



1st International Film Festival for Persons with Disabilities

Siri Fort, New Delhi,
1 - 3 December, 2015



PRESENTED BY

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
and
National Film Development Corporation Ltd.



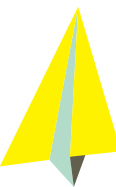
NFDC
cinemas of india



FESTIVAL GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION



This unique cinematic initiative by this Department is to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is observed worldwide on 3 December every year to focus on issues concerning persons with disabilities. This Film Festival will have a participation of large number of film personalities and directors who have worked in this area and who would like to contribute significantly to change the mindset and perspective of people towards persons with disabilities through the medium of films that they produce. The Festival will use cinema as a medium to not only empower, but also create awareness and sensitivity towards persons with disabilities. In recognition of the spirit of the persons with disabilities, the Film Festival endeavors to showcase cinema that opens our world to their world and also movies that have been made by them.

The Film Festival will comprise Gala Screenings of films on disabilities, both national and international, Directors/Screenwriters' workshops etc. The best films at the festival will be recognized with awards under various categories.

During the film festival, International/National Feature/documentary/short films on persons with disabilities or made by persons with disabilities would be shown in various auditoria of the Siri Fort Complex, New Delhi from 1-3 December, 2015.

We would bring to you 40 films from 15 countries and 5 continents. Some are well known, others rarely seen. Some simple, others with complex execution. Some as short as five minutes, others 150 minutes long. Yet, one thing is certain. Each of them will entertain, educate, enlighten and encourage everyone who watches them.

Aim and objective

The film festival for persons with disabilities is in recognition of their spirit and showcases cinema that open our world to their mind space. And also cinema that have been made by them.

MESSAGES FROM THE MINISTRY



श्री. अणुराग खोसला

माननीय सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री
भारत सरकार

विकलांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग द्वारा पहली बार विकलांग व्यक्तियों हेतु अंतराष्ट्रीय फिल्म समारोह 2015 का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। विकलांग व्यक्तियों की भावना को सम्मान देते हुए यह समारोह ऐसे सिनेमा को दर्शाएगा जो न केवल उनके लिए हमारे संसार को प्रस्तुत करेगा बल्कि यह सिनेमा उनके द्वारा ही बनाया गया है। फिल्में न केवल विकलांग व्यक्तियों को विकलांगता की दुनिया के अनुभव हेतु एक वातायन प्रदान करती है बल्कि विकलांग व्यक्तियों की सृजन प्रतिभा से भी परिचय कराती है।

विकलांगता पर इस तीन दिवसीय अनुपम फिल्म प्रदर्शन में – अमेरिका, अर्जेंटीना, बेल्जियम, जर्मनी, ईरान तथा भारत जैसे विभिन्न देशों की फिल्में शामिल हैं। ये फिल्में विकलांग व्यक्तियों की दुनिया की एक झलक प्रदान करती है और विकलांग व्यक्तियों से संबंधित मुद्दों पर समग्र रूप से नीति निर्धारकों, कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन कर्मियों, स्टेकहोल्डर्स और आम लोगों को संवेदनशील बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है। ये फिल्में एक समावेशी वातावरण के सृजन और ऐसे मुद्दों के लिए समाधान ढूँढने में समाज को प्रेरित भी करते हैं।

मुझे आशा है कि यह फिल्म समारोह, इस क्षेत्र में काम करने वालों को नए विचार तथा सोच प्रदान करेगा। मुझे विश्वास है कि विकलांग व्यक्तियों हेतु अंतराष्ट्रीय फिल्म समारोह, विकलांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग के कामों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए सहयोग तथा समन्वय की भावना को और मजबूत करेगा।

मैं फिल्म समारोह के सह प्रायोजक एलिमको तथा हैंस फाउंडेशन को बधाई देता हूँ और राष्ट्रीय फिल्म विकास निगम, मेरे मंत्रालय के विकलांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग को पहली बार यह समारोह आयोजित करने के लिए किए गए प्रयासों की सराहना करता हूँ।

जय हिंद!



कृष्णपाल गुर्जर

माननीय सामाजिक
न्याय और अधिकारिता
राज्य मंत्री
भारत सरकार

मुझे यह जानकर हर्ष हुआ है कि विकलांग व्यक्तियों हेतु अंतराष्ट्रीय फिल्म दिवस, अपनी तरह के प्रथम विकलांग व्यक्तियों हेतु अंतराष्ट्रीय फिल्म समारोह 2015 के आयोजन के रूप में मनाया जा रहा है। तीन मुख्य श्रेणियों (क) फीचर फिल्में (ख) डॉक्यूमेंट्रीज तथा (ग) लघु फिल्मों के लिए प्रविष्टियां आमंत्रित की गई थी। समारोह की प्रविष्टियां हेतु शर्तों में यह उल्लेख किया गया था कि फिल्में विकलांगों द्वारा और उनके बारे में होनी चाहिए, जो उनके जीवन को दर्शाए तथा मानव अनुभवों की विविधता पर परिचर्चा को प्रोत्साहित करें। यह फिल्म समारोह विकलांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग और राष्ट्रीय फिल्म विकास निगम के सम्मिलित अथक प्रयासों का परिणाम है।

इस समारोह में कला तथा संस्कृति के क्षेत्र से प्रतिष्ठित फिल्म, व्यक्तित्व, अभिनेता, निदेशक तथा अन्य विशिष्ट व्यक्ति भाग ले रहें हैं। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि उनकी उपस्थिति विकलांग व्यक्तियों हेतु प्रकाश स्तंभ और प्रेरणा का स्रोत सिद्ध होगी।

विकलांग व्यक्ति हेतु अंतराष्ट्रीय फिल्म समारोह 2015 को सफल बनाने के लिए एकजुट होकर कार्य करने वाले सभी स्टैकहोल्डर्स तथा प्रायोजकों के प्रति मैं आभार प्रकट करता हूँ।

जय हिंद!



विजय सांपला

माननीय सामाजिक
न्याय और अधिकारिता
राज्य मंत्री
भारत सरकार

मैं, सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की ओर से, विकलांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग और राष्ट्रीय फिल्म विकास निगम को विकलांगता पर, विशेषकर, भिन्न रूप से सक्षम व्यक्ति द्वारा किये गये कार्यों को दर्शाने हेतु, अत्यंत रोचक फिल्मों के प्रदर्शन हेतु बधाई देता हूँ।

विकलांगता से संबंधित मुद्दों को उजागर करने के लिए विशेषज्ञों द्वारा, भारतीय, अंतराष्ट्रीय तथा क्षेत्रीय पैनोरमा से विभिन्न फिल्मों का सुरुचिपूर्ण चयन किया गया है। इस फिल्म समारोह में विकलांगता की विभिन्न श्रेणियों पर प्रकाश डालने वाली फिल्मों के माध्यम से एक सकारात्मक वातावरण का सृजन करने का प्रयास किया गया है।

मुझे पूरी आशा है कि यह फिल्म महोत्सव विकलांग व्यक्तियों के जीवन में आ रही कठिनाईयों के बारे में आम नागरिकों को संवेदनशील बनाने में अहम भूमिका निभाएगा।

जय हिंद!



