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60x60 Secs

Artist Info & Film Synopsis - India

Khadeeja Arif

...to be continued

Synopsis

An ambitious female model, who slips in and out of various looks being photographed against different backdrops, finds herself being interrogated by the police as they investigate a picture of hers by the twin towers.

Biography

Khadeeja received a postgraduate degree in Mass Communication from Jamia Millia Islamia in 2003. She worked with the Television channel Aajtak for a year and has also worked as a researcher with Sarai CSDS. She assisted Gargi Sen on the documentary *In Their Own Voice* and worked as a researcher with US based photographer Fazal Sheikh on a book on the female child in India. She is currently working as a producer with BBC World Service.

Natasha Badhwar

Yearning

Synopsis

A three year old's first attempt at reading out a story to her mother from a book titled *Yearning, Race, Culture and Gender Politics* in her own language. "Yuan shoo mans inmes rabbidd. Whash hu where iz going..." she reads slowly. "there is a rabbit stuck in a small hole..." she translates.

Biography

A technophobe by birth and a technophile by choice, Natasha Badhwar has resisted and adopted multiple roles - Filmmaker, Videographer, Editor, Media Trainer and Consultant.

A postgraduate in Mass Communication from MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Natasha was India's first female Television News Cameraperson in 1995. She has co-directed and filmed a three part documentary series, *Indian Rhythms, Island Stories*. Set in Trinidad and Tobago, England and French Reunion Island, these 'docu-musicals' explore and celebrate issues of multicultural identities through the music of these Diaspora communities.

Natasha designed and taught a two year Community Video Course, co-funded by the European Union in Bhilai, Chhatisgarh (1999-2002). The project was titled Jandarshan. As Vice President, Training and Development at NDTV, (1995-2007) Natasha created and taught modules in Video journalism, Editing, Uplink Technologies and Television Production Systems.

As an artist, she firmly believes that God lives in the detail and truth and aesthetics are both inter-linked and inseparable.

Pawas Bisht

29N39, 79E34 Anandnagar

Synopsis

An interplay between the artist and his ancestral home in a Himalayan mountain village; sensory impressions of its present - a locked up and abandoned house, and its past - the images and sounds carried as a memory within. A visit, like brief snatches of a well-loved poem, remembered imperfectly... "a perhaps hand... moving old things and new... without breaking anything".

Biography

Pawas Bisht is a documentary filmmaker based in New Delhi, with two years of formal training in film and video production at the AJK, Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (AJK, MCRC, a CILECT member film school). After completing his degree in 2006, he has worked as a documentary filmmaker, primarily on independent projects (including work commissioned by Channel 4 (UK) and Doordarshan, (India's national broadcaster) alongside a stint at Sesame Street (India) as a producer of documentary shorts for children. His films have been telecast on Channel 4 (UK), CNBC-TV18 (India), DD National, DD News and POGO.

For the past one year, he has been teaching as a lecturer in film production at the AJK, MCRC.

Neel Chaudhuri, Kartikey Shiva & Samar Grewal

Man on the Road

Synopsis

A man drives across Delhi late at night, a city in slumber except for stranded men, on the roads, angling for a ride home... Would YOU trust a man on the road? Who is this man? How do you see him - with a cigarette, with a mask, with a stone in his hand? What are you afraid of?

Biography

Neel Chaudhuri is the Artistic Director of The First City Theatre Foundation. A writer and film critic, he has been actively involved in theatre for the past ten years as an actor and director. He has worked as a programmer for the Berlin International Film Festival and the Osian's Cinefan Festival in New Delhi, and was the Deputy Editor of *Cinemaya*, the Asian Film Quarterly. Neel is the author of two plays - *Positions* and *Mouse*.

Kartikey Shiva is a graduate of the New England School of Photography in Boston, MA. He completed his degree in 2005 and has since been working professionally in Mumbai, India. His work has featured in publications such as *Elle*, *Verve*, *Indian Homes and Gardens*, *Cosmopolitan* and *Beautiful People*.

