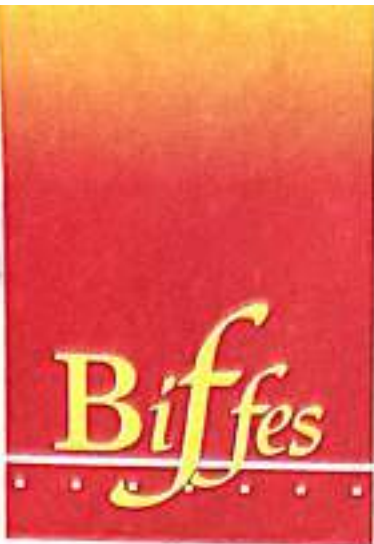
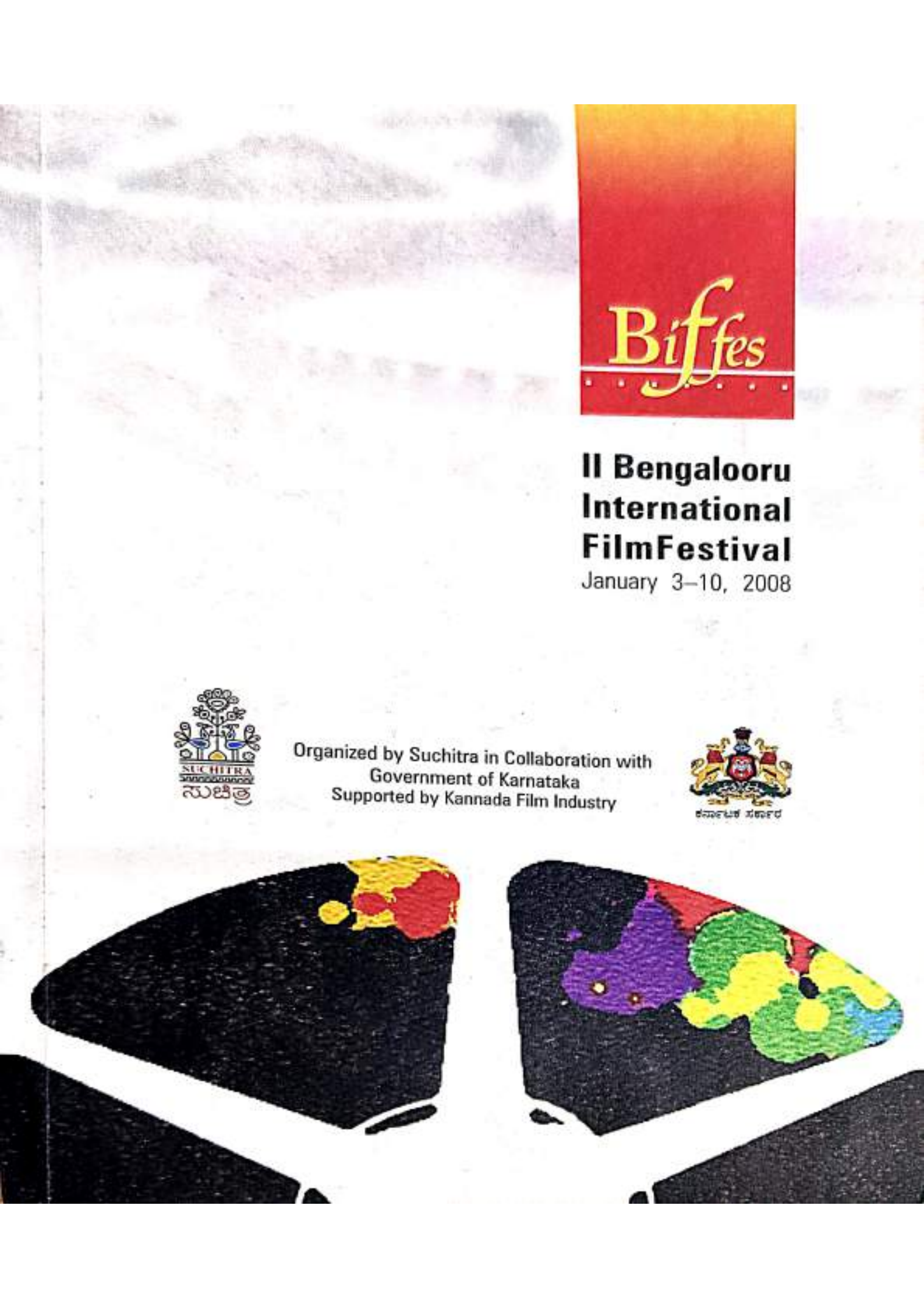




Biffes

**II Bengalooru
International
Film Festival**

January 3-10, 2008



Organized by Suchitra in Collaboration with
Government of Karnataka
Supported by Kannada Film Industry





2nd BENGALooru INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Bengalooru - Jan 3-10, 2008



Organized by Suchitra in Collaboration with
Government of Karnataka
Supported by Kannada Film Industry



Director of Festival	: Girish Kasaravalli
Programme Director and Editor`	: H.N. Narahari Rao
Co-ordinator	: Prasad Bhat
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A note from the Programme Director



The Second Bangalore International Film Festival is another step up the ladder. We believe that film festivals are not just assembly of films. Our Endeavour is to give it a flavor and a character of its own. We have reason to feel gratified that we are on the right path to achieve this distinction. This year we have grown both in quality and quantity. There is a wide spectrum of films covering among other things, the works of masters of cinema, Retrospectives, Country focus, Tributes, contemporary works, the cream of Indian cinema, a full fledged Documentary section, an exclusive Digital section and most importantly a good number of films from neighboring Asian countries where the film industry is still nascent. We feel it is a good presentation. Our sincere thanks to all Embassies, Consulates, Cultural Centres, Distribution sources, Filmmakers, well wishers and friends who have helped us in our efforts.

For us in Suchitra, cinema is a passion and a religion. This is a legacy that we have built. We love it, enjoy it and cherish it.

H.N.Narahari Rao



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Florian Henckel von
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Abu Sayeed
Robert Favreau
Bernard Émond
Gao Feng
Zhuang Yuxin

Zhang Yimou
Hrvoje Hribar
Olli Saarela
Raimo O Niemi
Hannu Tuomainen
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Bruno Dumont
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Sven Taddicken
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Saman Salour
Hassan Hedayat
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Stefano Odoardi
Silvana Maja
Paolo & Vittorio Taviani

Gianni Amelio
Koji Kawano
Makato Itakura
Ainagul Isakova
Bernard Chauly
Ahmed Boulane

Alex van Warmerdam
Jens Lien
Stefan Faldbakken
Hisham Zaman
Shoaib Mansoor
Hany Abu Assad

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Opening Film

On The Wings of Dreams

ON THE WINGS OF DREAMS

(Original Title: Swopnodanay)
(2007/ Bengali/ 35mm/ 88 mins)
Director: Golam Rabbany Biplob

Synopsis

Mid-thirties young man Fazlu. People call him "Kabiraj" (Rural Harbal Physician). Actually who is not a physician but only a canvasser (paddler). Fazlu and his 10 years old son Ratan sell ointments and allied harbal medicines in the village weekly markets by canvassing the virtues of the products. One evening Fazlu returns home with a second-hand (used and imported from foreign country) trouser with a number of pockets for his son Ratan. His wife finds some foreign currency notes in its pocket while she was washing the trouser. They think that these currency notes to be of great value and huge money, but they are ignorant of how to exchange them. They seek help from Fazlu's childhood friend Siraj. To encash the currency notes Fazlu and Siraj ride a ram shakle motor bike round one part to another part of the rugged Barendra Bhumi. Greed and high ambitions begin to allure them. Centering these currency notes three of them start to dream and imagine. One after another their dormant desires and deceptions begin to creep up and that changes the relationships among them.



Note on Director



Golam Rabbany Biplob was born in 1974. Basically known as cine-club activist and film festival organizer. He is the founder Director of International Film Festival Bangladesh. He is the Secretary General of International Federation of Film Societies, the global umbrella of cine-clubs. "On the Wings of Dreams" is his first film.

Main Cast

Mahmuduzzaman Babu - Fazlu Kabiraj
Rokeya Prachy - Kabiraj's Wife
Fazlur Rahman Babu - Shiraj Member

Production Credits

Writer: Anisul Huque
Producers : Faridur Reza Sagar,
Ebne Hasan Khan
Cinematography: Mahfooz Ur Rahman Khan
Editor: Junaid Halim

Awards

- Film Presented - 2006 International Film Festival of India
- Best Director Asian Film (won) -2007 Shanghai International Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2007 Rotterdam International Film Festival
- Film Presented - Toronto International Film Festival
- Best Foreign Film (Nom) - 2007 Oscars, USA

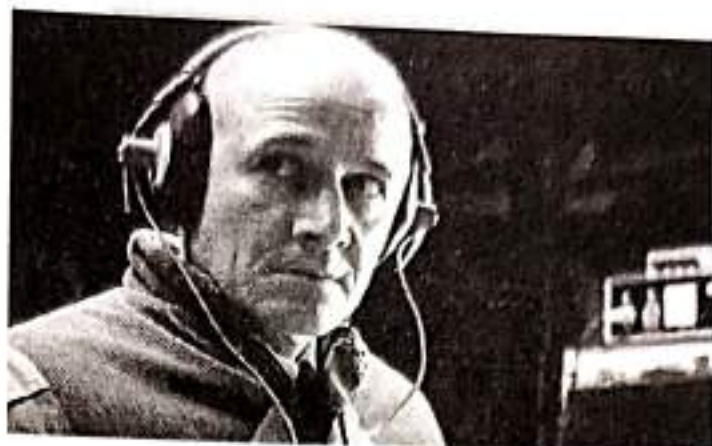
Closing Film

The Lives of Others

Germany

THE LIVES OF OTHERS

(Original Title: Das Leben der Anderen)
(2006/ Germany/ 35 mm/ Col/ 137 mins)
Director:
Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck



Synopsis

Captain Wiesler (Ulrich Mühe) is a wiretapping expert with the Stasi (East German Secret Police) in the mid-eighties, who becomes disillusioned with his career and life in general in the former socialist republic when his latest assignment, Georg Dreyman (Sebastian Koch), a playwright with views against the totalitarian state, starts to challenge his beliefs through his overheard conversations.

Note on Director

For Academy Award-winning filmmaker Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, the only way to make the film that would launch his career was to do so on his own terms. After living in both Germany and the United States during his childhood, von Donnersmarck went on to study philosophy at Oxford University and Russian in St. Petersburg. He even interned for Sir Richard Attenborough before going back to his native Germany to join the Directing Class of the Munich Film Academy. In 2001, he left the school to make a full-length feature called *The Lives of Others*. Set during the 1980s in East Germany, the movie tells the story of a secret-service agent who becomes strangely preoccupied with the couple he spies upon. Five years went by as von Donnersmarck dealt with the process of writing, directing, and producing the film, but in 2006, the movie was released and met with tremendous critical acclaim, winning an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. [Source: AMG]



Select Filmography *Dobermann* (1999/Short Film) - writer/director, producer, Editor.

Main Cast

Martina Gedeck - Christa-Maria Sieland

Ulrich Mühe - Capt. Gerd Wiesler
Sebastian Koch - Georg Dreyman
Ulrich Tukur - Lt.-Col. Anton Grubitz.

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Florian Henckel
Producers - Quirin Berg/ Max Wiedemann
Cinematographer - Hagen Bogdanski
Composers - Stéphane Moucha/ Gabriel Yared
Editor - Patricia Rommel

Awards/Festivals

- Best Foreign Film (win) - 2006 Academy Awards
- Film Presented - 2006 BFI London Film Festival
- Best Foreign Language Film (nom) - 2006 Golden Globe
- Best Foreign Film (win) - 2006 Independent Spirit Award
- Best Foreign Language Film (win) - 2006 L.A. Film Critics Assn
- Best Foreign Language Film (nom) - 2006 Satellite Awards
- Best Original Score (nom) - Gabriel Yared - 2006 Satellite Awards
- Film Presented - 2006 Telluride Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2006 Toronto International Film Festival
- Film Presented (German Cinema) - 2007 Berlin Intl Film Festival

*F*ilms of the World

Bangladesh

FOREVER FLOWS

(Original Title : Nirontor)
(2006/ Bengali/ 35mm/ 112 mins)
Director: Abu Sayeed

Synopsis

A lower-middle class family in Bangladesh's capital city of Dhaka is going through hard times. Their father has gone blind and can no longer work, and most of the family's money has been wasted on their unemployed son Hiru, who refuses to work. All the family's problems fall on the shoulder of their beautiful daughter Tithi, who works as a prostitute to help the family. The film is a fairly non-judgmental look at the lives of Tithi, her family and the people she comes in contact with through her job.



Note on the Director

Abu Sayeed started his career as a filmmaker through making of the short film 'Abortion' in 16 mm in 1987. After that his film making has never stopped though slow progress was made. By this time he has made 2 short films, 3 full-length features and apart from this he also made a large number of TV film-play. Abu Sayeed is one of the pioneers of the trend of independent film in the country, which was introduced in the 80s through making of short film in Bangladesh. All the films made by Abu Sayeed were exhibited in the different international film festival of the world. Abu Sayeed obtained a number of national awards on filmmaking.

Select Filmography Kittonkhola (2000), Shankhonad (2005)

Main Cast

Shabnoor
Ilias Kanchon
Litu Anam
Dolly Zahoor

Production Credits

Director/ Writer: Abu Sayeed
Producers - Faridur Reza Sagar/Ebne Hasan Khan
cinematography: Majibul Haq Bhuiyan

Awards

- Film Presented - 2006 International Film Festival of India
- Special Jury Award (won) - 2006 International Film Festival of India

A SUNDAY IN KIGALI

(Original Title: Un Dimanche à Kigali)
(2006/ French/ 35 mm/ Col/ 118 mins)
Director: Robert Favreau



Synopsis

Set against the backdrop of the 100-day Rwandan genocide, Robert Favreau's harrowing drama cuts back and forth between two time sequences. One unfolds as a flashback, prior to the genocide, when journalist Bernard Valcourt meets waitress Gentile at the Hôtel des Mille Collines and falls deeply in love with her. They strive to maintain the purity and sanctity of their love, but as political tensions escalate, the two find themselves pulled in increasingly opposite directions. The present sequence unfolds after the holocaust, when Bernard returns to the country alone, after he and Gentile have been separated by Rwandan bureaucracy. He comes back exclusively in search of his lover, but has few leads and the dimmest of hopes for locating her, as he combs through the ruins. The contrast between the two time periods depicted onscreen suggests the extent of the devastation that the genocide wrought.

Note on Director



Robert Favreau (born July 9, 1948 in Montreal) is a French Canadian film director and film Editor. He directed *A Sunday in Kigali* a film set in Rwanda in 2006.

Select Filmography *A Sunday in Kigali*, *Muses orphelines*, *Les* (2000), *"Ombre de l'épervier II, L"* (2000), *"Ombre de l'épervier, L"* (1998), *Nelligan* (1991), *Portion d'éternité* (1988), *Pris au piège* (1980), *Corridors* (1980), *Soleil a pas d'chance*, *Le* (1975).

Main Cast

Luc Picard - Bernard Valcourt
Fatou N'Diaye - Gentile

Production Credits

Screenwriters -
Gil Courtemanche/ Julio Medem

Awards/Festivals

- Best Actor (nom) - Luc Picard - 2006 Genie Awards
- Best Actress (nom) - Fatou N'Diaye - 2006 Genie Awards
- Best Adapted Screenplay (nom) - Robert Favreau - 2006 Genie Awards
- Best Adapted Screenplay (nom) - Gil Courtemanche - 2006 Genie Awards
- Best Director (nom) - Robert Favreau - 2006 Genie Awards
- Best Picture (nom) - 2006 Genie Awards
- Best Sound Editing (nom) - Marie-Claude Gagne - 2006 Genie Awards
- Best Sound (nom) - Marie-Claude Gagne - 2006 Genie Awards
- Best Sound (nom) - Claude La Haye - 2006 Genie Awards
- Best Sound (nom) - Hans-Peter Strobl - 2006 Genie Awards
- Best Sound (nom) - Bernard Gariépy Strobl - 2006 Genie Awards
- Film Presented - 2006 Toronto International Film Festival

SUMMIT CIRCLE

(Original Title: Contre toute espérance)
(2007/ French/ 35 mm/ Col/ 90 mins)
Director: Bernard Émond

Synopsis

Veteran actors Guylaine Tremblay and Guy Jodoin headline director Bernard Émond's grim tale about a struggling directory assistance operator who takes decisive action after falling into dire straits. Réjeane has just been downsized as a result of corporate restructuring, and this harsh blow couldn't have come at a worse time: her husband Gilles is currently on the mend from a massive stroke and the couple desperately needs money to pay his medical bills. When Réjeane learns that the president of the company that laid her off is earning \$16 million a year, the injustice off seeing so many of her co-workers rendered destitute by the downsizing lights a fuse within her that will not be extinguished. Later, while being questioned in a police interrogation room, the stoic seeker of justice proves unable to summon the words to justify her drastic actions.