Lov Verma

Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

The International Film Festival for the Persons with Disability (IFFPD), 2015 is another milestone for the Department for achieving inclusivity and empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Since the inception of the Department, we have worked towards ensuring greater focus on issues of the disability sector. The Film Festival celebrates effective collaboration, recognizes and felicitates the indomitable spirit of persons with disabilities and showcases their successes and challenges.

The IFFPD honours the contributions of the persons with disabilities on the occasion of International day of Persons with Disabilities – which is commemorated worldwide on 3rd December every year. The objective of the Film Festival is to sensitize stakeholders, reach out and proactively engage them through a series of workshops. I hope that our partners and stakeholders will participate in these workshops and carry forward the message that inclusivity, accessibility, education and technology are central to empowering PwDs and bringing about much-needed changes in the mindsets of people.

I dedicate this film festival to recognition of the spirit of the persons with disabilities. These films in particular, will showcase cinemas that open our world to their mind space, and sensitise stakeholders and the public on issues relating to disabilities.

Finally, I would like to thank the NFDC for organizing the Film Festival, ALIMCO and Hans Foundation – institutions that have been actively involved in the disability sector and are the co-sponsors of IFFPD 2015, and our stakeholders who have contributed towards making this event a grand success.



Awanish K. Awasthi

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL for the Persons with Disability (IFFPD), 2015 has been organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). The Festival has been conceptualized to honour the contribution of the persons with disabilities on the occasion of International day of Persons with Disabilities to promote seamless communication that transcends cultural, economic, environmental, institutional, political, social or structural barriers.

Cinema plays a dual role – as a mirror of the times we live in and also as one of the most effective tools for awareness generation. We bring you an eclectic collection – a total of 40 films (16 short films, 14 documentaries and 10 feature films) that have been finally selected for screening from amongst 541 national and international movies, shortlisted by curators from eminent backgrounds. The IFFPD presents a mix of a dozen Indian movies with regional flavours, as well as International film entries in English, German, Spanish, Russian, Armenian and Korean – among the many others. All these films are about persons with disabilities and they explore and encourage discussion on the diversity of human experience.

DEPwD and NFDC have through their joint efforts brought before you a power-packed festival that will delight both the general audience and the connoisseurs of cinema. The task before us is to make this an annual festival so that we can bring more fun, delight, feelings and learning, every year to a variety of audiences in an inclusive setup. Our Department has been working tirelessly in the areas of policy development and programme implementation to remove these barriers and realize the vision of an equitable society for PwDs.

I wish to thank all those who made this creative effort a resounding success – accomplished panel of jurors & curators, distinguished media personalities and persons with disabilities and the officials of NFDC & DEPwD.

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S NOTE

MESSAGE FROM NFDC

The National Film Development Corporation has partnered with the Department of Persons with Disabilities (DePWD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to host the first International Film Festival for Persons with Disabilities.

NFDC is the central agency established to encourage the independent and progressive cinema movement in the country. Considering the wide impact that the visual medium generates, it was imperative for NFDC to initiate an endeavour that sensitises the population towards the human experiences of persons with disabilities and encourages an inclusive society.

The festival aims at fostering an inclusive environment for persons with disabilities while promoting excellence in cinema together with diversity and sensitivity through strategically curated films brought to audiences from over 15 countries. These films ignite critical issues around persons with disabilities and celebrate their lives.

With this festival, NFDC hopes to create a stepping stone in the movement towards achieving an Accessible India.

NFDC is honoured to be a partner in this revolutionary campaign of the Government of India.



USING VISUAL MEDIA AS A COMMUNICATION TOOL FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

By Dr. Alim Chandani, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Gallaudet University.

With the advancement of technology in today's world, visual media can benefit people with disabilities in numerous ways. Media is a useful tool to spread information and lead positive impact in society, as well as share narratives by people with disabilities to educate others. Other strategies include using new approaches in film production and design thinking. This workshop will present different creative ideas by demonstrating how successful individuals with disabilities use visual media as a communication tool.



PAINTINGS THAT MOVE

an Animation Basics Workshop with Gitanjali Rao, Filmmaker

Storytelling for the Visual medium is all about being able to 'see' it all. And what better way of enabling the power to 'see' than by being a co-creator! Cannes winner Gitanjali Rao navigates the workshop through the art of expressing with lines and colours and making them 'move'. The piece de resistance of the workshop will be a short film created collectively by the attendees of the workshop.



WORKING WITH ACTORS - PERSPECTIVES FOR A DIRECTOR

with Tom Alter, Actor

Ray often said that an actor is a tool in the hands of a director. And what a tool! If your casting is off mark, the best of films with the best of intentions can go horribly wrong! So what is it that makes an actor agree to play a particular character? What does he seek in a particular story or a film? Is it about the crores or the promised stardom? Or is there something else that inspires him? Tom Alter provides a window into the mind of an actor and the choices that he makes.

WORKSHOPS

(Feature Films)


THE JURY

Marco Mueller

Marco began as a festival programmer in 1978 to become the Asian cinema Consultant at the Venice Film Festival. In 1981, he created and directed *Electric Shadows*, a Chinese film retrospective. He has been the Director of film festivals of Pesaro, Rotterdam, Locarno, Venice and Rome. Currently, he programmes festivals in China. Marco has both produced and co-produced 14 features, which have won acclaim, produced shorts and documentaries, and written and directed TV documentaries about cinema. He initiated the Hubert Bals Film Fund and the Cinemart Project Workshop in the Netherlands, the Montecinemaverità Film Fund in Switzerland, and the South/East Cinema Fund in Italy. He holds the chair of Film Styles and Techniques at the Academy of Architecture - Università della Svizzera Italiana.

**Jayshree Raveendran**

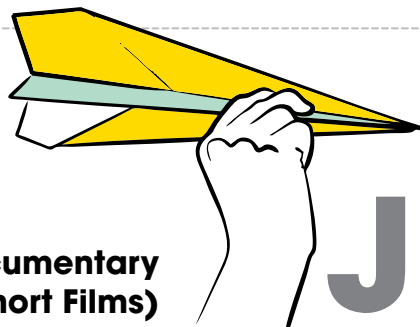
Jayshree Raveendran holds a research degree in English Literature as well as a degree in Education. She resigned from mainstream employment in May 1995 to initiate the ABILITY FOUNDATION, a national cross disability organization headquartered in Chennai, that focuses on the empowerment and rights of people with disabilities. As Founder and Honorary Executive Director, she has initiated all the activities of the Foundation that cover a wide range from publishing, media, culture, employment, inclusive education, public policy, legislation and human rights. In a country where disability is still perceived in a medical/charity mode, Jayshree Raveendran – herself a person with hearing impairment – has spearheaded a movement, indeed a change in the nation's mindset, to create an inclusive platform for everyone. She is also part of several committees on disability issues in government, non-government & international levels.

