, Dr. Ahmad declines to be his support system after a staff complaint. Uncertain about his next steps, Ashok visits several hospitals and doctors. Failing to find a suitable space to express his emotions, he decides to open a crying club, but even there, he ends up being the shoulder for others. He finally discovers his own space when Malti's startup begins to thrive.

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## River In The Rain

Hindi | India

Fiction | 71 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



The story revolves around a husband, wife, and a stranger who encounter each other in a desolate place for seven days. Each day brings new challenges and surprises that reveal the psychological state of these three characters.

In this barren and scorching July landscape, the stranger comes across a couple. The husband is drunk and passed out, while the wife sits beside him. The stranger abducts the wife and takes her away by force. The next seven days are about the stranger's attempt to return the wife to her husband. Each day is filled with unexpected events that move the story forward. The three characters face their own nature, limits, and morals. Ultimately, it's the wife's decision on the seventh day that determines the story's outcome.

### Contact

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## River Tales

Hindi | India

Fiction | 112 mins

Tentative Completion Date April 2024



The community and the village that Tilou belongs to have been small fishermen traditionally for generations. But gradually, with the advent of the neo-liberal political economy, Tilou and his community have faced unprecedented compulsion to change their traditional socio-ecological livelihood system.

To their dismay, generalized rules and regulations of the state have created a serious threat to the livelihood of indigenous communities dependent on nature, and in the process, the communities have been uprooted from nature and their socio-cultural legacy. The river Ratuwa is the lifeline and source of all possibilities for Tilou and his community. Gradually, the river disappears from their lives!

Here, Tilou and the community ask about their traditional rights to the common resources of their locality. In a parallel line, in spite of the system-imposed liberal modern thoughts, Tilou's widow, Basanti, has to bear the brunt of feudal norms that have been prevalent in society.

**Director(s)** Pankaj Borah

**Producer(s)** Priti Salila Rajkhowa

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## Roojh

### Healing

Gujrati | India

Fiction | 128 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



It is a story of grief and liberation of two women who battle routine struggles of their contrasting lives and their marriages. Meera, a 28-year-old woman, is happily married but still searching for that acceptance in her family and Trupti, a 34-year-old nurse and a widow, coming out of mental health trauma after her husband committed suicide in just two months of marriage. In a society where there is a battle of different conditioning and complexities of gender defined roles, Meera and Trupti tackle patriarchy and hierarchy in smallest of living situations. They both find answers from each other to their past and present matters in the three days they spend together while looking after Meera's father, and realize their basic living dignities and impact of the choices they made.

#### Contact

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**Director(s)** Himadri Parmar

**Producer(s)** Manish Saini



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## Ruma Devi - The Crusader

Hindi, Marwari, English | India

Documentary | 28 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2022



This film is all about a young girl of highly orthodox and deprived background from Balmer—one of the most backward regions of Rajasthan, who with a dream in her eyes and a needle in her hand, stepped out of her house, breaking all the taboos of the society, to provide others a better tomorrow. And who with a strong determination and courage to fight the social injustice, not only succeeded in achieving her goal but also in changing the environment for ladies in her region, and that too while managing her home and social work together amazingly.

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**Producer(s)** Films Division-NFDC



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## Ruthupavanalu

Monsoon Breeze

Telugu, Tamil | India

Fiction | 143 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2023



In nine long takes, we peek into a day in the life of Deepu, a 23-year-old girl from Hyderabad who has just moved to Mumbai with her mother for her master's. On the day of her mother's wedding anniversary, Deepu suggests celebrating the day by going to the beach. On their way to the beach, her mother decides they must head back home after she receives a message that her husband, whom she hasn't spoken to in months, is now waiting at their doorstep. Deepu's father, claiming to be a changed man, tries to make amends with his wife while not remembering that it is their anniversary.

The story unfolds as the night progresses, with Deepu being caught in between her parents' marriage crisis, playing the role of a mediator between her prideful mother and egotistical father, who are trying to find love in their broken marriage.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Abdul Aziz



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## Second Chance

Hindi, English, Kullui | India

Fiction | 120 mins

Tentative Completion Date September 2023



Nia, 25, stands on a mountaintop on a winter morning, wishing away the worst trauma of her life—an illicit abortion. Visiting her family's summer retreat in the Himalayas from the city alone, she's desolate and detached. The caretaker of the house departs, leaving his mother-in-law Bhemi, 70, in charge along with his son Sunny, 7.

A weathered mountain woman, Bhemi's days are filled with labour, but her sense of humour doesn't disguise the years of wisdom she offers, while Sunny's endless mischief forces Nia back into a childhood she had long forgotten. As a stark, stunning winter sets in, three souls find themselves bound together beyond age and class divides... Even as Nia starts to smile again, the demons of her past keep catching up on her, throwing her back into the heart of her trauma, testing her strength and resilience as she debates giving her life a *Second Chance*.

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**Director(s)** Subhadra Mahajan

**Producer(s)** Shyam Bora



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## Seven Lives of Slumber

Telugu, Tamil | India

Fiction | 100 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2024



Two sisters, Usha (65) and Padma (60), migrate to an alien land to unite with their daughter, a government officer. Usha gave her up for adoption to Padma years ago after her husband's death. Meanwhile, the town is going through an unusually prolonged solar eclipse. Public announcements are being made, warning everyone to stay put, lest they mysteriously gain the ability of flight. It is then that Usha starts yearning for the life of a vagabond, like her mother.

