



Best of
MIFF

At The Stairs - At The Stairs

2012 | 30' | English | Hindi | Bhojpuri | India
Colour

MIFF Shorts



Director: Rajesh S Jala

DOP: Rajesh S Jala, Raj Kishore, Giriraj Sharma

Editor: Sheetal Koul, Vijay Sharma

Sound Designer: Sheetal Koul, Vijay Sharma

Many Hindu widows are traditionally encouraged or forced to live the rest of their lives in Banaras to seek moksha-liberation from the cycle of life and death. It is believed that dying in Banaras promises moksha. 'At the Stairs' captures the lonely moments and lifeless lives of three aged widows who have been waiting for decades to die in Banaras. Ironically, they live at a paradoxical venue, Manikarnika Ghat, the busiest cremation ground. This film glimpses through the silence of these lonely souls living amidst the deafening sound of death rituals.

Amdavad ma Famous - Famous in Ahemdabad

2016 | 29' | English | Hindi | Gujarati | India
colour

MIFF Shorts



Director: Hardik Mehta

Producer: Akanksha Tewari

DOP: Piyush Puty

Editor: Hardik Mehta

Sound Designer: Pranav Kothi

'Amdavad Ma Famous' is a story set against the kaleidoscopic backdrop of India's largest kite - flying festival in Ahemdabad. Zaid undergoes a transformation - from a boy - next - door to an aggressive and a passionate kite - runner when he comes across his nemesis Mushtaq, an old security guard of the building. Zaid and his friend fly their kites there. The whimsical nature of the kite flying festival, the kind of madness that grips the whole of Ahemdabad city and Zaid's craze for kites brings together a colourful glimpse of a very unique India.

Fireflies In The Abyss - Fireflies In The Abyss
 2016 | 88' | English | Hindi | Nepali | India
 Colour

MIFF Shorts



Director: Chandrasekhar Reddy
Producer: Chandrasekhar Reddy
DOP: Chandrasekhar Reddy
Editor: Abhro Banerji
Sound Designer: Gissy Michael

The 'rat-hole' mines in the Jaintia Hills of Northeast India are hostile pits where men and boys risk their lives every day to scratch coal out of hard rock. Each of them come to coal pit for different reasons, but once there, only a few are able to escape it later. Suraj, an 11 year old boy, grapples his way out of this abyss to eventually put himself in school. The film follows Suraj and other miners to reveal their lives under these extraordinary circumstances and the brutal choices they are forced to confront at every turn.

Fisherwoman and TukTuk - Fisherwoman and TukTuk
 2016 | 15' | India | Colour

MIFF Shorts



Director: Suresh Eriyat
Producer: Nilima Eriyat

Set in a coastal village in India, a middle-aged, lonely fisherwoman dreams of owning an auto rickshaw (TukTuk). The fisherwoman one day discovers a pearl in the belly of a fish. She abandons her regular trade to buy herself a brightly coloured TukTuk and starts to live her long cherished dream. The film is a joyous tale about a woman's awakening of her dormant desires, and celebrates the triumph of pursuing your dreams against all odds.

Music In The Blood - Music In The Blood
2012 | 16' | Romanian | Romania | Colour

MIFF Shorts

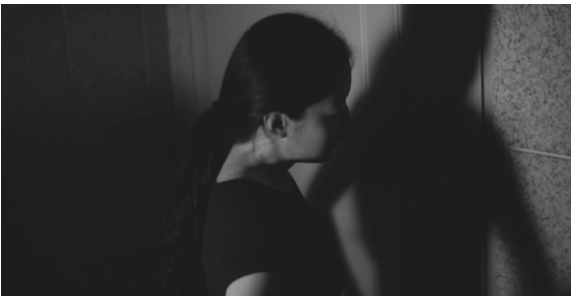


Director: Alexandru Mavrodineanu
Writer: Alexandru Mavrodineanu, Catalin Mitulescu
Producer: Catalin Mitulescu
DOP: Andrei Butica
Editor: Sorin Baican
Sound Designer: Mirel Cristea, Alexandru Dragomir, Sebastian Zsemlye

Petre works as a night watchman. During the day, Petre is trying to introduce his son, Robert, to the manele music industry. Petre is sure that his boy is a natural-born talent with music in his blood. During an audition held by manager Bursuc, Robert misses his shot at becoming a star, but on the way home he gets one more chance to express himself.

Naechalye - My Turn
2018 | 15' | Korean | Rep. Of Korea | Colour

MIFF Shorts



Director: Nakyung Kim
Producer: Seunghyun Lee, Soonsang K Won
DOP: Jiryong Kim
Editor: Hyeonbeom Kim
Sound Designer: Seungho Na

Nurse Hyun-jung becomes pregnant. But she is not being congratulated. Her colleagues are instead angry that she is pregnant. The film denounces a practice called 'pregnancy' order system, 'which is widespread in some countries. The film's effective ensemble of cinematic elements turns the experience of pregnancy into an unusual situation where motherhood is presented with some rules that bring pain.