Note on Director

Bernard Émond was born in Montreal. He studied anthropology and lived in the Canadian Arctic for a number of years, where he worked in the Inuit television industry. He has contributed to more than thirty films and videos as a director, screenwriter and editor. Émond is principally known as a documentary filmmaker whose films include *L'Instant et la patience* (94), *L'Épreuve de feu* (97) and *Le Temps et le lieu* (00). His first feature film, *La Femme qui boit* (01) (part of Canada's Top Ten 2001) was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival® as well as the Critics' Week at the Festival de Cannes, where *20h17, rue Darling* (03) also screened the same year.



Select Filmography *Contre toute espérance* (2007), *Neuvaine, La* (2005), *20h17 rue Darling* (2003), *Femme qui boit, La* (2001).

Main Cast

Guy Jodoin - Gilles
Gildor Roy - Claude
Serge Houde - Jean- Pierre Deniger

Production Credits

Producer - Bernadette Payeur
Screenwriter - Bernard Émond
Cinematographer - Jean-Claude Labrecque
Editor - Louise Côté
Music - Robert Marcel Lepage

BEAUTIFUL HOMELAND

(Original Title: Meili jiayuan)
(2004/Cantonese/DVD/92 mins)
Director: Gao Feng

Synopsis

In the charming prairie in western China, the Kazak family leads a traditional nomadic life, quiet and placid, though busy all day long. However, a crisis takes place in Old Man Kazak's life. His son decides to leave their prairie lifestyle for the far-away city... In order to press his son to stay, Kazak decides to give all his belongings to his son and expects his widowed eldest daughter-in-law to marry his youngest son. However, the heart of the young man can't be changed...



Main Cast

Alimjan Turusbek
Dalelkhan Baytu
Marjan Baytu

Production Credits

Screenwriter – Ma Weijun
Cinematographer - Murat M.

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented – 29th Moscow International Film Festival

China

TEETH OF LOVE

(Original Title: Ai Qing De Ya Chi)
(2006/Mandarin/DVD mm/ Col/
114 mins)
Director: Zhuang Yuxin

Synopsis

In her teenage years, Qian Yiehong (Yan Bingyan) rejected a boy out of political differences. He hit her back with a brick, and since then her back has hurt whenever it rains. Some time later, she falls in love with a married man, but he betrays her in the end, leaving her with the pain of abortion. Qian finally gets married to a man whom she does not love. But when she divorces him, he brutally extract his tooth to give as a souvenir to her...

Note on Director

"Teeth of Love" marks the debut of director Zhuang Yuxin, a noted television screenwriter and professor at the Beijing Film Academy. Although the subject of his first film may sound depressingly familiar, following a character's development against the backdrop of economic and social change in China, it actually turns out to be quite different, making few concessions to the conventions of the genre and constantly confounding expectations. The film has enjoyed some success at festivals, playing at the 2007 Deauville Asian Film Festival in France and winning the award for Best Feature at the 14th Beijing Student Film Festival.



Select Filmography Debut Feature *Teeth of Love*

Main Cast

Yan Bingyan
Li Hongtao
Li Naiwen
Chi Jia

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Zhuang Yuxin
Cinematographer - Li Jun
Editor - Cheng Xiao Zing

Awards

- Film Presented - 2007 - Montreal World Film Festival



RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES

(Original Title: Qian li zou dan ji)
(2005 / Mandarin-Japanese / DVD / Col / 107 mins)
Director: Zhang Yimou



Synopsis

Takada, a Japanese fisherman has been estranged from his son for many years, but when the son is diagnosed with terminal cancer his daughter-in-law, Rie, summons him to the hospital. When his son refuses to see him, Rie gives him videotape about the work his son was doing on a documentary film in a remote region of China's Yunnan province. Still troubled by the relationship, Takada decides to complete his son's work in part to develop an understanding of his son, and in part to do something for him. Once in China a series of obstacles and relationships bring him unexpectedly closer to both an understanding of himself and of his son. [Source: IMDb]

Note on Director



Zhang Yimou is one of the best-known directors of the Chinese Fifth Generation and one of the most influential and widely respected filmmakers working today. In 1978, at the age of 27, Zhang passed the entrance exam for the Beijing Film Academy but was rejected on account of his age. After an appeal to the Ministry of Culture, however, he was enrolled in the B.F.A.'s class of 1982. His classmates included Chen Kaige, Tian Zhuangzhuang, and Zhang Junzhao. Zhang served as both cinematographer and lead actor in Wu Tianming's *Old Well* (1987), which won him a best actor award at the Tokyo International Film Festival.

His debut feature *Red Sorghum* (1987), which won the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival and achieved critical and commercial success, both internationally and domestically.

Select Filmography *Zagreb in My Life* (1994)

Main Cast

Ken Takakura - Gou-ichi Takata
Kiichi Nakai - Ken-ichi Takata
Shinobu Terashima - Rie Takata
Li Jiamin - Li Jiamin

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Zhang Yimou
Producers - Bill Kong/Xiu Jian/ Zhang Weiping
Screenwriter - Zou Jinzhi
Original Score - Guo Wenjing
Cinematographer - Zhao Xiaoding

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented 2006 Rome International Film Festival
- Best Actor (win) Ken Takakura 2006 San Diego Film
- Critics Awards
- Best Foreign Language Film (win) 2006 San Diego
- Film Critics Awards

WHAT IS A MAN WITHOUT A MOUSTACHE?

(Original Title: Sto je muskarac bez brkova?)

(2006/Serbo-Croatian/35 mm/ Col/
109 mins)

Director: Hrvoje Hribar



Synopsis

A young widow, an aging immigrant who has returned home from Germany, and a priest from a bankrupt parish are struggling to come to terms with the post-war environment, complete with its prejudices, illusions, and unpleasant mentality. What follows is a powerful, poignant romantic comedy set in rough landscape, about a woman who falls in love with a local priest. He is not blind to her love, but is unable to choose between the church and her, until the circumstances force him to make his choice.

Note on Director



Hrvoje Hribar, born 1962 in Zagreb. Graduated from ADU in Zagreb.

Select Filmography Zagreb in My Life (1994)

Main Cast

Leon Lucev - Don Stipan / Ilica

Zrinka Cvitesic - Tatjana

Ivo Gregurevic - Marinko

Production Credits

Producers - Mirko Galic/Hrvoje Hribar

Original Score - Tamara Obrovac

Cinematographer - Silvio Jesenkovic

Editing - Ivana Fumic

Awards/Festivals

- Heart of Sarajevo (win) - Sarajevo Film Festival

AMBUSH

(Original title: Rukajärven tie)
(1999 / Finnish / 35 mm / 123 mins.)
Director: Olli Saarela

Synopsis

The movie is based on a book written by Antti Tuuri. In the opening days of World War II, a young, sensitive Finnish lieutenant Eero Perkola (Peter Franzén) is sent behind Russian lines on a reconnaissance mission. He leaves his beautiful fiancée Kaarina Vainikainen (Irina Björklund) behind. In the midst of his mission, he learns that the Russians have killed his intended. The news transforms the lieutenant into a vengeance-hunting, killing machine.



Man Cast
Irina Björklund
Peter Franzén
Kari Heiskanen
Taisto Reimaluoto

Awards/Festivals

- Seven Finnish Jussi Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director.

Production Credit
Producers :
Ilkka Matila
Jouni Mutanen
Marko Röhr

MYSTERY OF THE WOLF

(Original title: *Suden arvoitus*)

(2006 / 35 mm / 90 mins)

Director: Raimo O Niemi

Synopsis

12-year-old Salla loves nature and enjoys the wilderness where she feels at home. She lives with her adopted parents in a small village where her father works as a policeman. One day Salla's biological mother Laila returns to the village after a ten-year absence, upsetting the inhabitants and even scaring many of them.

The adventure starts when Salla rescues two wolf-cubs from poachers. Though an endangered species, wolves are a threat to the local livelihood, reindeer husbandry. The hiding and rescuing of the cubs from the poacher Venesmaa becomes a mission during which Salla has to trust her instincts, her best friend and even her long lost mother.



Note on Director



Raimo O. Niemi was born in 1948. He is best known for his films for children and young adults. After his studies at a film school in Moscow in the 70s, Niemi directed several Finnish TV series and short films in the 70s and 80s. His first feature was *The Killing of The Cat* (*Kissan Kuolema*, 1993). Niemi's biggest box-office success so far is the feature *Tommy And The Wildcat* (*Poika Ja Ilves*, 1998), which was presented at the GFF 1999. Niemi has received several international awards for his work.

Main Cast

Tiia Talvisara
Janne Saksela
Vuokko Hovatta
Peter Franzén

Production Credits

Script: Heikki Vuento
Cinematography: Kari Sohlberg
Production: Leila Lyytikäinen, Claes Olsson

Awards/ Festivals

- 49. Nordische Filmtage Lübeck, Germany, 31.10.–4.11.2007
Prize of the Children's Jury

ONE-WAY TICKET TO MOMBASA

Original title: Menolippu Mombasaan
(2002 / 35 mm / 88 mins)
Director: Hannu Tuomainen



Synopsis

Pete, a skilful 17-year old amateur guitarist in a school band, loses his consciousness in the middle of the band's gig. The diagnosis is tough: the doctor cannot say for sure whether Pete will live to see his 18th birthday. On the hospital ward Pete meets his new room mate Jusa, a master of black humour who grew up in a borstal. One night, encouraged by Jusa's 18th birthday vodka, the boys decide to take night leave. Jusa has a fixation, connected to a song with the same name, to see the hot beaches of Mombasa before he might die. Pete instead wants to go and confess his love to Kata - his dream girl from school. The guys bungle their way through Finland towards Kata's summer job in Lapland with two tickets to Mombasa in Jusa's pocket. Jusa with his Freedom!-attitude leads them from one trouble to another. In Jusa's company Pete tastes the kind of life that he never experienced in his safe middle-class home - and how much fun there is around.

Note on Director

Born 1960, has studied directing at the Department of Film and Television at the University of Art and Design in 1984-1991. Hannu Tuomainen has directed eight short films and also been the screenwriter for most of them. ONE-WAY TICKET TO MOMBASA, which received considerable acclaim at international film festivals, was Hannu's first feature film as a director and he also co-wrote the screenplay with Atro Lahtela. In addition to this, Hannu has worked for YLE, the Finnish Broadcasting Company, directing programmes in entertainment and for children and youth. Hannu is the scriptwriter for the 3D animation feature NIKO & THE WAY TO THE STARS together with Marteinn Thorisson, and he produces the film with Petteri Pasanen. Hannu has also been a regular lecturer and trainer at schools for film studies; his most recent post was at the University of Art and Design in 2002-2003, as the lecturer on production at the School of Motion Picture, Television and Production Design. Besides the many international awards, the Finnish Film Distributors' Association chose Hannu as Producer of the Year in 1999, and that same year he received a State Award for Children's Culture.



Select Filmography Matokuningas (1993), Nyt Vapaa

Main Cast

Antti Tarvainen
Joonas Saartamo
Johanna Rönklöf
Timo Päiväsalo

Awards/Festivals

- Laon International Film Festival for Young People 2003, France (Grand Prix)
- Festival International Reel To Real International Film Festival for Youth and Families 2003, Vancouver, Canada (Best Picture Award from the Youth Jury)
- Prize at Fabu Film Festival 2002, Sandnes, Norway (First Prize and Audience Prize)
- Children and Youth Film Festival JUST FILM 2003, (Part of the Black Nights Film Festival)
- Tallinn, Estonia (Main prize of the Youth Jury)

UPSWWING

(Original title: Nousukausi)
(2003 / Finnish / 35 mm / 98 mins.)
Director: Johanna Vuoksenmaa

Synopsis

A dissatisfied yuppie couple in the IT business, with no kids and a fancy house in a prestige neighbourhood, have a few weeks off before new career challenges. Envious about their friends' exotic holiday destinations, they meet a travel agent at a party, offering them the ultimate experience: a one month vacation under a false identity in Jakomäki, a suburban block of flats in Helsinki. Part of the deal is that their credit cards, house, passports, keys and custom automobile are all traded in for a run-down house and four envelopes each with a weekly cash allowance. Acting as an unemployed couple, their street credibility is often questioned by their new neighbours who are more at home with the ways of the concrete jungle. However, they discover after the first week that the second envelope is empty and that the travel agency where they purchase their vacation does not exist.



Note on director



Select Filmography Onni von Söpanen (2006), Tahdon asia (2005),
Kumman kaa (2003).

Main Cast

Petteri Summanen, Tiina Lymi
Kari-Pekka Toivonen, Juha Veijonen
Katja Kukkola, Vilma Juusonen
Antti Virmavirta, Ville Virtanen
Satu Paavola.

Production Credits

Writer: Mika Ripatti

Awards/Festivals

- Jussi 2004 (best film, best music, best script) and 8 nominations.

France

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

(Original Title: Changement D'Adresse)
(2006/French/DVD/ Col/85 mins)
Director: Emmanuel Mouret

Synopsis

David, a shy, awkward musician who has just moved to Paris, falls madly in love with his young student, Julia. He tries everything to win her heart. Her roommate, Anne, provides encouragement, advice and consolation.... Passionately!

Note on Director



As an adolescent cinephile, native of Marseille, Emmanuel Mouret went to Paris where he took courses in drama. The prestigious film school, where he graduated in 1998, allowed him to sign a handful of shorts and a medium-length.

Select Filmography A Kiss Please (2007), Venus and Fleur (2007), Let Lucie do! (2000).

Main Cast

Fanny Valette
Frederique Bel,
Dany Brilliant,
Emmanuel Mouret
Ariane Ascaride

Production Credits

Screenwriters – Emanuelle Mouret
Cinematographer – Laurent Desmet
Editing – Matrial Salomon
Composer – Franck Sforza

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented – 2007 IFFI Goa



MY LIFE IN THE AIR

(Original Title: Ma vie en l'air)
(2005/ French/35 mm/ Col/103 mins)
Director: Rémi Bezançon

Synopsis

Rémi Bezançon's romantic comedy *My Life in the Air* stars Vincent Elbaz as Yann, a young man whose mother died during a plane flight while giving birth to him. These events traumatized him to the point that he is unable to fly, even though the airline would allow him unlimited free access to any of the flights. Now he works as a flight simulator instructor, although he never actually leaves the ground, and he must sort out his feelings when an old girlfriend returns to confuse issues with his current gal pal.



Note on Director



After studies in science, Rémi Bezançon declined to be an engineer. He turned to cinema through writing. Graduated from L'Ecole du Louvre and ESRA (school of cinema). He started writing short films scenarios. Disappointed by some of their adaptations, he decided to go on directing a feature length film *Love Is in The Air*.

Select Filmography *Paraboles* (2003), *Vikings* (2001).

Main Cast

Didier Bezace
Marion Cotillard
Vincent Elbaz
Elsa Kikoine

Awards/Festivals

- César (nom) Most Promising Actor
- Gilles Lellouche - 2006 César
Awards, France

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Rémi Bezançon
Producers - Isabelle Grellat/Éric Oltmayer/Nicolas Oltmayer
Cinematographer - Marie-Laure Lasson
Composer - Sinclair

NOT HERE TO BE LOVED

(Original Title: Je ne suis pas là pour être aimé)
(2005/ French/35 mm/ Col/93 mins)
Director: Stéphane Brizé



Synopsis

Jean-Claude is 51 and weary. Since his divorce he has been leading a lonely, cheerless life. His job does not help him. Indeed, as a "huissier de justice" his everyday task consists in bringing despair into the homes of those who can't pay their rent, announcing eviction and/or property seizure. His depressing Sunday afternoons are invariably spent in the retirement home of his old father, a sour, never-satisfied pain in the neck. A glimmer of hope could come from the dance studio across his office. This is a place specializing in tango lessons. One day, Jean-Claude decides to enroll. There, he meets charming young Françoise and both click. The trouble is that Françoise is about to marry.