Padma, who detests their mother, forces Usha to conform to family life in the temple town, where she believes they are safe in more ways than one. Usha starts having recurring memories of an incident involving her daughter, one isn't sure has occurred or not. Even as Padma frantically prepares to perform a ritual to ward off the suspected evil eye nature has cast on Usha, the latter goes missing.

**Director(s)** Nandan G

**Producer(s)** Ananya Ayachit

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## Shakota Dulche

### The Blind Girl And The Elephant

Bengali | India

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2024



In a pandemic-stricken village, friends Momi, Hima, and Laily find themselves trapped in despair. Hima's father arranges her unwanted marriage, prompting her escape, but she encounters Laily's abusive husband. Their quest for freedom becomes intertwined with a journey to witness a mystical elephant, a journey cut short by unforeseen circumstances.

Meanwhile, blind Momi seeks solace in Quranic studies, enduring the cruel Imam's abuse. United in their struggle, the friends resolve to escape together. However, Hima's secret computer use leads to a scandalous photo with tragic repercussions. Love, loss, and friendship are put to the test as their paths diverge, leaving an uncertain future.

This poignant tale delves into themes of oppression, resilience, and the pursuit of freedom. Will redemption be found, or will they remain forever trapped in their village's shadows?

#### Contact

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## Shambhala

Tibetan, Nepali | Nepal, France, Norway, Hong Kong, Turkey,  
Taiwan, USA

Fiction | 148 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



Married in accordance with the polyandry custom of the Himalayas in Nepal, Pema (25) is abandoned by her husband. Upon discovering her pregnancy, she embarks on a journey to locate her first husband, Tashi, accompanied by Karma, a monk and also her brother-in-law, effectively serving as her husband. Together, they venture into the remote and challenging landscape of the roof of the world, holding hope for the future of her child and its identity.

### Contact

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## Shavagalu

### Dead Beings

Kannada | India

Fiction | 26 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2023



Abhi, a carefree teenager, realizes that he has failed his exams, yet again. Rather than being worried, he sees it as an opportunity to finally skip college so he can enjoy hanging out with his friends. His father, Krishnappa, lives in his own world of drunken stupor, drowning in his misery. Abhi's hope of roaming the streets with his friends comes to a halt when his otherwise indifferent father decides to put him to work upon learning about his son's failure.

Abhi's naive, narrow world breaks down when he witnesses the menial work his father is forced to do at the mortuary. Indian society has always been mired in caste-based inequality, and this continues to be the case today.

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## Shawlwala

Hindi | India

Fiction | 120 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2022



In the bustling streets of Kolkata, there lived a humble Shawlwala. One day he crossed paths with a warm-hearted family in Kolkata. Their young daughter, with her innocent smile and curious eyes, reminded him of his own child. An unbreakable bond formed between him and this family, and he became like a second father to the girl.

However, their idyllic world was shattered when a terrible terrorist attack struck Kolkata. In a cruel twist of fate, the Shawlwala was wrongfully accused and arrested by the police. Due to the lack of any evidence or documents to prove his innocence, he found himself entangled in a web of deception. They framed the innocent Shawlwala, unable to capture the elusive terrorists responsible for the attack. In this version of the story, we see the Shawlwala's journey through adversity, emphasizing the themes of family, injustice, and the inexorable passage of time.

**Director(s)** Suman Maitra

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## Shirshak-Heen

Untitled

Hindi, Bhojpuri | India, China

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



Two elderly men, a teacher and a weaver, receive a mysterious letter that leads them on a journey to the unknown. With only a flower pot for company, they find themselves stranded in a boat, floating endlessly on a stream of perplexing encounters and endless questions. As they navigate this surreal landscape, they are forced to confront their own beliefs and values. They witness acts of both kindness and cruelty, and they encounter strange and enigmatic figures. Their journey becomes a metaphor for the human condition, with all its complexities and contradictions.

### Contact

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## Shuddhi

### Shuddhi

Hindi | Germany

Documentary | 40 mins

Tentative Completion Date 01-03-2023



Baba, a former resident of a Leprosy Ashram, shares his life insights with his grandson on the banks of the Ganges. Meanwhile, Dhan Ji prepares for a ritual cleansing ceremony that Baba wishes for himself.

*Shuddhi* reveals the reality of Hansen's Disease (Leprosy) and its enduring stigma, creating a meditative portrait of familial tenderness and cultural respect against the backdrop of India's rivers, landscapes, and a remaining hospital for the disease.

*Shuddhi*, a poetic blend of documentary and auteur cinema, interweaves themes of humanity, fear, love, judgment, and the never-ending cycle of water.

#### Contact

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## Shwaas

Gujarati | India

Fiction | 97 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



Be it wealthy or poor, there is nothing more important for a father than a child. Raju runs a rickshaw and runs the family's livelihood. He has a 2-year-old daughter. He comes from the village to the city to earn for his daughter's bright future. One day, the daughter suddenly goes missing. A mountain of grief falls on them when their 2-year-old daughter goes missing. No one helps them.

Finally, he finds it difficult to find a daughter himself. His rickshaw is also sold in search of his daughter. But without losing courage, the father continues to search for his daughter and even takes the lives of three people to get her back safely. And take the lives of people who are very cruel and oppressive. If Raju had not killed them, they would have killed Raju and his daughter.

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## Signal Man - 1971

Kannada | India

Fiction | 117 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2022



It is December 1971. The Indo-Pak war is raging along the eastern and western borders of India. There is a threatening presence of the US Navy's Seventh Fleet deployed to the Bay of Bengal by the Nixon administration. Young photographer Rajashekhar is looking for photo opportunities at a remote location in the scenic Western Ghats, where he meets Balu, the Signal Man.