**Aamir Bashir**

Aamir Bashir is an actor, writer and director. His first feature film as director, *Harud* (Autumn), produced by Chasing Tales, received critical acclaim at festivals around the world and won the prestigious National Film Award in 2013. It received support from the Hubert Bals Fund Rotterdam for Post Production and also won the Don Quixote award at the Fribourg Film Festival. Aamir is currently developing his second feature film *Winter*.



**(Documentary
& Short Films)**



THE JURY

Rajesh S Jala

Rajesh S Jala has been making films for the last 18 years and has directed and produced a number of documentaries and television series for leading international and Indian television channels. His films have been selected at more than 100 International Film Festivals including Montreal, Rotterdam, IDFA, MOMA, etc.

His film *Children of The Pyre* has market premiered at Cannes in 2009 and was picked by Fortissimo Films for world distribution. He has won many international and national awards including the best documentary at Montreal, Sao Paulo, IFFLA, Asiatica Rome, National awards and many more.

Berlinale Talent Campus Alumina, 2011
Served on Indian National Awards Jury, 2010
Has served on Indian Panorama Jury for IFFI Goa, 2012



Arun Chadha

Arun Chadha, a Film & Television Institute of India, Pune, graduate, has been making documentary & short films on various social & developmental issues for the past 33 years. Many of the films have been shown at various film festivals in India and abroad and won awards.

Mindscapes...of Love & Longing has won National award in 2012 for the Best Documentary on Social Issues and also won 2nd prize at the We Care Festival (UN Information & Brothhood). *The Shame Is Not Mine* and *Swayam* won the Golden Conch for the Best Film at the Mumbai International Film Festival of Documentary & Short films (MIFF) in the year 2000 & 2004. *Waiting for Reprieve* won the Best Film award at the International Documentary Film Festival of Kerala in the year 1995.

Footsteps to The millennium, on the status of Poliomyelitis in India, was screened at the global conference on Polio eradication in Geneva. *The Last to Sail*, *How Many How Long* and *Gitanjali* have been screened at various international forum. *On the Wings of Hope* will be screened at the climate change summit in Paris.

In the past, Arun has served as a Jury Member for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa, attended workshops and presented a paper in Bolegna, Italy on the use of media for health communications, organized by AIFO and Government of Italy and has been a guest lecturer for Mass Communication Institutes.



Siddharth Kak

Siddharth Kak is a well known Television personality and a familiar face for Indian Television audiences nationwide, following his immensely popular cult cultural show *Surabhi* (Fragrance), which ran for a record of 11 years at Prime Time on Indian National Television (1991-2001). In collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Siddharth Kak is at present producing, hosting and telecasting a top rated primetime reality show on Skills and Enterprise called *HUNNARBAAZ! Mission Skill India!* telecast on Doordarshan National, and other DD Regional Channels for the Prime Minister's Skill Mission.

Siddharth Kak has served variously as a Member and Chairperson (twice) of the National Short Feature Film Awards (Govt. of India) and Chairperson of the Selection Committee for the Indian Panorama, International Film Festival, Goa. At present he is a member of the Governing Board of the Central University of Jammu and the Executive Council of the Central University of Kashmir.

Siddharth Kak, a well known foodie, has written food columns for many national newspapers and has also published a book of poetry *Looking in Looking out* (Writers Workshop, Kolkatta) and compiled a quiz book on India's heritage *Surabhi ke Sau Sawaal*, published by Rupa & Co.





FORTY FILMS have been selected by an accomplished panel of curators for screening during this 3 day film festival. These are an entertaining mix of film from 15 countries, and 5 continents.

Feature Films/Languages

1. Algorithms (Docu Feature) ■ *Hind/English*
2. Birds Of Passage ■ *French*
3. Chotoder Chobi ■ *Bengali*
4. Haridas ■ *Tamil*
5. Isharee (Docu Feature) ■ *Sign language/Hindi/English*
6. Indelible (Docu Feature) ■ *Hindi/English*
7. Las Bestias / The Beasts ■ *Spanish*
8. Ship Of Theseus ■ *Hind/English*
9. The Shattered Mind ■ *English*
10. The Window ■ *Russian*
11. Yellow ■ *Marathi*

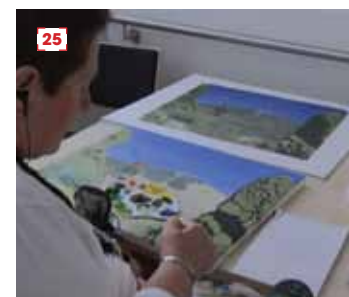


FILMS IN COMPETITION



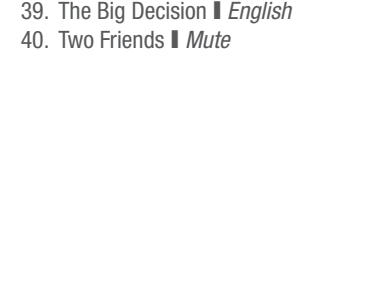
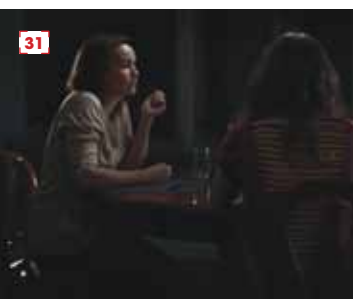
Documentary / Languages

12. Accsex ■ Hindi/English
13. Closer ■ Hindi/English
14. Deaf Women Told Me ■ French
15. Draw Hard ■ English
16. Eyesight Without Eyes ■ Armenian
17. Gamha Ye Yek Dast / The Steps Of One Hand ■ Iranian
18. Goonga Pehelwan ■ Hindi
19. It's Cricket, No? ■ Hindi
20. Rehearsal Of Tolerance ■ Iranian
21. Some In Some Out ■ Spanish
22. The New Girl In Class ■ Hindi/English
23. The Silent Chaos ■ English
24. Useless Eaters ■ German



Short Films / Languages

25. A Slice Of Life ■ German
26. Avi, La Petite Ballerina ■ English
27. Coda ■ English
28. Crossing The Divide ■ English
29. Deafness ■ English/Russian
30. Feet In The Sand ■ Mute
31. Fingertip ■ French
32. Glimpse Of Heaven ■ English
33. Helpless ■ Korean
34. If I Don't Lose, I Will Lose ■ English
35. Pan/Bang ■ French
36. Predators Of Transylvania ■ English
37. Some Girls Are Bigger Than Others ■ Serbian
38. Strangers ■ English
39. The Big Decision ■ English
40. Two Friends ■ Mute



FEATURE FILMS

Docu Feature



ALGORITHMS

In India, a group of boys dream of becoming Chess Grandmasters. But this is no ordinary chess and these are no ordinary players. *Algorithms* is an inspiring, moving and revelatory documentary about three talented blind boys and a totally blind player turned pioneer who take on the world of chess.

