

ki ff



Rastriya Sabha Griha (City Hall),
Nepal Tourism Board (NTB),
Exhibition Road

21st
edition

May - 2 June 2024

Echoes

of

Change

kiMff.org

Catalogue

STEP IN
STAND OUT

SONAM

Sunny
Days,
Stylish
Ways





We are at :

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Prizes

International Competition

Best Feature Fiction

US \$1500.

Sponsored by Daya Foundation



Best Feature Documentary

US \$1500.

Sponsored by Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA)



Best Short Fiction

US \$1000.

Sponsored by Film Development Board (FDB)
Government of Nepal



Best Short Documentary

US \$1000.

Sponsored by Kathmandu Metropolitan City

Nepal Panorama

Best Documentary

NRs. 1,00,000.

Sponsored by Pasang Lhamu Sherpa Award



Best Fiction

NRs. 100,000.

TSEKYE SHERPA – BEST FICTION AWARD sponsored by Mila Productions



Audience Award

NRs 100,000.

Sponsored by Contemporary Art of Nepal | Himalaya International Mountain Film of China (HIMF)

Contemporary Art of Nepal



Best ICIMOD Mountain Film Award

US \$1000.

ICIMOD will award the best ICIMOD Mountain Film at kimff 2024. The award was set up in 2013 to support filmmakers from ICIMOD'S member countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan working to document stories and raise awareness on issues related to sustainable mountain development t in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region.



Note from the Chair

The kimff team is excited to present a lineup of films that encompass diverse narratives about people, places, culture and mountain sport. Our films cover a wide range of genres from fiction to non-fiction, and styles from cinema verite, adventure cinema, experimental shorts, and light-hearted POV films.

In this edition of kimff, we hope audiences are inspired by individuals and adventurers who have lived life on their own terms in *The Great White Whale*, *Queendom*, *Into the Heart of the Mountain*, *Atirkul in the Land of Real Men*, *From Above you Can See Better-* Wanda Rutkiewicz, *Climbing for Gold*, and *Yamnuska: The Ragged Edge*. We are moved by the films *Dhye Dreams*, *Against the Tide* and *No Monastery No Village* where the protagonists struggle with the impacts of climate change on their homes and lives. The female protagonists in *The Childless Village*, *Andro Dreams*, and *Silent Walls* make us smile and want to cry at their predicaments.

The 30 films in *Nepal Panorama* spotlight local talent and stories about contemporary Nepal. The queer protagonists in *Yatra* and *Arkesta* inspire us, a passionate dog lover in *Wagging Tale* moves us while the plight of a returnee migrant worker in *Phera*, and, of an indigenous community in *Bankariya*, angers us. We empathise with the dilemma of a childless couple in *Dubidha* and with a mother and daughter's predicament in *Chiso Ghar*. We get a glimpse into a child's mind in *Hawaman*, and, we laugh out loud at the irreverent antics of the protagonists in *Nepali Fiction*.

Festival highlights include the Asia Premiere of *The Tiger's Nest*, an international production filmed in Nepal; *Everest Revisited 1924-2024*, a photo exhibition and film screening of pioneering attempts on Everest; a special screening of



Korean films to celebrate 50 years of Nepal-Korea friendship; a panel on *Women Behind the Camera*; a *Cut.Katha* documentary film pitch; an edit lab for fiction and non-fiction filmmakers; *Mountains Matter- A Call from the Himalayas*, a Storytellers event, and, *Make/Film/Learn - a Camera Sika* installation and exhibition.

The festival team invites you to the screenings, displays and the critical and creative conversations with participating filmmakers and speakers, and, to meet the jury.

Co-hosted by the Kathmandu Metropolitan City, kimff 2024 includes diverse and compelling stories under the festival tagline 'Echoes of Change'. It also reflects the transition the festival is going through as we strive to stay relevant and engaged with the audience. We are positive that everyone will find a screening, a panel, and event that speaks to them.

Enjoy the films!

Ramyata Limbu
Chair, kimff Foundation

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Jury

Dina Mufti

Dina Mufti is an award-winning UK based documentary director, public speaker & photographer. Telling visual and sonic tales across cultures, she produces and directs international documentaries for the BBC, National Geographic / Disney, NETFLIX, Red Bull, and SKY. A recipient of the BBC Director General Award for Creativity, Dina has captured stories with the Icefall Doctors at Everest Base Camp, with Cataract Surgeons in the Kathmandu Valley, and lived alongside families in Upper Dolpo. As a film judge and events host, she's collaborated with the Banff and Kendal International Mountain Film Festivals and is currently developing a project around equity and inclusion in the outdoors, with a focus on high-altitude communities. She is delighted to be joining the KIMFF team this year.



Regina Bärtschi

Regina Bärtschi is a film editor who trained at the School of Design in Bern, Swiss television and New York. She started her filmmaking career as an assistant director on various feature films. Her films have been nominated to various prizes and won several including Golden Globe, Grimme Prize, German Television Award, Audience Choice Award Best Film at St. Louis International Film Festival, Perspektive Deutsches Kino at Berlinale, Best Documentary at the Sao Paolo International Film Festival European TV Festival ZOOM and Barcelona TV Film Festival. Bärtschi has worked in a factory, served as guest lecturer at the Bern University of the Arts and been jury member at the Berlinale Children's Film Festival. Since 2006 she has been a tutor for editing and dramaturgy at the Yangon Film School in Myanmar.



Suresh Kumar Dhakal

Suresh Dhakal, PhD., is a cultural anthropologist, with a passionate interest in visual anthropology. He is an Associate Professor at the Central Department of Anthropology of Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, and has been a visiting fellow at Kyoto University, Japan and a Wener-Gren IDG fellow at Cornell University, New York. Dhakal has long been engaged in linking academic exercises to social issues through public debate, research, seminars and workshops organised at home and abroad. He has been involved in various academic and applied research for three decades and has published several academic articles, book chapters and books. He has also been involved in documentary filmmaking as a researcher.



Critical Conversations | Discussions and Dialogues

Kimff Edit Lab with Regina Bärtschi

26-28 May | Hotel Tibet, Lazimpat

The Kimff Edit Lab, led by Swiss film editor Regina Bärtschi, offers Nepali filmmakers a unique opportunity to sharpen their films' edges. Filmmakers and editors (fiction & non-fiction) will receive intensive hands-on editing guidance and a chance to refine their works-in-progress, gain valuable insights and network within the Kimff community. Designed with the aim to enable filmmakers to learn from each other's work the three-day Lab will devote time to watch and discuss in depth the participating projects and how best to approach the stories they are trying to tell. The Edit Lab is supported by the Embassy of Switzerland in Kathmandu.

Editing Master Class with Regina Bärtschi

28 May Tuesday | 3:00-5:00 pm | Gehendra Dhimal Foundation, Mandikatar

This special master class for filmmakers and film students will delve into the editing process as Swiss film editor Regina Bärtschi analyses a project, shares valuable insights and techniques to elevate storytelling in films. It will look at the basics of film editing while touching on topics such as techniques for seamless cuts that propel the story forward without a hitch as well as editing scenes with emotion where every edit can heighten the impact of what a character may be feeling. Participants will observe Baertschi deconstruct a project, giving insights into her approach and methodology.

Camera Sika Exhibition Showcase

29 May-2 June | Rastriya Sabha Griha (City Hall) Foyer

The Camera Sika programme, launched by the British Council and developed by Into Film, began as a pilot project in Nepal in November 2019. This exhibition highlights the innovative work of Camera Sika, dedicated to empowering young people by helping them discover and develop creative and technical skills through filmmaking. Visitors to this interactive installation can explore galleries, experience a mock studio setup and watch films created by young filmmakers on display screens. The exhibition also offers a range of resources and learning materials, providing an insight into the world of filmmaking. The exhibition will run for five days, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, with guided tours available upon request.

Curators: Prasna Dongol, Robic Upadhyaya
Production Supervisor: Suresh Maharjan

Mountains Waste to Crafts by Nepali Women

29 May-2 June | Rastriya Sabha Griha (City Hall) Foyer

For Mountaineers, the climbing rope is a symbol of safety, their lifeline. During expeditions, the lives of mountaineers literally hangs by a thread i.e. a Climbing rope.

Unfortunately, these very ropes are also one of the most common items left in the mountain after expeditions. On top of that, they are one of the most difficult items to recycle.

Under the Nepal Army Led – Mountain Cleanup Campaign 2021 & 22 – one of the largest Mountain Clean up campaigns in the world, these ropes were collected from eight mountains of Nepal, viz., Everest, Lhotse, Makalu, Dhaulagiri, Amadablam, Pumori, Manaslu & kanchanjunga.

The vision of the campaign's official recycling partner, Avni Ventures to not let any of the waste collected from the mountains to go to the landfills, gave birth to the idea of up-cycling them into

beautiful, functional products. These ropes have undergone series of processing by women at Avni Ventures. In partnership with Nepal Knotcraft Centre, the craft-persons and weavers from the indigenous communities of Nepal have coiled the climbing ropes with natural plant fibers to transform them into beautiful products.

Everest Revisited 1924-2024 | Screening and Panel Discussion

29 May Wednesday | 3:00-5:00 pm | Nepal Tourism Board

Everest Revisited 1924-2024 is an Alpine Club production made in association with the Mount Everest Foundation. Using photos taken by the climbers on the expeditions and John Noel's films from the 1920s, the film tells the story of the 1924 expedition focusing on the partnership of George Mallory and Andrew Irvine as well as the contribution of many of the remarkable members including Sherpas and Bhotias. The film also examines what Everest means today to the Nepalis, and to the world. Everest is a place of changing value and impact, some good, some questionable. To reach the highest point on our planet is at once a measure of our ambition and achievement and, at the same time, of our frailties and vanity. Julie Summers, the great-niece of Sandy Irvine and mountaineer and narrator Matt Sharman seek insights in interviews with many well-known climbers including Sir Chris Bonington, Rebecca Stephens, Krish Thapa, Stephen Venables and Leo Houlding. Social and scientific observations are given by Dr. Jonathan Westway, Dr. Melanie Windridge and historian and mountaineer Ed Douglas. One hundred years after the loss of Mallory and Irvine, what have we learnt, what have we gained and what have we lost?

An international panel of mountaineers, historians and authors will hold a discussion on all aspects of the Everest enigma following the screening.

Panelists: Billi Bierling (Germany), Dr. Toolika Rani (India), John Porter (UK) and Mingma Sherpa (Nepal)

Moderator: Kunda Dixit, Nepali Times

'The Fight for Everest 1924' photo exhibit will be featured at the Nepal Tourism Board from 29 May to 2 June. Supported by Nepal Academy of Fine Arts.



Screening and Q&A on the topic 'Let's Talk Period' – in collaboration with GIZ and Oky Nepal featured by UNICEF, SIMAVI and NFCC Nepal.

30 May Thursday | 11:00 am | Nepal Tourism Board

The short film Let's Talk Period by filmmaker Rajin Maharjan tries to break the taboo around menstruation in Nepal with a focus on the supporting role of men/fathers and 'positive masculinity' in general. It features specifically the positive impact of inclusive digital solutions—like the Oky app, period tracker from girls for girls—to empower girls and young women.

The film is part of a campaign that started as a social media campaign #NepalsMenstrualMovement which evolved into a gender-transformative #LetsTalkPERIOD approach implemented in Nepal, Albania, and the Philippines. The campaign has roped in the support Keki Adhikari, Nepali actress, model, film producer and social activist as well as Dayahang Rai, Nepal's best-known actor, to make more and more boys and men involved of this discussion on menstrual health and hygiene and highlight challenges and solutions for girls and women in Nepal.

Panelists: Rubina Chhantel, NFCC Nepal; Mingma Sherpa, SIMAVI Nepal; Sami Pande, GIZ Nepal

Women behind the Camera: Film Screening and Panel Discussion

30 May Thursday | 2:30 pm | Rastriya Sabha Griha (City Hall)

The event will feature three short films by Nepali women directors, followed by a discussion where they will share insights, experiences, challenges and successes working in various roles behind the

camera. The panel will cover topics such as importance of representation and diversity in filmmaking and overcoming gender barriers in the industry. The event is supported by the US Embassy in Kathmandu.

Panelists: Filmmakers, Akanchha Karki, Bidushi Giri, Dina Mufti and Sarita Sah
Moderator: Pooja Pant, Filmmaker and Activist

Championing Young Filmmakers | Beyond Borders

31 May Friday | 11:00 am | Nepal Tourism Board

The Beyond Borders (BB) project 2023/2024 is an international collaboration grant and platform to guide a dedicated group of young people in Nepal, Scotland and Egypt through the use of film as an artistic practice. During the project period, young people from the three countries discussed issues that concerned them—the environment, equality, well-being and identity. They worked together to make films through a process of online collaborative filmmaking, exploring these crucial topics and learning about the world beyond their borders. Their films will be screened at Kimff 2024 where participants from Nepal will join a panel discussion along with the Beyond Borders project lead and mentors.

Panelists: Ben Woodiwess, Beyond Borders Project Leader; Samikshya, Young Person; Ayush Young Person; Prasuna Dongol, Artist Mentor; Sonu Kumar Shah, MD, Monastic School.
Moderator: Sudin Bajracharya, Camera Sika Mentor

British Council Young Film Campaign (Make / Film / Learn)

31 May Friday | 1:00 pm | Nepal Tourism Board

British Council in collaboration with Kimff organised a #YoungFilmCampaign in March 2024 promoting films produced by young people. All 10 films produced will feature at Kimff 2024. Three have been awarded in the following categories: Gandarwa for Most Liked, The Stone That Grinds Through the Ages for Audience Impact and Jhigu Kipu the Jury Award. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion on the importance of integrating films into education and curriculum activities for enhanced learning.

Panelists: Shailendra Jha, Member (Education, Social Innovation, Technology), Kathmandu Metropolitan City; Shirjan Shrestha, Filmmaker; Tshering Sherpa, Educator, John Dewy School; Rossete Dala Rosa Tamang, Educator, Sambriidhi School
Moderator: Mahesh Shrestha, Camera Sika Mentor

Mountains Matter: A Call from the Himalayas

31 May Friday | 12:30 pm | Rastriya Sabha Griha (City Hall)

The Storytellers event, supported by the US Embassy in Kathmandu, brings stories from Nepal's Himalayas through three prolific individuals and their tryst with mountains—from conquering peaks to making films about highland communities to managing and recycling waste off Everest. Their stories are also a call from the Himalayas to protect their majesty and the ecosystems and millions of lives that they sustain.