Samar Grewal is a musician and writer. He works as Assistant Editor at *Rolling Stone* India and spends most of the time left watching movies and composing, playing, collecting, reading about and listening to music. He lives and works in New Delhi.

Baptist Coelho

CROSS-LEGGED

Synopsis

Exploring cultural differences within sub-cultures where the subtle nuances of body language can be read as the 'other'. The artist sets the stage in an office reception area and re-enacts a true story of a man who experiences discrimination based on a simple act of crossing his legs. A harmless natural gesture, yet its social meaning makes it submissive and feminine, bringing out deep-rooted prejudice against sexuality.

Biography

Baptist Coelho is a practicing New Media Artist, currently living in Mumbai, who has exhibited his work both locally in India, as well as internationally. Baptist received his M.A. from BIAD, UK. His practice involves collaboration with communities and organisations in order to collect research and document projects involving personal and current social issues. His documentary style explores art as a process, engaging intellectual thought, as well as providing up-to-date interpretations of our reality. Baptist holds the physical and emotional responses of his audience in high regard and creates environments where the viewer can reflect on the surroundings in which they live. Constructing these human-shaped media-landscapes to portray his ideas and artistic reflections is an integral part of his work. He continues to explore video, sound and architectural installations, photography, public-art, performance and site-specific work.

Nitin Das

Benefits of war

Synopsis

Two children spending a lazy afternoon by the sea chance upon a 10 Rupee note. A fight ensues to claim the fateful note. The only thing they end up with is a lesson in life.

Biography

Originally an electronics engineer with an MBA in marketing, Nitin left his corporate career to become a filmmaker. Nitin finished a short course in Filmmaking from New York (2005), and on return to India set up his own company called Filmkaar Productions. The main objective is the promotion of independent filmmaking in India by making extraordinary films with ordinary people.

Filmkaar is currently working on a feature length digital film comprising eight interconnected short stories that will be made with the slum children of Mumbai. However the stories are not about poverty, misery or hunger, instead these are tales of magic and mischief, of ghosts and clever thieves, of a cricket match and a math's test.

Nitin has recently won a special award from the British Council for social entrepreneurship in the creative sector.

Ritu Datta

We Do

Synopsis

The film opens with a Kathakali dancer whose expression changes to anger... the word DANGER transforms to ANGER...a match stick is lit which than burns all the match sticks in the box... this friction is projected by film clips juxtaposed with a Kathakali dancer, from the flames merge words... HUMBLE MATCHSTICK HAS HEAD BUT NO BRAINS with complementary music. The film ends with words...WE DO.

Biography

Ritu Datta was born and brought up in a middle class North-Indian family fed on high ethical values. Creative from an early age and a happy go lucky person, Ritu has worked in the field of media as researcher, writer, producer and director for more than a decade. Initially trained in India and later abroad, she has been nurtured by renowned filmmakers. A freelance writer for print and electronic media, she has conceived and written educational scripts for national radio and National TV programmes. Her documentary films include an interesting body of work related to social issues and the arts and culture of India. Her films have won wide acclaim from artists, viewers and media critics. She is well known for her unique and original approach to her subjects.

Humanity is her religion; she is always ready to extend a hand for any noble cause and has a passion for learning. She is an eternal student.

Elvis D'Silva

60x60 Vision

Synopsis

Using animated text, photographs and dynamic music, the film generates imagery from the lives of people that represent different facets of India. As characters appear in the frame, icons and images distinct to them highlight their evolving identities.

Biography

A filmmaker and graphic artist, Elvis was born in 1973 in Mumbai, India. He explored story telling first as a teenager through hand-drawn graphic novel panels, clay figurines, single-tile scenes, and also, on occasion, by using words on plain paper.

A key figure in Mumbai-based Thrillpill Film + Design (www.thrillpill.com) he has 14 years of combined work experience in radio, film, design, print and web media. He is currently developing two feature-length projects: a multi-strand thriller entitled *Three Stories* and an adventure in the dystopia that is Mumbai on the eve of its 100th Independence Day in *Twenty47*.

Tascha Eipe

Waiting Room

Synopsis

We are all different, but still the same. Two Indian women from very different backgrounds unite under a common interest.