Note on Director

Stéphane Brizé is a director and screenwriter. In 1993, he wrote and directed *Bleu dommage*, a short-film that won the Grand Prix at the Cognac Festival. In 1996, he wrote and directed *L'œil qui traîne*, a short-film that won the Grand Prix at the festivals of Vendôme, Rennes, Mamers and Alès and which also won the award for best actor at the Saint-Denis festival. He also directed a video clip for the singer Peter Kröner. In 1998, he co-wrote *Le Premier pas* with Florence Vignon. *Hometown Blue* is his first feature, also co-written with Florence Vignon, who in addition plays the lead. The film, which was premièred at the Cannes Director's Fortnight, won the Michel d'Ornano Best Screenplay Award. In 2005, he directed *Not Here to Be Loved* with Patrick Chesnais, Anne Consigny and Georges Wilson.



Select Filmography *Entre adultes* (2006), *Le Bleu des villes* (1999)

Main Cast

Patrick Chesnais
Anne Consigny
Georges Wilson
Lionel Abelanski
Cyril Couton

Production Credits

Screenwriter – Stéphane Brizé
Producers – Milena Poylo/Gilles Sacuto
Cinematographer – Claude Garnier
Screenwriter – Juliette Sales

Awards/Festivals

■ Film Presented - 2006
BFI London Film Festival

EMMA'S BLISS

(Original Title: Emmas Glück)
(2006/German/35 mm / Col/ 101 mins)
Director: Sven Taddicken



Synopsis

First-time German writer-director Sven Taddicken authors and helms the unconventional romance Emmas Glück (AKA Emmas Bliss, 2006). The film opens with Max (Jordis Triebel), an ungifted car salesman who learns from his physician that he's dying of pancreatic cancer and only has a short time to live. On impulse, Max lifts a large sum of cash from his boss's holdings, and takes off for Mexican beaches. An auto accident, however, waylays him, and he has a chance encounter with Emma, a slightly hostile and thoroughly lonely pig breeder who opts to slaughter her hogs by holding them gently until all of the blood drains out. Emma instantly grows smitten with Max (and her excitement doubles when she learns of the money he pilfered. Max, in return, falls in love with Emma, and the romance drives the encroaching cancer completely out of his mind.

Note on Director



Sven Taddicken was born in 1974 in Hamburg. He has been studying Direction at the Baden-Wuerttemberg Film Academy since 1996 and has won numerous international awards including the National Short Film Prize at Dresden 1999, the Main Prize at the Finnish festival Lappeenraanta, and the First Prize at Short Cuts Cologne 1999. He was also nominated for the Honorary Foreign Student Award/Student OSCAR 2000 for his film "Schäefchen Zaehlen", which also opened the Max Ophuels Festival Saarbruecken that same year. In 2000, he was awarded the renowned Caligari stipend from the Baden-Wuerttemberg Film Academy. His other films include the shorts: "Whodunit?!" and "Fisch" (1997), as well as "El Cordobes" and "Ice Cream" (1998), and "Einfach so bleiben" (2002), and "Getting My Brother Laid" ("Mein Bruder der Vampir", 2001), his feature debut. [Source: German Films Service & Marketing GmbH]

Select Filmography Einfach so bleiben (2002), Mein Bruder, der Vampir (2001), Cordobés, El (1999), Schäefchen zählen (1999)

Main Cast

Jordis Triebel - Emma
Jürgen Vogel - Max
Hinnerk Schönemann - Henner
Martin Feifel - Hans

Production Credits

Producers - Hejo Emons/Stefan Schubert/
Ralph Schwingel
Cinematographer - Daniella Knapp
Story/Screenplay - Claudia Schriber
Screenplay - Ruth Toma
Editor - Andreas Wodraschke

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented 2006
San Sebastian Film Festival
- Film Presented (Forum) 2007
Berlin International Film Festival
- Film Presented (New
Directors) 2007 San Francisco Int'l
Film Festival

Germany

FOUR MINUTES

(Original Title: Vier Minuten)
(2006/ Germany/ 35 mm/ Col/ 112 mins)
Director: Chris Kraus



Synopsis

An embittered, eighty-year-old piano teacher working in a women's prison takes on the most challenging student in her enduring career in director Chris Kraus' low-key musical drama. For years Miss Krueger (Monika Bleibtreu) has been teaching classical piano to some of the most hardened female prisoners in all of Germany, but upon meeting brooding new inmate Jenny (Hannah Herzprung) Miss Krueger finally seems to have found the one student she can't break through to; until she hears Jenny play, that is. A former piano prodigy whose abusive childhood prompted her to neglect her natural gift for music in the name of survival, Hannah is a violent offender whose notorious temper has, as an adult, repeatedly landed her behind bars. Though Hannah does still display considerable talent on the ivory, her decidedly anti-social behavior compelled the troubled prisoner to repeatedly sabotage opportunities to take part in recitals that would, at the very least, provide a momentary respite from her grim, day-to-day existence. [Source: AMG]

Note on Director

Chris Kraus was born in 1963 in Goettingen. After employment as a journalist and illustrator he went on to study at the German Film & Television Academy (dffb) in Berlin. As an author, he has written numerous screenplays, e.g. for Rosa von Praunheim's *The Einstein of Sex* (*Der Einstein des Sex*), Detlev Buck's *A Bundle of Joy* (*Liebesluder*), and OSCAR-winner Pepe Danquart's *C(r)ook* (*Basta. Rotwein oder tot sein*). He also works as a novelist and teaches Dramaturgy at various film academies. *Shattered Glass* (*Scherbentanz*, 2002) marked his feature debut, winning ten national and international awards, including two *Bavarian Film Awards*, the *Hypo-Bank Young Director's Award*, the *German Camera Award* and a *Golden Camera Award* for lead actor Juergen Vogel. *Four Minutes* (*Vier Minuten*, 2006) is his second feature film.

[Source: german-films.de]

Select Filmography *Scherbentanz* (2002)

Main Cast

Monika Bleibtreu - Traude Krueger
Hannah Herzprung - Jenny
Sven Pippig - Mütze

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Chris Kraus
Producer - Alexandra Kordes
Producer/Exec Producer - Meike Kordes
Cinematographer - Judith Kaufmann
Editor - Uta Schmidt

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented 2006 Toronto International Film Festival
- Film Presented (German Cinema) 2007 Berlin Int'l Film Festival
- Film Presented (World Cinema) 2007 San Francisco LGBT Film Festival
- FIPRESCI Prize (Chris Kraus) - 2007 Sofia International Film Festival

Iran

A FEW KILOS OF DATES FOR A FUNERAL

(Original Title: Chand Kilo Khorma Baraye
Marassem-E Tadafin)
(2006/Persian/ 35 mm/ B & W/85 mins)
Director: Saman Salour



Synopsis

In deepest winter, two men survive isolated in a petrol station which has been by-passed by the highway and whose pump doesn't work, even if anyone should ever ask for gas. Their yearnings for sex are turned in different strange ways, though the romantic's passionate correspondence with his loved one is subverted by a perfidious postman. Their only occasional caller is the local undertaker.

Note on Director



Saman Salour was born in Boroujerd, Iran in 1976 and graduated in film direction from Suresh Cinema School. He started his career as a filmmaker by making films at the Iranian young cinema society. He has been the assistant director and programmer of three long features and made a number of shorts and documentaries.

Main Cast

Mohsen Tanabandeh
Nader Fallah
Mohsen Namjoo

Awards/Festivals

- Golden Montgolfiere (win) -
Nantes Film Festival

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Saman Salour
Editor - Ali-Reza Farsijani
Cinematographer - Turaj Aslani

TWILIGHT

(2007/ Persian/ 35 mm/ Col/ 80 mins)
Director: Qasem Jafari

Synopsis

Sara resolves to avenge the rape of her sisters and travels south of Iran in search of the rapist. She experiences various hardships which give a new meaning to her life.

Note on Director

Born in 1969 in Tehran, Qasem Jafari graduated from the center of filmmaking. He produced his First Film *The Kind Moon* in the year 1994 and after releasing his second film *Qasedak* (News Bringer) he centralized his activities on television. During the last few years he has directed serials for television. Since last year he has diverted his attention again into making feature films. His current project is the film *Beautiful Girls*.

Select Filmography Redline, The Kind Moon (1994)

Main Cast

Runak Younesi
Khatereh Hatimi
Ram Nuraei
Ahdiye Majidi

Production Credits

Screenwriter – Qasem Jafari
Cinematographer – Mahmood Kelari
Sound – Behrooz Abedani

TURTLES CAN FLY

(Original Title: Lakposhtha hârn parvaz mikonand)
(2004/Kurdish/DVD/ Col/98 mins)
Director: Bahman Ghobadi



Synopsis

The film is set in a Kurdish refugee camp on the Iraqi-Turkish border on the eve of the US invasion of Iraq.

Thirteen-year-old Kak Satellite (played by Soran Ebrahim) is known for his installation of dishes and antennae for local villages who are looking for news of Saddam Hussein. He is the dynamic but manipulative leader of the children, organizing the dangerous but necessary sweeping and clearing of the minefields. [Source: Wikipedia]

Note on Director



Bahman Ghobadi is a Kurdish Iranian film director. He was born on February 1, 1969 in Baneh, Iran. Ghobadi belongs to the so called "new wave" of Iranian cinema. He received a Bachelor of Arts in film directing from the Iranian Broadcasting College. After a brief career in industrial photography, Ghobadi began making short 8 mm films. His documentary *Life In Fog* won numerous awards. Bahman Ghobadi was assistant director on Abbas Kiarostami's *The Wind Will Carry Us*. His first feature film was *A Time for Drunken Horses* (2000), the first Kurdish film produced in Iran. His second feature was *Marooned in Iraq* (2002), which brought him the Gold Plaque from Chicago International Film Festival. His third feature, *Turtles Can Fly*, followed in 2004, winning the Glass Bear and Peace Film Award at Berlin International Film Festival and Golden Shell at San Sebastian International Film Festival. [Source: Wikipedia]

Select Filmography *Marooned in Iraq* (2002), *Blackboards* (2000), *A Time for Drunken Horses* (2000)

Main Cast

Soran Ebrahim
Hirsh Feyssal
Avaz Latif
Saddam Hossein Feysal
Abdol Rahman Karim

Production Credits

Screenwriter – Bahman Ghobadi
Producer – Bahman Ghobadi
Cinematographer – Shahryar Assadi
Composer (Music Score) – Hossein Alizadeh

Awards/Festivals

- Glass Bear, Best Feature Film and Peace Film Award, Berlin Film Festival, 2005.
- Golden Seashell, Best Film, San Sebastián Int'l Film Fest, 2004
- Special Jury Award, Chicago International Film Festival, 2004.
- International Jury and Audience Awards, São Paulo International Film Festival, 2004.
- La Pieza Award, Best Film, Mexico City Int'l Contemporary Film Festival, 2005.
- Audience Award, Rotterdam International Film Festival, 2005.
- Golden Prometheus, Best Film, Tbilisi Int'l Film Festival, 2005.
- Aurora Award, Tromsø International Film Festival, 2005.
- Golden Butterfly, Isfahan Int'l Fest of Films for Children, 2004.
- Gold Dolphin, Festróia - Tróia International Film Festival, 2005.

A WHITE BALLAD

(original Title: Una Ballata Bianca)
(2006/Italian/ 35 mm/ Col/ 78 mins)
Director: Stefano Odoardi

Synopsis

The presence of death brings a new life to an aging man and woman in this experimental drama from filmmaker Stefano Odoardi. Carmela Lanci and Nicola Lanci star as an elderly couple who are marking time in the small apartment they share. The wife has been diagnosed with a serious illness for which there is no cure, and the knowledge that she is soon to die has a subtle but profound impact on the couple; while they have little left to say to one another, their silences carry a tremendous resonance, and the simple act of getting through another day takes on a new significance.



Note on Director

Stefano Odoardi, Born on 17th March, 1967, is an Italian film-maker, who lives between Italy and Holland. He made different short films that have been selected in various international film festivals and broadcasted on tv. In 2002 he received in Amsterdam his Postgraduate Studies Diploma from DasArts (The Amsterdam School Advanced Research in Theatre and Dance Studies). In the spring of 2003 he shot the short film "The Earth in the Sky" (S8 negative) which received a special mention of the jury in the festival Unimovie 2004. (Pescara, Italy). [Source: Filmitalia.org, moskitofilm.nl]



Select filmography Into Our First World 1998, With Closed Eyes 1998, the land that is not 1999

Main Cast

Simona Senzacqua
Carmela Lanci
Nicola Lanci
Sergio Fiorentini

Production Credits

Director: Stefano Odoardi
Producers - Alessio Rigido, Stefano Odoardi
cinematography: Tarek
Editors - Tarek, Stefano Odoardi

Awards

- Film Presented - 2007
Brussels European Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2007
Jeonju International Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2007
São Paulo International Film Festival
- Best Film (Won) - 2007
Tiburón International Film Festival

OSSIDIANA

(Original Title: Ossidiana)
(2007/ Italian/ 35 mm/ Col/ 103 mins)
Director: Silvana Maja



Synopsis

Naples 1957 – 1969. Maria is a young Neapolitan painter, caught up in the wave of experimentation of the 1960s arts scene. She is a woman who lives her life enthusiastically embracing the ideals of love and exploration, which for her are also the most important guiding principles for an artist. She marries Emilio Notte, director of the Naples Academy of Fine Arts and a leading light in the arts avantgarde. They have already had a son, Riccardo. During these years Maria tries to reconcile the demands of being a mother, wife and artist, attempting to transform her life in order to raise it beyond the crude facts of existence. However, the withering grip of prejudice, the pressure to conform to what she considers to be unacceptable mores eventually takes its toll, inflicting psychological anguish. What for others is anxiety is for her the desire to pursue that tantalising Utopia of perfection, rigour and youth. During her brief time, Maria Palligiano strived to be that person who deep inside herself yearned to flourish. She committed suicide in 1969.

Note on Director

Silvana Maja was born and raised in Naples, where she also studied law and sociology of communication. She also trained as a writer and journalist. She had written her first novel by the age of 18 and began working as a photo reporter, initially documenting events from the class conflict, and in later years, the working conditions of women in Southern Italy, India and South East Asia. By the end of the 1980s, her photojournalism work had shifted its focus to mental illness in women. At the same time, she wrote constantly, concentrating on themes related to psychology and relationships. This line of research led her in the following decade to take a comparative approach to her work, cross-fertilised with input from painters, photographers and theatre artists, and marking the start of a course of aesthetic development that would change her perception of her life. In 1997, she moved to Rome where she now lives and works. The screenplay of *Ossidiana* has been adapted from her eponymous novel, published at the end of 1999.

Select Filmography *Nuovo cinema paradosso* (2005)

Main Cast

Sergio Castellitto - Vincenzo Buonavolanta
Tai Ling - Liu Hua
Angelo Costabile
Hui Sun Ha

Production Credits

Screenwriters – Silvana Maja/Rolando Stefanelli
Composers – Davide Massropaow/Leandro Sorrentino

Awards/ Festivals

■ Film Presented - 2007 IFFI Goa

THE LARK FARM

(Original Title:
La Messeria Delle Allodole)
(2007/ Italian/ 35 mm/ Col/
122 mins)
Director: Paolo & Vittorio Taviani



Synopsis

The Avakians are a rich Armenian family. Two family members are Aram, a landowner living in a small town in Turkey, and Assadour, a successful doctor from Venice. The brothers have not seen each other for a long time and decide to meet in Armenia. While Assadour prepares himself for his trip to his native land, Aram began preparing the old family seat. Meanwhile, the political situation has grown more acute as the times are volatile. Since coming to power in 1913, the government of Young Turks has made it their goal to create one vast Turkish Empire. In 1915, Italy and France enter into an alliance against Turkey and Austria. Assadour is hoping to be able to travel from Italy to his homeland when all hell breaks loose in Armenia. The Young Turks order the massacre of the Armenians. The two brothers never meet as they get caught in the genocide.

Note on Directors



Vittorio Taviani (born 20.9.1929) and his brother Paolo (born 8.11.1931) were both born in San Miniato, Italy. Vittorio studied law in Pisa and his brother, art. Developing an interest in film, in 1954, the brothers made their first short film, San Miniato Lugilo '44, about their own village. They made names for themselves abroad with the 1977 work, Padre Padrone.

Select Filmography Good Morning Babylon (1987), Kaos (1984), La Notte Di San Lorenzo (1982), Padre Padrone (1977).

