20th WAVES FILM BAZAAR

Producers' Lab Catalogue

2026





Welcome to Waves Film Bazaar 2026

At the 20th edition of NFDC Waves Film Bazaar 2026, we proudly present the Producers' Lab, a flagship programme designed to support and nurture South Asian producers. Scheduled to take place from 20–24 November 2026 in Goa, alongside the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), the Lab offers a platform for professional development, mentorship and creative exchange.

With 10 selected participants from diverse creative backgrounds, the Lab provides an intimate and immersive learning environment, guided by a distinguished group of speakers and mentors who bring valuable insights and expertise to the programme.

The programme offers two distinct tracks: the Career Track, which focuses on professional growth and mentorship for producers without a project in development, and the Project Track, which provides guidance, constructive feedback and showcase opportunities for producers actively developing a project.

Several mentors will also offer personalised feedback, empowering participants to navigate their projects across different formats and international marketplaces.

Over the years, NFDC Waves Film Bazaar has evolved into a premier platform for South Asian filmmakers seeking funding, collaborators, festival visibility and global outreach. It continues to serve as a vibrant meeting ground for festival directors, programmers and sales agents looking to discover emerging cinematic voices from the region.

We look forward to another exciting and impactful edition of Waves Film Bazaar.

Producers' Lab Team

Sunitha Ram, Producer, Executive Producer, LaSutra Films

Jayashree Lakshminarayanan, Independent Film Producer

Avantika Singh Desbouvries, Producer, Salt For Sugar Films

Dinal Jain, Executive, Producers' Lab, NFDC Waves Film Bazaar

2026 SELECTED PARTICIPANTS



Ayodhyakumar Krishnamsetty, Director, Producer, India



Debaleena Saha, Independent Film Producer, India



Fiza Chawla, Producer & Editor, India

2026 SELECTED PARTICIPANTS



Kalpesh M, Director, India



Karthik Surap, Fourthbell Films, India



Khushii Gandhi, Writer, Director, Producer, India

2026 SELECTED PARTICIPANTS



Nandan, Director, Producer, India



Parveen Saini, Producer, India

2026 SELECTED PARTICIPANTS



Sarika Jadhav, Producer, India



Sethumadhavan Napan, Co-Founder, India

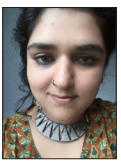
CURATORS



Sunitha Ram, Producer, Executive Producer, LaSutra Films

Sunitha Ram is a producer, executive producer and founder of LaSutra Pictures, specialising in service production and international co-productions, with notable credits including A Mosquito in the Ear and After the Wedding. She brings extensive filming experience across every state in India. Her production credits include major Excel Entertainment productions such as 120 Bahadur, filmed entirely in Ladakh, Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara and Dahaad Seasons 1 & 2, as well as Aamir Khan Productions' Taare Zameen Par and Dhobi Ghat. Her work also encompasses landmark tourism campaigns, including Incredible India, the 'Doosri Bar' campaign, and tourism campaigns for Rajasthan, West Bengal and Diu.

Sunitha is deeply committed to ethical producing practices and developing curricula to equip the next generation of producers, contributing to a more responsible, equitable and sustainable filmmaking ecosystem in India.



Avantika Singh Desbouvries, Producer, Salt For Sugar Films

With a bachelor's in literature from Hindu College and a master's in mass communication from AJK MCRC, Avantika Singh Desbouvries moved to Paris in 2014 to study cinema at the International Film and Television School of Paris.

She founded Salt for Sugar Films, an independent production house in Paris focused on original auteur-driven cinema, particularly from the Global South. The company champions stories rooted in contemporary realities, often enriched by visual experimentation.

Her feature productions include films premiering at Berlinale, Venice, Cannes (ACID) and Orizzonti, including Casablanca (2023), In Retreat (2024), Divine Comedy (2025) and A Bit of Light (2026). Her short films have screened at festivals including San Sebastian, SXSW, Annecy and Clermont-Ferrand, with works acquired by Criterion, The New York Times Op-Docs and France Télévisions.

Her work explores displacement, family, mobility and the shifting idea of home. She is an alumna of the EAVE Producers Workshop, EAVE Ties That Bind and Torino FeatureLab.