Biography

Tascha Eipe graduated from Mumbai with a degree in Mass Media, and has been in the film world ever since. She handled productions in TVC production companies in Mumbai and Bangalore before taking up a two-year film course in Singapore, where she majored in editing. Her collaborative student films have won awards at international film festivals and she was selected to participate in the Asian Young Filmmakers Forum 2006, a one-year filmmaking residency programme in South Korea. Her first short film, *Guided Storm*, won the Special Jury Prize at the Ivy Film Festival in Rhode Island 2007.

Tascha has lived in many countries, including India, the Middle East, Singapore, Korea and Egypt, which has given her a great insight into different cultures and customs around the world. She can speak many languages including English, Hindi, French, Korean and some Chinese. She loves scuba diving and hopes to make an underwater film someday.

Sukanya Ghosh

Mapping movement

Synopsis

Mapping movement and Diasporas – histories, imagined histories and perceived sense of belonging provoked through a combination of images constructed through collage, photographic montage, rotoscoping, text and animation.

Biography

Sukanya is an artist whose work involves a bit of everything from animation and video, to graphic design and painting. She loves the synergy involved in combining different media in her work. She enjoys making short experimental films using the same processes of collage, layering and erasure that she uses in her artwork. She uses found images and works on them to create new images and dissonances.

Sukanya graduated in painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts, M. S. University of Baroda and went on to post graduation in Animation Film Design at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. She was Programme Officer at the Seagull Arts and Media Centre in Calcutta and was responsible for curatorial and organisational aspects of various activities in the Arts. Currently she lives and works out of Calcutta (India) and is trying to explore the points of conjunction between the still and moving image.

Vishwajyoti Ghosh

Once Upon a Time

Synopsis

Looking for a sense of identity in one's present, when the present is a living house of memories. *Once Upon a Time* is a piece of animated poetry set against the backdrop of the Indian sub-continent's partition memories. Animated black and white drawings illustrate an internal retrospective shelter while the soundtrack is a poem that questions the very nature of the memories themselves.

Biography

Vishwajyoti Ghosh is based in New Delhi and is currently working as the Creative Head of Inverted Commas, an independent creative collective. A graduate in Applied Arts/Graphics and a post-graduate in Film and Mass Communication, Vishwajyoti dabbles in different forms for story telling: graphics, films, comics and animation keep him busy and distracted.

Major publishing houses in India have published his illustrations. Some of his comics will soon be published in the ASEF Lingua Comica Edition as part of the Lingua Comica Project in London. His solo exhibition of drawings, *Paris - Mysteries, Mythologies and Memories*, has been touring in India since 2005.

Once upon a time, a deeply personal film, is his first endeavour in animation.

www.penbrush.page.tl

<http://vishwajyoti.wordpress.com>

Bidhu Bhushan Panda

Winds have changed

Synopsis

As the sun shines bright... a saint meditates in a fresh breeze under the shade of a tree, a man fans his sweat away with a pankha, a family enjoys a meal as an electric fan whirrs... dissolve to a household cooled by air conditioning ... cut to strong winds, cyclone and floods.

Biography

Bidhu Bhushan Panda hails from eastern India with an upbringing that reflects these rich cultural roots. From his college days, he took an active part in theatre, which led him to Bollywood where he had the chance to assist some well-known directors of the industry. One project particularly close to his heart was *DHUP*, a feature film based on a true story of a father's fight for his war victim son.

He has directed many social-issue based documentaries, serials and short films for national channels and international NGO's and his success has been celebrated across both print and electronic media. He believes in the finer human qualities and hopes to make a feature film some day that will echo such characteristics and intense emotions, to reflect his strong belief in universal brotherhood.

Nila Madhab Panda

After all we are 70% water

Synopsis

Three men from different faiths take a lunch break together on the banks of a river. They offer each other food, but only eat what is theirs. Together they drink water from the same river.