Main Cast

Paz Vega - Nunik
Arsinée Khanjian - Armineh Avakian
Tchéky Karyo - Aram Avakian
Moritz Bleibtreu - Young Officer
Mohammad Bakri - Beggar

Production Credits

Screenwriters - Paolo & Vittorio Taviani
Producer - Grazia Volpi
Cinematographer - Giuseppe Lanci

Awards/ Festivals

- Film Presented - 2007 Montreal World Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2007 Berlin Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2007 IFFI Goa

THE MISSING STAR

(Original Title: La Stella Che Non C'è)
(2006/ Italian/ 35 mm/ Col/ 103 mins)
Director: Gianni Amelio

Synopsis

Vincenzo, the maintenance manager of a steel mill in Bagnoli, is charged with the responsibility of shutting down the plant and selling the molten metal to the Chinese. When things are just wrapping up, Vincenzo realises that the Chinese were sold a defective machine, which years earlier had caused the death of a worker. Having discovered a way to fix the machine, Vincenzo leaves for China where accompanied by an interpreter, Liu Hua, he will try to track down the plant and fix the machine. As Vincenzo's journey carries him deeper and deeper into the country, Amelio gently teases out the lessons of the tale's developing metaphorical dimension. It is a story that serves to illuminate the cultural difference between West and East. The movie is based on the novel *La Dismissione* by Ermanno Rea.

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Note on Director



Gianni Amelio was born in San Pietro Magisano, Italy. He has won many international awards, including the Grand Prix du Jury at the 1992 Cannes Film Festival for *Stolen Children*.

Select Filmography *The House Keys* (2004), *The Way We Laughed* (1998), *The Way We Laughed* (1998), *A Blow to the Heart* (1982).

Main Cast

Sergio Castellitto - Vincenzo Buonavolanta
Tai Ling - Liu Hua
Angelo Costabile
Hui Sun Ha

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Umberto Contarello
Producers - Marco Chimenz/ Giovanni Stabilini
Cinematographer - Luca Bigazzi

Awards/ Festivals

Film	Presented	-	2006
	BFI London Film Festival		
Film	Presented	-	2006
	Toronto Int'l Film Festival		
In	Competition	-	2006
	Venice Int'l Film Festival		
Film	Presented (Cinema of Our Time)		
	2007 Vancouver International Film Festival		

LOVE MY LIFE

(Original Title: Love My Life)
(2006/ Japanese/ DVD/ Col/ 96 mins)
Director: Kôji Kawano



Synopsis

Ichiko and Eri are two beautiful Japanese Uni students who are in a lesbian relationship. Ichiko comes out to her father who tells her he is also gay and her mother was a lesbian. Her best friend is gay too, though he has a female who is after him. Their liaison is very intense, but Eri suggests a temporary separation so she can concentrate on her law studies. The break from their affair is difficult for Ichiko to deal with.

Note on Director



Born in Fukuoka in 1972. After graduating Visual Arts School, he worked at a film production company where he was involved in the films of Toshiaki TOYODA, Naoto TAKENAKA and Edward YANG. He made a feature directorial debut in 2006 with Love My Life.

Main Cast

Rei Yoshii - Ichiko
Asami Imajuku - Eri
Naomi Akimoto - San Senba
Miyoko Asada - Professor Saeko

Production Credits

Writer - Anisul Huque
Cinematography - Jun Fukumoto
Editor - Hiroaki Morishita

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - 2006 International Film Festival of India
- Best Director Asian Film (won) - 2007 Shanghai International Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2007 Rotterdam International Film Festival
- Film Presented - Toronto International Film Festival
- Best Foreign Film (Nom) - 2007 Oscars, USA

NOTEBOOK OF LIFE

(Original Title : Machiaishitsu)
(2006 / Japanese / DVD / Col / 107 Mins)
Director: Makoto Itakura

Synopsis

At a remote train station in the snowy north of Japan, a random traveler leaves behind a mysterious notebook. Other travelers to the station begin to read the notebook and write back their replies, while also adding their thoughts and troubles. Soon, people begin to come to the station just to see and read this "Notebook of Life," taking faith in its message that "One day for sure, something good will happen." Inspired by a true story.

Note on Director

Born in Tokyo in 1960, Itakura has been a prolific and acclaimed screenwriter specializing in action films. Recently he has directed his first film 'Notebook of Life'. It was included in spectrum asia section of the 2007 Asian Film Festival.



Main Cast

Surniko Fuji - Kazuyo
Shinobu Terajima - Kazuyo (Age 30)
Dankan - Shiro
Aki Takejo - Sumie

Production Credits

Producer - Shigehisa Katsumata /
Screenwriter - Makoto Itakura
Kazuhiro Takada / Mirei Yoshino
Cinematography - Osame Maruike (J.S.C.)

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - 2007 Asian Film Festival

Krygyzstan

LOVE AS A TEST

(2006/Russian/DVD/Col/100 mins)
Director: Ainagul Isakova

Synopsis

Everything seems fine in the life of Adyl, a student of informatics in Bishkek; a promising future in front of him, a bride who he is to marry soon... But there are some secret things from Adyl's past that are bouncing back and putting him and the ones who love him on the biggest test of their life. "Love as a test" is the TV novel about true love that conquers all the borders and helps to believe in future despite vicissitudes of faith.



Note on Director

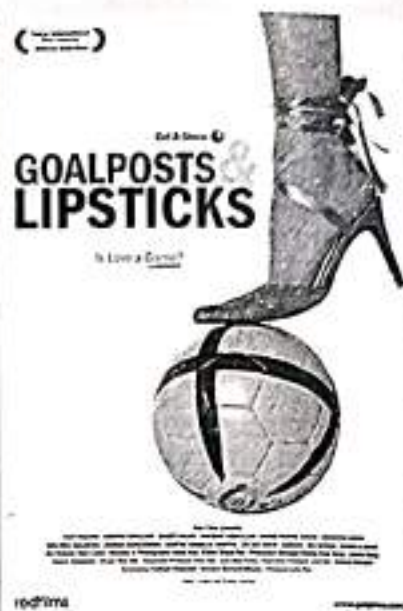
Ainagul Isakova, the Head of the Unit for coordination and monitoring in the HIV/AIDS area under the Prime Minister's Office (RUS).

GOAL POSTS AND LIPSTICKS

(Original Title: Gol & Gincu)
(2005/Malay/35 mm/Col/100 mins)
Director: Bernard Chauly

Synopsis

Bernard Chauly's feel-good sports comedy *Goalposts & Lipstick* tells the tale of a young woman at the receiving end of a painful break-up as the movie opens. In order to win back the object of her affection she forms a futsal, or indoor soccer, team. Each of the women she selects for the team needs to overcome personal issues, and end up thriving with the help of each other.



Note on Director

Bernard Chauly was born in Taiping, Malaysia in 1973 of Punjabi-Chinese parentage. He obtained an MA with distinction from Goldsmiths College, London specializing in directing and writing for screen, pursued on a prestigious British High Commissioner's Chevening Scholarship. His formative film education was at Universiti Sains Malaysia where he topped his class majoring in Film & TV, minoring in Anthropology-Sociology. He is a recipient of 6 Malaysian Video Awards including Best Short Film *Adam & Steve*, Best Documentary *Wayang Kulit: Feast of the Shadow Spirits*, and Best Experimental Video *Saying Goodbye*. These have been screened at festivals around Malaysia, London, Edinburgh, Berlin, Bangkok, Jakarta and Singapore. In 2005, *GOL & GINCU*, produced by Red Films, was his debut mainstream feature film. It opened to rave reviews in Malaysia, Brunei & Singapore. It has since been selected for screening at the Tokyo International Film Festival (Asian Competition), Bangkok International Film Festival (ASEAN Competition) and Cinemasia Amsterdam.

Select Filmography *Goodbye Boys* (2006)

Main Cast

Nur Fazura – Putri
Ashraf Sinclair – Eddy
Mohd Pierre Andre – Reza

Production Credits

Producer – Lina Tan
Writers– Rafidah Abdullah
Editor – Grace Tan

SATANIC ANGELS

(Original Title: Les Agnes de Satan)
(2007/ Arabic/French/ DVD/ Col/ 84 mins)
Director: Ahmed Boulane

Synopsis

Casablanca, 2003. 14 young hard-rockers are arrested and condemned for sentences from 3 months to 1 year. What are the accusations? Satanism and shaking the foundations of Islam. Based on actual events.

Note on Director

Ahmed Boulane director is a Moroccan, born on December 4, 1956 in Salé. Considered as "the enfant terrible of Moroccan cinema" for his pranks among journalists and the director of his colleagues, he is regarded as the director of Morocco's most gifted. After a spell at the Moroccan television and a stay in Italy, he returned to Morocco where he worked for 25 years in all posts in the film: actor, stage manager, casting director, assistant director in about fifty feature films for the most Major: Giuliano Montaldo, Carlo Di Palma, J. A. Pakula, Philippe De Broca, Jean Delanoe, John Landis, etc. Pakula, Philippe De Broca, Jean Delanoe, John Landis, and so on. His first short film, Voyage in the past, was a thunderclap in Morocco: he received the prestigious award from the Vatican and allowed him to realize his dream: a feature film. [Source: wikipedia]



Select Filmography Me, My Mother, and Betina (2003), Fetching Water and Go karts (2001), Plateau Ideal (1990).

Main Cast

Mansour Badri - Hakim
Younes Megri - Momo's Father
Driss Roukhe - Kader

Awards/Festivals

■ Film Presented - 2007 - IFFI, Goa

Production Credits

Producer - Ahmed Boulane/ Salim Fihri
Writer - Ahmed Boulane
Cinematography - Serge Hannecart
Editor - Arbi Ben Ali

WAITER

(Original Title: Ober)
(2006/ Dutch/ 35 mm/ Col/ 100 mins)
Director: Alex van Warmerdam



Synopsis

A put-upon, middle-aged waiter whose life seems to be dictated by the writings of his best friend begs the author of his colorless autobiography for a new hue in a film writer, star, and director Alex van Warmerdam's absurdist take on fate, creativity, and power. A virtual human punching bag for his demanding wife, formidable mistress, and boisterous neighbors, Edgar (van Warmerdam) waits tables at a decrepit dive restaurant known as The West. But work offers no escape from the draining demands of his everyday life, because Edgar's customers are just as unrepentantly abusive as his friends and family. Herman (Mark Reitman) is the author in charge of telling the tale of Edgar's miserable existence, but as persistently as the hapless waiter implores the relentless writer for a merciful break in the madness of his life, Herman's sadistic wife Suzie (Thekla Reuten) always seems to steer Edgar's life in the most disagreeable direction possible.

Note on Director

Alex van Warmerdam was born on August 14, 1952 in Haarlem. He is a Dutch screenwriter, film director, and actor. He is also a painter. He was cofounder of the theatre group Hauser Orkater (which later became the musictheatre group Hauser Orkater). In 1980 he founded the theatre group De Mexicaanse Hond (The Mexican Dog), together with his brother Marc van Warmerdam. This is the name under which all the shows since 1989 have been released. He made his first feature film in 1986: Abel. He plays parts in most of his own movies, mostly performing as a lead character. Alex van Warmerdam is married to Dutch actress Annet Malherbe, who also plays parts in most of his films. Their son Mees is a musician who has performed on various shows from theatre group De Mexicaanse Hond. [Source:Wikipedia]



Select Filmography Grimm (2003), Little Tony (1998), The Dress (1996), The Northerners (1992)

Main Cast

Alex Van Warmerdam
Jaap Spijkers
Ariane Schluter
Pierre Bokma
Mark Rietman

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented 2006
Toronto International Film Festival

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Alex Van Warmerdam
Producer - Marc van Warmerdam
Cinematographer - Tom Erisman
Composer (Music Score)- Vincent van Warmerdam

BOTHERSOME MAN

(Original title: Brysomme mannen)
(2006 / Norwegian / 35 mm / Col / 95 mins)
Director: Jens Lien

Synopsis

The Scandinavian model torn to pieces Jens Lien's surreal black comedy, which shakes up the all-too-perfect Scandinavian way of life, has been collecting awards at international festivals since its launch in the Cannes Critics' Week 2006



Note on director



Jens Lien (Born 1967, Oslo, Norway) studied directing at The London International Film School 1990 - 1992. Since then he has directed shorts, documentaries and commercials. He has participated twice at Cannes Film Festival with the shortfilms NATURAL GLASSES and SHUT THE DOOR, and he has won several prizes.

Select Filmography Naturlige briller (2001), Bok kokken (2004), Naturlige briller (2001)

Main Cast

Trond Fausa Aurvaag - Andreas
Petronella Barker - Anne Britt
Per Schaanning - Hugo
Birgitte Larsen - Ingeborg

Production Credits

Writer - Per Schreiner
Producers - Carina Brattvik/
Bent Hamer/ Jøllus Kemp
Cinematographer - John Christian
Rosenlund
Composers - Ginge Arvik
Editor - Vidar Flataukan

Awards

- Best Actor(won) - 2006 - Amanda Awards
- Best Direction(won) - 2006 - Amanda Awards
- Best Screenplay(won) - 2006 - Amanda Awards
- Best Film(nom) - 2007 - Amanda Awards
- Best Supportig Actor/Actress(nom) - 2007 Amanda Awards
- Acid Award(won) - 2006 - Cannes Film Festival
- Maverick Spirit Award(won) - 2007 Cinequest San Jose Film Festival
- International Fantasy Film Award(won) - 2007 Fantasporto
- Grand Prize(won) - 2007 - Gérardmer Film Festival
- International Critics Award(won) - 2007 Gérardmer Film Festival
- SCI FI Jury Award(won) - 2007 Gérardmer Film Festival

RESTLESS

(Original Title: Uro)
(2007/ Norwegian/ 35 mm/ Col/ 104 mins)
Director: Stefan Faldbakken



Synopsis

Turning his back on a delinquent past and joining the police force, HP is determined to start doing the right thing. Soon he finds himself trapped in a web of lies, stretching out from both sides of the law. HP soon realizes that his present mission is closely connected to his own past, and that everything he worked so hard to escape from, is coming back to haunt him.

Note on Director



Son of famous Norwegian writer Knut Faldbakken. He grew up on Ridabu, some kilometers away from Hamar. He's currently working in MotionBlur, an advertising agency started by director Harald Zwart, where he's making commercials.

Select Filmography Kosmonaut (2001), Anolit (2002)

Main Cast

Nicolai Cleve Broch - Hans Petter
Ane Dahl Torp - Mette
Ahmed Zeyan - Marco
Ingar Helge Gimle - Makker
Eivind Sander - Henning
Kim Sorensen - Anders

Production Credits

Director - Stefan Faldbakken
Writer - Hrald Rosenlow-Eeg
Producers - Knud Bjarne Larsen
Christian Fredrik Martin
Cinematographer - John Andreas Andersen
Editor - Vidar Flataukan

Awards/Festivals

- Best Actor(nom) - 2007 - Amanda Awards
- Best Actress(nom) - 2007 - Amanda Awards
- Best Direction(nom) - 2007 - Amanda Awards
- Best Film(nom) - 2007 - Amanda Awards
- Best Supporting Actor/Actress(nom) - 2007 Amanda Awards
- Film Presented - 2007 - Palm Springs Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2006 - Cannes International Film Festival

Norway

VINTERLAND

(2007/ Norwegian/ 35 mm/ Col/ 52 mins)
Director: Hisham Zaman

Synopsis

Kurdish refugee, Renas, is living in the very north of Norway. In a remote desolate house. In the middle of snowy nowhere. But soon his special princess, Femesk, will be joining him. Though the couple has never met, they have already fallen in love from looking at each other's photographs and talking on the phone. Their families have performed a wedding ceremony back home in Iraq, and Femesk is put on a plane. The first encounter at the airport does not live up to their expectations, however. Neither look very much like their flattering photos would indicate. Femesk is now a much bigger woman, and Renas isn't quite the handsome young man anymore.

Note on Director



Hisham Zaman (born 1975) is presently studying direction at the Norwegian Film School in Lillehammer. He has previously made the short film "Innbruddstyven" (The Burglar, 2001). Zaman has made several awardwinning shorts during and after his studies at Lillehammer, most notably Bawke (2005) which has received more than 20 national and international awards.