Over the next five days, the story of the signal man unravels. His internal struggles to come to terms with his lonely life and troubled past get compounded with mounting external pressures of the war. Adapted from the 1866 story 'The Signal-Man' by Charles Dickens, the film builds into a tense and exciting narrative that is interwoven with the backstory of the Haifa War of 1918, in present-day Israel, involving the erstwhile Mysore Lancers. *Signal Man, 1971* is a story of inspiration, sacrifice, and reconciliation.

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## Somantoral

Parallel

Assamese | India

Fiction | 86 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2024



Goswami, who works on Indian railway tracks, is in deep financial trouble. He borrowed money from a local lender to help his nephew secure a railway job after his brother's passing, but he was betrayed. Meanwhile, Goswami's son, Pankaj, who is a college graduate, is struggling to find a job while his friends are getting employed. Their situation takes a darker turn when Pankaj learns about a special railway program that offers jobs to the sons of deceased railway workers, leading them down a path filled with despair and thoughts of taking drastic measures.

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## Srishti

Hindi, English | India

Fiction | 95 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2023



Neerav Uprati, a photojournalist, explores the forbidden woods of sector K, accompanied by a forest security official and a local guide. However, when the security official goes missing in the hills, Neerav is left to confront a mythical creature that haunts him with its terrifying memories, leaving him with a curse that begins to take over his life. Despite his wife Anvi's attempts to help him, Neerav spirals into a dark place, pushing away everyone he loves. He finds refuge in a job at the local dump yard, where he reunites with his childhood friends Kamli and Mugdha. However, the curse continues to manifest in unexpected ways, threatening to consume him entirely.

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**Director(s)** Paul Ratnaraj

**Producer(s)** Matthew Kilari



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## Strange Destiny

English | India, France

Documentary | 61 mins

Tentative Completion Date May 2023



A Catholic nun's unusual determination to reform a Carmel for educating women disrupts egos and traditions. The life of Mother Veronica of the Passion is one of extraordinary victory in the face of uncommon institutional and personal challenges.

Based on the autobiography of Sophie Leeves, the film, set in the 19th century, traces her journey of faith and courage against the norms of her times. Two hundred years since her passing, Mother Veronica, as she came to be called, is currently up for sainthood in Rome.

This docu-drama format involves a global cast and crew, as well as local communities in real locations, to tell a tale that has remained elusive from public knowledge until now. Her story of reform and empowerment inspires people across religions and races. For more information, visit [www.strangredestiny.com](http://www.strangredestiny.com).

**Director(s)** Jigyasa Taneja

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## Svyatoi Archipelag

### The Holy Archipelago

Russian | Russia

Documentary | 96 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2022



The documentary searches for the true meanings of life, faith, hope, and love.

How does faith in God affect human lives? The Solovki Islands are a pivotal point in the spiritual geography of Russia. These places are marked by spiritual, historical, and cultural events that have left a deep mark in history and in the memory of the people.

The documentary filming span at the Solovki Archipelago covered 2 years. Step by step, the film crew went deep into the monastic measured life that passed in calmness, concentration, and prayers.

The audience gets the idea of the life and spiritual labor of this place. An important part of the film is conversations with wise monks. Here we find deep insights into the most burning issues of our lives. The content of the film is in harmony with the breathtaking cinematography.

**Director(s)** Serge Debizhev

**Producer(s)** Natalia Debizheva

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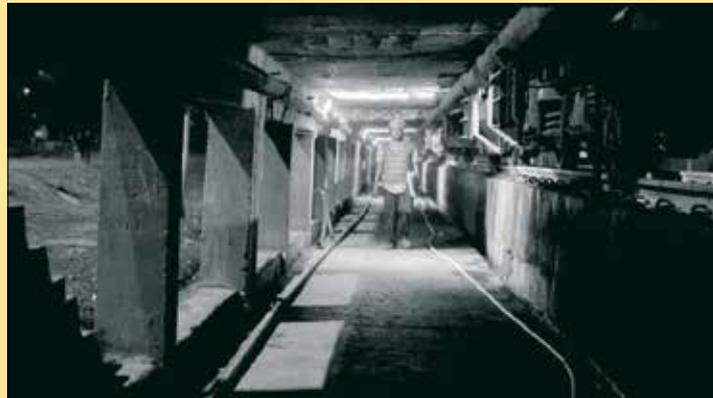
## Swaha

### All Hail

Magahi | India

Fiction | 101 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



A mother, cradling an infant on her lap, gazed towards the horizon with a heart laden by the loss of her beloved father. She yearned for her husband's return, a beacon in the night to guide them through the storm. The father, resolute and marked by the weight of necessity, embarked on a perilous journey for survival. Each step was a vow, a pledge to ensure his child's existence in a world that showed little mercy.

Amidst their journeys, an enigmatic figure emerged, transporting an unclaimed body for a mere bottle of liquor, a spectre straddling the line between the living and the dead. And then, in a twist of fate that only destiny could orchestrate, the child—the innocent fulcrum of this narrative—found herself at the crossroads of their intersecting lives. Their stories converged, painting a portrait of resilience and the profound impact of chance encounters.

#### Contact

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## Synaesthesia

No Dialogue | India

Documentary | 16 mins

Tentative Completion Date May 2023



Inspired by the aesthetics of Cinema Pur, *Synaesthesia* as the name suggests, is a free atmospheric exploration of the audio-visual associations and impressions from one sense impression of the body to the other.