Film maker and broadcaster, Madhab represents Eleanora Images, a multimedia organisation creating awareness of social issues and transforming them into mainstream entertainment through film and television. He has produced and directed over 70 films, including two mega soap operas. He has received the UN Visual Media Award 2002, Heroism in Cinematography Award 2003, UK Environment Film Fellowship and special mention for his recent film *Climate's First Orphans* at Granada Film Festival, along with the Longest Journey Award by Creative Future of India- British Council.

Apart from producing films and experimenting with techniques within the medium of audio-visual, the periphery of Madhab's career extends to sharing knowledge and experience with fellow and aspiring filmmakers. He is actively involved as an advisor and advocates the role of audio-visual communication by developing media strategies with organisations like the UN, Ministry of Home Affairs, The World Bank, and the Governments of Rajasthan and Orissa.

Gautam Pandey

Splat!

Synopsis

A typical day in the life of a woman... outside the safety of her room, she is targeted to verbal and physical abuse, and is left emotionally exhausted and consumed. When the safety of her own room is at risk from an annoying fly, she ends the pestful reality with a splat.

Biography

Gautam Pandey has always been illustrating and experimenting with animation techniques. Film, as a medium, came much later but it was something that he took to immediately.

He has directed environmental and issue based films of which *Timeless Traveler* - a documentary on horseshoe crabs - received the national award in India, as well as awards at various international film festivals.

After a few years he felt like he was stagnating and so decided to study Film and Visual Effects at Sheridan University, Canada. He now finds himself returning full circle back to animation, however combining, this time round, all that he has experienced and trying to be a better storyteller.

Pranav Sahi

Buddha in Bodh-Gaya 2007

Synopsis

Revered by Buddhists everywhere Bodh-Gaya is the place where Prince Siddharta attained enlightenment and became Buddha. Inundated by constant streams of tourists, the impact on the present day city is seen through the eyes of Buddha.

Biography

Pranav Sahi has been making films for the past 25 years. Starting at the young age of 15, he made his first 16mm short feature *The Super Trio* whilst he was studying at school. Since then he has produced, directed, cinematographed and edited over 3000 productions including feature films, documentaries, shorts and television serials.

Many of his films have been highly acclaimed in film festivals all over the world. He has worked in several countries including Malaysia, Singapore, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Pranav is an ex-member of the Central Board of Film Certification under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. He is also actively involved in the Film Society Movement and successfully organised the Bihar Film Festival in 2006. Pranav is a permanent member of the organising committee of the Patna Film Festival, which has been organised by the state government for the past three years. He also teaches film studies in many reputed institutions such as the Patna University and the Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Bihar.

Surya Shankar Dash

Shot Dead for Development

Synopsis

An animation depicting the *Adivasi life in Orissa and their anti-mining struggles. The artist pays tribute to the men, women and children who have been shot dead by the police since 2001 for resisting mining and industrial activities on their land in Kalinga Nagar and Kashipur. The illustrations are in Idital (Saora Adivasi art) style and music is from the Koya and Bonda Adivasi. *Original inhabitants of the land.

Biography

Surya Shankar Dash is an Activist-Filmmaker based in Orissa who has been documenting the various people's movements against industrialisation and mining in this region for last three years. Previous to that he was working with advertising agencies, news channels and filmmakers.

Avinash & Geeta Singh

Full Circle

Synopsis

Ashok Sawhny, an author, who at the age of 11, left his home in Pakistan to settle in India expresses his thoughts through his poetry in Urdu. Recalling moments of pain and dismay tinged with hope, Ashok recites his story of sixty years in sixty seconds.

Biography

The Artists, Geeta and Avinash Kumar Singh, run a film production company by the name of I Stylus, based in New Delhi, India. Working cross format, some prestigious television clients include the Discovery Channel, Discovery Travel and Living and the PSBT.

A Green Agony directed by Geeta Singh, was a finalist for the Panda Award at the Wildscreen festival 2006 in Bristol. The film explored the impact of climate change on the Sundarban Coastal Zone and was telecast on the Discovery Channel on World Environment day 2006.

Taming the Tons a 52-minute film directed by Avinash Kumar Singh, is about the first full-fledged, international white water descent of the river Tons in Uttaranchal, in 19 years. The film is being distributed internationally and telecast in the Middle East and Hungary.