Jayashree Lakshminarayanan, Independent Flim Producer

Jayashree Lakshminarayanan is a production designer and producer who began her career in production design, with over 15 years of experience in the Indian film industry. She has worked extensively across Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi cinema, with credits including Charlie, Kushi, Oh Baby, Pitta Kathalu (Netflix), and After the Wedding, featuring Julianne Moore and Michelle Williams. Her Production Design work has been recognised with the Kerala State Film Award and Film Critics Award.

A UCLA Producing graduate, Jayashree has expanded her practice into producing and creative development, working closely with producers and writers across feature development, writers' rooms and script development. Her experience across design, production and story development gives her a multidisciplinary approach to filmmaking, with a particular interest in developing distinctive, culturally rooted Indian stories for global audiences.

NFDC Team



Dinal Jain, Executive Producers' Lab

Dinal Jain is a Bombay-based screenwriter, author, and filmmaker. She self-published her debut poetry collection, Finding Hope (2020). Four years later, she released her second poetry book, Sweet Nothings (2024), which is available worldwide on Amazon and was well received by readers and filmmaker Imtiaz Ali.

Dinal has written several short stories, including Lukachupi (2022) and Nawabzaada (2022). The latter was nominated in the Top 20 Story Challenge at the India Film Project (IFP). Dinal is currently developing her feature film, and her third poetry collection, High Tide, is scheduled for release in December 2026.



PRODUCERS' LAB 2026

WAVES FILM BAZAAR

SPEAKERS

Shaping Stories For Audiences: The Producer's Role



Speaker

Jomon Thomas, Producer - Monkey Man, Hotel Mumbai, The Man Who Knew Infinity

What's In A Name? Rethinking The Labels Of Mainstream And Parallel Cinema



Speaker

Siva Ananth, Producer - Madras Talkies

Making More With Less: Creative Strategies For Low-Budget Filmmaking





Speaker

Nandan Saxena, National Film Award-Winning Indian Documentary Filmmakers

Kavita Bahl, National Film Award-Winning Indian Documentary Filmmakers

Brief Introduction To Entertainment Law



Speaker

Avanthi Ram, Director - Marketplace Success At Vuulr

Legal Architecture Of Film Production - Understanding Rights, Contracts And Film IP



Speaker

Sunil Zalmi, Founder & Partner - De Zalmi & Associates

The Producer In The Writing Process



Speaker

Claire Dobbin, Claire Dobbin - Script Doctor

Pieces Of A Jigsaw Puzzle - Introduction To International Co-Production



Speaker

Avantika Singh Desbouvires, Producer - Salt For Sugar Films, France

Crossing Borders: Making International Co-Productions Work - Panel



Speaker

Olivier Damien, Producer - 27 Films Production, Germany

(Panel) Crossing Borders: Making International Co-Productions Work - Panel



Speaker

Rakasree Basu, Producer - Momentum Films, UK

Following The Money: Film Accounting & Financial Control



Speaker

Vinay Emmanuel, Film Taxation & Production Finance Consultant · P Sivaramakrishnan & Associates Llp (Psk)

Navigating The Film Market: Building Connections & Opportunities With Or Without A Project



Speaker

Marten Rabarts, Head Of Iffr Pro (International Film Festival Of Rotterdam)

Festivals & Strategy: Positioning Your Film For The World - Panel



Speakers

Anu Rangachar, Berlinale South Asian Delegate



Jeremy Chua, Executive Director, Singapore International Film Festival



Mathieu Béjot, Moderator, Founder & Ceo, Connoisseur Media



Cary Sawhney, Singapore International Film Festival

Beyond The Release: Sales, Marketing & Distribution - How Films Find Their Audience



Speaker

Shiladitya Bora, Founder & Producer, Platoon One Films

Defining Future Producers



Speaker

Sunitha Ram, Executive Producer, Lasutra Films

Building A Production House: From Vision To Sustainable Practices



Speaker

Dimpy Agrawal, Director, Producer

Growing As A Producer, Growing Together



Speaker

Celine Loop, Producerland Director, Storiculture

Rooted & Relevant: Producing Stories That Travel



Speaker

Nicolas Chevaillier, Screenwriter