In this free-flowing movement of sound and images, associations of smell, taste, touch, sound, and sight are created with the human body as the pivot. It is a hybrid creative documentary exploring the imaginative impressions of the concept of synaesthesia as an experience.

Contact

**Director(s)** Ravisankar Kerala Varma

**Producer(s)** Ravisankar Kerala Varma



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## Tale of Two Indians

Dogri, Bengali, Hindi | India

Documentary | 85 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



*Tale of Two Indians* is a docu-fiction feature film that explores India's cultural heritage of Shantipuri sarees and fabrics, as well as the Basohli paintings of Jammu, which once thrived together in the past. The film traces the lives of two individuals deeply connected to these traditions, offering a glimpse into their unique stories. Hailing from the cultural hubs of Shantipur and Basohli, these individuals serve as windows into the rich history, culture, and challenges faced by these art forms.

Beyond the arts themselves, the film delves into the socio-economic dynamics of these regions, showcasing how people sustain their livelihoods. With a focus on the human element, *Tale of Two Indians* weaves together narratives that illustrate the beauty, resilience, and difficulties of preserving cultural heritage in the modern world. It is connected by a period fiction piece and serves as a poignant exploration of the intersection between art, tradition, and the evolving fabric of society.

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**Producer(s)** Toushita Sengupta

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## Tara & Akash Love Beyond Realms

Hindi | Switzerland, India

Fiction | 90 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2023



Tara and Akash's love story defies norms, reaching beyond the ordinary into the extraordinary. It originates in Mumbai, where Tara, a radiant soul, secures a dream photography assignment in Switzerland, hidden from her overbearing parents.

Simultaneously, Akash, an enigmatic figure, awakens in a Swiss park, unaware of his true identity. Their unexpected encounter leads to friendship, but Tara soon discovers Akash is an astral being. In their love story, a mysterious novel guides them on a quest that unveils secrets and a higher purpose, transcending the boundaries of their worlds.

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**Producer(s)** Jitesh Thakur



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## Tass - Part I

Punjabi | India, Singapore

Fiction | 80 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



Bahadur lives in the village of Taunsa, in India. There is also a city named Taunsa in Pakistan; Bahadur does not know this. All he knows is that the entire world is owned by him, and he is its master. As the farmers' movement becomes larger and the pandemic spreads even further, the entire state is enveloped in a fog of doom and anxiety.

Despite this, everyone in the village treats Bahadur with gentleness and empathy. They mock him as he fantasizes about power and omnipotence. There is a moment that changes all of this—a violent flashpoint that causes it all to crumble. In the Punjab of Bahadur, there is an endless and open landscape. In this open world, there is no freedom, just uncertainty, dread, and memory. This is not a Punjab of agriculture and gregariousness. It is one of ghosts, gender fluidity, and untuned harps.

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**Director(s)** Kabir Singh Chowdhry

**Producer(s)** Angad Chowdhry



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## Technical Teacher

Hindi | India

Fiction | 71 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



In a remote Malwa village, a quaint tradition dictates girls' marriages based on 10th-grade results. A single government school stands in the village, its teachers preoccupied with personal woes. Among them, a concern lingers for the English teacher's predicament. Enter Latika, a private school teacher who secures a position in the government school. She forms a close bond with Phulwa, a 10th grader on the verge of an early marriage.

Horrified by this archaic practice, Latika takes it upon herself to intervene. Phulwa resists her impending marriage, prompting her father to reconsider and agree to send her to school. But Latika's unexpected transfer to the city leaves Phulwa heartbroken. Despite the separation, Phulwa perseveres and excels in her studies, thanks to online classes and technology. Miraculously, the entire school achieved a 100% pass rate in the exams, with Phulwa emerging as the district topper. This heartwarming tale illustrates the power of education.

**Director(s)** Harish Sharma

**Producer(s)** Harish Sharma

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## Tenzing Bodosa - A Story of A Tribal Entrepreneur

English ,Hindi | India

Documentary | 56 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2022



Tenzing Bodosa, a young tribal organic farmer, environmental activist and entrepreneur from Kashibari, Dimakuchi, a remote village of Assam (Northeast-India). He has developed eco-tourism, forest and world's first elephant friendly tea farm. He is engaged with conservation of nature through organic farming and resolving human and elephant conflict thereby ensuring a peaceful co-existence. A school drop-out, he had to work as a roadside laborer, constructions worker and machine operator in a Malaysian construction company. He transcended those hard times to become an entrepreneur and organic farmer. The film inspires and gives us hope that in spite of hardship and struggles, Success touches the feet of determined minds.

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**Producer(s)** Films Division-NFDC



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## The Art of Revolution

Marathi | India

Documentary | 62 mins

Tentative Completion Date March 2024



In 2022, Eknath Shinde's government renounced the construction of Metro 3 Car Shed in Aarey Colony, one of the last green lungs in Mumbai, which sparked protests. Every revolution, whether successful or not, gave birth to artists and their voices.

Rajratna Bhojane, a young protestor, and his prestigious theatre troupe, 'Ruia Natyavalay,' decide to create a revolutionary play in support of the Save Aarey movement for the famous theatre competition, 'Indian National Theatre (INT).'

They are supported by the Bhoirs, an indigenous family who have been the face of the protest since 2014, creating a sense of revolution. They have 25 days to figure it all out and win, but as destiny comes close and pressure starts to rise, the troupe forgets the starting intentions of the play amidst the mammoth race of competition.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Yugandhar Salvi



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## The Broken Mirror

Bengali | India

Fiction | 78 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



In an unhappy, cold marriage, Archisman, a confused soul, lives a life without passion, aim, & color with his lonely wife. As partners, they communicate very little but silently observe each other in their mundane existence.