For the Public Service Broadcasting Trust, Geeta and Avinash have produced three half hour documentaries. *The Threads of Life* explores the way cloth, embroidery and thread bind together a country as diverse as India. *Silent Voices* is a tribute to the women in Kalahandi, Orissa who have taken control of their own lives and have stood up to make a difference in the community they live in. *Trunk Call* is a film for children, by children telling the story of a dwindling Asian Elephant population, through the eyes of the two children who go to live the life of a Mahout in Kerala, India.

Together they directed and produced a prestigious four part series for the Discovery Channel, titled *Chhattisgarh, the Tribal Planet*. This rated in the top five 'most watched shows' on the Discovery Channel when it was first telecast and is now being shown across most of Discovery Australasia, Europe and South America. In 2003, Avinash & Geeta were awarded the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award for their film *The Joy of Giving*, produced for Action Aid, India.

The Author, Ashok Sawhny, is uniquely qualified, as he has lived in both Lahore & Delhi and travelled extensively around the world, especially Britain. He writes, speaks and emotes passionately in Urdu, Hindi & English. He has the sensibilities of an intellectual Indian, the cultured elegance of the noble Pakistani and the dry humour and ethos of the British people. His writing comes from the heart and is simple, eloquent but extremely powerful. He is the true 'multicultural'.

Santosh K Singh

Bans Ghat

Synopsis

Out of the 35 million homeless children in India, up to 7,000 street children are living in Patna at railway stations, bus stands, religious places and under flyovers. Recently nearly 100 children have made their home at Bans Ghat – a crematorium. This film is the story of a little boy who lives there, makes a paltry living and saves enough in his piggy bank to pay for his books and join a school.

Biography

Having crossed the signpost of graduation, Santosh K Singh had stars in his eyes; one international film festival was enough to mar his plans forever and here he was signing up for a filmmaking course. Then the grind began that we all know so well and which lurks at every corner of one's career. But Santosh was adamant to be part of the industry that entertains for the whole world. He looked for a viable transition and became Assistant to Production Designers, Line Producers, Directors, and finally found his mettle as an Associate Director in Bollywood. He has completed eight films out of which two have won national awards in various categories. A keen student of film across world cinema, Santosh stands tall in his own eyes, because he is self-taught and self-made.

Hemanth Subramanian

Money for Nothing... chips for free

Synopsis

Millions of dollars of foreign investment are solicited to the country because cheap labour has become India's 'Unique Selling Point'. But at what cost? This is the story of a farmer who uses an archaic mode of transport, the cycle-rickshaw. He powers the vehicle with his sweat in the sweltering heat to sell his potatoes to a dealer. But what does he get in return?

Biography

For this artist, the motivation has always been quite simple; to tell a story. This deep desire to thrash out a narrative and to build a cogent argument has taken him across various mediums, in various capacities - from a newspaper reporter, to an assistant director for soaps and documentaries, from a copy-editor to a rundown producer in television news channels. But nothing is more satisfying for this artist than filmmaking.

Currently Hemanth is working as the features correspondent for INX News channel in India.

Abhilash V

Rope trick

Synopsis

In a busy city, a father and son dressed in rustic clothes, gather a crowd to perform a magic illusion - the Rope Trick. The father flings the rope into the sky, it stands erect, the boy climbs it and disappears. In a typical illusion the magician would call the disobedient boy to come down and then himself climb the rope with a sword. Body parts of the boy would fall to the ground. The magician would then climb down, cover the body parts with a cloth and the boy would appear from under it. Except this time the boy does not return.

Biography

Abhilash V. hails from Kerala and is a Post Graduate in Communication from the University of Hyderabad. He has worked on a number of documentaries, short films and a couple of feature films. Abhilash has worked with Ramoji Film City, in a Doordarshan Project and as a broadcast journalist in Mumbai. His debut short film *Walking in a Dream* has been screened at many prestigious film festivals. Currently he is working for television and films in Kerala under the production house FramesFlow Creative Productions, his brainchild.