Storytellers: Dawa Yangzum Sherpa, Mountaineer, Min Bham, Filmmaker and Shilshila Acharya, Sustainability Practitioner

Cut.Katha Documentary Pitch Programme

1 June Saturday | 3:00 pm | Nepal Tourism Board

Cut.Katha is a pitch forum for short documentary filmmakers in South Asia. The forum is envisioned as a platform where filmmakers can hone their pitching skills through mentorship from expert trainers and professionals. It aims to help filmmakers and commissioners connect to form a more

robust marketplace for documentaries in the region. The three winning pitches will be awarded the amount of Rs. 100,000 each.

In its second edition, Cut.Katha will follow a hybrid model that combines virtual sessions and a physical event. Early-career filmmakers will participate in pitch training (text as well pitch reel), group pitching and feedback sessions virtually. A selected group will then make their revised pitches to a live audience at Kimff 2024. 3 winners will receive a grant to produce their films.

Cut.Katha 2024 is organised by Kathaharu Production supported by British Council Nepal with training provided by One World Media in partnership with Kimff.

Experience, Exposure, Expansion – Making Films Local, Going Global | Panel Discussion

2 June Sunday | 3:00 pm | Nepal Tourism Board

A panel of storytellers and content creators will speak about what moves them, inspires them and compels them to tell a tale; what triggers an idea, why do they zoom in on a local story and the opportunities; and challenges involved in sharing it with a global audience while retaining an authentic voice.

Panelists: Dina Mufti, Filmmaker, Manish Maharjan, Mountaineer and Filmmaker, Min Bham Filmmaker, Rojita Adhikari, Journalist and Filmmaker

Moderator: Mannsi Agrawal, Media Personality and International Communications Coach

Screening Schedule

HALL A | RASTRIYA SABHA GRIHA

29 MAY 2024, WEDNESDAY

- 12:00 noon** **kimff 2024 Opening | Screening (by invitation only)**
The Tiger's Nest
dir. Brando Quilici
94 min | Italy/Nepal 2022
A young boy embarks on a perilous journey to save a tiger's cub from poachers.
- 3:00 pm** **Nepali Fiction – World Premiere – PG**
dir. Devendra Khatri (In Person)
43 min | Nepal 2023
A black comedy on a drug deal gone wrong.
कुलै तौल कुछ नि जमदु (Nothing Grows Under The Pine Trees) – Asia Premiere
dir. Sachin Rana (In Person)
32 min | India 2023
Marriage begins to spool the fates of two sisters in the hills of Uttarakhand as their family arranges a groom for one.
- 5:00 pm** **Into the Heart of the Mountain – World Premiere**
dir. Annegre Bosman
98 min | Nepal/Netherlands 2023
A Zen Buddhist priest empowers women and fights for gender equality as her story unfolds against the backdrop of the Himalayas.

30 MAY 2024, THURSDAY

- 10: 00 am** **Phera (Whirl)**
dir. Anil Kurmie (In Person)
10 min | Nepal 2024
A returnee migrant worker wants to farm vegetables with government support but faces obstacles at home.
- The School's Wall**
dir. Mohan Shrestha (In Person)
21 min | Nepal 2023
A young boy struggles to go to school despite overwhelming odds.
- Windhorse**
dir. Sunil Gurung
10 min | Nepal 2023

An estranged father and son struggle to connect on a journey into the mountains.

- 12:30 pm** **Jarna**
dir. Enuma Rai (In Person)
9 min | Nepal 2022
A documentary about communities whose livelihoods depend on the Koshi River.
- Dancing in the Fire: Khalikhane Fire – Walking and Ritual Healing in the Kathmandu Valley**
dir. Ramesh Khadka
47 min | Nepal 2023
The power of ritual and community helps families heal and process suffering caused by the traumatic loss of their loved ones.

2:30 pm **Screening & Panel Discussion | Women Behind the Camera (FREE ENTRY)**

- Chiso Ghar (A Bleak Home)**
dir. Bidushi Giri (In Person)
12 min | Nepal 2023
A mother and daughter face a dilemma as their lives appear to be falling apart.
- Threshold**
dir. Sarita Sah (In Person)
13 min | Nepal 2024
A young woman's patience is severely tested as she tries to get her brother treated after an accident.

Sanai
dir. Akanchha Karki (In Person)
15 min | Nepal 2023
A friendship blossoms between two teenage girls as they break caste and gender barriers.

- 4:30 pm** **Ma alap huna chahanchhu (Into the Mist)**
dir. Sachin Ghimire/ Gaurab KC (In Person)
79 min | Nepal 2022
About the life and times of renowned Nepali anthropologist Dor Bahadur Bista.

PG – Parental Guidance

31 MAY 2024, FRIDAY

10:30 am **What the Spring Says – World Premiere**
dir. Janjit KC (In Person)
10 min | Nepal 2022

A young man dreams of his dying grandfather's stories of love, life and loss.

मोटी, दुबली, काली, गोरी: **Nepali Women Reclaim their Bodies – World Premiere**
dir. Nirvana Bhandary
12 min | Nepal 2023

An intimate look into the societal pressures confronting young Nepali women regarding body image and beauty standards.

Silver – Nepal Premiere
dir. Hamid Saberi
17 min | Iran 2022

An inspector of a charity organisation is faced with a dilemma as she tries to resolve a family's situation. Her personal crisis doesn't make it easier.

Bankariya (Indigenous People of Nepal)

dir. Laxmi Basnet (In Person)
21 min | Nepal 2023

'Bankariya' an endangered indigenous people of Nepal struggle for existence.

12:30 pm **'Mountains Matter: A Call from the Himalayas' – (FREE ENTRY)**

A Storytellers event with mountaineer Dawa Yangzum Sherpa, filmmaker Min Bham and sustainability practitioner Shilshila Acharya.

2:00 pm **The Tiger's Nest**
dir. Brando Quilici

94 min | Nepal/ Italy 2022
A young boy embarks on a perilous journey to save a tiger's cub from poachers.

4:00 pm **Hawaman – PG**
dir. Samal Kumar Bajracharya (In Person)
11 min | Nepal 2023

An 8-year-old boy sets out to fly like Superman.

Dust to Disclosure
dir. Aakankshya GC Bhujel
(In Person)

15 min | Nepal 2024
An investigative journalist pursues leads, digs up evidence, and traces old files to uncover stories of power, corruption and accountability.

Loving you is My Favorite Mistake
dir. Dipen Maharjan

10 min | Nepal/ Canada 2024
A heart-broken couple's experimental love story.

Mountain Man
dir. Arun Bhattarai (In Person)

22 min | Bhutan 2022
An insightful look into the life and work of Phuntsho Tshering, the only glaciologist in Bhutan.

5:45 pm **A Childless Village – Nepal Premiere**
dir. Reza Jamali

82 min | Iran 2022
An old filmmaker sets out to uncover the truth about why there are no children in a remote village.

1 JUNE 2024, SATURDAY

11:00 am **Can I Hold Your Hand?**
dir. Suraj Katuwal (In Person)

11 min | Nepal 2024
Perhaps for the last time, two friends hang out at their favorite tea shop.

Dubidha (Dilemma)
dir. Pradhuma Mishra (In Person)

20 min | Nepal 2022
A childless couple is faced with a dilemma after 12 years of trying to have a baby.

Wagging Tale – World Premiere
dir. Samagra Shah (In Person)

23 min | Nepal 2024
A short documentary about Rupak who has dedicated his life to caring for Kathmandu's street dogs.

1:00 pm **여름에 내린 눈**
(The House of Rising Sun)
dir. LEE Ga-kyung

17 min | South Korea 2019
A girl decides to take a trip with her younger cousins to bring her grandfather to a better gravesite and resolve an ensuing family drama.

친화득 B (Chouinard B)
dir. CHOI Won-jae (In Person)

8 min | South Korea 2019
An animated film about climbing a mountain and the emotions and exhilaration that follow.

계양산 (Uncomfortable)
dir. Joo-young (In Person)

26 min | South Korea 2019
A recently divorced woman finds herself having to accompany her

PG – Parental Guidance

boss and a male colleague on a New Year's hike in the mountains.

나무의 집 (**The Tree's Home**)

dir. Kim Hye-mi

12 min | South Korea 2023
The animated tale of a woman's changing life.

뼈 (**The Bone**)

dir. CHOI Jinyoung (In Person)

35 min | South Korea 2017
Two women connect as they seek closure for their dead.

3:30 pm

The Poplar Trees

dir. Manoj Kumar Pant (In Person)

10 min | Nepal 2023
The tale of a woman, two men and a monk.

Tarang – World Premiere

dir. Pushpa Joshi Pradhan (In Person)

11 min | Nepal 2024
A radio journalist creates ripples in her community.

Climbing for Gold – World Premiere

dir. Vincent Groos (In Person)

22 min | Belgium/United States 2024
Fré Leys, a Paralympic climber is determined to secure victory at the 2023 World Championships in Salt Lake City and through his journey raises important issues about inclusivity in sport.

A Bird Fell in the Rain – Asia

Premiere dir. Ankit Poudel (In Person)

20 min | Nepal 2022
A woman witnesses a rift in her marriage while she becomes pregnant.

5:30 pm

Against the Tide – Nepal Premiere

dir. Sarvnik Kaur (In Person)

97 min | India/France 2023
Two Bombay fisherman, inheritors of the Koli system of harvesting the sea, take different paths to safeguard their family trade.

2 JUNE 2024, SUNDAY

11:00 am

Yatra

dir. LSM/Sahayog Raj Adhikari (In Person)

22 min | Nepal 2022
Rekha and Jyoti navigate the complexities of gender transition in Nepal.

Adjustment

dir. Mehrdad Hasani (In Person)

17 min | Iran 2022
Pushed away by family and friends, a young boy decides to adjust to his new identity and comes out to the people of his village.

Arkesta

dir. Safal Pandey (In Person)

18 min 35 sec | Nepal 2023
A father struggles to understand and accept his son's inherent femininity.

1:00 pm

The Monk and The Rebel

dir. Prabhat Gurung

14 min | Nepal 2023
An encounter between a monk and a Maoist rebel raises moral questions.

Rongphamu

dir. Anusha Thulung Rai (In Person)

23 min | Nepal/ UK 2023
The Rai indigenous community, young and old, prepare to celebrate their traditional Sakela festival in the UK.

Avashesh (Remnants) – Nepal Premiere

dir. Dhanraj Barkote

30 min | Nepal/Spain 2023
A young Nepali filmmaker living in Spain returns to his remote mountain village in Humla after twenty years.

2:30 pm

गणेशा – एलिफास मैक्सिमस (**Ganesha – Elephas Maximus**) – World Premiere

dir. Bigyan Sapkota (In Person)

28 min | Nepal 2024
For 25 years Shankar Chettri Luitel has struggled to minimise conflict between humans and elephants in east Nepal.

Dhye Dreams

dir. Shanta Nepali (In Person)

28 min | Nepal 2023
Three women struggle to survive in isolated Himalayan villages battling against climate change.

4:45 pm

kimff 2024 Awards | Screening – No Monastery No Village

dir. Tashi Lhazom (In Person)

28 min | Nepal 2024
A poignant exploration of faith, resilience, and the fight to preserve a way of life in Humla's Limi Valley in the face of climate change.

HALL B | NEPAL TOURISM BOARD

29 MAY 2024, WEDNESDAY

3:00 pm Everest Revisited 1924 -2024
Produced by the Alpine Club in association with the Mt. Everest Foundation
41 min | UK 2024

5:00 pm Todesfalle Haute Route-Rekonstruktion eines Dramas (Death Trap Haute Route – Reconstruction of a tragedy) – Asia Premiere
dir. Frank Senn
90 min | Switzerland/ Austria/ France/ Italy 2023
A film team investigates and reconstructs the dramatic events that lead to tragic deaths in the Swiss Alps only 550 meters from safety.

30 MAY 2024, THURSDAY

11:00 am Screening & Panel Discussion Let's Talk Period!
5 min 39 sec | Nepal 2024

12:30 pm Rio Rojo – Nepal Premiere
dir. Guillermo Quintero
70 min | Colombia 2023
A serene community living on the banks of a legendary river in the Colombian Amazon finds itself imperiled by the arrival of new visitors.

2:00 pm My Radio My Life – Nepal Premiere
dir. Bidit Roy/Makarand Waikar
(In Person)
68 min | India 2023
Individuals in India share their stories on how the radio has expanded their horizons and enriched their lives.

3:30 pm Z góry widać lepiej. Wanda Rutkiewicz. Opowieść o kobiecie niezwyklej (From Above you Can See Better. Wanda Rutkiewicz) – Nepal Premiere
dir. Bartosz Kowalski
76 min | Poland 2022
An absorbing portrayal of the life of Wanda Rutkiewicz, a pioneering Polish female climber who left her mark on Himalayan mountaineering.

5:00 pm Atirkul in the Land of Real Men – Nepal Premiere
dir. Janyl Jusupjan
65 min | France/Kyrgyzstan 2023
An enterprising and spirited woman enters the tough masculine world of Buzkashi, an ancient team sport popular in Central Asia.

31 MAY 2024, FRIDAY

11:00 am Championing Young Filmmakers
Co-presented by The British Council
Screening & Panel Discussion | Beyond Borders

1:00 pm Screening & Panel Discussion | British Council Young Film Campaign (Make/Film/Learn)

3:00 pm Andro Dreams
dir. Meena Longjam
64 min | India 2023
A 30 year-old girls' football team in northeast India struggles to exist against all odds.

4:30 pm Split Ends – Nepal Premiere
dir. Alireza Kazemipour
14 min | Iran 2022
A bald girl and a boy with long hair encounter the Tehran Morality Police.

Whispers of a Qareen – Nepal Premiere
dir. Maarria Sayed (In Person)
15 min | India 2024
On a lonely night, 12-year-old Jahaan is approached by something strangely familiar in her Himalayan village.

Eternal Flame
dir. Bossard Nicolas
26 min | Pakistan 2023
Following in the footsteps of the pioneers of 1990, BASE jumpers Éric Jamet and Antoine Pecher embark on a breathtaking adventure in Pakistan.

6:00 pm Rope – Asia Premiere
dir. Moe Wada
30 min | Japan/ Pakistan 2023
Two Japanese climbers combine their youth and experience to ascend the previously unclimbed north face of Tirich Mir in Pakistan.