One day, while shaving & talking to the mirror, Archisman suddenly escapes into a magic-real wanderlust amidst lush, open nature, where he gradually meets different magical yet passionate characters long dead in his mind. One of them is a dead communist, & one woman is waiting eternally in immense grief. One Lady Macbeth has an insatiable appetite for killing new lovers & snatching their money. One man is madly in love with his mad, runaway wife. Archisman now thinks about his lonely, simple, aggrieved wife, who is waiting for him in the house with love. It enlightens him to understand that only our deeds can prove our intentions.

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## The Counterpart

Bengali | India

Fiction | 16 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2023



A tale of shattered friendship unfolds as two childhood companions find themselves entangled in a love triangle. Betrayed by his childhood friend Arka, Sandip suffers a major psychological breakdown and leaves town without a trace. Two years later, Sandip returns, driven by a vengeful desire. Arka discovers himself trapped in his own home. Alone and helpless.

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## The Curse

Tamil, Hindi, English | India

Fiction | 45 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



A couple trapped in a four-lifetime cycle of cursing each other is perpetually denied the chance to be together. One fateful night, they're gripped by a once-in-a-lifetime hunger, leading them to an apartment where a captive family resides. Here, the true meaning of their hunger unfolds.

The story revolves around their struggle to break free from this curse's relentless loop, posing the question: Can they conquer their hunger and escape the unending cycle?

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**Producer(s)** Sonali Mukherjee



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## The First Film

Hindi | India

Fiction | 24 mins

Tentative Completion Date September 2023



In a small town in 1960s India, deep-rooted in orthodox traditions, cinema is believed to corrupt young minds, and women have been forbidden to watch films. Devi, a 14-year-old girl, is obsessed with films and dreams of watching a film in the theatre one day. Her neighbor, Mohan, is a 14-year-old mute boy who is a cinephile.

Every night, when the world sleeps, he narrates stories from his favorite films to her. One day, an unforeseen incident shakes up their little world, leaving Devi with one last chance to pursue her dream. *The First Film* is a celebration of friendship, courage, and the magic of cinema.

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## The Girl Who Lived In The Loo

English, Bengali | India

Animation | 12 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



A 10-year-old girl has an obsession with the loos. She loves spending time in the loo, talking about the loo, and loving the loo. But her life from one loo to another is calm and safe, but somewhat lonely. So, as she grows up, she tries to make sense of this obsession while navigating her way through life.

**Contact**

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## The Investigator

Hindi | India

Fiction | 143 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2023



Sameer, an investigator newly transferred to Nashik, is asked to close a suicide case of a lower-caste female with speech and hearing disabilities found in a refrigerator. He discovers iron particles under her teeth, suspecting her higher-caste, mute husband. Due to no circumstantial evidence, Sameer's superior transfers the case, while the clock ticks towards Sameer's wife's mental illness.

Sameer finally unfolds the husband's dark secrets but soon gets transferred. He discovers his husband's unusual bank transfer to a poultry farm, shocking his senior. Sameer gets brutally tortured but is rescued by cow vigilantes. The husband and senior get life imprisonment. One month earlier, Sameer's psychiatrist confronted him for wrongly medicating his wife instead of treating his own delusional disorder, triggered by his wife's infidelity. Two years later, his ex-wife returns to him for financial help but finds him dead in the refrigerator. She gets framed for a murder she did not commit.

**Director(s)** Kamil Shaikh

**Producer(s)** Kamil Shaikh

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## The Journey of ISRO

English | India

Documentary | 55 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2022



The film encapsulates the Journey of ISRO from its genesis to its present status as one of the top 6 space organizations in the world, and its future plans. The film records the milestones of ISRO achieved over the years, through the scientist and visionaries who have immensely contributed to ISRO's growth.

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**Director(s)** "Karavatti Sampath Shridhar

**Producer(s)** Films Division-NFDC



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## The Man And The Monkey

English, Bengali | India, USA

Fiction | 18 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2023



Photographer Shiv, an Indian-origin American, is in India on an assignment for a Stock Footage company. While on a call with his boss and sister, he shares picturesque landscape photos from his ongoing travels but is harshly reminded that the perception of 'India' is that of 'Snake Charmers and Poor People'. His trivia about India's development isn't important. Finally, his sister motivates him to just get the job done and secure a permanent position with this company. What follows is a series of adventures and encounters, which involves him exploring remote and well-known parts of Kolkata, getting pick-pocketed, making a friend, and attending an energetic live music house party that evening. Later that night, while browsing through his shots, a photo of a monkey dancing makes him feel like The Monkey, who is being forced to dance to the tune of The Man, which is his boss.

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**Director(s)** Korok Murmu

**Producer(s)** Shaunak Sur Prateek Bagi



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## The Rabbit House

Hindi | India

Fiction | 150 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2023



*The Rabbit House* unravels the gripping tale of a newlywed girl ensnared in the life trap of an incompatible marriage with a husband afflicted by OCD (Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder). In a poignant exploration of her silent struggle for freedom, the film paints a vivid picture of her relentless pursuit of independence and happiness. Set amidst the picturesque landscapes of Himachal Pradesh, this Hindi feature film takes viewers on a turbulent journey through the young bride's life. Faced with the suffocating constraints of her marriage, she embarks on a quest to find her own identity and liberation. As the story unfolds, the audience is drawn into her world of trials and tribulations, domestic turmoil, and the constant battle between the desire for freedom and the weight of societal expectations. Will she discover her freedom amidst the challenges of life, or will she seek solace in the arms of death?