Select Filmography: The Bride(2003), Bawke (2005)

Main Cast

Raouf Saraj – Renas
Shler Rahnoma – Femesk
Kawa Gilli
Alibag Salimi

Production Credits

Writers: Kjell Ola Dahl/ Hisham Zaman
Producers - Sigurd Mikal Karoliussen/ Turid Øversveen
Cinematographer - Marius Gulbrandsen
Editor - Trygve Hagen

Awards/Festivals

- Best Actor(nom) – 2007
Amanda Awards
- Best Film (nom) - 2007
Amanda Awards
- Best Screenplay – 2007
Amanda Awards
- Film Presented - 2007
Sami International Film Festival



IN THE NAME OF GOD

(Original Title: Khuda Ke Liye)
(2007/Urdu/35 mm/Col/ 170 mins)
Director: Shoaib Mansoor



Synopsis

It is the story of Mansoor who goes to the United States for higher education. During his study years, the tragic events of 9/11 take place, and somehow the young man gets arrested by the American authorities. Mansoor's younger brother Sarmad is being motivated by his old extremist friend Sher Shah on the 'path of God' and to quit all musical activities in favour of the 'straight path'. Meanwhile, his uncle arrives from the UK with his only cousin Maryam who wanted to marry her non-Muslim boyfriend back in the UK against her father's wishes. He brings her to Pakistan where Sher Shah tricks them to their village in a tribal area near Afghanistan and leaves Maryam after forcibly getting her married to Sarmad. She tries to escape but Sher Shah and Sarmad follow her and brings her back to the village. Naseeruddin Shah plays the powerful cameo of a Muslim scholar who clarifies oft misunderstood and misinterpreted tenets of Islam during the course of a court case. The film is about the difficult situation in which the Pakistanis in particular and the Muslims in general are caught up since 9/11.

Note on Director

Shoaib Mansoor is rated by critics as one of the most influential figures on the Pakistan showbiz scene. He has produced and directed TV shows like Alpha Bravo Charlie, Sunehre Din and Gulls & Guys for PTV, the national channel. He has also successfully dabbled with song writing and has penned the stories and screenplays for many of his drama productions that he also directed. Between 2001 and 2003, Shoaib directed the Supreme Ishq series of songs. He was the backbone of songs by Junaid Jamshed and produced most of the albums by the 1980s pop sensation Vital Signs. He wrote and composed a number of their hit numbers such as Dil Dil Pakistan and Aitebar. He has been awarded Presidential Pride of Performance and Sitara-e-Imtiaz award by the Government of Pakistan. This is his first feature film.

Select Filmography Alpha Bravo Charlie (TV) (1998), Sunehrey Din (TV) (1991)

Main Cast

Shaan – Mansoor
Fawad Afzal Khan – Sarmad
Iman Ali – Maryam
Naseeruddin Shah – Maulana Wali

Awards/ Festivals

■ Film Presented – 2007 IFFI Goa

Production Credits

Producer – Shoman Productions, Lahore
Screenwriters – Shoaib Mansoor
Cinematographers – Ali Mohammad/Neil Lisk, Ken Seng /David Lemay
Editors – Ali Javed/ Aamir Khan

PARADISE NOW

(2005/ Pharsi/ 35 mm/ Col/ 90 mins)

Director: Hany Abu-Assad

Synopsis

The story places two close friends, Palestinians Said and Khaled, recruited by an extremist group to perpetrate a terrorist attack in Tel-Aviv, blowing up themselves. However, things go wrong and both friends must separate in the border. One of them, maintaining in his purpose of carry the attack to the end, and the other will have his doubts about it



Note on Director



In 1998 he directed his first film, *Hot 14de kippetje* (*The Fourteenth Chick*), from a script by writer Amnon Grunberg. Later films are the short *Nazareth 2000* (2000) and *Rana's Wedding* (2002). His documentary film *Ford Transit* (situated in Israel/Palestine) was stopped from showing by Dutch television (VPRO) when it appeared to be a scripted film, including a Palestinian actor playing a brutal Israeli soldier. It caused much debate in the Netherlands. Abu-Assad is currently filming a movie entitled *L.A. Cairo* with DViant Films Inc.

Select Filmography *Nazareth 2000* (2000), *Ford Transit* (2002)

Main Cast

Lubna Azabal - Suha
Hamza Abu-Aiaash - Checkpoint Soldier
Kais Nashif - Said
Lotuf Neusser - Car Owner
Ali Suliman - Khaled

Production Credits

Director/ Screenwriter - Hany Abu-Assad
Producers - Bero Beyer/ Muhammed Buqai/
Amir Harel
Cinematographer - Antoine Héberlé
Composer - Jina Sumedi
Editor - Sander Vos

Awards/Festivals

- Best Foreign Film (nom) - 2006 Academy Awards
- Best Foreign Film (nom) - 2007
- Argentinean Film Critics
- Association Awards
- Best Foreign Language Film (Win) - 2006 Golden Globe
- Film Presented - 2006 - Netherlands Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2005 Emden International Film Festival
- Film Presented (German Cinema) - 2005 Berlin Intl Film Festival

BIG TIME

(Original Title: Big Time)

(2005/Filipino/ DVD/ Col/ 90 mins)

Director: Mario Cornejo

Synopsis

Danny (Winston Elizalde) and Jonas (Nor Domingo) are two petty crooks who dream of moving into the big scene. When their carefully planned kidnapping goes askew, Danny and Jonas find themselves in a tangle neither of them can handle. Big Time is the non-linear story of two small-time criminals, a wannabe actress, the son of a crime lord, and the kidnapping that brings all of them together for what should be the ticket to their dreams. In this crazy world, everybody wants to go big time.

Note on Director

Mario Cornejo is 29 years old. He grew up in Tambo, where Big Time takes place. He does not work in an office and has no plans to do so in the future. Mario is a voracious reader who sometimes resorts to reading math books and shampoo labels when there are no books left to read. Sometimes, he writes. Sometimes, he directs. But only two things give him joy: making movies and his cat, Cuba.

Select Filmography First Day High (2006)

Main Cast

Michael de Mesa

Nor Domingo

Winston Elizalde

Jamie Wilson

Joanne Miller

Production Credits

Screenwriter – Mario Cornejo

Producer/ Screenwriter – Coreen Jimenez

Cinematographer – Ike Avellana

Composer – Allan Feliciano



EXTRAS

(Original Title: Statysci)
(2006/Polish/35 mm/ Col/119 mins)
Director: Michal Kwiecinski



Synopsis

Chinese filmmakers decide to shoot a movie in Poland. They perceive Poles as a nation of sad people, so they want to lure them when they need Europeans with gloomy faces to work as extras. The surprising events on the set will lead to a revision of the stereotypes. People from two different nations will look at each other from a distance and as a result come closer.

Note on Director



Michal Kwiecinski (born in 1951), is a director and a film producer. He received his Ph.D in chemistry in 1981, before graduating from the National Theater School in Warsaw, where he majored in directing. He has directed several plays for TV and theater as well as operas onstage at the Warsaw Chamber Opera. He is an owner of Akson Studio, Tilsa and Arka Film companies, specializing in production for TV and theater. His companies have made about 150 productions, such as adaptations, plays, both studio and outdoor scenes. [Source: Polish Film Festival, LA]

Select Filmography Jutro idziemy do kina (2007) (TV), "Rodzina zastepcza plus" (2004) TV Series, Biala sukienka (2003) (TV)

Main Cast

Kinga Preis – Bozena
Bartosz Opania – Romek
Anna Romantowska – Ms. Maria
Krzysztof Kiersznowski – Gralewski

Production Credits

Screenplay – Jaroslaw Sokol
Producer – Michal Kwiecinski
Cinematographer – Arkadiusz Tomiak
Composer – Michal Lorenc
Art Director – Arkadiusz Kosmidor

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented (Won) 2006 Polish Film Festival

JASMINUM

(Original Title: Jasminium)
(2005/Polish/35 mm/ Col/ 115 mins)
Director: Jan Jakub Kolski



Synopsis

Jasminum (the title is the Latin word for jasmine) is set in a monastery in which some of the monks emit body scents that match their names. A young female art restorer with a small daughter arrives at the monastery to restore some sacred paintings. Natasza works during the day but at night she experiments with alchemy and creates fragrances inspired by the monks. Meanwhile, the enquiring mind of the woman's charming daughter wreaks havoc on the ordered routine of the monastery.

Note on Director

Film director, cinematographer, screenwriter and prose writer; born in the city of Wrocław in 1956. As a youth, Jan Jakub Kolski held a menial job at the state film studio in Wrocław and spent the years between 1977 and 1981 working as an assistant cameraman at the Wrocław regional branch of Polish State Television. In 1985 he graduated from the Cinematography Department of the State Higher School of Film, Television and Theatre in Łódź. He debuted as a director of feature films in 1990 with the intriguing *Pogrzeb Kartofla/ The Burial of the Potato*. Since then, Kolski has almost exclusively made full-length features and in the process has come to be considered one of Poland's most original filmmakers. His *Janicio Wodnik/Johnnie Aquarius* of 1993 proved a spectacular success. Kolski also occasionally makes documentaries.

Select Filmography *Pornografia* (2003), *Daleko od okna* (2000), *Historia kina w Popielawach* (1998), *Historia kina w Popielawach* (1998), *Pogrzeb kartofla* (1990)

Main Cast

Justyna Bartoszewicz - Student
Grazyna Blecka-Kolska - Natasza
Marta Dabrowska - Anielica
Patrycja Soliman - Jasminum

Production Credits

Producer - Michał Szczerbic
Cinematographer - Krzysztof Ptak
Composer - Zygmunt Konieczny
Production Designer - Joanna Doroszkiewicz

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - Polish Film Awards
- Best Production Design - Joanna Doroszkiewicz - Polish Film Festival

SAVIOUR'S SQUARE

(Original Title: Plac Zbawiciela)
(2006 /Polish/35 mm/ Col/106 mins)
Directors: Joanna Kos- krauze/
Krzysztof krauze



Synopsis

Krzysztof and Joanna Kos-Krauze's scathing family drama *Saviour's Square* unfolds within the confines of one embittered and deeply troubled Polish family. The patriarch, Bartek, just recently sold his flat and purchased a house that brought on a tremendous amount of debt; in a desperate attempt to escape from this plight, he and his family accept his mother's seemingly generous offer to move back in with her - little aware that she is, in fact, manipulatively taking advantage of their situation and conning them. Life within her house grows predictably worse, as Bartek's wife, Beata, loses all sense of dignity from her mother-in-law's presence, and both she and the mother experience an icy distancing from Bartek. In time, Beata (who reaches her wit's end) undertakes a drastic action that brings temporary relief, but threatens to destroy the family in the process and evokes serious legal ramifications. [-Nathan Southern, All Movie Guide]

Note on Director



Krzysztof Krauze, film director and scriptwriter, was born in Warsaw in 1953. Krauze graduated from the faculty of cinematography of the Lodz film school. Krauze is a winner of numerous awards, including the Passport of the weekly *Polityka* in 2002, Polish Eagle Film Award for best directing and screenplay, Warsaw Mermaid Critics Club Award and Golden Tape Polish Filmmakers' Association Award in 2002. His films won prizes at film festivals, including the Grand Prix at the Gdynia POLISH FILM FESTIVAL for *Debt*.

Select Filmography *Mój Nikifor* (2004), *Dług* (1999), *Gry uliczne* (1996)

Main Cast

Jowita Budnik - Beata
Arkadiusz Janiczek - Bartek
Ewa Wencel - Teresa
Dawid Gudejko - Dawid
Natan Gudejko - Adrian

Production Credits

Screenwriters - J Kos/ K krauze/ J Budnik/
Arkadiusz Janiczek/ Ewa Wencel
Producer - Juliusz Machulski
Producer/Exec Producer - Meike Kordes
Cinematographer - Judith Kaufmann
Composer - Pawel Szymanski
Editor - Krzysztof Szpetmanski

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented (Official Selection - Competition) 2007 Karlovy Vary Int'l Film Festival
- Best Film - 2007 Polish Film Awards

Poland

SEVERAL PEOPLE, LITTLE TIME

(Original Title: Pare Osob, Maly Czab)
(2005/Polish/35 mm/ Col/104 mins)
Director: Andrzej Baranski



Synopsis

Andrzej Baranski's small-scale film dramatizes the relationship between a blind woman and a poet. Set in Poland in the early eighties, the movie stars Krystyna Janda as Jadwiga, a middle-age blind woman who is independent enough to care for her ailing father, and provide emotional support to Miron (Andrzej Hudziak), a respected poet. While both are physically flawed, they help each other, Miron by describing the world to Jadwiga, Jadwiga by helping the poet deal with his many insecurities. The delicate balance of their friendship teeters when Jadwiga decides to try her own hand at creating poetry. [Source: AMG]

Note on Director

Best known for the many short films he made in collaboration with the Educational Film Studio in Lodz in the '70s and '80s, Polish director and screenwriter Andrzej Baranski is noted for his creativity. Prior to entering the film industry, Baranski had studied to become a sanitary engineer at the Silesian Polytechnic Institute in Gliwice in the late '50s, but he dropped out and joined the Steppe student theater group to work as a set designer. Between 1969 and 1973, Baranski studied film direction at Lodz Film School. After graduating, Baranski assisted director Kazimierz Kutz on *Linia/The Line* (1974) and then spent time working in television before making his solo feature-film debut in 1979 with *Wolne Chwile/Leisure Time*. In 1984, Baranski won the Polish Critic's Award for Outstanding Film with *Niech Cie Odleci Mara/Let the Nightmare Fly*. He won the same award again the following year for *Kobieta z Prowincji/Woman From the Provinces* (1985). [Source: AMG]



Select Filmography *Niech gra muzyka* (2001), *Horror w Wesolych Bagniskach* (1996), *Dzien wielkiej ryby* (1996), *Dwa ksiezyce* (1993)

Main Cast

Krystyna Janda - Jadwiga
Andrzej Hudziak - Miron
Igor Przegrodzki
Monica Obara
Alek Detmer

Production Credits

Producer - Andrzej Serdiukow
Exec Producer - Pawel Rakowski
Cinematographer - Dariusz Kuc
Composer - Marta Broczkowska
Art Director - Arkadiusz Kosmidor
Editor - Wanda Zeman

Awards/Festivals

- Best Actor (win) - Andrzej Hudziak - 2006 - Karlovy Vary International Film Festival

BALKAN BROTHERS

(2005/Albanian-French/35 mm/87 mins)
Director: Božidar Nikolić

Synopsis

The story about refugee from war torn ex-Yugoslavia. In search for bare existence they find themselves in the drug smuggling ring of the Paris underground. Mixed nations and diverse religious beliefs trigger comic situations, misunderstandings and conflicts, so typical for the Balkans.



Note on Director



Božidar Bota Nikolić is well known in the former Yugoslav cinema as the winner of several Golden Arena awards at the Pula Film Festival, among others as a co-director with Dušan Kovačević of *The Balkan Spy* (*Balkanska Braća*). He was also the Director of photography for films: *Who's Singing Over There*, *The Marathon Family*, and *Life is Beautiful*. In the United States, directed *The Dark Side of the Sun*, with Brad Pitt in the leading role.

Select Filmography *The Dark Side of the Sun* (1997), *Profesionalac* (2003), *Decko koji obećava* (1981)

Main Cast

Isidora Minic - Snajka
Svetozar Cvetkovic - Gazda
Goran Susljik - Vule
Petar Bozovic - Mitar

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Božidar Nikolić
Producers - Maksa Catovic, Miroslav Mitic
Cinematographer - Božidar 'Bota' Nikolic
Composers - Zoran Simjanovic
Editor - Petar Putniković

Awards/Festivals

Film Presented - 2005 Mumbai
International Film Festival

FLIRT

(Original Title: Flert)
(2005/Serbo-croatian/35 mm/86 mins)
Directors: Vladimir Popovic, Radoslav Vojnovic, Mladen Sevic, Nikola Mistic



Synopsis

The Supreme Court of The World o the perpetual darkness in session. Strahinja Mitic is confronting the investigator Kosta. Strahinja will have to answer some questions about one night in Belgrade. That night was not like any ther night. It was the night when unrestrained Strahinja and his strict supervisor Lola came down directly from The Dark World of the perpetual darkness with an assignment to visit four young men. Three similar stories from The Supreme Court are following.... before the night comes to an end; before Belgrade wakes up, some people will realize that it's not so bad live after all, while other will discover that it is very nice to be dead.

Note on Directors



Vladimir Popovic, Radoslav Vojnovic, Mladen Sevic and Nikola Mistic, are a team of four graduates of the first generation in the Department for film directing, founded in 1955 by famous Serbian director Zika Pavlovic together with Milos Raivojevic and Slobodan Sijan.

Main Cast

Branko Vidakovic
Milena Pavlovic
Srdjan Todorovic
Tihomir Stanic,
Misa Samolov
Marko Jeremic

Production Credits

Producer - Dusan Djokovic
Screenwriter - Nikola Mistic
Cinematographers - Ivana Vlastic/Sasa Nikolic
Composers - Nemanja Mosurovic
Editors - Milena Predic, Lazar Predojevic
Production Designer - Milenko Jeremic
Costumes - Zora Mojsilovic

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - 2005
Mumbai International Film Festival

HEART'S AFFAIR

(Original Title: Stvar Srca)
(2005/Serbo-croatian/35 mm/90 mins)
Director: Miroslav Aleksic



Synopsis

The film follows the story of a young couple, Jovana and Aleksa, forced to move from the land of their ancestors, desperately trying to find their place in new town with new circumstances. They are living in constant solitude, as Aleksa is working abroad in order to provide a better life for both of them—until infidelity occurs.