The Borders Never Die – Nepal Premiere

dir. Hamidreza Arjomandi

15 min | Iran 2023

A Kurdish couple decide to cross the border because of the war in their land.

That's Home – Asia Premiere

dir. Johannes Hoffmann

20 min | Austria 2023

An inspiring film about Tobias Holzknrecht, a young alpinist from the **Ötztal** region, who has been connected to the mountains since childhood.

1 JUNE 2024, SATURDAY

11:30 am

Body of a Line

dir. Henna Taylor

11 min | United States 2023

An animated documentary about Madaleine Sorokin's intimate and creative journey to climb the most difficult rock climb above 13,500 ft. in the world.

Yamnuska: The Ragged Edge – PG

dir. John Price

59 min | Canada 2023

Two modern day adventures embark on a rock climbing journey to celebrate the rich history of one of Canada's most iconic climbing cliffs.

1:00 pm

Queendom – PG

dir. Agniia Galdanova

97 min | United States/France 2023

An artist from small town Russia uses art and activism to protest on the streets of Moscow putting her life in danger.

3:00 pm

Cut. Katha Documentary Pitch Program (FREE ENTRY)

5:00 pm

The Great White Whale

dir. Michael Charles Dillon

104 min | Australia 2023

A gripping tale about an expedition's intrepid attempts to climb a dangerous volcano in one of the most inhospitable and remote locations on the planet, a rare chance to see the famed explorer Bill Tilman at the helm.

2 JUNE 2024, SUNDAY

11:00 am

Forward

dir. Palmer Moebe

16 min | United States 2023

A diverse group of women bond in the outdoors, away from life's daily grind

Silent Walls – Nepal Premiere

dir. Suraj Bhattarai (In Person)

21 min | Bhutan 2023

A young deaf girl in a rural village in Bhutan is isolated from her family and society; she experiences her first menstruation.

A Long Way to Nowhere – Asia Premiere

dir. Vincent DiFrancesco

29 min | United States 2023

A crew of young American environmentalists from Oregon set out to revitalise a nationally important and historic hiking trail.

12.30 pm

Take My Breath – PG

dir. Nada Mezni Hafaiedh

96 min | Tunisia 2022

Shams, born intersex and rejected by society, faces love, betrayal, and exile in a harsh world.

3.00 pm

Panel Discussion:

Exposure, Experience, Expansion:

Making Films Local, Going Global

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INTERNATIONAL CATEGORY
Feature Fiction



Original Language
Azerbaijani

Direction
Reza Jamali

Camera
Abdollah Shokri

Editing
Amir Etminan/ Homa Valizadeh

Sound
Abdolreza Heydari

Script
Reza Jamali

Producer
Salman Abbasi

Contact
Reza Jamali (IRIMAGE)
kamyar@irimageco.com

A Childless Village

82 min | Iran | 2022

Twenty years ago, in a remote village, an old filmmaker named Kazem made a film on the sterility of the women villagers, but in order to protect their dignity, the women stole the footage and burnt them. Now, after two decades, the villagers find out that the men are barren and there is nothing wrong with the women. With the help of his assistant, Kazem tries to record some interviews with the infertile men to unfold the truth.



Filmmaker

Born in Ardebil, Iran in 1978, Reza Jamali is a filmmaking graduate. After making a number of short films, presented and awarded at national and international film festivals, Jamali directed his debut feature film, *Old Men Never Die* (2019), which won him the Spirits of Asia Award at Tokyo International Film Festival and was screened at several international film festivals. *A Childless Village* is his second feature film.



Original Language
Arabic

Direction
Nada Mezni Hafaiedh

Camera
Mohamed Magrahoui

Editing
Noura Nefzi

Sound
Ahmed Maalaoui

Script
Pascal Jousse/ Nada Mezni Hafaiedh

Producer
Slim Hafaiedh/ Ziad Hamzeh

Contact
Nada Mezni Hafaiedh
nada@leythproduction.com

Take My Breath

96 min | Tunisia | 2022

Stripped of the right to exist, shunned by love and rejected by society's norms and expectation, 23-year-old Shams must live in the shadows steeped in secrecy and an unimaginable pain. Fearing shame and ridicule, Shams's mother never registers him/her in the public records due to being born with both genitalia. Living in Shams's world means to abandon one's identity in order for them to survive in this harsh and closed-minded society. Courted by Habib, her true love, and the crook Abdelkader and his abused wife Naima, does not make her situation any easier. The fierce competition between the two men vying for Shams's love, is outed by the jealous crook Abdelkader in front of the entire village. Now, accused of being an instrument of the devil, rejected by Habib who feels betrayed, Shams is forced to leave the village to start a new life. But little did Shams know that this journey would be filled with more sorrow and rejection.

Filmmaker

Nada Mezni Hafaiedh, born in Saudi Arabia, was exposed to different cultures from an early age, including Saudi Arabia, USA, France and Canada, due to her diplomat parents. At the age of ten she was making films and video clips casting her friends and family as actors. She went to Montreal to study Business Administration, but soon changed her course to follow her passion for filmmaking. After graduating from the School of Cinema in Montreal, she opened her production company making films in Canada. She is known for tearing down taboo, and touching on fundamental issues that are related to freedom. On her return to her country of origin, Tunisia, in 2009, she made Hekayat Tounisia (Tunisians Stories). The film was screened at several festivals and received awards. In 2016 she released 'Upon the Shadow' (Au-delà de l'Ombre), a documentary that expresses how difficult it is to grow and protect your sexual freedom in a homophobic society where it is taboo or strongly disparaged.





Original Language
English

Direction
Brando Quilici

Camera
Doug Allan/ Nicola Cattani

Editing
Paolo Cottignola

Sound
Frank Keraudren

Script
Hugh Hudson/ Rupert Thomson

Producer
Brando Quilici/ Fausto Grisi

Contact
Brando Quilici
sophiebpq@gmail.com

The Tiger's Nest

94 min | Italy/ Nepal | 2022

Legend has it that a guru once flew through the Himalayas on the back of a female tiger. They landed in a cave almost 10,000 feet above sea level. The monastery built on that sheer cliff face became known as the Tiger's Nest. Little orphan boy, Balmani, has grown up with this strange story. One night, he snatches a tiger cub from evil poachers and goes on the run. He makes for the Tiger's Nest, where he believes they will be safe. A strong emotional bond develops between the boy and the cub as they travel from the lush grasslands of central Nepal, through the modern mayhem of Kathmandu, and on into the spectacular but lethal landscape of the high Himalayas, their journey made still more dangerous by the poachers who are determined to recapture the priceless cub.

Filmmaker



Brando Quilici has produced and directed over 100 specials for television networks around the world, including National Geographic and Discovery Channel. He has received awards at both the Jackson Hole in America and the Palme d'Or at the Antibes Film Festival. His best-known works include King Tut's Final Secrets, on the case of death of King Tutankhamun, for National Geographic and Nefertiti and the Lost Dynasty, on the search for the mummy of Nefertiti, also for National Geographic, Iceman for Discovery Channel, Iceman – Murder Mystery for NOVA PBS. In 2014, he produced and co-directed, together with Roger Spottiswood, The Journey Home, a theatrical release distributed in 30 countries.

INTERNATIONAL CATEGORY
Feature Documentary



Original Language
Hindi/ Urdu

Direction
Siddhant Sarin

Camera
Siddhant Sarin

Editing
Nilanjan Bhattacharya

Sound
Diwakar Kumar

Script
N/A

Producer
Siddhant Sarin/ Arunas Matelis/
Sarah Kang

Contact
Teh Films
siddhant.sarin@gmail.com

Ayena (Mirror)

70 min | India/ Lithuania/ South Korea | 2022

A momentary act of revenge forever transforms the lives of two young Indian women. After surviving acid attacks, both Ritu and Faraha must now navigate through a sea of odd currents daily, carrying the scars of human brutality on their faces. Ritu's scars have brought her some fame: she is occasionally on television, walking the ramp, or featured in a Bollywood film. Yet, she often feels lonely. She wants to be loved and jumps into an ambiguous relationship with a fellow female acid attack survivor. Faraha has come to terms with her post-attack singlehood; indeed, it has given her a new lease of life. As she starts to experience freedom and independence, she has a growing desire to become a mother. The shadows and lights, and hope and hopelessness in Ritu and Faraha's lives make Ayena a mirror where we see our own reflections.



Filmmakers

Siddhant Sarin is currently a scholarship student, enrolled in Docnomads masters' course, specializing in documentary directing. He has previously studied cinematography at DFFB, the German Film and Television School in Berlin and been trained at FAMU, the national film school of the Czech Republic. Ayena, his debut feature length documentary was selected for several International festivals.



Co-presented by:



Original Language
Manipuri

Direction
Meena Longjam

Camera
Sunny Sarungbam

Editing
Sanka

Sound
Debajit Gayan.

Script
Meena Longjam

Producer
Meena Longjam/
Jani Viswanath

Contact
Meena Longjan
ayerameen@gmail.com

Andro Dreams

63 min | India | 2023

Andro Dreams is the love story of Laibi, an old woman with a spirited soul, and her three decade-old all girls' football club battling economic challenges, patriarchal system and orthodoxy in an ancient village of northeast India.

Filmmaker



Meena Longjam, with a background in academia, stands as a trailblazer in the world of independent filmmaking. She was the first woman filmmaker from Manipur, India to receive a national award, among others, for her impactful debut documentary film, *Autodriver*, which highlighted the resilience of Manipuri women in the face of adversity. *Andro Dreams* was the opening film for the non-feature section of International Film Festival of India 2023. In 2015, she established Airameen Media, a platform dedicated to producing films that address social and gender issues and publishing books related to media and arts. She is actively involved in developing projects that amplify the voices of women and contribute to broader discourse on gender equality.



Co-presented by:



Original Language
Kirghiz

Direction
Janyl Jusupjan

Camera
Christian Lelong/ Janyl Chytyrbaeva

Editing
Francois Sculier

Sound
Altai Kai

Script
Janyl Jusupjan

Producer
Christian Lelong/ Alice Tabery/
Janyl Chytyrbaeva

Contact
Janyl Jusupjan
luisa.schwamborn@newdocs.de

Atirkul in the Land of Real Men

65 min | France/ Kyrgyzstan | 2023

On the vast plains of Kyrgyzstan, men continue to practise buzkashi, a team sport that has been popular in Central Asia for centuries. The aim of the game is to steal the trophy of a dead goat from the rival team of riders while remaining on horseback. We watch players gallop across the plains against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains and blue skies, jumping on each other like rugby players to grab the goat carcass and take it across the goal line. Into this tough masculine world enters Atirkül, a woman with an enterprising spirit and a sense of humour. Tired of her husband being away from home all the time, she decides to get involved in horse trading. The film portrays the everyday life of this headstrong horse enthusiast and business woman, whose ambition is to find local young men to form her own buzkashi team and in this way preserve the heritage of her native region and gradually reveal the possibilities of overcoming gender roles.

Filmmaker



Born in Kyrgyzstan, Jusupjan studied literature in Almaty. She worked as a journalist at Radio Free Europe's Kyrgyz Department for 20 years and was the artistic director of the One World Festival of Documentary Films on Human Rights, Kyrgyzstan. Her radio series 'Invisible Women of Osh' on sexual violence during the ethnic conflict in Kyrgyzstan received the AIB Diploma (UK). She is a founding member of Central Asian Music and Dance, Prague. Curiosity, genuine interest in people and direct ties to the culture in Central Asia allow Janyl to encounter amazing people and create strong connections. She studied film with Cinedoc Formation, Annecy and Les Ateliers Varan, Paris.

**Original Language**

English/ Nepali

Direction

Annegré Bosman

Camera

Annegré Bosman

Editing

Annegré Bosman/ Eus Koparan

Sound

Ramona van Gennep Productions

Script

Annegré Bosman

Producer

By Nature Films Foundation

Contact

Annegré Bosman

annegre@bynaturefilms.org

Into the Heart of the Mountain

97 min | Netherlands/ Nepal | 2023

At one level, *Into the Heart of the Mountain* follows clinicians of Nomads Clinic on its annual medical pilgrimage, which has been undertaken for four decades, to Humla in northwestern Nepal, as they follow trails and cross passes of more than 18.000 feet with spectacular mountains in the background. It documents their efforts to bring urgent medical care to the people of this secluded mountain region, home to the spiritual, pre-Buddhist, Bon culture. At another level the film portrays a people who so far have managed to preserve their social, cultural, economic and political integrity. But climate change together with their struggle for rights to their ancestral, nomadic lands and natural resources are undermining the very fabric of their existence. The film is also the story of Zen Buddhist spiritual leader Roshi Joan Halifax, who created Nomads Clinic and is the narrator of the documentary, as she grapples with the layers of deception and of gender-based violence as well as pervasive misogyny that have shaped her life.

Filmmaker

Annegré Bosman is a Dutch documentary filmmaker and photojournalist. She studied Journalism at the University of Applied Sciences, Utrecht and screenwriting in Amsterdam. Since then she has dedicated herself to bringing new perspectives and deeper public understanding to topics around human rights with a special focus on women's rights, gender equality, indigenous cultures, climate change and nature and wildlife conservation. Her works include *Baby's World: The Life of the Newborn*, *Can Hunting be Conservation?* the documentary series *Out of Jail*, *At Work* and the short documentary *This Could Have Happened to Me*, which was screened at IDFA, and *Wildlife Savers*, *Unsung Heroes*, which won the Conservation Award at Wildlife Film Festival Rotterdam, among others. Bosman is founder of the By Nature Films Foundation. Filmmaking has taken her to dramatic peaks of Nepal, the deserts of South Sudan and Indonesian rainforests.



Co-presented by:



Original Language
English/ Hindi/ Marathi

Direction
Bidit Roy/ Makarand Waikar

Camera
Omkar Divekar/ Bidit Roy

Editing
Poorva Bhat/ Bidit Roy

Sound
Akshay Vaidya

Script
Simantinee Bhagat

Producer
Makarand Waikar

Contact
Bidit Roy/ Makarand Waikar
contact@timecapdoc.com

My Radio My Life

68 min | India | 2023

Set in the 21st century, the film revisits the golden era of radio in India, when it was the dominant, popular and only source of entertainment, news and knowledge. Besides giving companionship to individuals, the radio brought families together and inspired people to make life choices. We meet individuals from diverse backgrounds. A man who broadcast the historic Apollo 11 moon landing as an announcer for Voice of America, a woman who found her calling in her formative years and later a life partner through radio, an octogenarian's unwavering determination to get his treasured valve radio set back to life, a person who preserves memories of people by restoring their radios and curating them in his museum and a woman from a conservative family who gets liberated by her passion for HAM radio and later goes on to win the prestigious Presidential Award, among others.