Pink Saris - Pink Saris

2012 | 96' | Hindi | English | United Kingdom | Colour MIFF Shorts



Director: Kim Longinotto

Producer: Amber Latif, Girjashankar Vohra

Cast: Sampat Pal Devi, Renu Devi, Rekha Paswan, Shiv Devi Patel, Rampataree Yadav, Niranjan Pal

DOP: Kim Longinotto

Editor: Ollie Huddleston

Sound Designer: Girjashankar Vohra

Music: Midival Punditz

Sampat Pal, an illiterate, low-caste woman, was married off at the age of 12 and was constantly bullied by her in-law. She rebelled against the stringent village rules and ended up on the streets with five young children. She then set up Gulabi Gang, where hundreds of women, all dressed in bright fuchsia saris, would gather to make a corrupt policeman enforce the law or to challenge a violent husband. At the heart of 'Pink Saris' are the four young women who come to the Gulabi Gang leader as their last hope.

Prince - Prince

2012 | 6'30" | India | Colour



MIFF Shorts

Director: Kurnal Rawat, Anand Tharaney

Producer: Tejas Mangeshkar

DOP: Sameer Tawde

Editor: Sharad Kalawar, Chaitany Swaminathan

A Mumbai cab owner inscribes the word 'Prince' on the back of his ubiquitous Black & Yellow taxi. He drives it with much pride during the day. At dusk, he switches it with another cab driver. One morning, he is late for work, the roads are choked, and to complicate things further, 'Prince' breaks down. By now the city has changed, there are other cabs, new and bright. Next, he finds 'Prince' dumped at the junk yard.

Solo Finale - Solo Finale
 2016 | 9' | United Kingdom | Colour

MIFF Shorts



Director: Ingo Putze
Producer: Ingo Putze
DOP: Fabian Spuck
Editor: Ingo Putze, Fabian Spuck
Sound Designer: Ross Gregory

'Solo Finale' is a story of a relationship gone awry. Depicted through poetic, surreal pictures, where the physics of the world we know do not always apply, the film is an allegory of the polity of Love.

Tokri - The Basket
 2018 | 15' | India | Colour

MIFF Shorts



Director: Suresh Eriyat
Producer: Nilima Eriyat
DOP: Srinivas Reddy
Editor: Tintu K Philip
Sound Designer: Jayesh Dhakkan

When a young girl accidentally breaks her father's cherished watch, she sells homemade baskets to pay the repair, But things don't go as planned in this story about mistakes and forgiveness. 'Tokri' is a charming stop-motion animation featuring two seemingly insignificant people whose lives are changed by one fateful encounter.

True Love Story - True Love Story
 2014 | 18' | India | Colour

MIFF Shorts



Director: Gitanjali Rao
Producer: Gitanjali Rao
Editor: Gitanjali Rao
Sound Designer: P.M. Sateesh

Where does 17-year-old orphan Salim, who left his village at the age eight to make a living in Mumbai, learn to woo a woman? Who teaches him and many other youths growing up on the streets - how a boy meets a girl? Bollywood. How does Salim find his love - Bollywood style or does reality overtake his fantasy? The film is a glimpse into influence of Bollywood on real life.

Ukadi Pukadi - Ukadi Pukadi
 2010 | 6' | India | Colour

MIFF Shorts



Creative Team: Avinash Medhe, Anuj Kumar, Dhruva Rao, Jaikar Marur, Swarup Deb.

Ukadi Pukadi is a short puppet animation film about a young poor girl who is trying to come to terms with her one missing leg. She waters it every day in the hope that one day it will grow back.

17 August - 17 August
2010 | 96' | Russian | Russia | Colour

MIFF Select



'17 August' focuses on documenting one day in the life of Boris Bezotechestvo, who is serving his entire sentence in solitary confinement in a prison in Russia. The sign on his cell door reads: 'Prisoner Boris Bezotechestvo. Life sentence .Article 102. Escape risk. Aggressive. Three murders.' He is communicating with the God who is indifferent to his fate. He prays, but is not a believer. His words filled the air of cell. He talks and listens to himself. The space within the cell consumes him. His world is four walls and the view from the window.

Director: Alexander Gutman
Producer: Alexander Gutman, Krzysztof Kocczynski.
DOP: Maxim Efros, Nikolay Volkov, Alexander Gutman
Sound Designer: Leonid Lerner.
Music Composer: Vladimir Tarasovs

Director's Biography



Alexander Gutman graduated from the State Institute of Cinematography and began working at Leningrad documentary studio as assistant cameraman. For some time he specialized in photographing sports documentaries and his best known films include *Pyramid*(1985) and *Snow Fantasy* (1997). His first directorial venture was the highly acclaimed *Circle*. He is a member of the Russian Academy of Cinematographic Arts "Nika" and the European Film Academy. He is now an acknowledged master of the documentary with his own individual style.