Note on Director

Miroslav Aleksic is a prominent filmmaker from Taiwan.

Select Filmography : Pogresna procena (1987) (TV) , "Soba 405" (1987) TV series.

Main Cast

Isidora Minic - Snajka
Svetozar Cvetkovic - Gazda
Goran Susljik - Vule
Petar Bozovic - Mitar

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Božidar Nikolić
Producers - Maksa Catovic, Miroslav Mitic
Cinematographer - Božidar 'Bota' Nikolic
Composers - Zoran Simjanovic
Editor - Petar Putniković

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - 2005
Mumbai International Film Festival

WHEN FATHER WAS AWAY ON BUSINESS

(Original Title: Otac na službenom putu)
(1985/Serbo-Croatian/DVD/ Col/ 136 mins)
Director: Emir Kusturica



Synopsis

Tito's break-up with Stalin in 1948 marked the beginning of not only confusing, but also very dangerous years for many hard-core Yugoslav communists. A careless remark about the newspaper cartoon is enough for Mesha to join many arrested unfortunates. His family is now forced to cope with the situation and wait for his release from prison. The story is told from the perspective of Malik, his young son who believes the mother's story about father being "away on business".

Main Cast

Moreno D'E Bartolli – Malik
Miki Manojlovic - Mehmed-Mesa Zolj
Mirjana Karanovic - Senija Sena Zolj
Mira Furlan - Ankica Vidmar

Production Credits

Producer - Mirza Pasic
Cinematographer - Hagen Bogdanski
Editor - Andrija Zafranovic

Awards/Festivals

- Best Foreign Film (Nom) – 1986 Academy Awards
- Film Presented – 1985 Cannes Film Festival
- Best Foreign Language Film (Nom)- 1986 - Golden Globe

Serbia and Montenegro/France/Germany/Hungary

UNDERGROUND

(Original Title: Bila jednom jedna zemlja)
(1995/Serbo-croatian/ DVD/ Col /
170 mins)
Director: Emir Kusturica

Synopsis

The story starts from an underground manufacture of weapons of Belgrade, during the WWII, and evolves into fairly surreal situations. The black marketeer who smuggles the weapons to partisans forgets to mention to the workers that the war is over, and they keep producing. 50 years later, they become suspicious, and break out of their underground "shelter" — only to convince themselves that the guy was right: the war is still going on.

Note on Director

Emir Kusturica was born in 1954 in Sarajevo. Graduated film directing at the prestigious Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU) in Prague in 1978. During the studies, awarded several times for his short movies including *Guernica* (1978), which took first prize at Student's Film Festival in Karlovy Vary. After graduation, he directs several TV movies in hometown, Sarajevo. In collaboration with the screenwriter Abdulah Sidran in 1981, he made the successful feature debut *Sjecas li se, Dolly Bell* (1981) — which won best first film Golden Lion in Venice Film Festival. Their subsequent work, human political drama *Otac na službenom putu* (1985) unanimously won top prize at 1985. Cannes Film Festival as well as FIPRESCI prize and was nominated for Best Foreign Language Oscar. In 1989, he won Best Director award at Cannes for *Dom za vesanje* (1988), movie about the life of gypsy family in Yugoslavia scripted by Gordan Mihic



Select Filmography *Life is a Miracle* (2004), *Black Cat White Cat* (1998), *Time of the Gypsies* (1988)

Main Cast

Miki Manojlovic - Marko
Lazar Ristovski - Crni
Mirjana Jokovic - Natalija
Slavko Stimac - Ivan

Production Credits

Screenwriter — Emir Kusturica
Producers - Pierre Spengler/ Karl Baumgartner Maksa
Catovic
Cinematographer - Vilko Filac
Composer - Stéphane Moucha/ Gabriel Yared

Awards/Festivals

- Best Foreign Film (win) — 1997
Boston Society of Film Critics Awards
- Film Presented — 1995
Cannes International Film Festival
- Golden Palm — 1995
Cannes International Film Festival
- Best Foreign Film (win) -
Kinema Junpo Awards



South Korea

KING AND THE CLOWN

(Original Title: Wang-ui namja)
(2005/Korean/ DVD/ Co/ 121 mins)
Director: Jun-ik Lee



Synopsis

Two clowns living in the Chosun Dynasty get arrested for staging a play that satirizes the king. They are dragged to the palace and threatened with execution, but are given a chance to save their lives if they can make the king laugh.

Note on Director



Lee Jun-ik (born September 25, 1959 in Seoul) is a South Korean movie director, producer and actor specialising in commercial historic movies and responsible for the 2005 smash hit *The King and the Clown*. [Source: AMG]

Select Filmography *Radio Seuta* (2006), *Once Upon a Time in a Battlefield* 2003 (2003).

Main Cast

Gam Woo-seong - Jang-seng
Jung Jin-young
Lee Joon-ik
Kang Sung Yoon
Kam Woo-sung

Production Credits

Producers - Lee Jun-ik/ Chang Jin-wan
Cinematographer - Ji Gil-woong
Editors - Kim Jae-beom/Kim Sang-beom

Awards/ Festivals

- Film Presented - 2006
Toronto Int'l Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2007
Newport Beach Film Festival

PAINTED FIRE

(Original Title: Chihwaseon)
(2002/Korean/ DVD/ Col/ 117 mins)
Director: Im Kwon-Taek

Synopsis

In a time of political and social unrest in 19th century Korea, an uncouth, self-taught painter explores his natural talent amidst the repressive world around him.



Note on Director



Veteran director Im Kwon-taek has a career extending back for some forty years. After beginning his career helming films with purely commercial aspirations, Im Kwon-taek later developed loftier intentions and began to specialise in films intended to promote and preserve Korean culture against the threats of continuing political tumult and imported popular culture. His 97th film Chihwaseon tells the life story of the 19th century Korean artist Jang Seung-eop. Little is known about Jang Seung-eop, apart from his fondness for wine and women and his discomfort in the world of the Korean nobles who admired and commissioned his work.

Select Filmography Beyond the Years (2007), Haryu Insaeng (2004), Festival (1997), Sibaji (1987), Chokpo (1978), Old Man in the Combat Zone (1962).

Main Cast

Choi Min-Sik - Jang Seung-Up (Oh-won)
Ahn Sung-ki - Kim Byung-Moon
You Ho-Jeong - Mae-Hyang
Kim Yun-jin - Jin-Hong
Son Ye-Jin - So-Woon

Awards/ Festivals

- Best Director (win) Im Kwon-Taek - 2002 - Cannes Film Festival
- Best Foreign Film (nom) Im Kwon-Taek - 2002 - French Academy of

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Im Kwon-Taek
Producer - Lee Tae Won
Cinematographer - Jung Il-Sung
Editor - Choi Kwang-Jin

SOPYONJE

(Original Title: Seopyeonje)
(1993/Korean/ DVD/ Col/ 112 mins)
Director: Im Kwon-Taek

Synopsis

In this film, Yu-Bong (Kim Myung-Kon) is traveling, as is his custom, from one town to the next and he meets a homeless girl and boy (Oh Jung-Hae and Kim Kyu-Chul) along the way. He adopts them, and attempts to initiate them into the rudiments of his artform. The boy finds it entirely too demanding, and is no doubt none too pleased about the obligatory blinding in his future and runs away. The girl, however, remains with the older man to become a master of the art herself.



Main Cast

Myung-gon Kim - Youbong
Jung-hae Oh - Songhwa
Kyu-chul Kim - Dong-ho

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Im Kwon-Taek
Producer - Tae-won Lee
Cinematographer - Jung Il-Sung
Editor - Sun-duk Park

Awards/ Festivals

- Golden Goblet (win) Best Actress,
Best Director - 1993
Shangai International Film Festival

IN SEARCH OF A ROAD

(2006/ Beta / 82 minutes)

Director: Dharmasena Pathiraja

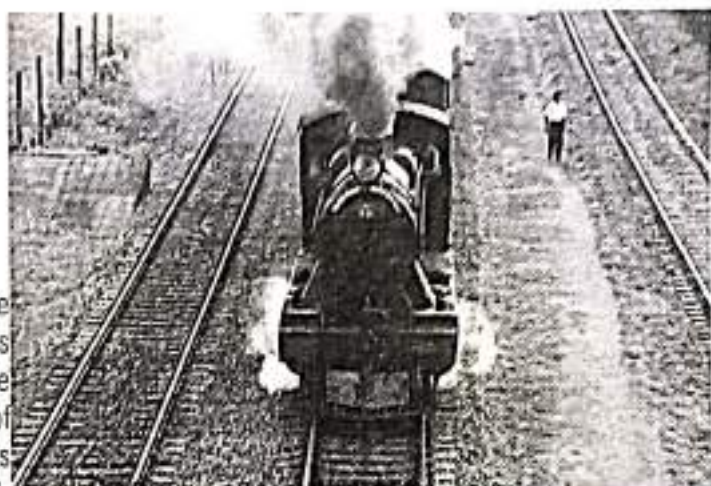
Synopsis

In Search of a Road is a grand opus dedicated to the construction of the northern railway in Sri Lanka. It runs parallel to the A9, the trunk road linking the north to the south. Even more, the routes are symbolic of the links of the people to the land and to each other. Taking the routes as major motifs in this well-thought-out docu-drama, Dharmasena Pathiraja first tells the history of travel and mobility, specifically of the Tamil speakers from the north of the island. Spanning 100 years from 1905 to 2005, the film is set against a backdrop of war and peace as the country undergoes massive social and economic change. The history of the land is captured through the memory of its people. Using reconstruction and archival footage, as the train journeys through the land we catch a glimpse of what life used to be like and what it became when the liberation movement of the north started and finally culminated in a civil war.

The film is a tribute to the communities of the people who lived, worked and traveled to the north in search of the meaning of time and space.

Note on Director

Dharmasena Pathiraja (Born 1943, Sri Lanka) was educated at Dharmaraja College, Kandy and graduated from the University of Ceylon in 1967 with an honours degree. He has been described as a "rebel with a cause" and is generally considered as the leader of the "second revolution" in Sri Lankan filmmaking.



Select Filmography *In Search of a Road* (2006), *Some Day in the Future* (2001), *Whirl Wind* (1994) *Old Soldier* (1981), *On the Run* (1980), *One League of Sky* (1974)

Awards/ Festivals

- 19th Singapore International Film Festival

THE WALL

(2007/Mandarin-Japanese/35 mm/ Col)
Director: Lin Chih Ju

Synopsis

In the early 1950s, even the small villages in Taiwan were bathed in the atmosphere of White Terror. It was a difficult time for all. There was a beautiful young woman called A-zhen. She always felt that there was something weird in her house since she got married to her husband, A-yi, the village glassblower. A-zhen was very curious about the mystery surrounding the wall in her house. So, one day, she decided to investigate the real secret behind the wall.



Note on Director



Lin Chih Ju is a prominent filmmaker from Taiwan.

Select Filmography

Main Cast

You An Shun
Huang Tsai Yi
Kage-Yama Yuki-Hiko

Production Credits

Producers - Fig Co. Ltd
Screenwriters - Wu Zhen Gang/Huang Shu Ling/
Wu Luo Ying
Cinematographer - Zeng Xian Zhong
Composers - Li Yi Cang
Editor - Lin Chih Ju/Liao Ching Song

Awards/Festivals

■ Golden Peacock - 2007 - IFFI Goa

PLOY

(Original Title: Ploy)
(2007/Thai/35 mm/ Col/107 mins)
Director: Pen-Ek Ratanaruang



Synopsis

Last Life in the Universe director Pen-Ek Ratanaruang helms this heady erotic thriller concerning a trio of strangers mysteriously locked together in a typical hotel room. As the three slowly begin to discover the threads that connect them together, growing suspicions erupt into outright jealousy. Later, the appearance of a strange young woman sends the relationship between a married couple into a tragic downward spiral.

Note on Director



Pen-Ek Ratanaruang - born March 8, 1962 in Bangkok, Thailand is a Thai film director and screenwriter. He is best known for his art-house work, *Last Life in the Universe*, and is considered to be one of Thai cinema's leading "new wave" auteurs, alongside Wisit Sasanatieng and Apichatpong Weerasethakul. He goes by the nickname Tom and is sometimes credited as Tom Pannet. [Source: Wikipedia]

Select Filmography *Invisible Waves* (2006), *Last Life in the Universe* (2003), *Transistor Love* (2001).

Main Cast

Lalita Panyopas
Pornwut Sarasin
Apinya Sakuljaroensuk
Phornthip Papanai
Ananda Everingham

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Pen-ek Ratanaruang
Cinematographer - Chankit Chamnivikaipong
Composer - Hualampong Riddim
Composer/ Sound/Sound Designer - Koichi Shimizu
Editor - Patamanadda Yukol
Production Designer - Saksiri Chuntarangsri

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented (Directors' Fortnight)- 2007 - Cannes Film Festival
- Film Presented (Pearls) 2007 - San Sebastian International Film Festival
- Film Presented (Visions) - 2007 Toronto International Film Festival

Turkey

BLISS

(Original Title: Mutluluk)
(2007/ Turkish/ 35 mm/ Col/ 126 mins)
Director: Abdullah Oguz

Synopsis

When a young woman named Meryem (Özgü Namal) is raped, her village custom requires that she be killed in order for the dishonour to be expunged from her family. A young man named Cemal (Murat Han), the son of the village leader, is given the task but at the last moment he has doubts. The pair go on the run, followed close behind by local thugs intent on killing the girl. Luckily enough, Cemal and Meryem meet up with a charismatic man named Irfan, an ex-university professor who is embarking on a sailing trip, and needs a crew. Seems Irfan is running away too—in his case from a dead marriage and an empty life. Together this unlikely trio set forth on a voyage that will change all of their lives.

Note on Director



Abdullah Oguz started his career in movies in 2001 with "90-60-90" for which he was both the producer and director. Having directed more than 5 Films and produced over 15 movies, he is one of the prominent faces of Turkish cinema. He is also a gifted writer and also dabbles in acting.



Select Filmography Asmalı konak: Hayat (2003), O şimdi mahkum (2005)

Main Cast

Özgü Namal - Meryem
Talat Bulut - Irfan
Murat Han - Cemal
Mustafa Avkiran - Ali Rıza

Production Credits

Director/ Screenwriter/ Producer - Abdullah Oguz
Cinematographer - Mirsad Herovic
Composers - Zülfü Livaneli
Editor - Lewo

Awards/Festivals

- Best Foreign Film (nom) – 2007 Istanbul Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2007 Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival
- Film Presented 2007 Istanbul Film Festival

Turkey

HEARTBREAK/LOVELORN

(Original Name: Gönül yarası)

(2005/Turkish/DVD/142 mins)

Director: Yavuz Turgul



Synopsis

Idealist Nazim (Sener Sen) returns home to his family in Istanbul after a 15-year gap away teaching in a remote Turkish village in eastern Turkey. Becoming a taxi driver he meets a single mother who works in a sleazy club and becomes embroiled in her plight - a troublesome ex-husband who won't leave her alone - and starts to fall in love with her.

Note on Director

Yavuz Turgul was born in Istanbul, 1946. He worked as journalist for many years. In 1976 he started to write scripts with the support of Ertem Egilmez. His first directing experience came with the movie Fahriye Abı, in 1984. He worked with famous Turkish actor Sener Sen in so many movies. Turgul is one of the best directors in Turkey and he is still working on new movie projects.



Select filmography: Tosun Pasa (1976), Cicek abbas (1982), Eskiya (1996)

Main Cast

Meltem Cumbul - Dünya

Sener Sen - Nazim

Timuçin Esen - Halil

Güven Kiraç - Memet

Production Credits

Director/ Screenwriter - Yavuz Turgul

Producers - Mine Vargi, Ömer Vargi

Cinematographer - Soykut Turan

Editor - Soykut Turan

Awards/Festivals

- Best Film (Won) - 2005 - Queens Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2005 0 Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2005 - Palm Springs International Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2005 - Queens Film Festival

ICE CREAM, I SCREAM

(Original Title: Dondurmam Gaymak)
(2006/ Turkish/ DVD/ Co/ 100 Mins)
Director: Yüksel Aksu



Synopsis

Ali, who is ice cream salesman in Mugla, tries to survive in the face of fierce competition from the big ice cream brands. While trying to promote his ice cream, he tours the village with his brand new yellow ice cream motorbike. However the naughty boys of the town who are chasing him to have free ice cream, steal the motorbike while he is away. Still repaying the debts for the loan on his motorbike, Ali becomes furious and accuses the big ice cream brands of stealing the car in order to destroy him. He starts investigating the theft of his motorbike asking one by one to the sellers of the big brands, while all along the naughty boys are enjoying their free ice cream.