Filmmaker

Bidit Roy is a self-taught award-winning documentary filmmaker from Pune, India and the founder of Bluebird Moving Stories. His short documentary, *The Bee Rescuer*, has been selected for more than 45 film festivals and won 10 awards internationally. He's a fellow at Docedge Kolkata and was honoured at IFFI's first cohort of India's 75 Creative Minds in 2021.

Makarand Waikar, a passionate filmmaker, found his love for the art through his engagement with global film screenings, discussions and courses at prestigious institutions like Film and Television Institute of India and National Film Archive of India in Pune. His journey into the world of cinema began when he dedicated over two years to developing a concept and conducting extensive field research on the topic of radio.





Co-presented by:



Original Language
Russian

Direction
Agniiia Galdanova

Camera
Ruslan Fedotov/ Anna Zalevskaya

Editing
Anna Zalevskaya

Sound
Ruslan Khuseyn/ Ivan Savelyev

Script
N/A

Producer
Agniiia Galdanova/ Igor Myakotin

Contact
Agniiia Galdanova
agniiagald@gmail.com

Queendom

97 min | United States/ France | 2023

Gena, an artist from a small town in Russia, dresses in otherworldly costumes and protests on the streets of Moscow. She stages radical performances in public, which becomes a new form of art and activism and puts her life in danger.



Filmmaker

Agniiia Galdanova is a Sundance Film Festival and IDFA-supported documentary film director. Her previous film *One Step Forward, One Step Back*, about a family's dream to live far from civilisation in the Altai Mountains, premiered at the Message to Man International Film Festival.



Original Language
Spanish

Direction
Guillermo Quintero

Camera
Guillermo Quintero

Editing
Julie Borvon

Sound
Pablo Salaun

Script
Guillermo Quintero

Producer
Pierre-Emmanuel Urcun

Contact
Guillermo Quintero
stank.films@gmail.com

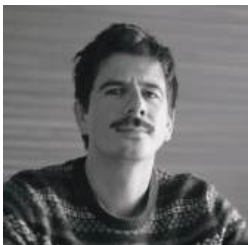
Rio Rojo

70 min | Colombia | 2023

In the Serranía de la Macarena, in the north of the Colombian Amazon, lies 'Río Rojo', a mythical river that runs through the middle of the forest, also called 'the river of the seven colors'. Young Oscar, grandmother Doña María and the Indian Sabino live peacefully in the region, in communion with nature. But this area, once preserved by the conflict with FARC, is now victim of its beauty and threatened by the arrival of new visitors.

Filmmaker

Guillermo Quintero is a Colombian filmmaker who divides his time between Colombia and France. He studied biology and philosophy. He is a member of the El Perro Que Ladra Association, which promotes Colombian cinema. He was curator for four years of the Panorama de Cine Colombiano Film Festival in Paris. Quintero began his career as a documentary filmmaker in 2014 with the production of *Homo botanicus*, a personal project that takes an intimate look at the profession of botanist. It premiered at the Next Masters Competition of the Dok-Leipzig festival and won the Best International Documentary Award at the Torino Film Festival. In March 2023, *Red River*, his second feature-length documentary, premiered at the Cinéma du Reel Festival in Paris, France. He is currently developing his third feature documentary, *Relict*, a project supported by the CNC, SCAM in France and Proimágenes in Colombia.





Co-presented by:



Australian Government

Original Language
English

Direction
Michael Charles Dillon

Camera
Warwick Deadok/ Michael Dillon/
Malcom Hay

Editing
Michael Balson

Sound
Michael Worthington

Script
N/A

Producer
Michael Charles Dillon

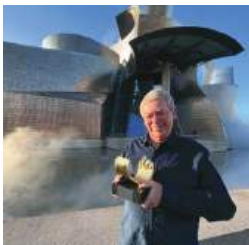
Contact
Michael Charles Dillon
mcdillonfilms@gmail.com

The Great White Whale

104 min | Australia | 2023

Deep in the wild Southern Ocean, half way between Australia and Africa, a snowy volcano nine thousand feet high rears up from the sea like a Great White Whale. Five times it tried to kill the first team that tried to climb it. But back they sailed, through the worst seas in the world, to try again, this time with the legendary Bill Tilman as skipper.

This is the gripping tale of both expeditions, told by those that were there, one of whom sings the story too, as befits the epic saga that it was. The Great White Whale won the Grand Prize and Best Director Award at Mendi International Mountain Film Festival 2023, Bilbao, Spain.



Filmmaker

Michael Dillon has been making adventure documentaries for over 50 years. He was Sir Edmund Hillary's filmmaker for the last 25 years of Hillary's active life, culminating in the cinema feature Hillary Ocean to Sky. He had made three Everest documentaries including Everest Sea to Summit which won eight grand prizes in festivals worldwide. In 2022 He was awarded the Grand Prize for Lifetime Achievement by the International Federation of Mountain Film Festivals.



Original Language
English/ French/ German/ Italian

Direction
Frank Senn

Camera
Simon Usteri/ Rainer Bauer/
Matthias Lüscher

Editing
Felix Hulliger

Sound
Martin Villiger

Script
Frank Senn

Producer
Frank Senn

Contact
Frank Senn
rank.senn@srf.ch

(Todesfalle Haute Route- Rekonstruktion eines Dramas) Death Trap Haute Route – Reconstruction of a Tragedy

90 min | Switzerland/ Austria/ France/ Italy | 2023

Seven people froze to death from exhaustion in snow and ice, only 550 meters from the hut that would have saved them. The ski touring drama on the Haute Route of April 29, 2018, leaves many questions unanswered. The drama under the Pigne d'Arolla, on the legendary Haute Route, the ski tour between Chamonix and Zermatt, is the biggest accident of its kind in the Swiss Alps. Based on the survivors' testimonies, documents and photos, re-enacted scenes, as well as GPS data and excerpts from the investigation report of the public prosecutor's office in Sion, the film reconstructs the dramatic events of this tour and tries to find answers. Death Trap Haute Route – Reconstruction of a Tragedy also shows that despite the supposed safety of modern tools and equipment, helicopter rescue and the proximity to civilisation, nature is stronger than man. It casts light on what is happening in the Alps, where mountain tourism is very much on the increase.

Filmmaker

Frank Senn, born in 1963, is an award-winning documentary film producer working for the documentary department of Swiss National Television. He specialises in outdoor and climbing films all over the world. In 1995, he completed *Death on the Dhaulagiri*, his first documentary film about a fatal mountain-climbing expedition in the Himalayas. This was followed by several other films. Senn co-produced *Eiger—Live* in 1999 which followed four mountaineers live on their seventeen-hour ascent to the Eiger summit and received many awards. In 2002, he and Thomas Ulrich made the documentary *Eiger North Face – On the Tracks of the First Climbers* which won several awards including at festivals like BANFF and Graz. He also produced, together with Hari Thapa from Nepal, after five years of preparation, the film *Sherpas – The True Heroes of Mount Everest* which won awards at festivals all over the world including at KIMFF. In 2016 and 2017 he covered in two films the tragedy of the earthquake in Nepal with the titles *In the Shadows of Everest*.



**Original Language**

English

Direction

John Price

Camera

Seth Williams/ John Price

Editing

Seth Williams/ Pat Hoffman/
Keith Robertson/ Josh Sandulak/
Phil Forsey

Sound

Evan MacDonald

Script

N/A

Producer

Gabriella Dufour Leonard/
Malcolm Sangster

Contact

John Price
malcolm@sherpascinema.com

Yamnuska: The Ragged Edge

59 min | Canada | 2023

The film follows two modern day adventurers as they embark on a rock climbing journey through time, celebrating the rich history and folklore of one of Canada's most iconic climbing cliffs and paying homage to the colourful characters who have etched their names into its vertical walls since the 1950s.

**Filmmaker**

John Price, a fledgling filmmaker, ventures into the world of cinema driven by an unwavering passion for capturing the unfiltered beauty of action mountain sports. His career has been rooted in a background of still photography, especially in the realms of ice, rock and alpine climbing. Motivated by a heartfelt desire to share Yamnuska's rich history, Price embarked on this debut cinematic journey, fueled by a genuine hope of capturing the essence of this iconic proving ground. He joined forces with Sherpas Cinema in his debut film project to preserve Yamnuska's legacy and inspire audiences and to think about the importance of looking back to discover what can be learned.



Co-presented by:



Original Language

Polish

Direction

Bartosz Kowalski

Camera

Egor Efimov

Editing

Paweł Sędziak

Sound

Paweł Sędziak

Script

Piotr Górski/ Bartosz Kowalski/
Paweł Sędziak

Producer

Edyta Łysiak

Contact

Bartosz Kowalski
natalysiak123@gmail.com

**Z góry widać lepiej. Wanda
Rutkiewicz. Opowieść o
kobiecie niezwykłej
(From Above You Can See Better.
Wanda Rutkiewicz)**

76 min | Poland | 2022

This is a film about an extraordinary woman—Wanda Rutkiewicz, important for Polish, world and Himalayan mountaineering. Some like her, others do not want to talk about her. It tells the story of her path through life—from the beginning to today. Because even though she was lost in the Himalayas many years ago, she still evokes emotions.



Filmmaker

Bartosz Kowalski was born in 1995 and is a graduate of the Warsaw Film School, majoring in directing and a student of cultural studies. He is creator of short films and music videos. He has won many Polish film awards for his work, including for From Above You Can See better. Wanda Rutkiewicz.

INTERNATIONAL CATEGORY
Short Fiction



Co-presented by:



Original Language

Persian

Direction

Mehrdad Hasani

Camera

Pooyan Aghababaei

Editing

Majid Taremi

Sound

Hossein Ghourchian

Script

Farzad Ahmadi

Producer

Hasan Mohammadi

Contact

Mehrdad Hasani

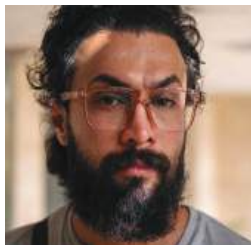
neshat.distribution@gmail.com

Adjustment

17 min | Iran | 2022

The nine year-old effeminate boy, Shahrokh, humiliated and pushed away by his family and friends makes up his mind to adjust himself to his new identity and comes out to the people of his village. Having been through a variety of ordeals, Shahrokh, dressed in girl's clothes, shows up in the class before his classmates.

Filmmaker



Mehrdad Hassani is a writer, director, sculptor and photographer from Rafsanjan, a desert region of Iran. He began his artistic career in his teenage years joining school theatre groups as an actor. In his youth, he held a large exhibition of his sculpture works in the city of Kerma. He enrolled in photography and filmmaking classes of the Iranian Youth Cinema Society, and after passing some specialised courses, he produced some short fiction films. He has also worked in feature filmmaking as a director's consultant and costume and scenic designer. Hassani successfully completed the directing courses under Asghar Farhadi, the renowned Iranian filmmaker, and acting courses of Hamid Samandarian. He is also a graduate of Bachelor of Art Studies from Sooreh University of Tehran. He has made five fiction short films which have won 16 international awards.



Co-presented by:



Original Language
Dzongkha

Direction
Suraj Bhattarai

Camera
Arun Bhattra

Editing
Suraj Bhattarai

Sound
Thukji Yonten

Script
Vanlalawmkimi Hnamte/
Suraj Bhattarai

Producer
Nyema Zam/ Suraj Bhattarai/
Matt Schuelka/ Jen Dalsen

Contact
Suraj Bhattarai
bhattaraisrj@gmail.com

Silent Walls

20 min | Bhutan | 2023

A young deaf girl living in a rural village in the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan faces isolation due to her family's and society's inability to integrate her. Her freedom itself gets compromised when she experiences her first menstruation.



Filmmaker

Suraj Bhattarai, 35, is from Thimphu, Bhutan. He is a graduate from Doc Nomads, a joint Masters in Documentary Film Directing from three universities in Lisbon, Budapest and Brussels. He has directed four short documentaries as a part of the degree. He is currently working as a production manager and sound person for a feature length documentary project in Bhutan. Silent Walls is his first fiction film project as a director. His oeuvre includes Sound of Chewing Leaves, New Wings and A Baby is Born which have been screened in film festivals across the world. His interest lies in documenting the unique times highlighting intimate relationships amongst individuals and families with respect to the rapidly changing environment they live in.

**Original Language**

Persian

Direction

Hamid Saberi

Camera

Salar Ardestani

Editing

Masoud Farjam

Sound

Majid Nejati/ Mehrdad Barati

Script

Hamid Saberi

Producer

Hamid Saberi/ Navid Rafie

Contact

Hamid Saberi
hamidsaberi2016@gmail.com

Silver

17 min | Iran | 2022

Silver is the story of Mrs. Tavakoli, the inspector of a charity organisation, who enters a house to check the condition of one of the applicants. But the existence of a crisis makes it difficult for her to make a decision.

**Filmmaker**

Hamid Saberi is an Iranian actor, writer and director. He is a graduate in filmmaking from Bammad International House Institute under the supervision of the renowned Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi. He is also a graduate in acting from Hillaj School. Saberi also has a bachelor's degree in Information Technology Engineering from South Tehran Azad University.

**Original Language**

Persian

Direction

Alireza Kazemipour

Camera

Daiush Nastoo

Editing

Amir Adibparvar

Sound

Hossein Mashali

Script

Alireza Kazemipour/
Solmaz Mortezaavand

Producer

Solmaz Mortezaavand

Contact

Alireza Kazemipour
alireza.kazemipour@gmail.com

Split Ends

14 min | Iran | 2022

A bald girl and a young boy with long hair whose car has been confiscated due to lack of proper hijab are trying to solve their problem with the Tehran Morality Police without having to pay a fine. Police surveillance cameras have mistaken the boy for a woman because of his long hair, and the young girl, despite her shaved head, has to pay the fine simply because she's a woman and that the hijab law only applies to females. The two of them are hence resisting the police. Being humiliated by a police officer, they decide to punish the officer in their own way.

Filmmaker

Alireza Kazemipour, is a multi-awarded Iranian-Canadian screenwriter, director and producer. He got his Master's degree in Film Directing from the Faculty of Art at the University of Tehran in 2010 and directed his first short film *Slowness*. He made his second film *The Blue Bed* in 2020 which was screened at more than 60 film festivals around the world including the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2020, Elche Independent Film Festival 2020 and Palencia International Film Festival, and received 15 awards and 14 nominations, including the Best Director Award at the Vancouver Short Film Festival. He recently directed a documentary feature film *Margin vs. Center* (2021). Social justice, women's rights, and immigrant issues are his concerns.