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**Director(s)** Vaibhav Kulkarni

**Producer(s)** Sunita Pandhare



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## The Steering

Malayalam | India

Fiction | 115 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2023



*The Steering* embarks on a captivating cinematic journey, weaving parallel tales unfolding on the same day. One narrative follows a diverse group on a quest to unravel their destinies through the superstitious art of Nadi astrology in an ancient Tamil Nadu village. The other thread follows a woman's poignant expedition to unearth her grandfather's hidden identity, delving into his past through encounters with old friends and acquaintances and unearthing fragments of untold stories. These narratives serve as mirrors for contemporary India, where society grapples with regressive tendencies, embracing myths over truth. The authorities manipulate historical narratives, attempting to obscure the identities of those who oppose their beliefs. In a mysterious convergence, these separate journeys converge, revealing a shared context. *The Steering* is a cinematic tapestry reflecting the intricate interplay of fate, memory, and the struggle for truth in modern India.

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**Director(s)** Mohammed Sadik

**Producer(s)** Media Ravan



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## The Story of A Casteist

Tamil | India

Fiction | 17 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2023



Seeing that his younger sister had hung herself, her brother cried profusely. But without any concern, his wife is working in the kitchen, and his daughter is doing her homework. Hearing the elder brother cry, the neighbors gather. A neighbor then calls a police officer who is a relative of the dead sister.

Meanwhile, the wife makes and distributes tea to the crowd and continues to work in the kitchen without any concerns. As the policeman arrives, the brother cries and holds on to him. The so-far silent wife then walks out of the kitchen and shouts at them. It was both of you that strangled and hung her, and now are you acting for others? She courageously spills the truth in front of everyone, removes her Thali, throws it on her husband's face, and leaves the house with her children!

### Contact

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Director(s) Arun Mo

Producer(s) Arun Mo



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## The Super Dad

Hindi | India

Fiction | 71 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



*The Super Dad* is a family-friendly film that follows the story of a father who believes he is a superhero with superpowers. Despite his incredible abilities, he struggles to keep his family happy, especially his wife, who feels neglected and overworked.

However, everything changes when the father discovers a time-traveling device that allows him to go back in time and make changes to his past. With the hope of making his family happy, he embarks on a journey through time but soon realizes that changing the past is not as easy as he thought.

As he navigates through different eras and tries to fix his mistakes, he learns valuable lessons about love, family, and the importance of being present in the moment. Will he be able to make his family happy with his newfound power, or Will he learn that true happiness comes from within?

**Director(s)** Shahnawaz Baqal

**Producer(s)** `Shahnawaz Baqal

### Contact

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## The Way Back Home

Nagamese, Bengali, Hindi, English | India

Fiction | 15 mins

Tentative Completion Date July 2023



Two young girls from the northeastern part of India relocate to a metropolis to take up jobs at a resto-bar. They witness the ugly racial behaviour from local people when both of them are harassed and accused of things with which they have no connection while returning home from work late in the evening.

**Contact**

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**Director(s)** Sandeep Kumar Paul

**Producer(s)** Prateek Pamecha



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## The Woodcutter - Gos Kota Manuh

Assamese | India

Fiction | 112 mins

Tentative Completion Date May 2023



Bonojit, a 40-year-old folk musician, risks his life for his livelihood. He cares for his ninety-year-old neighbor, his elderly mother, who is hopelessly waiting for her daughter. One day, Munu's teacher explains the harmful impact of woodcutting, emphasizing humanity's dependence on trees for survival. Munu's friends start bullying her, leading to a nervous breakdown, and she starts fearing Bonojit. Munu hides Bonojit's tree-cutting tools, prompting Bonojit to pursue a music career for her. He soon gets an opportunity to perform for Tarali Sarma. However, just as things seem to be taking a positive turn, his elderly mother falls ill, fighting for her life. Bonojit now finds himself at a crossroads. Which path will he choose?

### Contact

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**Director(s)** Prakash Deka (Aka Pranjal Deka)

**Producer(s)** Tarsem Antil Janardan Verma Manisha Bajaj



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## Theatre

Tamil, Malayalam | India

Fiction | 85 mins

Tentative Completion Date January 2024



Das is a farmhand on the outskirts of Pondicherry, and Guna is his best friend. Guna plays the parai (a percussion instrument used at funerals). They both get scouted by a theatre group to act and play music, respectively. So begins their journey with theatre in Pondicherry.

### Contact

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**Producer(s)** Thanikachalam Sa Nishanth Kalidindi



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## Thou Shalt Not Steel

English, Kannada | India

Documentary | 50 mins

Tentative Completion Date March 2023



This documentary feature takes us through the backstories leading up to the protest, the grassroots mobilization and solidarity that ensued, and the ultimate cancellation of the project by the state government.

Through the voices and perspectives of various stakeholders, the film explores the larger issues of citizen participation, public accountability, and environmental justice in the context of the city's rapid urbanization and development.