Selected Filmography

2005 In Search Of Happiness (Doc)
 2004 Sunny Side Of Road (Doc)
 2001 Journey Back To Youth (Doc)

In Between: Isang Yun in North and South Korea
2014 | 60' | German | Germany | Colour

MIFF Select



Director: Maria Stodtmeier
Producer: Paul Smaczny
DOP: Michael Boomers
Editor: Nari Kim
Sound Designer: Georg Obermayer

This documentary, filmed in North and South Korea, explores whether music can overcome the boundaries of a divided country. The Korean composer Isang Yun is one of the very few people acknowledged on both sides. Bridging the histories of two countries, the film traces the course of a life that has been interpreted in different ways. It examines the worlds of North and South Korean music, taking the viewer along on an exciting journey through two political systems that Isang Yun spent his life trying to reconcile.

Director's Biography



Maria Stodtmeier has been involved as author, director and producer of various international music projects. Her interest in classical music and post colonial studies spawned the idea for *El Sistema*, an award winning film co-directed with Paul Smaczny in 2009. Her involvement in one of the most significant events in North Korea – United States relations – the worldwide live broadcasting of the concert of the New York Philharmonic in Pyongyang – was the inspiration for the interest in the Korean conflict. This film marks her independence directing debut.

Selected Filmography

2017 *Maestras: Long Journey Of A Woman To Podium* (Doc)
2008 *El Sistema* (Doc)

Nero's Guest - Nero's Guest
 2010 | 57' | English | India | Colour

MIFF Select



Director: Deepa Bhatia
DOP: Amol Gole, Atul Hirde, Likka Vekhalti, R.V. Ramani, Shanti Bhushan
Editor: Deepa Bhatia, Abhro Banerjee
Sound Designer: P.M. Sateesha

Nero's Guest is a story of India's agrarian crisis and the growing inequality seen through the work of P. Sainath, Rural Affairs Editor of 'The Hindu'. Nearly 200,000 farmers have committed suicide in India over the last 10 years but the mainstream media hardly reflects this. Through sustained coverage of the Farm crisis, Sainath and his colleagues have created the national agenda and thus, compelled a government in denial to take notice and act. In a sense it is also a story of P. Sainath, who through his writings and lectures, tries to make us see the real India.

Director's Biography



Deepa Bhatia is a film editor who has worked on several Bollywood films since 1998. She has directed the documentary *Nero's Guests*, which won two awards at Mumbai IFF.

Selected Filmography

2010 Nero's Guest

Santhal family to mill Re-call - Santhal family to mill Re-call
 2018 | 112' | Hindi | English | Bengali | Oriya |
 Punjabi | India | Colour

MIFF Special



Director: R. V. Ramani
Producer: R. V. Ramani
DOP: R. V. Ramani
Editor: R. V. Ramani
Sound Designer: Asheesh Pandya

A Delhi based installation artist Vivian Sundaram, in collaboration with theatre practitioners and artists, does a re-take on the life and works of India's well-known sculpture and painting artist Ramkinkar Baij (1904-84). Sundaram conceives a project, 409 Ramkinkars, a re-take on the life and works of Baij. Theatre directors such as Anuradha Kapur, Santanu Bose, Aditee Biswas and Deepan Sivaraman, along with 30 professional actors, associates and technicians, conceptualise a promenade theatre.

Director's Biography



RV Ramani initially worked as a photojournalist in Mumbai and later graduated from FTII in 1985, with specialization in Cinematography. Since 1990, he started directing, producing his own films. With many independent films to his credit, he has established a unique impressionistic personal style of film making which has found recognition in India and abroad. Though he has been largely working in the non-fiction documentary format, he considers his films offer an experience of fiction. Ramani regularly conducts film-making workshops at various Institutions.

2016 A Documentary Proposal (Doc)
 2010 This Country Is Ours (Doc)
 2003 Where Are You? (Doc)
 1997 Season (Doc)
 1995 Last Family (Doc)
 1993 Face Like A Man (Doc)

The Cinema Travellers - The Cinema Travellers
 2018 | 96' | Hindi | Marathi | India | Colour

MIFF Special



Director: Shirley Abraham, Amit Madheshiya

Producer: Shirley Abraham, Amit Madheshiya

DOP: Amit Madheshiya

Editor: Shirley Abraham, Amit Madheshiya

Sound Designer: Pete Horner

Festivals: Cannes 2016

For over seven decades, showmen riding cinema lorries brought the wonder of movies to far away villages in India once every year. With their cinema projectors crumbling and film reels becoming scarce, the travelling cinema patrons are lured by slick digital technology. However, a benevolent showman, a shrewd exhibitor and a maverick projector mechanic are trying to keep the last travelling cinemas of the world running.

Director's Biography



Amit and Shirley are acclaimed Indian film makers. As a photographer, Amit began working on the Travelling Cinema project in 2008. Photographs from this project won the World Press Photo in 2011, World Photography Award in 2009 and 2011 and Grand Prize at the Humanity Photo Awards in 2009. *The Cinema Travellers* is their debut feature documentary, which won the Special Jury Prize for L'oeild'or: Le Prix du documentaire at Cannes 2016. It has played 96 film festivals and won 16 national and international awards, including the National Film Award.



2018 The Cinema Travellers