**Original Language**

Kurdish

Direction

Hamidreza Arjomandi

Camera

Navid Zare

Editing

Tofigh Amani

Sound

Mohammed Mehdi/ Javaherizadeh

Script

Saman Hosseinpour/ Ako Zandkarimi

Producer

Hamidreza Arjomandi

Contact

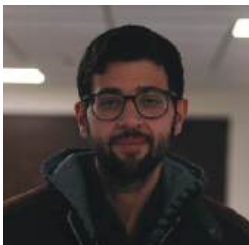
Hamidreza Arjomandi

hamidreza.arjomandi.1994@gmail.com

The Borders Never Die

15 min | Iran | 2023

A Kurdish couple of Iraqi Kurdistan have decided to cross the border because of the war in their land. The woman is pregnant. They have difficult and impassable roads ahead of them.

**Filmmaker**

Hamidreza Arjomandi is a director and producer of short films as well as director of a company that distributes short films in international forums. The Borders Never Die has been screened in more than 50 international film festivals and won more than 10 awards.



Original Language
Hindi

Direction
Maaria Sayed

Camera
Rachel Liew

Editing
Alessandro Alpini

Sound
Shivmurat Mishra

Script
Maaria Sayed

Producer
Maaria Sayed/ Shabnam Sayed/
Alessandro Alpini

Contact
Maaria Sayed
alpinialessandro@gmail.com

The Whispers of a Qareen

15 min | India | 2024

On a lonely night, 12-year-old Jahaan is approached by something strangely familiar in her Himalayan village. As the visits become more frequent, the new companion gradually reveals its identity. Running games in the wild playgrounds and the trivial gossip in the shadow of the holy tree suddenly feel distant as the days start blurring. Is the world around Jahaan disappearing?

Filmmaker



Maaria Sayed began by working as a writer for networks such as Discovery Channel and National Geographic. Her shorts have been screened at various film festivals including Raindance, Izmir Kisa, BFI Flare, Busan and Mo & Friehe Junges Kurz. She was a delegate for the Asia Peace Film Festival in Pakistan. A special programme dedicated to her short films was part of Ca Foscari Short Film Festival, 2019 in Venice. Her work deals with transformation and the sexual and spiritual liberation of women from her background. Sayed is an alumna of Asian Film Academy 2016, Fajr Talent Campus 2017, Bucheon Fantastic Film School 2019 and Busan Asian Film School 2021. Her work has been supported by Busan Film Commission, Cineteca di Bologna, Sharjah Art Foundation among others.

**Original Language**

Sachin Rana

Direction

Sachin Rana

Camera

Ashish Bahuguna

Editing

Sandeep Vyas

Sound

Ankit Thapa

Script

Sachin Rana/ Ankit Thapa/
Ashish Bahuguna

Producer

Balbir Singh/ Sarojani Rana/
Yashasvi Juyal

Contact

Sachin Rana
sac.sancam@gmail.com

कुल्लै तौल कुछ नि जमदु (Nothing Grows Under The Pine Trees)

32 min | India | 2023

Marriage begins to spool the fates of two sisters as their family begins to arrange for one. Lost in her kaleidoscopic imagination, the younger sister comes to believe that she is being married. On the other hand, the elder sister, the one being married, knows what this marriage is— a remedy for crossing the lines drawn by society and concocted by the fear of social boycott. From the hills of Uttarakhand comes this story of two sisters' destiny tied to their society, a sliver of the ensuing saga of a people torn by prejudice disguised as tradition.

Filmmaker

Sachin Rana is a filmmaker, poet and multimedia artist hailing from Chamoli, Uttarakhand. He currently operates from Dehradun and Delhi. After completing his schooling he decided to become a filmmaker making his debut with a student project Dear Addiction which managed to grab some local attention. Since then he has constantly been involved in producing photo stories, video installations, poetry and experimental short films. He assisted in another Garhwali short film, The Last Rhododendron, which won the Gender Sensitivity Award at Dharamshala International Film Festival and travelled worldwide. Nothing Grows Under The Pine Trees is his professional directorial debut.

INTERNATIONAL CATEGORY
Short Documentary



Original Language
English

Direction
Vincent DiFrancesco

Camera
Vincent DiFrancesco

Editing
Vincent DiFrancesco

Sound
Vincent DiFrancesco

Script
Vincent DiFrancesco

Producer
Gabriel Howe

Contact
Vincent DiFrancesco
vince@siskiyoumountainclub.org

A Long Way to Nowhere

29 min | United States | 2023

Co-presented by:

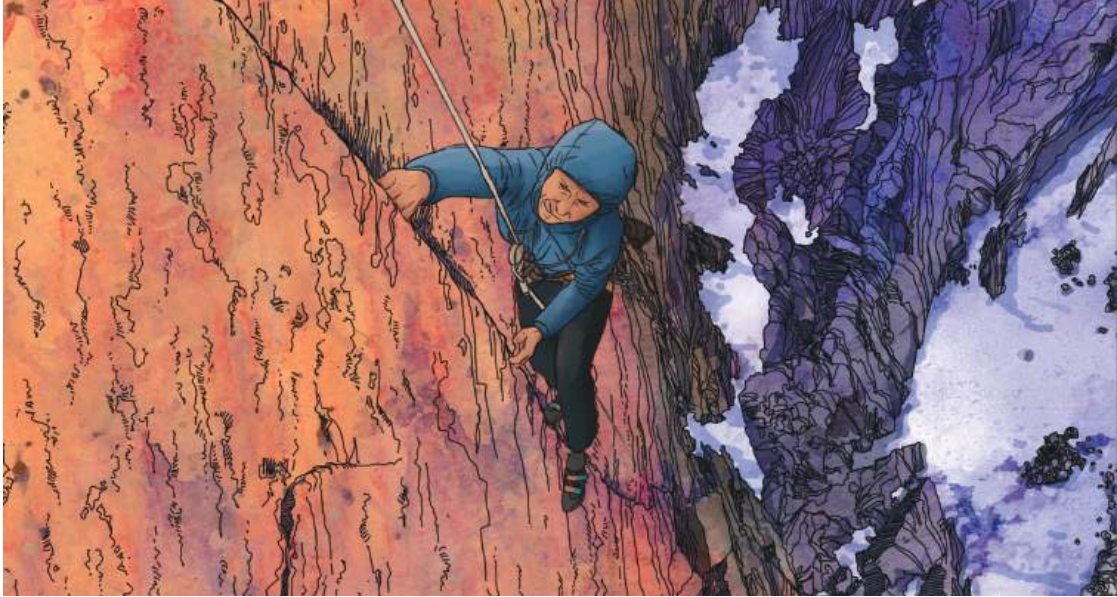


A crew of young Americans endure a week-long traverse of Oregon's rugged and fire-shapen Kalmiopsis Wilderness in an effort to revitalise a historic hiking trail.



Filmmaker

Vincent DiFrancesco loved the outdoors since early childhood and by the time he was in college was running ultramarathons. Preferring instead the running escapades in remote wooded areas, he soon came to realise the importance of developing and maintaining trails in the wilderness. He believes that opening trails in the wilderness and taking care of them will help in the protection of public lands, an invaluable effort in the time of climate change. He has been part of groups in their efforts to ensure such routes in Oregon are open to backpackers to help people remain connected to the land.



Co-presented by:



Original Language
English

Direction
Henna Taylor

Camera
Henna Taylor/ Jeff Hansen

Editing
Henna Taylor

Sound
IMRSV Sound

Script
Madaleine Sorkin

Producer
Henna Taylor

Contact
Henna Taylor
hennataylor@gmail.com

Body of a Line

11 min | United States | 2023

In this animated documentary, Madaleine Sorkin undertakes an intimate and creative journey to climb the most difficult rock climb above 13,500 feet in the world: the Dunn-Westbay Direct (5.14 a/b) on Longs Peak (Neniisoteyou'u) in Colorado. Captured entirely in real life, this film kaleidoscopes 7229 frames of original artwork, music and poetry and it's a climbing film unlike anything.

Filmmaker



Henna Taylor is a self-taught documentary filmmaker. She began making short videos of her time living with four rural midwives in Cambodia. Over the next decade, her nonlinear relationship with filmmaking grew exponentially. She has written, directed, filmed, edited, and produced six award-winning short documentary films, including one which was awarded Best Mountain Short Film at BANFF, Canada. Her first feature length documentary, *An Accidental Life*, debuted in 2022. Taylor's films capture the absurd, imperfect, painful, hilarious, and terribly vulnerable states of the human experience and, at their best moments, achieve the emotional catharsis central to the tradition of storytelling and theatre.



Original Language
Dutch/ English

Direction
Vincent Groos

Camera
Vincent Groos

Editing
Ciska Slowack

Sound
Jeremias Monnerat

Script
Vincent Groos

Producer
Human Films

Contact
Vincent Groos
vincentgroos@icloud.com

Climbing For Gold

22 min | Belgium/ United States | 2024

Climbing for Gold profiles Fré Leys, a Paralympic climber determined to secure victory at the 2023 World Championships in Salt Lake City.



Filmmaker

Vincent Groos, in his words, lives 'to write stories about the vulnerable human' constantly looking for projects that have a strong visual identity matched with some deeply compelling human element. He graduated from the Royal Institute for Theater, Cinema & Sound (RITCS) in Brussels in 2020. His graduation film, *Lieve*, was selected for over two dozen film festivals across the world.



Original Language
English

Direction
Palmer Morse

Camera
Skyler Bocciolatt

Editing
Palmer Morse

Sound
Matt Mikkelsen/ Rachel Saldivar

Script
Rachel Weinberg/ Anjelica Avella

Producer
Matt Mikkelsen

Contact
Palmer Morse
hello@sprucetone.com

Forward

16 min | United States | 2024

Co-presented by:



While navigating a myriad number of life challenges from being her mom's caretaker and working several jobs to facing housing insecurity, Anjelica Avella turned to the outdoors in her mid-20s to improve her mental health. Despite feeling the benefits of time spent outside for her well-being, the absence of other plus-size women of colour on the trail was noticeable. In an effort to form a community, Anjelica began leading weekend hikes and trips for other women who too were seeking others with shared lived experiences. *Forward* chronicles Anjelica's perspective in a space that has historically excluded individuals like her and shares a profound connection between women who once felt sidelined and are now a catalyst for change.

Filmmaker



Palmer Morse is a multi-disciplinary award-winning filmmaker based in Oakland, California and focuses on using the devices at hand in the visual and media culture that can drive society to make change. As a director, producer, DP and editor, his work has been shown on National Geographic, PBS, New York Times, Outside magazine and in film festivals around the world garnering awards and praise. Interested in stories of humans, the planet and interactions of the two, Morse often works with organisations, non-profits and brands in honing in on their mission in the visual format. He also directs music videos. He is co-founder of Spruce Tone, a collective of filmmakers.



Original Language

French/ English

Direction

Nicolas Bossard

Camera

Eric Jamet/ Antoine Pécher/
Nicolas Bossard

Editing

MS PROD

Sound

MS PROD

Script

Nicolas Bossard

Producer

MSPROD

Contact

Nicolas Bossard
msprod@bluewin.ch

Eternal Flame

26 min | Pakistan/ France | 2023

Jumping from the top of Nameless Tower in Pakistan after having climbed the Eternal Flame route is to combine the ascent of one of the most beautiful climbing routes in the world with the opening of one of the most beautiful jumps in BASE jumping imaginable. Following in the footsteps of the pioneers of 1990, Éric Jamet and Antoine Pecher have achieved this feat. An adventure shared amongst friends, which is beautiful, powerful and breathtaking!



Filmmaker

Nicolas Bossard is a Swiss adventurer and director-cameraman. In love with Nepal for twenty years, he decided in 2013 to cross the chain of Himalayas on foot for more than 3500 km and has made a 52-minute film of this adventure. He has been hired for numerous documentaries in the Afghan mountains, Khirgize and Tibet and led numerous expeditions. Passionate about snowboarding, paragliding, wingsuit and all flying machines, he climbs numerous high altitude peaks, some combining paragliding descents. He hopes, one day, to bring the wingsuit to a very high altitude for a jump project in Nepal at more than 7000m.

**Original Language**

Japanese

Direction

Moe Wada

Camera

Kazuya Hiraide/ Kenro Nakajima/
Moe Wada

Editing

Hiroshi Hayashi

Sound

Kenichi Tominaga

Script

NA

Producer

Kohei Kawabata

Contact

Moe Wada
kohei@rufffilms.co

Rope

30 min | Japan/ Pakistan | 2023

Kazuya Hiraide, three times Piolets d'Or winner by conquering unclimbed routes of Kamet, Shispare and Rakaposhi, discovered the ideal climbing route on the north face of Tirich Mir (7708m) 20 years ago. Since then, he has had eyes on Tirich Mir until the right time came. Though some teams have climbed the mountain since its first ascent by a Norwegian expedition in 1950, none of them challenged the north face because it's very difficult even to get to the base of it. In late 2022, Hiraide asked the younger and less experienced Kenro Nakajima, who has been his climbing partner since 2016, to climb the route with him. Nakajima is uncertain whether he is good enough to be a 'real' partner of Hiraide for the climb. The two climbers leave base camp to climb Tirich Mir without oxygen or big support. They have absolutely no idea what kind of danger they face as there are no photos or information of the route. After many struggles of six days and nights, the two reach the summit of Tirich Mir. Nakajima feels his growth physically and technically. Tears fall from his eyes.

Filmmaker



With 15 years' experience, documentary filmmaker Moe Wada always focuses on the inside of people and has insights into them when she stands behind the camera. She has created over 30 documentary films mostly for commercial TV station and NHK, the public TV in Japan. In 2020 Wada started filming her first feature film being about the LGBTQ community in Japan and was well received by the audience at Tokyo Documentary film festival. being is still played at movie theatres in Japan. She has made three documentary films about alpine climber Hiraide Kazuya.