### Contact

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**Director(s)** Vikas Badiger

**Producer(s)** Vikas Badiger



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## Tiger Army

English | India

Documentary | 36 mins

Tentative Completion Date November 2022



The world loves the bloodcurdling narratives of Sundarban Royal Bengal tigers where they are always the vicious villains with fangs. Killing them was a heroic act. Though our wise ancestors knew that the tigers are the protector of forests, people armed with guns and brains, eliminated most of them. We ended up almost losing the forest and its burning bright mega fauna. In 1973, the Government of India launched Project Tiger, a tiger conservation program. Project Tiger takes up several measures to maintain the viable population of Bengal Tigers in their natural environment. The Forest Department workforce steps into protect the tigers and inspire people to end the tussle besides protecting themselves. The film reveals the story of the real heroes, the foot soldiers, the field staffs, who carry out their job even risking their own life but do not see themselves as heroic.

### Contact

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**Director(s)** Sourav Sarangi

**Producer(s)** Films Division-NFDC



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## Tingl Belku

The Light For The Rest of The Walk

Kannada | India

Fiction | 135 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



*Tingl Belku* (The Light for the Rest of the Walk) is a coming-of-age family drama set in a coastal village in Karnataka. The story centers around a teenager called Sandeep, who is introduced to psychedelic substances and struggles to navigate the challenges that arise when he returns to his hometown during the college holidays. In the backdrop of Sandeep's homecoming, his parents are preoccupied with preparations for his sister Sandhya's impending marriage to Harish, a local lawyer.

### Contact

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**Director(s)** Nareshkumar Hegde

**Producer(s)** Vinayaka Kodsara



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## Touched As Water

Silent | India

Animation | 10 mins

Tentative Completion Date October 2023



He lives in a village with his twin brother, who's bedridden. He serves his brother sincerely. He also does household chores and takes care of the people around the house. He is disappointed with his current situation, and he tries to overcome it. He continues to do the work they both used to do together. At some point, naturally, his brother dies. Although it was expected, it left him exhausted.

After finishing everything (pulling the rope from the pulley), he comes and lies down on the bed where his brother was lying. But, as an awakening, as an abstraction, as an intervention of nature, the water flows towards him. He throws with hope. He feels his brother through the touch of that water. He comes to the fact that he has lost nothing when everything (this nature) is like that except his brother.

### Contact

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**Director(s)** Joshy Benedict

**Producer(s)** Joshy Benedict



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## Ullarivu

### The Awakening

Malayalam | India

Fiction | 14 mins

Tentative Completion Date May 2023



*Ullarivu* is about a young girl who unwittingly learns the rules of existence designed for women by the patriarchal society. The film follows her transformative journey from a carefree child of the earth into a cautious young girl in the world, as she pieces together the hidden meanings and unfair rules of the patriarchal world. Her love for nature and exploration comes to a standstill when she is forced to understand that her access to the world itself is limited due to her gender.

Even though she is brought up in a loving, protective family, helmed by her father, the family dynamics are deeply rooted in patriarchal rules and values. In a world that assigns pink for girls and blue for boys at birth itself, it's only a matter of time until the rules of subjugation are inflicted upon even the most hungry, wild souls.

#### Contact

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**Director(s)** Sumi Mathai

**Producer(s)** Sumi Mathai



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## Ulozhukku

### Undercurrent

Malayalam | India

Fiction | 122 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2023



In a flooded village in Kerala, Anju, a young Christian woman, looks after her ailing husband but is secretly carrying her ex-boyfriend Rajeev's child. She wants to elope with Rajeev, but he asks her to wait until she gets her husband's property. Anju had an affair with Rajeev. Anju's husband dies, and the family waits for the floodwaters to subside to bury him. As the family learns that Anju is pregnant, she pretends that it is her husband's child. Anju's lie gets exposed, and Leelamma forces Anju to break up with Rajeev.

Meanwhile, Anju learns that she isn't the only one with secrets. Her husband was terminally ill before their marriage. Feeling betrayed, Anju blames Leelamma and demands the property. As the body begins to rot, Anju and Leelamma must accept the consequences of their actions and forgive each other to carry out the funeral.

#### Contact

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**Director(s)** Christo Tomy

**Producer(s)** Ronnie Screwvala, Honey Trehan, Abhishek Chaubey



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## Unfinished Story

Hindi | India

Fiction | 111 mins

Tentative Completion Date February 2022



A disconcerted writer hires an assistant to write his stories. They take a journey towards completing all the stories that are incomplete and unfinished, just like their own lives.

**Contact**

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**Director(s)** Charanpreet Singh

**Producer(s)** Sanjay Kumar



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## Ustaad Anwar Khan Manganiyar

Hindi | India

Documentary | 60 mins

Tentative Completion Date December 2022



Ustaad Anwar Khan is a Manganiyar musician and a Padma Shri Awardee of 2020. He hails from Baiya village of Jaisalmer District and presently lives in Barmer district town. Being one of the finest vocalists in the fraternity of Manganiyar's, his interpretations and rendition of songs are a treat to the listeners. He is one of the most renowned and respected artist's in his community.

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Director(s) Rajesh Meena

Producer(s) Films Division-NFDC



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## Vairadaya

Hindi | India

Fiction | 160 mins

Tentative Completion Date June 2024



The first film of Anthology – *Vairadaya* is 'Paanchali'. This is the story of Paanchali – inspired by Draupadi from Mahabharata, the woman who was forced to live with 5 men.

Paanchali, born in a typical patriarchal family, suddenly finds her already gloomy world turned upside down as she and her family get waylaid by a gang of sadistic thugs over a past dispute. The woman observes that the gang consists of five men who are brothers, and a bunch of hardened and remorseless killers who mock and want to keep her as a sex slave for themselves.

This conflict between brothers sows the seeds of a hazy plan in the depths of her mind that would eventually avenge her humiliation and free her from the clutches of these ruthless rogues. Hence, Draupadi (Panchaali) again brings about a war amongst brothers as was the famous battle of Mahabharata.