Director Ian McDonald

Duration 96 minutes

Country India

Cast Charudatta Jadhav, Darpan Inani, SaiKrishna S.T., Anant Kumar Nayak

Awards Best Foreign Documentary, LA Femme International Film Festival, 2014 | Best Story, Krasnogorski International Festival of Sport Films, Moscow, 2014 | Best Editing, Mumbai International Film Festival, India, 2014 | Prix du Patrimoine Culturel Immatériel, Jean Rouch International Film Festival, Paris, 2013

Feature Films



BIRDS OF PASSAGE

When Cathy's whimsical father gives her a duck's egg for her birthday, she and her wheelchair bound friend Margaux hatch it. They want to care for the duckling but her parents give it away. Realising that it is likely to end up as cat food, Cathy and Margaux set out on an adventurous journey to rescue it.

Director Olivier Ringer

Duration 84 minutes

Country Belgium

Cast Clarisse Djuroski, Lea Warny, Alain Eloy, Myriem Akkheldiou, Angelo Dello Spedale, Jeanne Dandoy, Camille Voglaire, Renaud Rutten

Awards **Best Film**, Montreal International Children's Film Festival | **Best Film**, Zlin Children Film Festival, Czech Republic | **Best Film**, Kineko International Children's Film Festival, Tokyo, Japan | **Best Film**, Chicago Children Film Festival, USA |

Feature Films



CHOTODER CHOBI

After Sibbu, a circus clown, is bed ridden following an accident, he does not get adequate compensation from his employer. Khoka, his junior, tries to help and becomes close to Sibbu's daughter Soma. Love evolves, but because of their dwarfism, they are unable to think of a future together. Often people who make others laugh, cry the most.

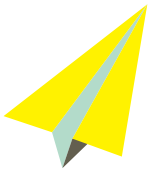
Director Kaushik Ganguly

Duration 110 Minutes

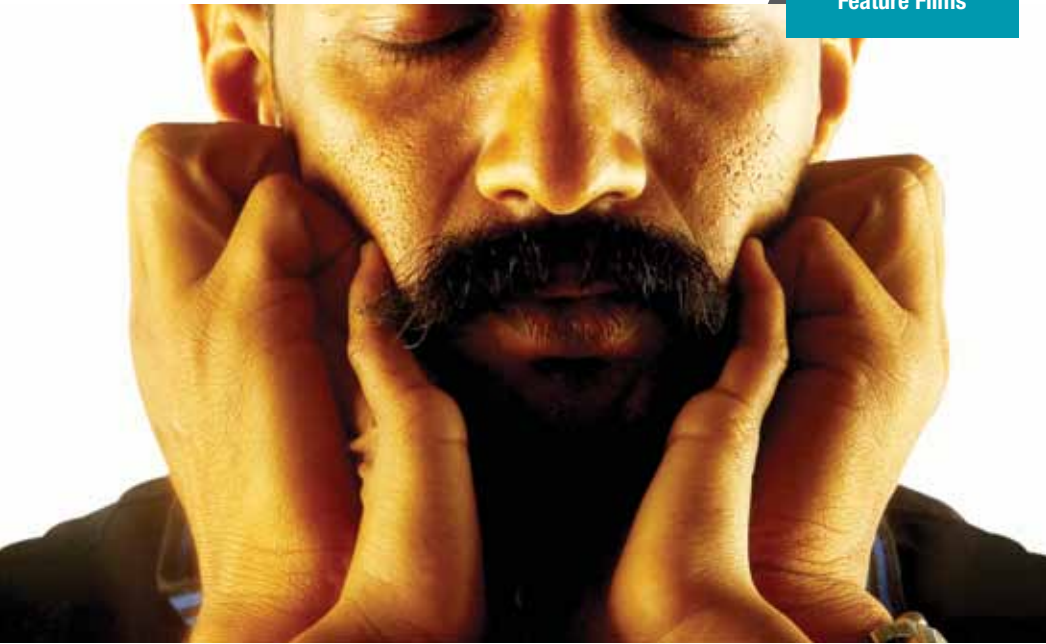
Country India

Cast Dulal Sarkar, Deblina Roy

Award **Silver Lotus**, Best Film on Other Social Issues, National Film Awards, India 2015



Feature Films



HARIDAS

Encounter specialist Sivadas is about to catch dreaded gangster Aadhi. However, his life takes a sudden turn when he has to bring his autistic son Haridas to the city. Unable to understand him, Siva admits Hari in a normal school where a teacher bonds with him. But will the father be able to do the same and will Aadhi let him be?

Director G. N. R. Kumaravelan

Duration 145 minutes

Country India

Cast Kishore, Sneha, Prithviraj Das, Soori, Pradeep Rawat

Awards **Nominee**, Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Filmfare Awards South, 2014 | **Nominee**, Best Child Actor, South Indian International Movie Awards, 2014

Docu Feature



ISHAREE

It is not easy to be unable to hear in a world where speech is given so much importance. However, six intrepid deaf signers (including one deaf-blind man), in the heart of bustling Mumbai, using ingenuity and drive, do not let their disability come in the way of their communication with those around.

Director Annelies Kusters

Duration 80 Minutes

Country India / Germany





Docu Feature



INDELIBLE

What is it like for those with Down's syndrome and their families to live in this world? How do they deal with the challenges presented to them? Navigating the by-lanes of Chennai with seven families bound by an extra chromosome, *Indelible* delves into the indestructible human spirit to shatter many stereotypes.

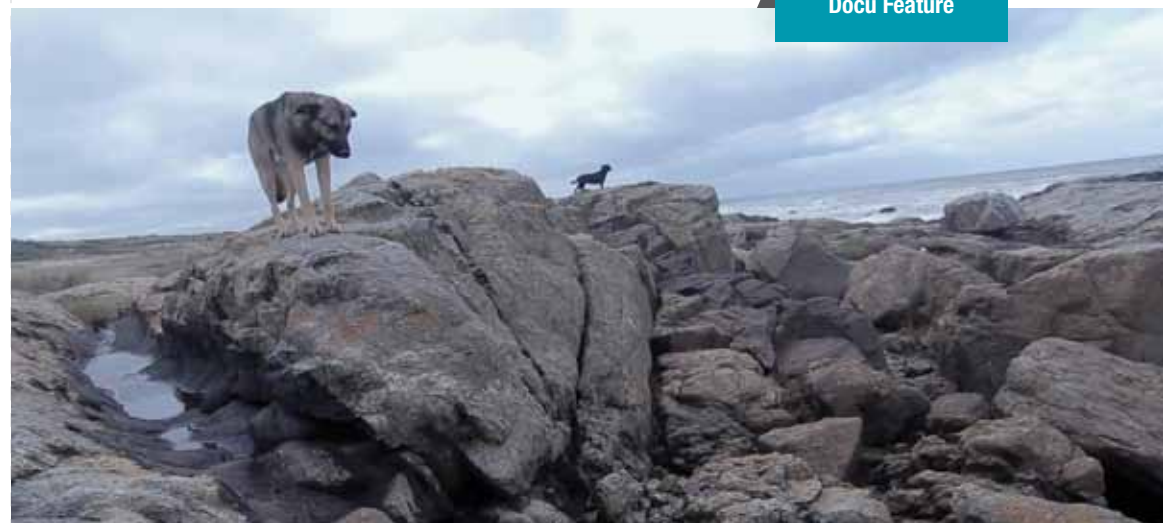
Awards Honorable Mention, Picture This Film Festival, Calgary, Canada | **People's Choice Award and Jury Award**, Delhi Shorts Film Festival