Original Language
German

Direction
Johannes Hoffmann

Camera
Johannes Hoffmann/
Luigi Dellarole

Editing
Luigi Dellarole/
Johannes Hoffmann

Sound
Isobel Cope

Script
Luigi Dellarole/
Johannes Hoffmann

Producer
Johannes Hoffmann

Contact
Johannes Hoffmann
joi@whiteroom.eu



That's Home

20 min | Austria | 2023

A inspiring film about Tobias Holzknacht, a young alpinist from the Ötztal region, who has been connected to the mountains since childhood. Even at the age of five, he stood on a 3000-metre peak and discovered the world of sport and competitive climbing during his school years before returning to classic alpinism. Tobias is deeply passionate about mountaineering, a passion that was further fueled by his friendship with Hansjörg Auer. The film also captures Tobias in his responsible role within the avalanche commission and showcases moments where he, along with Arianna Tricomi and Marc Holzknacht, venture into steep couloirs on skis. The film vividly portrays the beauty and allure of the mountains, inspiring viewers to pursue their own passions and experience nature.

Filmmaker

Johannes Hoffmann, born and raised in Innsbruck, Austria discovered his passion for filmmaking through his career as a professional freeride skier. After studying Geography, he seamlessly transitioned into capturing the essence of his mountain adventures on film. With a keen eye for storytelling and a love for outdoor sports, Hoffmann began producing and directing ski films, showcasing the thrill and beauty of freeride skiing, as well as mountaineering and other alpine pursuits. In his pursuit of cinematic excellence, he embarked on numerous ski expeditions to remote and challenging locations, honing his skills behind the camera. In 2013, he established Whiteroom Productions, focusing on outdoor sports filmmaking and documentary work.

INTERNATIONAL CATEGORY
Non-Competitive



Co-presented by:



Original Language
English/ Dzongkha

Direction
Arun Bhattarai

Camera
Phuntsho Tshering/
Arun Bhattarai

Editing
Norbu Gyelpo/ Pema Choden

Sound
Phuntsho Tshering/
Arun Bhattarai/ Andor Sperling

Script
N/A

Producer
Arun Bhattarai

Contact
Arun Bhattarai
anuranun@gmail.com

Mountain Man

22 min | Bhutan | 2022

In Bhutan, 11-year-old Yangchen's father is the country's glacier specialist, and thus the only person authorised to climb the mountains which are considered sacred. He spends months away from home measuring rapidly melting glaciers. While hiking through snow to the farthest reaches of the Bhutanese Himalayas, he faithfully shoots videos for his daughter with his phone. Meanwhile, Yangchen prays that her father won't disturb the snow lion, the mythical embodiment of the glacier—the Bhutanese believe that this could provoke disaster. But in reality, the biggest threat to the snow lion's survival is not Yangchen's father, but climate change.

Filmmaker



Arun Bhattarai's most recent feature documentary, *Agent of Happiness*, premiered in the world cinema documentary competition at Sundance Film Festival 2024. His short film, *Mountain Man*, won the grand jury prize for short films at the Oscar qualifying Doc NYC 2023. His first feature-length documentary, *The Next Guardian*, premiered at IDFA 2017. Since then, it has been screened at festivals, had theatrical releases and broadcast around the world. His films have been supported by The Sundance Film Institute, Catapult Film Fund and IDFA Bertha Fund, among others. Before becoming an independent filmmaker, he worked as a TV director at the Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS) for more than five years.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Curated by

**Ulsan Ulju Mountain Film Festival,
South Korea**



Original Language
Korean

Direction
Choi Won-jae

Camera
Whang Sung-ha

Editing
Whang Sung-ha

Sound
NA

Script
Choi Won-jae

Producer
NA

Contact
Aniseed
kaniseed@kiafa.org

친화득 B Chouinard B

8 min | South Korea | 2019

A man leaves home early in the morning to begin climbing. He leaves his wife's nagging and city protesters behind, arrives at the mountain and begins to climb. While he is climbing, all the worries troubling him disappear like the rushing river. When he finally reaches the summit of Insubong, there is a smile even on his gruff partner's face. He imagines meeting with Yvon Chouinard, who invented the Chouinard B, in his happiness at the summit, and there is a moment when all of this comes together beautifully. The animation makes us think about climbing a mountain, and like a watercolour painting, calls out in candour, 'Come, let's climb the mountain.' The narration by actor Yoo Ji-tae brings the audience closer to the main character of the film.



Filmmaker

Choi graduated from the Korean Academy of Film Arts and is a dean of the Department of Animation at Mokwon University. He has produced and directed short animations such as Perfect Family, Climbing and The Tree's Home. He has been making animation films with various materials and different methods, such as stop-motion and filming in 35mm.



Original Language
Korean

Direction
Lee Ga-kyung

Camera
Ryu Myung-hwan

Editing
Lee Ga-kyung/ Guem Tae-kyung

Sound
Kim Jung-soo

Script
Lee Ga-kyung

Producer
Guem Tae-kyung

Contact
DOCKINGTHEQUE PROJECT
dockingtheque@naver.com

여름에 내린 눈 (The House of Rising Sun)

17 min | South Korea | 2019

Eunju must give up ballet because of the situation at home. Her parents are always fighting with other relatives. Everything begins to go wrong, and it seems that the cause is her dead grandfather's gravesite. Eunju really wants to continue her ballet lessons, so she decides to take a trip with her younger cousins to bring her grandfather to a better gravesite. The film is a cheeky reminder that family is not just a bunch of meddlers, but our partners to rely on, and that we must not be tied down by traditions. As an active actor herself, the director brings out solid acting by children in this film that makes us think about our life. Those who pay close attention to the tarot cards appearing at the beginning of the film will be able to make a prediction of how the film will end.



Filmmaker

Lee was born in Jeonju City, Korea. She is working as an actress and as a film director. The films she has acted in include: The King (2016), Illang: The Wolf Brigade (2018), The Odd Family: Zombie on Sale, Broker (2022), The Boys (2023), 12.12: The Day (2023).



Original Language
Korean

Direction
Joo-young

Camera
Yoon In-cheon

Editing
Joo-young

Sound
Kim Si-hyun

Script
Joo-young

Producer
Ahn Byung-rae

Contact
Film dabin
film_dabin@daum.net

계양산 (Uncomfortable)

26 min | South Korea | 2019

Hyeon-nam is a recently divorced woman who finds herself having to accompany her boss and a male colleague on a New Year's hike in the mountains. During the walk, she meets a number of people, all of whom seem to have something to say about her ex-husband. Eventually, her two colleagues get drunk.



Filmmaker

Based in Incheon city, Joo-Young has worked for the Incheon Women's Film Festival for a long time as a general manager and programmer. From 2011 to 2016, she was a festival director for the IWFF. She finished a filmmaking course at the Hankyoreh Education Center in 2017 and made a trailer for WIFF in 2018. Her short films include: Late Afternoon, Uncomfortable, Not Saying No, But... and Lovely Love. Her first feature film *Adulthood at Eighteen* was theatrically released in 2023. She is currently the CEO of Cherry Elephant Co., Ltd.

**Original Language**

Korean

Direction

Choi Jinyoung

Camera

Choi Changwan

Editing

Choi Jinyoung

Sound

Lee Soyoung

Script

Choi Jinyoung

Producer

Choi Taekyu

Contact

Film dabin

film_dabin@daum.net

뼈 The Bone

35 min | South Korea | 2017

Dong-hee, who came down to her hometown Jeju, happens to join a middle-aged woman on her way to bury her mother's remains next to her father, who lost his life in the Jeju April 3 Incident, the violent suppression of the 1948-49 uprising before the Korean War, on the mountain. Dong-hee's grandfather had lost his life on the same occasion, at the same spot. The scenes of the deceased cross with the protagonists, as if asserting that unidentified history is not over yet.

**Filmmaker**

Born in Jeonju in 1983, Choi graduated from Jeonbuk University with a BA in Sociology. She has directed *Nawang-Dong*, (2014) *Half-Day* (2016) and *Yeonhui-Dong* (2018) which was screened at various international film festivals in Korea. After making short films, she has also made one feature film, *The Slug* (2022), which was theatrically distributed.



Original Language
Korean

Direction
Kim Hye-mi

Camera
Kim Hye-mi

Editing
Kim Hye-mi

Sound
Lee Jun-bae

Script
Kim Hye-mi

Producer
Kim Hye-mi

Contact
Aniseed
kaniseed@kiafa.org

나무의 집 (The Tree's Home)

12 min | South Korea | 2023

The story about a woman's changing life.



Filmmaker

Born in Busan in 1977, Kim studied and graduated in animation from the Korean Academy of Film Arts. Her first feature Animation Climbing won a special jury prize at UMFF 2021. Recently, she co-directed the short film Cookie Coffee Dosirak (2022).

NEPAL PANORAMA
Documentary



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Dhanraj Barkote

Camera
Pere Arnal

Editing
Jose Luis Barrios

Sound
Santiago Velasquez

Script
Dhanraj Barkote/
Alberto Godoy

Producer
Alberto Godoy

Contact
Dhanraj Barkote
albgodoy94@gmail.com

Avashesh (Remnants)

30 min | Nepal/ Spain | 2023

Dhanraj Barkote, a young Nepalese filmmaker living in Spain, decides to return to his remote mountain village in northwestern Nepal, where he hasn't been for twenty years after the loss of his parents. The desire to attempt bringing people and images back to life through cinema will guide his journey.



Filmmaker

Dhanraj Barkote, 27, was born in Humla district of Nepal. After the loss of his parents, he grew up at an orphanage in Kathmandu and studied cinema at Oscar International College of Film Studies, Kathmandu. He won a scholarship and finished his studies, with specialisation in documentary filmmaking, at ESCAC University, Spain, where he currently resides. Looking into the folklore of Nepal, he has developed many research reportages and documentary films, and assisted in many others. Avashesh was screened at DocsBarcelona '23 and FESTIFAL Rural Themed Short Festival '23 where it won an award.



Co-presented by:



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Laxmi Basnet

Camera
Mukunda Kumar Bogati

Editing
Aashish Pudasaini/
Mukunda Kumar Bogati

Sound
Mukunda Kumar Bogati

Script
Laxmi Basnet

Producer
Laxmi Basnet

Contact
Laxmi Basnet
mbogati@gmail.com

Bankariya (Indigenous People of Nepal)

21 min | Nepal | 2023

Bankariya is an endangered indigenous people of Nepal. Their first official population count took place during the national census of 2021. According to the census data, among 142 different castes/ethnicities, Bankariya ranks as the second smallest ethnic group in Nepal. This is a story of their struggle for existence.



Filmmaker

Laxmi Basnet has postgraduate degrees in Mass Communication and Sociology and started her career as a journalist working for community radio in Nepal. She has also worked for television and the print media. Her work has focussed on a wide range of issues from gender perspectives to politics. Her work has won awards from the Government of Nepal, Federation of Nepali Journalists and The British Council. In the last four years Basnet has forayed into documentary filmmaking and has completed three projects.



Original Language
English/ Nepali

Direction
Nirvana Bhandary

Camera
Neesha Khaling Rai

Editing
Aashish Pudasaini

Sound
Aashish Pudasaini

Script
Nirvana Bhandary

Producer
The Shanta Nepali Foundation

Contact
Nirvana Bhandary
nirvanabhandary@gmail.com

मोटी, दुबली, काली, गोरी: Nepali Women Reclaim Their Bodies

12 min | Nepal | 2023

Co-presented by:
voices
of women
media

This film delves into the complex societal pressures confronting young Nepali women regarding body image and beauty standards. Through intimate and revealing interviews, Nepali Women Reclaim Their Bodies explores the diverse experiences of three remarkable women who have faced bullying and discrimination based on their ethnicity, skin color and body weight.



Filmmaker

Nirvana Bhandary is a feminist writer and digital activist from Kathmandu, Nepal. She is passionate about encouraging women to claim their narratives and amplifying unheard stories. This is her first film.



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Ramesh Khadka

Camera
Ankit Koirala/ Nabin Shrestha/
Saligram Dulal/ Ramesh Khadka

Editing
Sabin Bista/ Arun Sharma

Sound
Sagar Aryal

Script
Alfred Pach

Producer
Alfred Pach

Contact
Ramesh Khadka
pach3rd@gmail.com

Dancing in Fire: Khalikhane Fire-Walking and Ritual Healing in the Kathmandu Valley of Nepal

47 min | Nepal | 2023

This film documents, for the first time, spirit and deity possession seances and the sacred Khalikhane fire-walking ceremony in a Hindu village in Kathmandu Valley. It is an audio-visual sensory and multi-storied exploration of experiences and responses to traumatic loss and suffering, and the transformative effects of communal ceremony and ritual healing. Produced over six weeks of continuous filming it captures the immersive rituals, music and dance of the Khalikhane ceremony and the embodied possession testimonies of ancestral spirits who describe their unnatural, often violent, deaths that have left them trapped as wandering spirits. Seeking recognition and release from their earthly existence, they cause family members illness and misfortune. A ritual specialist calls these spirits to possess family members, describe the events of their death and enter the fire-walking ceremony to be released to the divine ancestral realm.



Filmmaker

Ramesh Khadka focuses on ethnographic filmmaking and his films have been shown at numerous international films and also won awards. His films include Delhi Dreams, 68 Members, Lives of Jumla, which won an award at kimff, Kadamandu, awarded Best Documentary Award at kimff, Chhau (Menstruation Seclusion), awarded First Prize at ETNO International Film Festival, Croatia and runner-up prize at Moscow International Film Festival, Living with Culture, Lamas in Dilemma, Mother of 25, Lives of Jawang and The Last Monarch - Rise and Fall of the Shah Dynasty, which was theatrically released in Nepal.



Co-presented by:



Original Language

Nepali/ Tibetan

Direction

Shanta Nepali

Camera

Shishir Bishankhe / Shanta Nepali

Editing

Sanjeev Ratna Shakya

Sound

Dikesh Shahi

Script

Andej Adhikari

Producer

Shanta Nepali / Andej Adhikari/
Andrew Tkach

Contact

Shanta Nepali
voicesroofworld@gmail.com

Dhye Dreams

26 min | Nepal | 2023

In the remote Tibetan villages of Upper Mustang, Nepal, climate change has desiccated the landscape. The water table has dropped drastically, forcing the abandonment of the ancient village of Dhye. *Dhye Dreams* intimately explores the lives of three women—Sonam Sangmo, Kunchok Dolkar and Lhakpa Choezon—fighting against their fate. Most of the villagers have moved down to a river-fed valley and the new frontier town of Chambaleh, where they hope to grow a commercial apple crop. But Kunchok and Lhakpa are staying with their beloved livestock and fields, up in the mountains. Their stories highlight the resilience and struggle for the survival of isolated Himalayan villages battling against dramatic climate change.