**Director(s)** Sourabh Bali

**Producer(s)** Shweta Saraf

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## Vanjeevi

### For The Forest

Hindi, Telugu, Chhattisgarhi, English | India

Documentary | 109 mins

Tentative Completion Date August 2023



*Vanjeevi* dwells through two parallel narratives united by a common purpose: protecting the environment. Padma Shri awardee Daripali Ramaiah and his wife exemplify this dedication with persistence, while the lesser-known tribes of the Hasdeo forest showcase it with resolute resistance.

#### Contact

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**Director(s)** Akshit Salian, Akash Shukla

**Producer(s)** Akash Shukla



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## Charulata

### The Lonely Wife

Bengali | India

Fiction | 117 mins

Year 1964



The most elegant of all Ray's films, Charulata is widely considered the crowning achievement of Ray's creative period on the 1960s. It is also one of his best known and most appreciated films the world over, in the West in particular. The screenplay is adapted from Nastanirh / The Ruined Nest, a story by Rabindranath Tagore.

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**Director(s)** Satyajit Ray

**Producer(s)** Varsha Bansal

**Print to be obtained from** RDB Entertainments



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## Jai Baba Felunath

The Elephant God

Bengali | India

Fiction | 112 mins

Year 1979



When Feluda and his cousin arrives in the city of Benares for a vacation, they are roped in to solve the theft of a precious gold statue of Ganesha, a family heirloom handed down from a former king of Nepal. Feluda befriends Ruku, a young boy who helps him uncover vital clues to solve the mystery of the missing statue.

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**Director(s)** Satyajit Ray

**Producer(s)** Varsha Bansal

**Print to be obtained from** RDB Entertainments



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## Mirza Ghalib

Urdu | India

Fiction | 142 mins

Year 1954



Costume period movie about the life of the best-known poet in the Urdu language, Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib (1797-1869) who was also for a while the court poet appointed by the last Mughal King Bahadur Shah Zafar. The film, chronicling Ghalib's (Bhushan) rejection and final acceptance by the royal court is mainly a love story between the poet and a courtesan he calls Chaudhvin (Suraiya). The ever-popular Ghalib poetry is sung here by Suraiya, Talat Mahmood and Mohammed Rafi

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**Director(s)** Sohrab Modi

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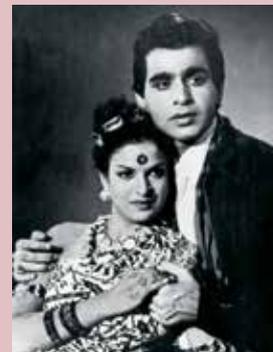
## Nadiya Ke Paar

Across The River

Hindi | India

Fiction | 138 mins

Year 1948



Two friends, Kunwar and Samer, fall for Phulwa and Chanchal, respectively. Kunwar's brother is against the relationship and fixes his marriage with Chanchal.

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## Sargam

Hindi | India

Fiction | 158 mins

Year 1960



A family drama film

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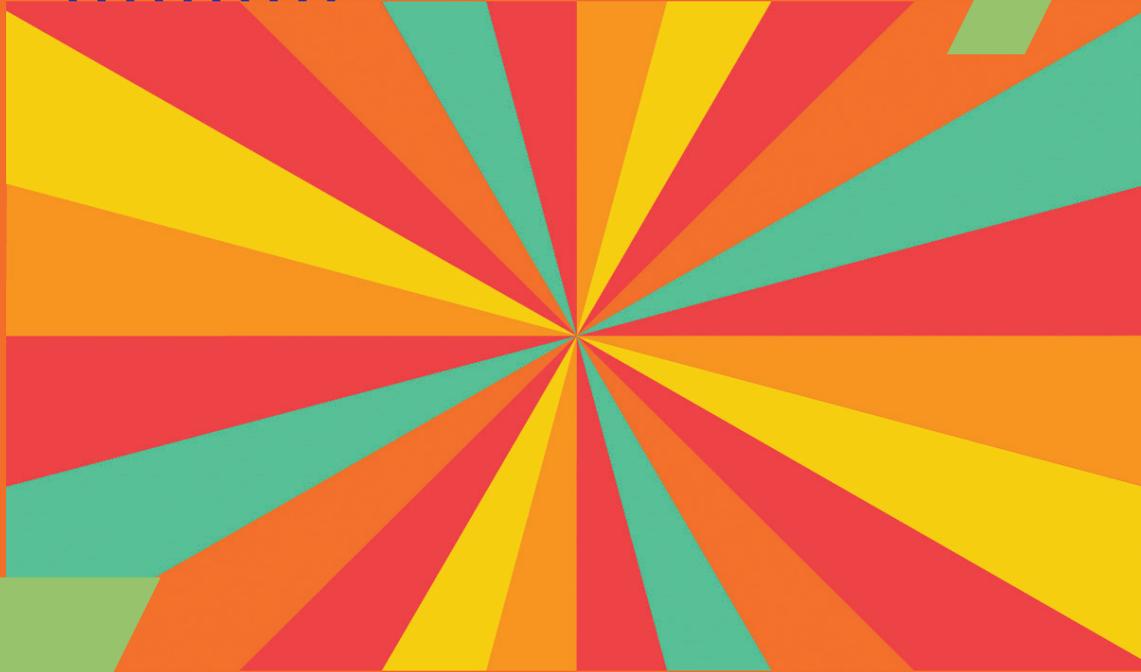
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