Director Pavitra Chalam

Duration 60 minutes 32secs

Country India

Docu Feature



LAS BESTIAS / THE BEASTS

Amalia is living secluded in her uncle's beach house to finish her thesis. One day she finds a man, Manuel, living in the forest. He is deaf. One stormy day, she takes Manuel in and discovers he is wounded. In town, a man is asking about Manuel. Who is Manuel and what is he hiding?

Directors Leo Basilico, Nicolás Longinotti and Pablo Rodríguez Pandolfi

Duration 107 minutes

Country Argentina

Cast Yanina Martino, Carlos Reynoso, Matías Corradino

Feature Films



SHIP OF THESEUS

A visually impaired, celebrated photographer undergoes a cornea transplant that restores her vision. However, she has trouble adjusting to the sense of sight and is unhappy with her photography. Along with two other stories of an ailing monk and a young stockbroker, the film explores identity, justice, beauty and the meaning of life and death.

Director Anand Gandhi

Duration 140 minutes

Country India

Cast Aida Elkashef, Faraz Khan, Neeraj Kabi, Shukla Vinay, Sohum Shah

Awards Best Film & Best Supporting Actress, National Film Awards, India, 2014 | Best Artistic Contribution Award, Tokyo International Film Festival, 2012 | Best Film & Most Promising New-Comer, Screen Weekly Awards, 2014 | SIGNIS Award - Special Mention, Hong Kong International Film Festival, 2013 | Best Actress, Dubai International Film Festival, 2012

Feature Films



THE SHATTERED MIND

Zhane keeps having nightmares about a doll and a hospital. Her over-protective mother, in their self-respecting Deaf family, knows something but refuses to tell. Zhane struggles with the impairment caused by the nightmares and her mother's attitude. Supported by hearing impaired actors of colour, the film is a must watch for its sensitivity.

Director Ann Marie "Jade" Bryan

Duration 85 minutes

Country USA

Cast Kyra Korchak, Jubil Khan, Antilla Zulkifl, Kevin Smith, D'bora Ware, Reb Grant

Awards 2015 Manhattan Film Festival, New York, Best Psychological Drama | 2015 Voiceless Film Festival, San Francisco, Audience Award



THE WINDOW

In the Russia of the nineties, two very different men, both with broken backs, share the same hospital room. The bed of one is near the only window in the room and he entertains the other with commentary of what is going on in the world outside which seem to have forgotten about them.

Director Nicolay Nicolaychuk

Duration 89 minutes

Country Russia

Cast Ivan Shmakov, Valentin Zverkov,
Irma Arendt, Inga Mati

YELLOW

What can a disabled child with multiple odds stacked against her do? Abandoned by her father because she has Down's syndrome, Gauri rises with the help of her mother and uncle to become an international swimming champion. Based on a true story, Yellow crackles with humour and compassion rare for cinema anywhere in the world.

Director Mahesh Limaye

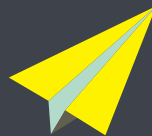
Duration 130 minutes

Country India

Cast Gauri Gadgil, Mrinal Kulkarni,
Upendra Limaye, Hrishikesh Joshi,
Manoj Joshi, Aishwarya Narkar

Awards Silver Lotus, National Film Awards 2014, India | **Special Jury Award – Special Mention**, Gauri Gadgil, National Film Awards 2014, India

DOCUMENTARY FILMS



Documentary



ACCSEX

Within stifling dichotomies of normal and abnormal, lie millions of women negotiating their identities. *Accsex* explores beauty, body, sexuality and disability, through stories of four women with disabilities. It traces the journey of Abha, Kanti, Natasha and Sonali as they reclaim the right to sexual expression and confidence.

Director Shweta Ghosh

Duration 54 minutes

Country India

Awards 2nd Prize, WeCare Film Festival 2014, New Delhi | **Special Mention**, 61st Indian National Film Awards, 2014 | **Honourable Mention**, IAWRT International Awards 2013, Casablanca, Morocco | **Special Mention**, 5th BOSIFEST – Belgrade International Disability Film Festival, Serbia, 2014

Documentary



CLOSER

The toughest times in any parent's life is to discover that their child may have some disability. Through conversations with parents of children affected with Developmental Disorders, *Closer* uncovers the difficulties and delays in diagnosis or mis-diagnosis of the disorders, the emotional hardships faced by the disabled child as well as the entire family.

Director Meghna Gulzar

Duration 37 minutes

Country India

Documentary



DEAF WOMEN TOLD ME

What was it like for deaf women in the past ? What did they learn and how did they learn ? Deaf filmmaker Marie-Andree Boivin travels to the past through the stories of the students of Montreal Institute for the Female Deaf & Dumb. What emerge are stories of resilience, love and a lot of fun.

Director Marie-Andree Boivin

Duration 56 minutes

Country Canada

Awards Honorable Mention, Toronto International Deaf Film and Arts Festival, 2015 | **Best Documentary**, Cinedeaf – Festival internationale del cinema sordo, Rome, Italy, 2015