Filmmaker



Shanta Nepali is a director, cinematographer, mountaineer and line producer based in Kathmandu, Nepal, and has been working in filmmaking since 2006. She has directed and produced TV shows, fiction and documentaries with narratives focusing on social issues, marginalised communities and outdoor and adventure stories. Her work has been screened on national and international TV networks, such as Nat Geo, Discovery Channel, Travel Channel and Animal Planet. Born into a life of discrimination, stigma and exclusion, Nepali believes in amplifying marginalised voices through her films. She is a founder and director of Shanta Nepali Productions, a leading film production company in Nepal. She also created Nepali Female Filmmakers, a supportive community for female filmmakers, and the Shanta Nepali Foundation, committed to empowering marginalised communities, especially women, through storytelling and creative practices.



Original Language

Nepali

Direction

Aakanshya GC Bhujel

Camera

Binod Shrestha/ Roshan Maharjan

Editing

Riwaj Dahal

Sound

Riwaj Dahal

Script

Aakanshya GC Bhujel

Producer

Onion Films/Nitika Chalise

Contact

Aakanshya GC Bhujel
aakku.gc95@gmail.com

Dust to Disclosure

14 min | Nepal | 2024

Co-presented by:
voices
of women
media

Dipa Dahal, an investigative journalist, takes on an assignment with a small piece of information on the suspected illegal transfer of government-owned land to private ownership. In the quest of digging up evidence of events that took place 30 years back during Nepal's autocratic Panchayat regime when common citizens could not question the government, bureaucrats and politicians, she follows clues, relentlessly. She seeks people who could give her any piece of information and visits government offices for evidence hidden in the dusty corners of their archives.



Filmmaker

Aakankshya GC Bhujel is a theatre artist and educator. For the last two years, she has been exploring the digital media of storytelling and communicating social initiatives. This is her first documentary film project.

**Original Language**

Nepali/ Maithali

Direction

Enuma Rai

Camera

Jeevan Rijal/ Enuma Rai

Editing

Sandesh Pariyar/ Ashish Pudasaini

Sound

N/A

Script

Enuma Rai

Producer

Australian Embassy Nepal/
Enuma Rai

Contact

Enuma Rai
raienumaina@gmail.com

Jarna

8 min | Nepal | 2022

Before the floods, Sonia Sada, 57, used to work at the landlord's farm. Since the floods, she has been collecting firewood swept by the river for livelihood. For 15 years now, her and her family's lives have depended on the river.

Filmmaker

Enuma Rai belongs to the indigenous community of Buipa Khotang hill region of eastern Nepal. She works as a freelance photographer, researcher, writer and storyteller. She is interested in telling stories of ordinary people's lives. Jarna (The Firewood), is her first non-fiction film and won the AK Sherpa Award for Best National Documentary film in the seventh edition of the Nepal International Film Festival 2024. It also received the Best National Special Mention Award at the 5th Nepal Cultural International Film Festival 2024. She is also an award-winning photographer with her photograph winning the competition titled *Unsung Warriors: Breaking the Bias for Disaster Resilience in the Koshi Basin*.

**Original Language**

English/ Nepali

Direction

Sachin Ghimire/ Gaurab KC

Camera

Bishnu Kalpit/ Manoj Shrestha

Editing

Rabindra Pandey/ Somesh Malla

Sound

Binay Adhikari

Script

Gaurab KC/ Biraj Bista

Producer

Biraj Bista

Contact

Sachin Ghimire/ Gaurab KC
sachinshamvab@gmail.com

Ma Alap Huna Chahanchhu (Into the Mist)

79 min | Nepal | 2022

This is a biopic based on the life and work of Nepali anthropologist Professor Dor Bahadur Bista. Prof. Bista is remembered to this day for institutionalising anthropology and sociology in Nepal. After 1990 he devoted his time in Chaudhabisa, Jumla in western Nepal, engaging in community welfare and founded Karnali Research Institute. People of Chaudabisha remember him for his philanthropic and developmental works in the community. On 11 January, 1996 on the way to Kathmandu he flew from Jumla to Nepalgunj from where he went missing and has not been seen since. Where could he have gone? Did he commit suicide, did somebody kidnap him or did he go into hiding? People have various speculations regarding his mysterious disappearance.

Filmmaker

Sachin Ghimire is a medical anthropologist and filmmaker from Nepal with a profound interest in deeply analysing the social fabric of society. He has directed Maatemurali (2006), Punte Ko Pangro (2013), which won national and international awards, and Dealing with Disasters (2015). He also co-directed Diyalee (2012) and worked as an associate director for Cellphone (2012) and Neerphool (2018). Currently, he is finalising his debut feature film Cornell ko Ghoda.

Gaurab KC is a sociologist with a Masters degree in Sociology and Anthropology from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. His special interests are migration and personal biography. He is associated with Martin Chautari, a Kathmandu-based research institution.





Original Language
English/ Nepali

Direction
Anusha Thulung Rai

Camera
Anusha Thulung Rai

Editing
Anusha Thulung Rai

Sound
Anusha Thulung Rai

Script
Anusha Thulung Rai

Producer
Anusha Thulung Rai

Contact
Anusha Thulung Rai
anusha381@icloud.com

Rongphamu

23 min | Nepal/ UK | 2023

Annually, the Rai community in the United Kingdom gather to celebrate their traditional festival: Sakela. In the weeks leading to the festival, the film follows the preparations for the festival of this ethnic community from eastern Nepal in Ashford, Kent.



Filmmaker

Anusha Thulung Rai is a visual artist with an MA in Visual Anthropology from Goldsmiths, University of London, specialising in the creation of ethnographic films. Currently based in London, her primary media are film and photography. Her work is deeply engaged with indigenous media, focusing particularly on the Nepali indigenous diaspora in the UK. Through her varied creative endeavours, which include research, filmmaking and photography, she aims to foster cultural connections and highlight the unique experiences of her subjects.



Co-presented by:



Original Language

Nepali

Direction

LSM/ Sahayog Raj Adhikari

Camera

LSM

Editing

LSM/Sahayog Raj Adhikari

Sound

Rukman Karki

Script

Abhimanyu Dixit/
Sahayog Raj Adhikari

Producer

Abhimanyu Dixit/ Blue Diamond
Society/ Gauthali Entertainment/
Sahara Sharma/ Pretti Petter

Contact

Gauthali Entertainment
gauthali.ent@gmail.com

Yatra

22 min | Nepal | 2022

Yatra takes viewers on a transformative journey alongside Rekha and Jyoti as they navigate the intricate paths of self-discovery, identity and gender transition exploring their unique experiences, struggles and triumphs within Nepal's cultural and societal context. Rekha and Jyoti embark on separate yet parallel quests to embrace their true selves and live as women. While their shared desire to find their purpose and authentic identities unites them, their individual journeys unfold with distinct challenges and triumphs. Their stories are a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of self-acceptance and self-empowerment. As the documentary delves into their emotional and physical transformations, it sheds light on the societal norms, prejudices and cultural expectations that shape their journeys challenging traditional narratives and inviting viewers to question their own perceptions of gender and identity while fostering empathy and understanding.

Filmmaker

Sahayog Raj Adhikari is a Nepal-based filmmaker with a diverse background in acting, casting and producing. He has worked as an actor/casting director in various TV films including Crime Patrol Nepal, fiction films, and theatre productions. He has also worked as a programme head, conceptualising and producing TV shows and produced documentaries. Yatra is his directorial debut.

LSM is an independent filmmaker from western Nepal. He directs short films and documentaries. He is a Media Studies Graduate from Kathmandu University School of Arts.



NEPAL PANORAMA
Fiction

**Original Language**

English/ Nepali

Direction

Ankit Poudel

Camera

Ankit Poudel

Editing

Sandeep Shrestha/ Ankit Poudel

Sound

Kishore Acharya

Script

Ankit Poudel

Producer

Sajina GC/ Shiv Kandel/ Ankit Poudel

Contact

Ankit Poudel

ankeet.chhetri@gmail.com

A Bird Fell in the Rain

20 min | Nepal/ United States | 2022

A woman experiences a rift in her marriage while she becomes pregnant. Dealing with an absent partner and a demanding profession, her breakdown is imminent. This rift however threatens to shatter a wall between their lives and our own.

Filmmaker

Ankit Poudel is a Nepali filmmaker. He is a producer, director, cinematographer and screenwriter. He completed his MFA in Cinematic Arts at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA. His works have been screened at various film festivals including Sundance Film Festival, ShortFest Palm Springs International Film Festival, DokuFest, Kyiv IFF Molodist, Raindance Film Festival, Festival du Nouveau Cinéma and Atlanta Film Festival. He was awarded the Best Cinematography Award at Indie Cyprus International Short Film Festival, 2018 for Gya(z). His films have been awarded in Asolo Art Film Festival 2020, WorldFest Houston 2020, Split Film Festival 2020, Lima Alterna Festival Internacional de Cine 2020 and Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival 2020. He is a member of Sundance Institute Collective and Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective.



Co-presented by:



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Safal Pandey

Camera
Rojin Pathak

Editing
Rikesh Shrestha

Sound
Bibek Karki

Script
Safal Pandey

Producer
Tika Bahadur Pandey

Contact
Safal Pandey
safalhtd@gmail.com

Arkesta

18 min | Nepal | 2023

Gokul is a single father raising his son and a well-regarded and actively involved member of the community. On a specific occasion, Gokul feels a sense of embarrassment as he watches his son's public dance performance, which displays feminine mannerisms. Determined to bring about a change in his son's lifestyle and regain their esteemed standing in society, Gokul wholeheartedly commits himself to putting in considerable effort and taking action. Over time, Gokul gradually becomes aware of his son's inherent feminine side.



Filmmaker

Safal Pandey, a filmmaker and film student, has always been deeply captivated by stories with vivid memories of sitting on his grandparents' laps, eagerly absorbing their tales with wide-eyed enthusiasm. The profound impact of witnessing, listening and weaving his own imaginative narratives propelled him on the path towards becoming a filmmaker.



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Suraj Katuwal

Camera
Nitesh Sharma Khatiwada

Editing
Suraj Katuwal

Sound
Simant Thapa

Script
Suraj Katuwal

Producer
Mira Khadka

Contact
Suraj Katuwal
babusurajok@gmail.com

Can I Hold Your Hand?

10 min | Nepal | 2024

Two friends hang out at their favourite tea shop unsure when they'll ever be together again.



Filmmaker

Suraj Katuwal is a filmmaking student based in Kathmandu, Nepal. His specialisation is screenwriting and direction. He believes that through cinema we can relive our past, recall our memories and reflect on our existence. Currently, he is working on his film school graduation project and developing a feature film script.



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Bidushi Giri

Camera
Chakra Maharjan

Editing
Pasang Dawa Sherpa

Sound
Bipin Sthapit

Script
Bidushi Giri

Producer
Prem Prasad Adhikary/
Rajesh Kutu

Contact
Bidushi Giri
adhikaryprem@gmail.com

Chiso Ghar (A Bleak Home)

11 min | Nepal | 2023

Dance tutor Shubhi decides to confront her partner whom she suspects of infidelity. Later, she discovers her parents' relationship falling apart. Now, the daughter and mother are in a dilemma of either holding on to the things that are falling apart or letting go of them.

Co-presented by:



Filmmaker

Bidushi Giri is a Nepal-based independent female filmmaker who earned her degree in screenplay writing and direction from Everest Film Academy. A Bleak Home is her debut short film and had its world premiere at the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival, 2023. Fascinated by the art of storytelling, she incorporates her compassion for humanity in her interest in filmmaking. Her works explore issues of morality while portraying daily life. She is currently developing her second short film project, Songs of My Kins.



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Pradhumna Mishra

Camera
Aalok Sukla

Editing
Sunil Shivabhakti

Sound
Samarat Khanal

Script
Durga Bahadur Karki

Producer
Sabin Basnet

Contact
Pradhumna Mishra
mail@sabinbasnet.com

Dubidha (Dilemma)

20 min | Nepal | 2022

Dubidha (Dilemma) is the story of a day in the life of Mahesh, 36, and Parvati, 27, who cannot conceive a baby even after 12 years of marriage. They are compelled to flee their village in western Nepal due to the constant taunts of villagers and resettle in a squatter colony for the landless in Kathmandu. Mahesh, a vegetable vendor, is reluctant to show a laboratory report to the doctor for fear that it might ruin their otherwise happy married life. Parvati, who looks after the baby of a woman seven years younger than her, begins to fear the worst—the possibility of Mahesh remarrying due to her inability to bear a child. Mahesh musters up courage and finally goes to the doctor with the report that reveals Parvati cannot bear a child. Mahesh is drowned in a dilemma. What should he do? How will he break the news to Parvati?



Filmmaker

A cinematographer, director and writer, Pradhumna Mishra was born and grew up in Nepal. His passion for storytelling led him to join Bachelor's in Film Studies at Oscar Film Academy, Kathmandu. This led him to join Nepal Television as a cinematographer. He has directed and written numerous short films and a feature-length film.



Original Language

Nepali

Direction

Samal Kumar Bajracharya

Camera

Abhisekh Maharjan

Editing

Dipen Maharjan

Sound

Aaryan Koirala/ Kismat Shrestha

Script

Samal Kumar Bajracharya

Producer

Samal Kumar Bajracharya

Contact

Samal Kumar Bajracharya
samal.kathacharya@gmail.com

Hawaman

11 min | Nepal | 2024

Yug, an eight-year-old boy, harbours an unyielding desire to fly like Superman. Despite numerous failed attempts, he remains undeterred, continuously striving to fulfill his dream. One day, after a scolding from his mother and unintentionally sparked by her words, Yug sets out on an extraordinary and daring adventure.



Filmmaker

Samal Kumar Bajracharya, an aspiring filmmaker from Kathmandu, is a passionate storyteller pursuing his bachelor's degree in film studies at Nepal Film Campus. With a creative spirit and a love for cinema, Bajracharya embarked on his filmmaking journey, eager to make his mark in the industry. Hawaman is his second-year college project,



Original Language
English

Direction
Dipen Maharjan

Camera
Dipen Maharjan

Editing
Dipen Maharjan

Sound
Dipen Maharjan

Script
Dipen Maharjan

Producer
Dipen Maharjan

Contact
Dipen Maharjan
maharjananjit@gmail.com

Loving You Is My Favourite Mistake

10 min | Nepal/ Canada | 2024

A recently heartbroken couple reunites as time intertwines between their first meet and their last.