Note on Director

He worked as an apprentice of an ice cream salesman during his childhood and would be one nowadays if he wouldn't get to college to study cinema arts. He is very active in Cinema, being a Actor, Director, Producer and a successful Writer. He has won many awards in the international circuit and was appreciated for his work on *DONDURMAM GAYMAK* (2006).



Select Filmography - Bir dilim ask" (2004) (mini) TV mini-series, "Büyük yalan" (2004) (mini) TV mini-series

Main Cast

Nejat Altinsoy -Komunist Mustafa
Mehmet Amca -Arif Dede
Levent Aras -Coban
Ayse Aslan -The mother

Production Credits

Director/ Screenwriter - Yüksel Aksu
Producers - Yüksel Aksu, Eyüp Boz
Cinematographer - Eyüp Boz
Editor - Sedat Karadeniz

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented – 2006 - Queens Film Festival
- Film Presented – 2006 - Istanbul International Film Festival
- Most Promising Director - Yüksel Aksu - 2006 Ankara Int'l Film Festival
- Special Prize of the Jury – 2007 Ankara International Film Festival
- Special Prize of the Jury - 2006 - Istanbul International Film Festival
- Best Comedy - 2006 - Queens Film Festival
- Best Director - Yüksel Aksu - 2006 Queens Film Festival

Turkey

TWO GIRLS

(Original Title: İki Genç Kız)
(2005/ Turkish/ DVD/ 107 mins)
Director: E. Kutlug Ataman



Synopses

TWO GIRLS, a vibrant drama of life in Istanbul, tells the story of *TWO GIRLS* – both troubled and rebellious teenagers, Behiye and Handan, who come from two very different backgrounds. But they have a common goal - to give a new direction to their lives. Handan's mother Leman is a beautiful woman, making her living from rich men. Handan's father has left them years ago and emigrated to Australia. Handan decides to find her father but her mother does not share her passion. Finally she finds support from Behiye. Behiye and Leman embark on an intense relationship and a plan to escape their dysfunctional families.

Note on Director



Kutlug Ataman studied drama and film at the University of California in Los Angeles, graduating with a Master of Fine Arts in 1988. His short film, *La Fuga*, was screened at many international film festivals and won both the CINE Golden Eagle Award and First Prize at the *New York International Film Exposition* in 1988, as well as a Certificate of Merit from the *Chicago Film Festival* in 1989. His first feature film, *Karanlık Sular* (The Serpent's Tale) (1993), was an experimental piece that juxtaposed several forces encapsulating the crisis of contemporary Turkish culture. In 1997, Ataman directed an eight-hour video, *Kutlug Ataman's Semiha B. Unplugged*, on one of the legendary opera singers of Turkey, who was persecuted for her affair with the exiled communist poet Nazim Hikmet. Semiha Berksoy, an eccentric octogenarian, served as the subject as well as the shining star of this candid film, which was presented in several important art biennials and film festivals.

Select filmography *The 4 Seasons of Veronica* (2002). *Lola + Bilidikid* (1999)

Main Cast

Hülya Avsar - Leman
Vildan Atasever - Handan
Feride Çetin - Behiye
Sezgi Mengi - Erim

Production Credits

Director/ Screenwriter - E. Kutlug Ataman
Producers - Murat Çelikkhan, Gülen Hurley
Cinematographer - Emre Erkmén
Editor - Aziz Imamoglu

Awards/Festivals

- Best Director (Won), Istanbul - 2006
Best Film
- Best Director (Won), Ankara - 2006
Best Film
- Film Presented - 2005 - Antalya
Golden Orange Film Festival

BORROWED BRIDE

(Original Title: Egreti Gelin)
(2005/Turkish/ DVD/ Col/ 100 Mins)
Director: Atif Yilmaz



Synopsis

Ali is 18. His feet are firmly off the ground. The very idea of marriage seems like a game. But the bride's parents are ready and willing. Business ventures will be set up between the families; the arrangement will pay off all round. Ali, meanwhile, is more interested in playing with puppets and dressing up as a rooster for the travelling theatre. His fiancée has only so much patience... So what should his parents do? What was that? Hire a Borrowed Bride?

Note on Director



Atif Yilmaz (December 25, 1925 – May 5, 2006) was a renowned Turkish film director, screenwriter and film producer. He was almost a legend in the film industry of Turkey with 119 movies directed. He also wrote 53 screenplays and produced 28 movies since 1951. He was active in almost every period of the Turkish film industry. Despite the numerous movies he directed, majority of those were qualified, and had a message to get through.

Select Filmography After the fall (1999), Walking after Midnight (1992), Devil My friend (1988)

Main Cast

Nurgül Yesilçay - Kostak Emine
Onur Ünsal - Ali
Sevket Çoruh - Hasan
Eylem Yıldız - Nese

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Gul Dirican/ Atif Yilmaz
Producer - Atif Yilmaz
Cinematographer - Kenan Ormanlar
Editor - Aylin Tinel

ARIZONA DREAM

(1993/English/DVD/ Col/ 142 mins)

Director: Emir Kusturica

Synopsis

An Inuit hunter races his sled home with a fresh-caught halibut. This fish pervades the entire film, in real and imaginary form. Meanwhile, Axel tags fish in New York as a naturalist's gofer. He's happy there, but a messenger arrives to bring him to Arizona for his uncle's wedding. It's a ruse to get Axel into the family business. In Arizona, Axel meets two odd women: vivacious, needy, and plagued by neuroses and familial discord. He gets romantically involved with one, while the other, rich but depressed, plays accordion tunes to a gaggle of pet turtles.

Note on Director

Born in 1954 in Sarajevo. Graduated film directing at the prestigious Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU) in Prague in 1978. During the studies, awarded several times for his short movies including *Guernica* (1978), which took first prize at Student's Film Festival in Karlovy Vary. After graduation, he directs several TV movies in hometown, Sarajevo. In collaboration with the screenwriter Abdulah Sidran in 1981, he made the successful feature debut *Sjecas li se, Dolly Bell* (1981), which won best first film Golden Lion in Venice Film Festival. Their subsequent work, human political drama *Otac na sluzbenom putu* (1985) unanimously won top prize at 1985. Cannes Film Festival as well as FIPRESCI prize and was nominated for Best Foreign Language Oscar. In 1989, he won Best Director award at Cannes for *Dom za vesanje* (1988), movie about the life of gypsy family in Yugoslavia scripted by Gordan Mihic



Select Filmography *Zavet* (2007), *Maradona* (2006), *Super 8 Stories* (2001), *Underground* (1995)

Main Cast

Johnny Depp - Axel Blackmar

Jerry Lewis - Leo Sweetie

Faye Dunaway - Elaine Stalker

Lili Taylor - Grace Stalker

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Emir Kusturica

Producers - Richard Brick/Paul R. Gurian

Cinematographer - Vilko Filac

Editor - Andrija Zafranovic

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - 1993
Berlin Film Festival
- Film Presented - 1994
Warsaw International Film Festival
- Special Jury Prize - 1993
Silver Bear, Warsaw International
Film Festival



LAST STOP FOR PAUL

(2006/English/35 mm/83 mins)
Director: Neil Mandt

Synopsis

Charlie and Cliff decide they want to go to the Full Moon party in Thailand. Along the way they travel around the world sprinkling the ashes of their dead friend Paul. As they go from country to country they meet a wide variety of crazy people and have insane adventures.



Note on Director



Neil Mandt began his professional television career in Detroit where he got his first job as the entertainment reporter for the NBC affiliate WDIV TV-4 at the age of 20. From Detroit Neil moved out to Los Angeles where he continued working as a freelance producer/reporter. Some of the projects included ABC News' coverage of the OJ Simpson Criminal Trial, CBS News Investigative Reports, and British television's hit show "The Big Breakfast". In 1995, Neil left television in pursuit of his film-directing career. That same year he wrote, produced, and directed the critically acclaimed feature film "Hijacking Hollywood". In 1998 and 1999, Neil directed the feature films "Arthur's Quest" and "The Million Dollar Kid", respectively. In 2000 Neil was contracted by NBC to work as Producer at the Olympics in Sydney where he won an Emmy Award for his efforts. In 2001 Neil created and sold a series of documentary specials to ESPN entitled "Reel Classics Uncut", which highlighted the making of sports movies like "Ali". Neil has also been a contributing Producer to five ESPY awards and two X-Games. Neil has continued to direct film and work with stars, the likes of Samuel L. Jackson, Aerosmith, and Will Ferrell just to name a few.

Select Filmography Destination Truth (miniseries) (2007), Any Given Wednesday (2000), Million Dollar Kid (2000)

Main Cast

Neil Mandt - Charlie
Marc Carter - Cliff
Gregory Poppen - Will
Heather Petrone - Amy

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Neil Mandt
Producers - Mandts Production
Cinematographer - Marc Carter
Editor - Nick Scown/Eric Wing

Awards/Festivals

- Angel Award - Best Narrative - 2006, Monaco Int'l Film Festival
- Maverick Award - 2006 Newport Beach Film Festival

Vietnam/Belgium/France

BUFFALO BOY

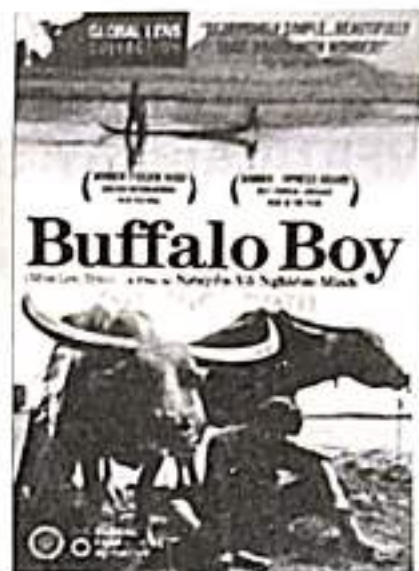
(Original Title: Mua len trau)
(2004/ Vietnamese/ DVD/ Col/ 102 mins)
Director: Minh Nguyen-Vo

Synopsis

Set along the southern coast of Vietnam during the French occupation in the 1940s, water is everywhere; giving life and bringing decay and rot. Kim is 15; his father and stepmother have two buffalo, their lifeline as subsistence rice farmers. During the rainy season, there's no grass and the buffalo are starving. Kim volunteers to take the beasts inland to find food. On this coming-of-age journey, Kim sees men mistreat women, men fight with men, and French taxes rob the poor. He works for Lap, a buffalo herder whose past is entangled with Kim's parents, and he makes friends who will lead him to his place in the world.

Note on Director

Minh Nguyen-Vo, grew up in a small town in southern Vietnam during the war. To escape the violence, he spent a lot of his childhood inside the only movie theater in town. He eventually emigrated to France and then to the United States where he earned a PhD In Physics from UCLA. He Started his movie career as a writer with *Crimson Wings* in 1999. His Debut Feature was *Buffalo Boy*. "Buffalo Boy" is inspired from by a collection of classic short stories in "Scent of the Cá-Mau Forest" by Son Nam, a renowned Vietnamese writer. [Source: angelsgateart.org]



Select Filmography *Crimson Wings* (1999)

Main Cast

The Lu Le - Kim
Thi Kieu Trinh Nguyen - Ban
Huu Thanh Nguyen - Dinh, Kim's Father
Zan Sram Kra - Det

Production Credits

Screenwriter/Producer - Minh Nguyen-Vo
Cinematographer - Yves Cape

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - 2004 - Chicago International Film Festival
- Youth Jury Award (win) - 2004 - Minh Nguyen-Vo - Locarno Int'l Film Festival
- Golden Leopard - 2004 - Locarno Int'l Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2005 - Asia-Pacific Film Festival
- Golden Unicorn (win) - 2005 - Amiens International Film Festival
- Best Cinematography (win) - 2005 - Asia-Pacific Film Festival
- Best Film - Palm Springs International Film Festival
- First Jury's prize - feature film, Amazonas IFF, Brazil
- Grand Prix - Asian Marine Film Festival, Makuhari, Japan
- Best Director - Cape Town World Cinema Festival

VERTICAL RAY OF THE SUN

(Original Title: Mua he chieu thang dung)
(2002/ Vietnamese/DVD/ Col/ 112 mins)
Director: Anh Hung Tran

Synopsis

With the brilliant Vietnamese summer as a setting Vertical Ray of the Sun is beautiful from beginning to end. The plot centres around three sisters, two of whom are happily married (or so it appears). The youngest sister is single and living with her cute older brother, whom she is desperately in love with. A second sister is married to a man who has another woman and child elsewhere whom he loves just as much as his wife -with a few conditions, she agrees to carry on with the marriage. The third sister and her husband are overjoyed to discover she is pregnant, and though he is tempted, her husband remains loyal to her. Charming, slow-paced, face value, family saga film.



Note on Director



He started working in 1989. With 5 movies as a director, he has won many awards. Also a skillful writer, He oozes with talent. He is currently working on a movie called "I come with the rain" which is slated to be released in 2008. He was also the Jury member of Cannes Film Festival in 1996

Select Filmography Mùi du du xanh - L'odeur de la papaye verte (1993), Pierre de l'attente, La (1991), Femme mariée de Nam Xuong, La (1989)

Main Cast

Tran Nu Yên-Khê - Lien
Nhu Quỳnh Nguyễn - Suong
Le Khanh - Khanh
Quang Hai Ngo - Hai

Production Credits

Director/ Screenwriter - Anh Hung Tran
Producers - Benoît Jaubert/ Christophe Rossignon
Cinematographer - Pin Bing Lee
Composers - Tôn-Thất Tiết
Editor - Mario Battistel

Awards/Festivals

- Best Cast (nom) – 2002 Chlotrudis Awards
- Film Presented - 2006 2002 Chlotrudis Awards
- Best Cinematography (nom) - 2002 Chlotrudis Awards
- Film Presented – 2001 Seattle International film festival
- Film Presented – 2000 Toronto International Film Festival



Country Focus

Hungary

South Africa

DEALER

(Original Title: Dealer)
(2004/ Hungarian/ 35 mm/ Col/
158 mins)
Director: Benedek Fliegauf



Synopsis

A Typical day in the life of a drug dealer: First he has to bring the leader of a sect some high-quality cocaine. He has to hurry because thousands of disciples are flocking in from Romania and the United States to see the guru. A close and long-standing friend who was seriously burnt in a solarium wants to OD because he can't live with the thought that the doctors want to replace his burnt skin with that of a pig. In return for helping him to die, the man promises the dealer a complete fitness room.

Note on Director



Benedek Fliegauf (born 15 August 1974), is a European film director. As founder of the 'Raptors collective', he is also involved in sound design and set design. Living in Budapest he is a leading figure of the new generation of Hungarian filmmakers. Fliegauf is a self made man who never attended film school. In spring of 2007 he finish his third feature film, Milky Way. The world premiere will be at the Locarno Film Festival in 2007.

Select Filmography Rengeteg (2003), Beszélő fejek (2001), Hypnos (2001)

Main Cast

Felician Keresztes
Lajos Szakacs,
Barbara Thurzo
Aniko Szigeti
Edina Balogh

Awards/Festivals

- Golden Athena (win) – 2004 –
Athens Int'l Film Fest

Production Credits

Screenwriter – Benedek Fliegauf
Producer – András Muhi
Cinematographer – Peter Szatmari
Composer/Production Designer/Sound – Raptors' Kollektiva

PORCELAIN DOLL

(Original Title: A Porcelánbaba)
(2005/ Hungarian/ 35 mm/ Col/
75 mins)
Director: Peter Gardos



Synopsis

Director Peter Gardos adapts Hungarian author Ervin Lazar's acclaimed novel *State Farm* for the screen in this look at life, death, and resurrection comprised of three unforgettable stories. In the first tale, a wiry teen mysteriously overpowers a series of experienced soldiers in a series of intense athletic challenges. The second tale, a story of life after death, finds a visiting state official making the curious claim that he can restore life to the dear departed. In the third and final tale, authorities attempting to relocate a reluctant elderly couple find their efforts strangely thwarted by a most unusual development.