Documentary



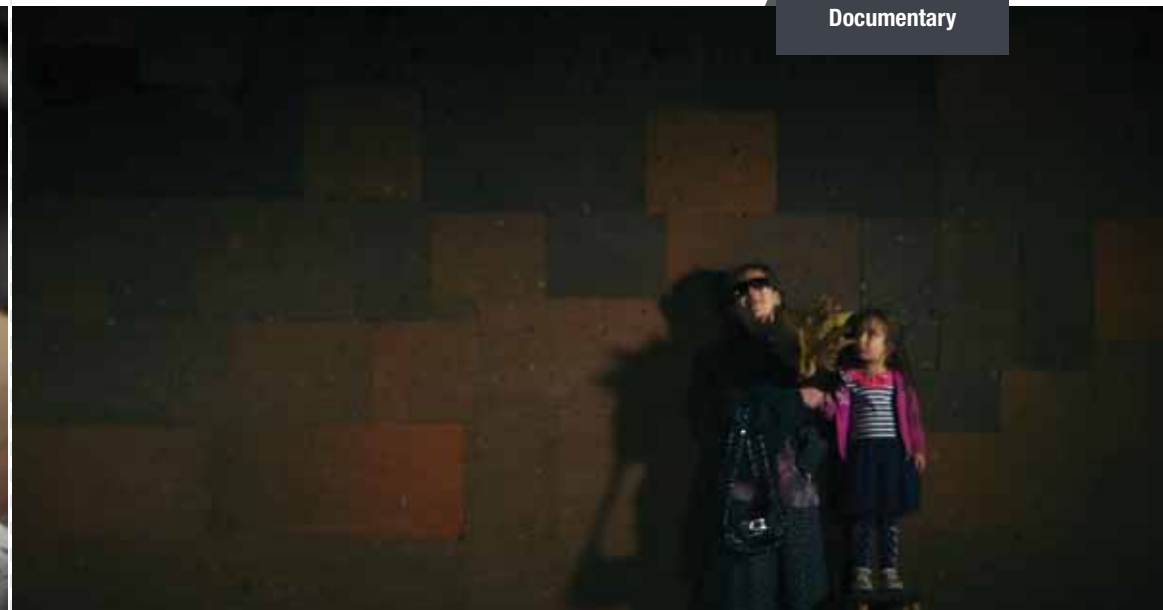
DRAW HARD

John G, a young man from Cleveland, loses sensation from neck down after an accident. In time he gets back some sensation in his back, front and hand. Refusing to cower down to disability, John G confronts it to emerge as one of the most talented comic book artists in the world.

Director Jon Nix
Duration 20 minutes
Country USA



Documentary



EYESIGHT WITHOUT EYES

Can a single blind woman, also be a parent? If she is, how good can she be? Naira, a blind working woman from Armenia, dispels all stereotypes about disability as she not only navigates her life and earnings in the city, but also raises her daughter like any mother would.

Director Hayk Ordyan
Duration 26mins
Country Armenia



Documentary



GAMHA YE YEK DAST / THE STEPS OF ONE HAND

When a young disabled boy with one hand decides to climb the highest tower in Tehran, he has bigger problems to contend with than his disability. The doctors monitoring him won't allow him this shot at glory and inspiration for all PWDs. But the boy is determined. Is it enough?

Director Kiomars
Samadi Tari

Duration 40min

Country Iran

Documentary



GOONGA PEHELWAN

Virendra Singh is deaf but trains and fights like any other wrestler. India's most successful deaf athlete on his quest to reach the Rio Olympics 2016 and become only, the second deaf wrestler in the history of Olympics to do so.

Directors Mit Jani, Prateek Gupta
and Vivek Chaudhary

Duration 45 minutes

Country India

Awards Best Debut (Non-Feature) 62nd National Film Award, 2014 | **Special Mention**, International Documentary and Short Film, Kerala, 2014



IT'S CRICKET, NO?

Far away from bright stadium lights and multi-million dollar franchises, a unique brand of Indian cricket is making history in its own way. Despite facing debilitating discrimination and apathy, these intrepid blind cricket players chase their dream. They play for the passion and love of the game and win laurels for the country.

Awards German Star of India Award, Bollywood and beyond Indian Film Festival, Stuttgart, Germany

Director Sudhir Aggarwal

Duration 30 minutes

Country India



REHEARSAL OF TOLERANCE

A blind orphan, who cannot read or write, becomes a poet, recording his creations in cassettes. On his trips to the jungle, he falls in love with a woman. As an adult, he regains his sight only to find his love missing. Disappointed, he wishes to be blind once again in this mystical film based on poet Esmaeel Ghorbani's life.

Director Ebrahim
Saeedinejad

Duration 41
minutes

Country Iran



Documentary



SOME IN SOME OUT

The world has come far with the idea of inclusion. Sadly, the thinking on the street has a lot to catch up. Juxtaposing people's negative perception about kids with disabilities and what they actually achieve in inclusive schools, the film intersperses animation to make a strong case for inclusion.

Director Olga Arlauskas

Duration 43 minutes

Country Spain

Documentary



THE NEW GIRL IN CLASS

After trying for years, Neeraja has managed to enrol her autistic daughter Roshni in a regular school. As the family navigates life around Roshni's disability, they realise that despite difficulties, it is not without its joys in this sensitive, intimate portrayal that explores the possibility of inclusion for children with autism.

Director Amrita Dasgupta

Duration 52 minutes

Country India



Documentary



THE SILENT CHAOS

Problems already confounding PWDs is compounded by superstitions in Africa. PWDs are considered to be haunted by spirits or as being evil spirits themselves. How does one survive in such an environment? Travelling through the depths of war torn Congo, it tells inspiring stories of oppression faced by the hearing impaired community and their resistance against it.

Director Antonio Spanò

Duration 45 minutes

Country Congo

Awards Public Choice Award, Sole Luna Festival 2015, Italy | **Best Documentary**, Encuentro Hispanoamericano de Cine y Video Documental Independiente, Contra el Silencio Todas las Voces – Mexico, 2014 | **Best Documentary**, Babel Film Festival 2014, Italy | **Best Documentary**, Overlook - CinemAvvenire Video Festival, 2014, Italy | **Unicef Prize**, Valdarno Cinema Fedic, 2013

Documentary



USELESS EATERS

Hitler's focus on racial supremacy is well known. What is hidden is what he did to achieve this, especially to children with disability. *Useless Eaters* tells the harrowing story of thousands of kids, not just Jew, but Germans as well and disabled adults who met a horrific fate at the hands of the Nazis.

Director Moritz Jakobi

Duration 33 minutes

Country Germany

Award Best documentary, The Online Film Festival, June 2015



SHORT FILMS

Short Film



A SLICE OF LIFE

When multiple sclerosis seems to get the better of Steffi, she decides to do the best she can. With the help of encouraging nurses, she begins to paint and becomes quite good at it. Steffi is proof that not even a progressive disease like multiple sclerosis can get the better of a spirited fighter.

Director Lisa Kielmansegg-Kaan

Duration 16 minutes

Country Austria

Short Film



AVI, LA PETITE BALLERINA

Can a child with disability, dream of doing something that requires intense work even from the most able bodied person – like being a ballerina? Avi, aided by a lot of other ballerinas and a special programme will surely give it a shot in this delightful little short film.

Director Susan Santha Kerns

Duration 11 minutes

Country USA

Cast Avi, Sara, Asher, Drew, Alyson Chavez, Dr. Maya Evans, Lori Flanigan, Rachel Germain

Short Film



CODA

For three decades, Jenny, who is deaf, struggles to have her hearing family accept her and her disability. She goes away to have a better life and has a hearing child, Annabel who grows up to be independent and headstrong and won't take her grandparents' insensitivity.