Filmmaker

Dipen Maharjan currently a Nepali student in Canada, has been making films since the age of 16. He has a diverse portfolio of genres from romance to horror films. Maharjan was awarded The Best Director Award for his film Maunta in The Dance of Cinema Film Festival.



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Devendra Khatri

Camera
Aashis Ghimire

Editing
Sajal Lopchan

Sound
N/A

Script
Devendra Khatri

Producer
Devendra Khatri

Contact
Devendra Khatri
dkhatri723@gmail.com

Nepali Fiction

43 min | Nepal | 2023

The drug deal goes south when the drug lord finds out that two of his peddlers have been stealing from him all this time.



Filmmaker

Devendra Khatri is a filmmaker, originally from Dhangadi, Nepal. He is a graduate of Kantipur Film Academy and has been involved in filmmaking since 2019. He has worked as assistant director in several films including Agastya, the upcoming Mayor, and the series Brahamanda.



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Anil Kurmie

Camera
Bhupen Chaudhary/ Raju Luitel

Editing
Bhupen Chaudhary/ Suman Acharya

Sound
Suman Acharya/ Saroj Chaudhary

Script
Anil Kurmie/ Grishma Guragain

Producer
Anil Kurmie

Contact
Anil Kurmie
anilkurmie@gmail.com

Phera (Whirl)

9 min | Nepal | 2024

Bhagat, a returnee migrant worker in the Terai region of Nepal, wants to stay back and start vegetable farming with the government's agricultural support scheme. Getting assistance availing of the scheme, however, proves to be far more challenging than he expects.



Filmmaker

Anil Kurmie is a film and theatre actor, storyteller, scriptwriter and film director. He is alumnus of Mandala Drama School, and has completed a film direction course and attended a filmmaking workshop. He has been working in the theatre since 2017 and also in short films as an actor, writer and director. He believes that story is one of the most powerful ways to bring change in the society, and cinema is the most effective way to tell the stories.



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Akanchha Karki

Camera
Pramod Karki

Editing
Sandeep Shrestha

Sound
Kishore Acharya

Script
Sudam CK

Producer
Bibhu Poudel

Contact
Mallaaj Productions
mallaajproductions@gmail.com

Sanai

15 min | Nepal | 2023

Co-presented by:



Two teenage girls separated by the caste system fight against their society to play their favourite instrument, the sanai, forbidden to be played by women while also keeping their friendship alive.



Filmmaker

Akanchha Karki is a theatre director and actor who is embarking into the world of filmmaking. She runs Katha Ghera, a Kathmandu-based theatre collective. She has directed several acclaimed plays like The Vagina Monologues, Private is Political and Animal Farm. She is a recipient of British Council Gender Film Grant through which she directed her debut short film Sanai. In 2021 she attended a script writing workshop organised by Nepali Female Filmmakers. In 2022 she participated in Gograha Film Residency, where she found motivation to script a feature film which is currently in development.



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Prabhat Gurung

Camera
Nemo Allen

Editing
Juan Blanco Garcia

Sound
Somit Adhikari/
Julie Neira Campoverde

Script
Prabhat Gurung

Producer
Hit Kumari Gurung

Contact
Prabhat Gurung
pbtgrg786@gmail.com

The Monk and the Rebel

14 min | Nepal | 2023

During Nepal's civil war, a survivor Buddhist monk's morality is challenged when he encounters an injured Maoist rebel.



Filmmaker

Prabhat Gurung is an independent director/cinematographer whose rural upbringing in Nepal inspires his meditative filmmaking style, with a focus on mankind's relationship to nature. *The Monk and the Rebel*, was awarded the 2022 National Board of Review Student Grant. His script is also the recipient of the Chantal Akerman Student Award 2021. He is currently working on his first feature *Son of a Honey Hunter*, which has been selected in Film Lab South Asia 2023. Gurung holds an MFA in Film from The City College of New York, and a BA from Caldwell University, where he studied Communication and Media Studies.



Co-presented by:



Original Language

Nepali

Direction

Manoj Kumar Pant

Camera

Ali Rasheed

Editing

Ali Rasheed

Sound

Sangam Panta

Script

Ali Rasheed/ Gyalbu Lama

Producer

Pravin Takki Karki

Contact

Manoj Kumar Pant
pantmanoz@gmail.com

The Poplar Trees

10 min | Nepal | 2023

An impoverished couple cross the Himalaya on foot to a relatively more prosperous village for work, but the only job available is collecting leaves and chopping wood of stumps of poplar trees in return for food and shelter. The arrangement takes an unexpected turn when the landowner's son develops an interest in the wife.



Filmmaker

Manoj Kumar Pant's professional career began as a cinematographer after completing a degree in fine arts. His first project as a director was Back or Continue, a short film about climate change, which was selected for the Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival. He has independently worked as director, cinematographer and art director in several short films and feature length films including Santosh, Good Night, Milarepa in Prison, Duffers, Ringata, Lama La and Ama Khando.



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Mohan Shrestha

Camera
Narayan GC

Editing
Anil Kumar Maharjan

Sound
Anil KC

Script
Mohan Shrestha

Producer
Surendra Katuwal

Contact
Mohan Shrestha
surendrakatuwal12@gmail.com

The School's Wall

20 min | Nepal | 2023

The short film presents the story of the struggle of a boy from Nepal's Terai who polishes shoes near a school. His desire to study drags him to school. Poverty, circumstances and responsibilities are obstacles for him to go to school. He adopts various measures and succeeds in entering the school, but that happiness does not last long. The film tries to show what a child can do for his desire to study.



Filmmaker

Mohan Shrestha (aka Mohan Avilashi) is a creative writer, director and theatre artist. He has directed and performed in numerous theatre presentations. He is an acting tutor in several schools, theatre groups and acting institutions. He has also worked as a mental health social worker. He has been awarded with the Banita Multifaceted Talent Award 2022, Godhuli Art Service Award 2023, among others.



Co-presented by:



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Sarita Sah

Camera
Umesh Sapkota

Editing
Bhupen Chaudhary

Sound
Satyam Gharti Magar

Script
Sarita Sah

Producer
Onion Films

Contact
Sarita Sah
anilkurmie@gmail.com

Threshold

12 min | Nepal | 2024

A young woman, en route to her college to fill out her exam form, has to rush her brother to a public hospital following an accident. The corruption and delays in the system severely test her patience.



Filmmaker

Sarita Sah is a storyteller, who has been working as an actor, writer and director in films and theatre for a decade. She is more passionate about telling untold stories of her community to change perspectives. Her short films include Phaguniya and The Notebook which were screened at different national and international film festivals.



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Janjit KC

Camera
Manish Nepal

Editing
Sandeep Shrestha

Sound
Shrawal Pandey

Script
Janjit KC

Producer
Janjit KC

Contact
Janjit KC
janjit.kc2000@gmail.com

What the Spring Says

10 min | Nepal | 2022

While attending to his dying grandfather, a grandson dozes off beside the deathbed and happens to dream out his grandfather's stories of springtime, of life and loss of love from the first person perspective.



Filmmaker

Janjit KC is from Sarlahi, Nepal. He completed his studies in film direction from Oscar International College, Kathmandu. He started his career working in television and different media houses as a visual editor. Gradually, he began working as an assistant director in films and other projects which have been showcased in different festivals across the globe. As a director, What the Spring Says is his third short film. He is currently working on his first feature film.

**Original Language**

English/ Nepali

Direction

Sunil Gurung

Camera

Narendra Mainali

Editing

Deepak Rauniyar

Sound

Kishore Acharya

Script

Sunil Gurung

Producer

Deepak Rauniyar/ Asha Magrati

Contact

Sunil Gurung
windhorsetheshortfilm@gmail.com

Windhorse

10 min | Nepal | 2023

Sonam, an undocumented immigrant living in the US, returns home after 20 years and embarks on a journey to high-altitude monasteries with his estranged son, Karma, whom he is meeting for the first time. Sonam wants to pay homage to his late wife, whose funeral he regretfully missed. On this prayer trip in rugged mountain terrain, he strives to connect with his son.

**Filmmaker**

Sunil Gurung is a Nepali-American filmmaker exploring socially conscious narratives that weave themes of identity, alienation and the intricate dynamics of contemporary society.

NEPAL PANORAMA
Non-Competitive

**Original Language**

Tibetan

Direction

Tashi Lhazom

Camera

Amar Maharjan

Editing

Sanjeev Ratna Shakya

Sound

Dikesh Shahi Khakdi

Script

Tshi Lhazom/ Andej Adhikari

Producers

Shanta Nepali/ Nimesh Puri

ContactTashi Lhazom
shantanepaliproductions@gmail.com

No Monastery No Village

27 min | Nepal | 2024

Co-presented by:



High in the Himalaya lies Halzi, a village nestled in the shadow of a glacial lake. It is home to the ancient Halzi Rinchenling Monastery, a cornerstone of the Limi community's cultural heritage for centuries, Halzi faces a growing threat: Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). The documentary explores the plight of the villagers caught between their deep devotion to their heritage and the very real danger of impending floods. Sonam Dhondup, a monk at the monastery, wrestles with the fear of losing the sacred building to the next GLOF. Pema Dolma, a yak herder who lost her herd in a previous avalanche, remains resolute in her devotion to the monastery, despite the hardships. Through their contrasting viewpoints, the No Monastery No Village sheds light on the complex realities the Limi community faces. It is a poignant exploration of faith, resilience and the fight to preserve a way of life in the face of climate change.

Filmmaker

Tashi Lhazom is a prominent youth climate advocate working at the intersection of climate action, gender equality, indigenous rights and political literacy. She has spoken at grassroots, national and global platforms, and is a co-founder of two civil society initiatives. With the many hats that Tashi wears, she is also a filmmaker harnessing the power of storytelling to promote generational change in delivering climate justice. No Monastery, No Village is her directorial debut and is of her homeland, the Limi valley. She holds an undergraduate degree from Hindu College, University of Delhi.

NEPAL PANORAMA

Toni Hagen Documentary Filmmaking Grant

The films were developed at kimff DocLab with grant support from Toni Hagen Foundation Switzerland.



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Samagra Shah

Camera
Samagra Shah

Editing
Samagra Shah

Sound
Bajra Creation Records

Script
NA

Producer
Samagra Shah

Contact
Samagra Shah
samagrashah@gmail.com

Wagging Tale

23 min | Nepal | 2024

Wagging Tale is a short documentary about Rupak who has dedicated his life to caring for street dogs. Carrying almost 70 kg of chicken bones every day on foot, he feeds street dogs who have become his only family, almost replacing his estranged one.



Filmmaker

Samagra Shah, a multimedia storyteller based in Kathmandu, Nepal, is curious to understand the relationship that we, as humans, share with animals and nature. Wagging Tale is his debut documentary film.



Co-presented by:



Original Language

Nepali

Direction

Pushpa Joshi

Camera

Babin Dulal/ Sapana Belbase

Editing

Alok Adhikari

Sound

Mira Khadka

Script

N/A

Producer

Pushpa Joshi

Contact

Pushpa Joshi
pushpajoshi023@gmail.com

Tarang

11 min | Nepal | 2024

This film delves into the life of Ranju, a young woman who juggles the roles of a dedicated radio producer and a mother of three. Ranju's story delves into the complexities of balancing her roles amidst the challenges that life throws at her. She finds solace and fulfillment in her role as a radio producer, viewing it as an integral part of her life, enriching her existence and giving her a platform to resonate with a vast audience. Tarang is a testament to the determined spirit of a woman who defies the odds, finding strength and resilience in the face of adversity. It is a celebration of passion, perseverance and the aspiration to make a meaningful impact on the world.



Filmmaker

Pushpa Joshi is an activist engaged in the feminist movement of Nepal. She employs filmmaking as a potent medium to capture the inspiring tales of women in her visual narratives advocating for the transformative potential of films in driving social change.



Original Language
Nepali

Direction
Bigyan Sapkota

Camera
Gaurab Bhandari/
Prasanna Kunwar

Editing
Mandeep Maharjan/
Bijay Kunwar Thapa

Sound
Prasanna Kunwar

Script
Bigyan Sapkota/ Samarpan Shree

Producer
Shambhu Sapkota

Contact
Bigyan Sapkota
bigyansapkota81@gmail.com

गणेशा - एलिफास मैक्सिमस (Ganesha - Elephas Maximus)

28 min | Nepal | 2024

The eastern part of Nepal is home to one of the world's most amazing creatures: the Asian elephant. These elephants have inhabited the region since the dawn of time. Yet, in recent times, they have been in conflict with another of nature's cherished inhabitants: humans. The reason for this conflict? Food and land. The conflict has brought suffering to both sides, with casualties rising every day. Yet it seems that this is just the beginning. Amid the turmoil, one figure stands out as a guiding force: Shankar Chettri Luitel, who has been working for the past twenty-five years to mitigate the conflict. He tirelessly advocates for the harmonious coexistence of both species.

Ganesha - Elephas Maximus offers glimpses of the struggle and moments of happiness while embodying the hope that, one day, humans and elephants will coexist peacefully.



Filmmaker

Sapkota is an aspiring filmmaker and recent media graduate from Kathmandu University School of Arts. Fascinated by the beauty of stories, he has been exploring different means of storytelling.

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About kimff Foundation



The kimff foundation is a private, not-for-profit sharing company dedicated to cultivating an informed, dynamic and resilient Nepali society through the power of stories. We do this by exhibiting, funding and producing works in film, media arts and digital media. As a vehicle for educational, humanitarian, and cultural exchange, we present authentic stories about the rich diversity of Nepal to a wide audience through these mediums.

With the annual Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival (kimff) at its core and an extensive collection of narrative and non-fiction films, the foundation serves as a documentation and resource centre for the evolution of audio visual culture, practice and popular trends in Nepal.

Over the years we have built a community of avid film enthusiasts, staunch supporters, engaged audiences and committed volunteers. We invite you to join us as we strive to build a Foundation that fosters ideas and innovation, builds capacity and becomes a valuable resource and creative space. At the same time, we are committed to cementing Kathmandu's reputation as the cosmopolitan and cultural heart of the Himalayan region and to establish it as a globally recognized film, arts, education, and cultural centre.

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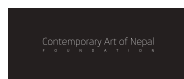
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For a filmmaker in Nepal, the local communities can serve as a set. With picturesque landscape and the smiling faces of the locals, you could almost capture a beautiful image by pointing the camera to any direction. This local involvement in the filmmaking process inadvertently achieved one of the goals of community tourism, which is to open up new professional pathways for the locals.

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