Director Melissa Mostyn

Duration 11 minutes

Country UK

Cast Talitha Wengraf-Townsend, Emily Howlett, Jenny Sealey, Paris Palmer, Sami Thorpe

Short Film



CROSSING THE DIVIDE

In the 1960s Belfast when the Protestants and Catholics were up at arms against each other, one community remained united despite the differences. This is the story of that community of deaf people and how their love and friendship evolved, despite their dissimilarities, over the decades.

Director Cathy Heffernan

Duration 17 minutes

Country UK

Cast John And Agnes Carberry,
Malachy Macburney, Ken Taylor

Short Film



DEAFNESS

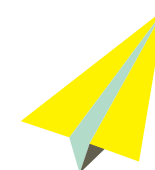
When a girl tells her parents that she wants to marry a man she loves who happens to be deaf, her father separates the two lovers. Two years later fate intervenes not only to unite the two lovers, but also make her father realise his mistake.

Directors Khachik Vasilian

Duration 14 Minutes

Country Ukraine

Cast Anna Yarovaya, Leonid
Gonchar, Yuri Surzhk



Short Film



Short Film



FEET IN THE SAND

A family sees a boy in a wheelchair who seems to have been left behind by his mother and father on the beach while they play in the water. They feel pity for this abandoned, disabled boy, till something happens to make them realise that sometimes what one sees, is not what is.

Director Mani

Duration 6 minutes

Country India

Cast C K Sunil, Nishitha C. Poduval, Omkar, Manoj K. U. Aparna, Devaranjan

Awards **Best Film**, Taj Memorial Short Film Festival 2015, Second Best Film, Nizhalattam Short Film, Festival Kerala, 2015 | **Audience Choice and Best Story**, Chansu Short Film Festival, Kerala, 2015

FINGERTIP

Alain refuses to accept the pessimistic diagnosis of his son, who has been in a vegetative state since his drowning. One night, he tells his wife and daughter that he intends to bring the child home to take care of him. But their reaction isn't the one he expected.

Director Basile Vuillemin

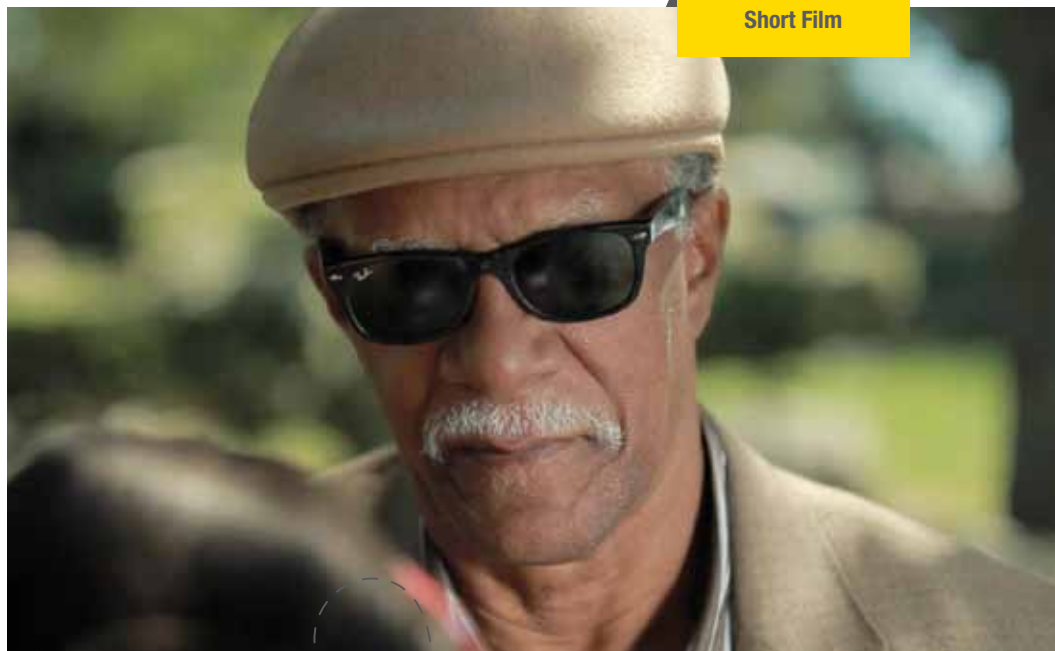
Duration 17 Minutes

Country France

Cast Fabrice Rodriguez, Anne Coesens, Pauline Brisy, Vadim Goldberg

Awards **Best Film Jury (Student)** - 4th Kolkata Shorts International Film Festival-2015, Kolkata, India | **Best Film Jury (Student)** - 3rd Indian Cine Film Festival-15, India | **Best Actress** - Court-city Festival 2015, France | **Best Director Jury (Student)**, 4th Delhi Shorts International Film Festival, 2015, India

Short Film



GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN

Frank is a blind Vietnam veteran who lives an independent life by sticking to schedules, dates and time. But Frank has also lost a sense of himself in his routine. His memories, feelings and emotions are triggered by an encounter with a little girl who takes him on a life changing journey.

Director Diego Robles

Duration 13 minutes

Country USA

Cast Obaka Adedunyo, Ella Jay Basco

Short Film



HELPLESS

Jin-Cheol's son, who had gone missing 20 years back, is suddenly discovered. On finding out that he is disabled, Jin-Cheol hides the discovery from his wife. Would he tell her eventually? How will she react? The film asks an important question: what will we do to take care of our disabled and elderly?

Director Seokwon Han

Duration 20 minutes

Country South Korea

Cast Seokbin Hong, Ami Jeong, Myeongja Lee, Deokhyo Jeong

Short Film



IF I DON'T LOSE, I WILL LOSE

Mabel Morgan is an award-winning Deaf actress whose agent demands that she lose weight or face losing her next acting role to her rival Bella Lazari who uses only basic sign language. Temptations threaten to throw her off course. Will she succeed?

Director Jean St Clair

Duration 15 minutes

Country UK

Cast Mabel Morgan, Caroline Parker, Mike Hugo, Brigid Lohrey

Short Film



PAN/BANG

A mute girl comes across a mysterious girl who gives her a gun. This results in an unfortunate incident in her house. This fictitious narrative has Fanny Sidney who is actually deaf and dumb as its lead actor.

Director Frederic Bayer Azem

Duration 9min 30secs

Country France

Cast Fanny Sidney, Marie Lork, Sarah Ramaully

Short Film



PREDATORS OF TRANSYLVANIA

A ferocious wolf is chasing two kids in a scary forest. They climb a tree to escape its sharp fangs. But the first rays of the sun reveal the truth to be something different than the seemingly obvious in this delightful animation film directed by Júlia Koleňáková who is deaf with music by Ondrej Rosik, who is blind.

Director Júlia Koleňáková

Duration 7 Minutes

Country Slovakia

Cast Marek Suchitra, Mária Bernáthová, Karol Trnka, Karol Trnka

Awards **Best Animation**, Noida International Film Festival 2015, India | **Disabled Filmmaker Award**, Superfest 2015, International Disability Film Festival, USA | **Best Animation**, Festival Clin d'Oeil 2015, France | **Best Director** – Animation, Kolkata International Wildlife & Environment Film Festival 2015, India



Short Film



SOME GIRLS ARE BIGGER THAN OTHERS

What can a woman with disability do in her life? Following its wheelchair bound protagonist Nadic, who plays basketball, works in a corporate office, sings in public functions, supervises her floor, cooks etc., the film shows that the life of a PWD can be as full as one wants it to be.

Director Anja Kavic

Duration 10 minutes

Country Bosnia and Herzegovina

Awards **Best Short Documentary**, Tuzla Film Festival | **Best Student Documentary**, Jahorina Film Festival | **Best Production**, Belgrade Documentary and short Film Festival |



Short Film



STRANGERS

It is 'normal' to take PWDs for granted. But what is its repercussion? When a sign reader comes home for the first time, parents who don't take their hearing impaired son seriously, are astonished to realise how little they know about him.

Director Brian Duffy

Duration 12 Minutes

Country UK

Cast William Grint, Ruth Redman, Steven Hunt, Kate Furby

Short Film



THE BIG DECISION

It's not easy for little Isobella's hearing impaired parents to decide whether they should go for a cochlear implant for their daughter. All three being hearing impaired means they do not really need 'hearing' in the family. But what about Isobella's future, asks this portrait of a beautiful childhood.

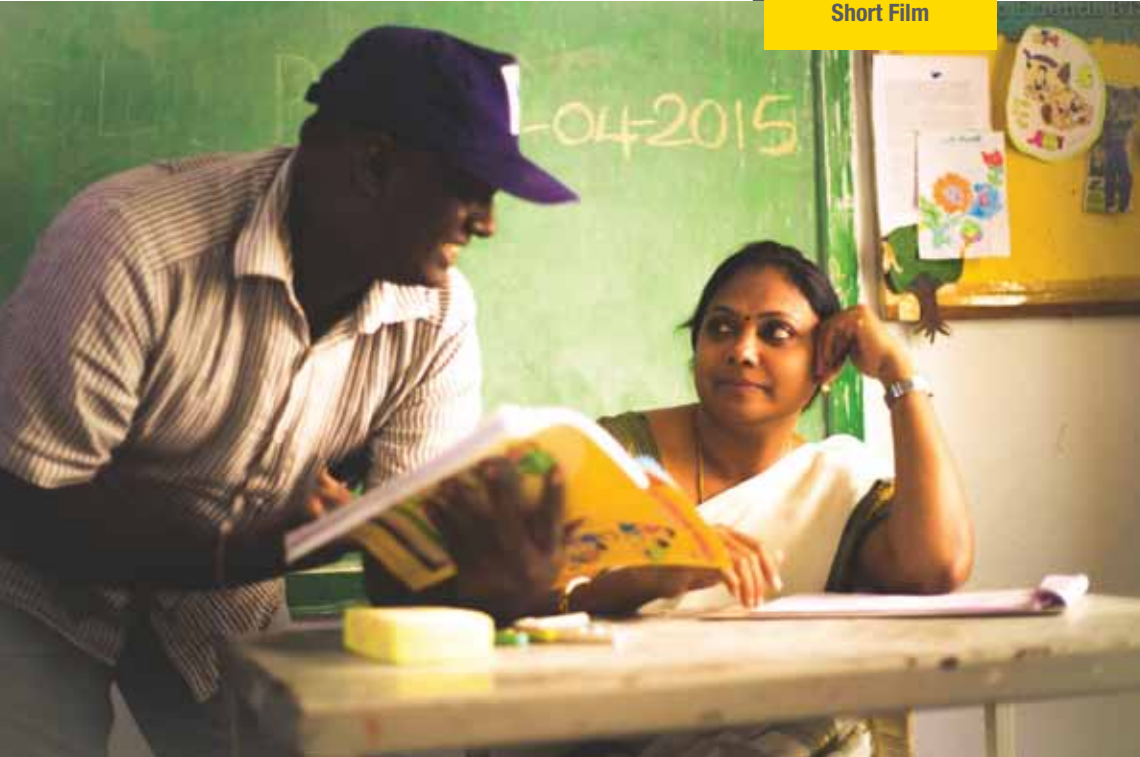
Director John Finn

Duration 17 minutes

Country UK

Cast John Finn, Victoria Finn, Isobella Finn, John Brownlie

Short Film



SPECIAL SCREENING

TWO FRIENDS

The new friend of a boy in school has polio and wears an inflexible caliper on his feet which does not allow him to play with them. The young boy devices a way to solve this problem.

Director Nunna Sravan Kumar

Duration 6 minutes

Country India

Cast Dhruv, William, Latha Devi

Special Screening



BAJRANGI BHAIJAAN

After a mute girl from a village in Pakistan gets lost on her trip to India, she chances upon Pavan, a devout follower of celibate god Hanuman, who despite his age has not achieved much. The cute girl tugs at his heart and he takes her in, only to realise from her habits that she is a Muslim and from Pakistan, traditionally considered an enemy country by Indians. Getting over his bias, he decides to cross the border and find her parents. Aided by a street-smart television journalist Chand, Pavan sheds many misconceptions he had of people in Pakistan. But finding the village of a girl who can neither speak nor read or write in a country hostile to his presence is a task fraught with life-threatening danger. Can Pavan achieve the impossible in a film that states that prejudices can often be as bad as disabilities?

Director Kabir Khan

Duration 163 minutes

Country India

Cast Salman Khan,
Harshaali Malhotra,
Nawazuddin Siddiqui,
Kareena Kapoor

Special Screening



MARGARITA, WITH A STRAW

Laila, aided by a strong mother, has never let cerebral palsy come in her way. But college brings with it the confusion of love's first awakenings. And it doesn't help that she cannot even hold her drink. Her mother's fear that Laila might get hurt causes a rift between the two. First in India then in the US, Laila finds it tough to navigate her wheelchair through the minefield of pleasure and pain, love and lust, rebellion and acceptance. Every blow seems fatal. Will she survive? Will she ever learn to toast her favourite drink back at life – Margarita, but with a straw? Inspired by the life of director Shonali Bose's cousin Malini Chib, this little film with a big heart has won awards across the world.

Director Shonali Bose
and Niles Maniar

Duration 100 minutes

Country India

Cast Kalki Koechlin,
Revathy, Sayani Gupta

Awards NETPAC Award, Toronto International Film Festival, 2014 | **Best Actress**, Kalki Koechlin, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, 2014 | **Audience Award**, Montclair Film Festival, 2015 | **Best Composer** – Mikey McCleary, Asian Film Awards, 2015

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