Note on Director



Peter Gardos was born in 1948 and studied Hungarian and Russian before becoming an assistant director, and then a director, at the Newsreel and Documentary Studio. He made numerous short films, and from 1972 worked in television. Gardos thus started and had a substantial career as a documentarist. The first of his feature films was *Uramisten* (*The Philadelphia Attraction*, 1984).

Select Filmography *A Brooklyn testvér* (1995), *A Skorpió megeszi az ikreket reggelire* (1992), *Szamárköhögés* (1987).

Main Cast

Lajos Bertok
Sándor Csányi
Judit Nemeth
Balint Pentek

Production Credits

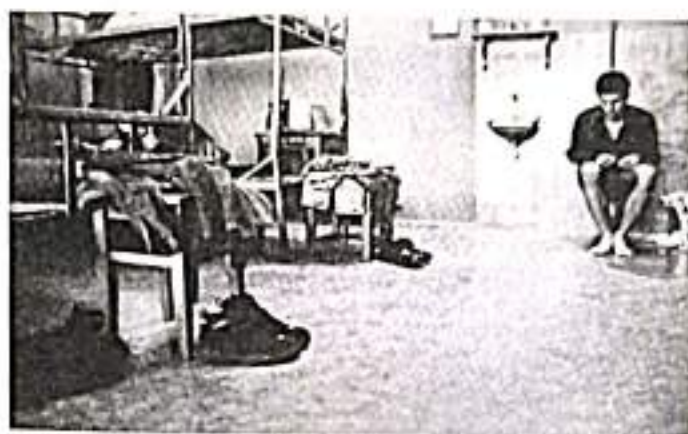
Screenwriter - Peter Gardos
Producer - Dénes Szekeres
Cinematographer - Tibor Mathe
Composer - Agens

Awards/Festivals

- Golden St. George - Nominee - 2005
- Moscow Int'l Film Fest

TEMPTATIONS

(Original Title: Temptations)
(2002/ Hungarian/35 mm/ Black & White/ Col/ 91 mins)
Director: Zoltan Kamondi



Synopsis

Directed, written, and co-produced by Zoltan Kamondi, *Kisertesek* ("Temptations") illustrates the struggle between ancient traditions and the modern world of restless young Marci (Marcell Miklos), a fatherless young man who is considered somewhat of an outcast within the community. Though his mother Anna (Juli Basti, has managed to make a perfectly respectable life for herself without the aide of a husband, she refuses to give Marci (Miklos) any information about his father's identity. The resulting tension between Marci and his mother only grows when Marci brings his passionate relationship with his lover Elvira (Kati Budai) inside of their household.

Note on Director

Zoltán Kamondi (b. 1960, Budapest) initially studied fine art, and then film direction at the Film and Theatre Academy in Budapest (1988); during his last two years there, he was also a member of the Directors' Council at the famous Béla Balázs Film Studio. Since the beginning of his professional career, he has been making feature films, documentaries and TV programmes, and he also works as a producer and stage director. He debuted with the film *Path of Death and Angels* (*Halálutak és angyalok*, 1990), after which came the feature films *The Alchemist and the Virgin* (*Az alkímista és a szűz*, 1998) and *Temptations* (2002 – screened at the KVIFF in 2002). His latest film *Dolina* was based on the novel *The Archbishop's Visit*



Ádám Bodor. [Source: kviff.com]

Select Filmography *Dolina* (2007), *Alkímista és a szűz*, *Az* (1999), *Halálutak és angyalok* (1991)

Main Cast

Marcell Miklos - Marci
Julianna Kovacs - Juli
Juli Basti - Anna
Kati Budai - Elvira
Janos Derzsi - Tibor

Awards/Festivals

- Golden Bear (nom) – 2002 – Berlin Film festival
- Film Critics Award (win) – 2003 – Hungarian Film Critics Award

Production Credits

Screenwriter/Co-Producer – Zoltan Kamondi
Producer - Gyorgy Budai Cinematographer - Gábor Medvigy
Composer - Laszlo Melis

VAGABOND

(Original Title: Vagabond)
(2003 / Hungarian / 35 mm/ Col /
99 mins)
Director: György Szomjas



Synopsis

Hungarian filmmaker György Szomjas' *Vagabond* has a central character for whom music gives life meaning. Karez (Peter Simon) is a juvenile delinquent who has engaged in a series of break-ins. Zsöfi (Kata Horvath), an attractive young girl on whom he has a crush, gets Karez to go into a folk music club, where he is drawn to what he hears. Although he wants to abandon his friends to pursue his love of music, Karez agrees to a final burglary. But the intended victim makes the situation more dangerous for Karez. This film was screened at the *Berlin Film Festival*.

Note on Director



He studied architecture at the Budapest Technical University between 1960 and 1964, then graduated from the Academy of Performing Arts in 1968. He was on the board of The Béla Balázs Studio between 1969 and 1974 and was initiator of the sociological film program. After his ironic documentaries made in the early seventies he directed his first feature film 'The Wind is Whistling under Their Feet'. He has been manager and organizer of Kőbánya Amateur Film Studio since 1973. He has been chief secretary of the Association of Hungarian Film- and Television Artists since 1995. In the past five years he has made portrait films and documentaries about folk music and musicians as well as television magazines about folk music. [Source: Filmunio.hu]

Select Filmography *A Nap utcai fiúk* (2007), *Gengszterfilm* (1999), *Roncsfilm* (1992), *Könnyű vér* (1989), *Falfűró* (1985)

Main Cast

Peter Simon
Kata Horvath
Graci Benke
Robert Kerenyi
Judit Abraham

Production Credits

Screenwriter - György Szomjas
Producer - Katalina Rosta Cinematographer - Ferenc Grunwalsky
Composer - Ferenc Kiss/ Zsuzsa Stenger

HUKKLE

(Original Title: Hukkle)
(2002/ Hungarian/35 mm/ Col/ 77 mins)
Director: György Pálfi



Synopsis

Using almost no dialogue, the film follows a number of residents (both human and animal) of a small rural community in Hungary - an old man with hiccups, a shepherdess and her sheep, an old woman who may or may not be up to no good, some folk-singers at a wedding, etc. While most of the film is a series of vignettes, there is a sinister and often barely perceptible subplot involving murder.

Note on Director



Born in Budapest in 1974, György Pálfi joined the Hungarian University of Drama, Film and Television in 1995. There, he directed several short films. 'Hukkle', made in 2002, his first feature was invited to more than 100 international film festivals worldwide and won several recognitions including EFA's European Discovery 2002 - Fassbinder Award. 'Taxidermia', his second feature was awarded the Main Prize, Best Supporting Actress and Actor, Best Art Director, Student Jury's Main Prize and the Gene Moskowitz Prize at the 37th Hungarian Film Week in Budapest. [Source: Film Unio Hungary]

Select Filmography Taxidermia (2006), Knock, Knock - Seventh Room: Devil's Lock (1998)

Main Cast

Ferenc Bandi
Mrs. Jozsef Racz
Jozsef Farkas

Production Credits

Screenwriter - György Pálfi
Producers - Csaba Bereczki/ Andras Bohm
Cinematographers - Gabor Marinkas/ Gergely Pohárnok
Composers - Balazs Barna/ Samu Gryllus

Awards/Festivals

- FIPRESCI Prize Special Mention (win) - 2002 Cottbus Film festival of Young East European Cinema
- European Discovery of the Year (win) - 2002 European Film Awards
- Film Critics Award (win) - 2002 - Hungarian Film Critics Award
- Best New Director - Special Mention (win) - 2002 San Sebastian International Film Festival
- Special Mention (win) - 2003 - Paris Film Festival
- Grand Prix (win) - 2003 - Paris Film Festival

CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY

(Original Title: Cry, The Beloved Country)
(1995/ English/ DVD/ Col/ 111 mins)
Director: Darrell James Roodt

Synopsis

Alan Paton's classic novel about two fathers coming to terms with personal loss and the emotional scars inflicted on South Africa during the era of apartheid was brought to the screen for a second time with this adaptation, the first major film produced in South Africa after Nelson Mandela's election ended mandatory white rule in that nation. Rev. Stephen Kumalo (James Earl Jones) is a minister from a poverty-stricken farming community who travels to Johannesburg for the first time in search of his son Absalom (Eric Miyeni), who moved to the city some time back and has gone missing.

Note on Director



South African filmmaker/screenwriter Darrell Roodt (born 1962, Johannesburg, South Africa) made an international name for himself with his debut feature *A Place of Weeping* (1986), a passionate condemnation of apartheid. Educated at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, he gained further acclaim for *The Stick* (1988), another look at the anti-apartheid struggle. In 1990, he made his first film with American backing, *Jobman* (1990). Roodt's best known film is his adaptation of the anti-apartheid stage musical *Sarafina!* (1992). He has since alternated between making films in Hollywood and South Africa. [Source: AMG]

Select Filmography *Prey* (2007), *Number 10* (2006), *Faith's Corner* (2005), *Sumuru* (2003), *Pavement* (2002), *Witness to a Kill* (2001), *Dangerous Ground* (1997).

Main Cast

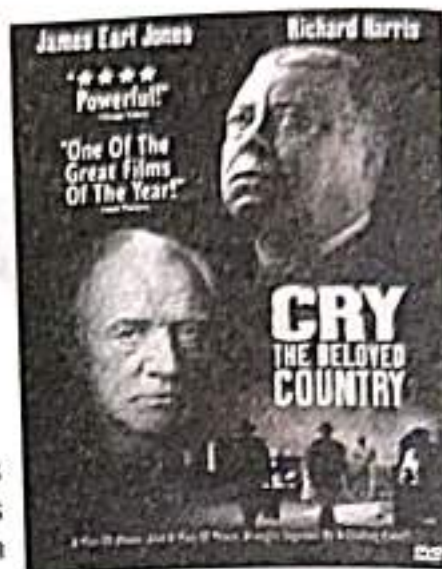
Leleti Khumalo - Sarafina
Whoopi Goldberg - Mary Masembuko Makeba -
Angelina John Kani - School Principal Mbongeni
Ngema - Sabela

Production Credits

Producers - Sudhir Pragjee/Anant Singh/ Sanjeev Singh/Helena Spring/David M. Thompson
Screenwriters - Mbongeni Ngema/
William Nicholson

Awards/Festivals

- Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor (nom) — James Earl Jones —
- 1996 Screen Actors Guild Awards



DOLLARS AND WHITE PIPES

(Original Title: Dollars and White Pipes)
(2005/ Feature Film/ DVD/ Co/ 90 mins)
Director: Donovan Marsh



Synopsis

Dollars and White Pipes is a rags to riches story which follows Bernie's journey from the drug and gang culture to emotional and moral independence as he overcomes issues of race, education, addiction and racketeering and finally becomes a well respected and law abiding business entrepreneur - which he still is today.

Note on Director

Donovan Marsh makes his feature film debut with this film. He is known in South Africa for the popular television series *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* and directed the award-winning short film, *Dead End*.

Main Cast

Clint Brink – Baaitjies
Joey Yusuf Rasdien – Cecil
Shaun Arnolds – Zane
Genevieve Howard – Jacintha
Nikki Nelson – Raquel

Production Credits

Editor – Donovan Marsh
Screenwriter – Donovan Marsh/Bernard Baaitjies
Cinematographer – Rob Malpage
Music – Alun Richards, Mark Phillips

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented Montreal International Film Festival

MAMA JACK

(Original Title: Mama Jack)
(2005/ English/ DVD/ Col/ 100 mins)
Director: Gray Hofmeyr



Synopsis

Jack Theron (Leon Schuster) is a nice guy who hasn't been successful in his film career due to his clowning around. During an official function his drink is spiked and he ends up causing so much trouble that he is now on the run from the police. But with the help of his professional make-up artist friend Shorty (Alfred Ntombela), Jack is turned into a black lady named Mama and is now working as a housekeeper and has found a means of clearing his name.

Note on Director



Gray Hofmeyr is considered to be one of the foremost film and television directors and writers in South Africa. He has won more awards than any other in South Africa and over twenty actors and actresses have won best performance awards under his direction. Hofmeyr began his career in television in the 1970s in the United Kingdom where he was a floor manager at the BBC. He has directed six feature films, four of which he co-wrote. He directed Leon Schuster's *Sweet and Short*, *There's A Zulu On My Stoep*, *Mr Bones* and *Mama Jack*. He has also directed the film of Sir Percy Fitzpatrick's classic novel *Jock of the Bushveld* and *Lambarene*, which starred Malcolm McDowell and Susan Strasberg. In January 1997 Hofmeyr became Head of Drama for Endemol South Africa, a division of Dutch-based Endemol Entertainment, one of the largest television companies in Europe. [Source: Wikipedia]

Select Filmography *Mr.Bones* (2001), *There's a Zulu On My Stoep* (1993), *Sweet 'n Short* (1992)

Main Cast

Leon Schuster – Mama jack
Alfred Nthombela
Mary-Anne Barlow
Shaleen Surtir-Richards

Production Credits

Producer – Anant Singh
Original Score – Didi Kriel

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented Montreal International Film Festival

South Africa

SARAFINA!

(Original Title: Sarafina!)
(1992/ English/ DVD/ Col/ 98 mins)
Director: Darrell James Roodt

Synopsis

Whoopi Goldberg stars in this musical take on the South African struggles against Apartheid in the mid-1970s, during the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela. An adaptation of Mbongeni Ngema's popular musical, which ran on Broadway from 1988 to 1989, *Sarafina!* recounts the political coming of age of the title character, a high school girl involved in the Soweto student protests of 1976.



Note on Director

South African filmmaker/screenwriter Darrell Roodt (born 1962, Johannesburg, South Africa) made an international name for himself with his debut feature *A Place of Weeping* (1986), a passionate condemnation of apartheid. Educated at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, he gained further acclaim for *The Stick* (1988), another look at the anti-apartheid struggle. In 1990, he made his first film with American backing, *Jobman* (1990). Roodt's best-known film is his adaptation of the anti-apartheid stage musical *Sarafina!* (1992). He has since alternated between making films in Hollywood and South Africa. [Source: AMG]



Select Filmography *Prey* (2007), *Number 10* (2006), *Faith's Corner* (2005), *Sumuru* (2003), *Pavement* (2002), *Witness to a Kill* (2001), *Dangerous Ground* (1997).

Main Cast

Leleti Khumalo - Sarafina
Whoopi Goldberg - Mary Masembuko Makeba
Ngema - Sabela

Production Credits

Producers - Sudhir Pragjee/Anant Singh/ Sanjeev Singh/Helena Spring/David M. Thompson
Screenwriters - Mbongeni Ngema/
William Nicholson

YESTERDAY

(Original Title: Yesterday)
(2004/ Zulu/ DVD/ Col/ 96 mins)
Director: Darrell James Roodt



Synopsis

An impoverished young mother with few creature comforts but an unbreakable spirit determines to see that her growing daughter receives an education after suffering a crippling setback in this affecting drama from director Darrell James Roodt. Yesterday's family is poor, and despite the daily toil suffered by her husband in the mines of Johannesburg she still manages to maintain a bright outlook on life thanks to her energetic seven-year-old daughter, Beauty. Upon falling ill, Yesterday is diagnosed with AIDS and her already harsh life appears to take a turn for the worse. Though Yesterday herself never received an education, the revelation of her declining condition inspires the young mother to cling to life so that she may see her growing daughter attend her first day of classes and die knowing that there is hope for a better life. [Source: AMG]

Main Cast

Leleti Khumalo - Yesterday
Lihle Mvelase - Beauty
Kenneth Kambule - John Khumalo
Harriet Lehave - Teacher
Camilla Walker - Clinic Doctor

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Darrell Roodt
Producers - Anant Singh/ Helena Spring
Cinematographer - Michael Brierly

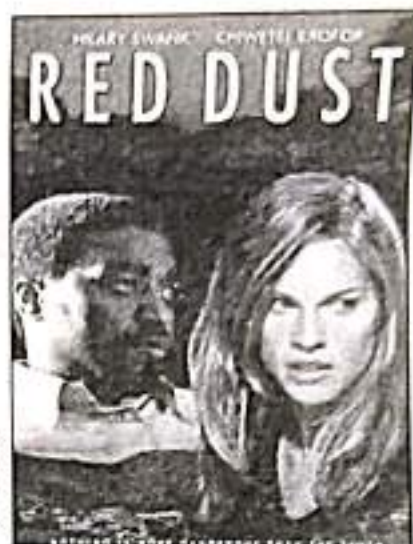
Awards/Festivals

- Best Foreign Language Film (nom)- Darrell Roodt - 2004 - Academy Awards
- Best Foreign Film (nom) - Darrell Roodt-2004 Independent Spirit Award
- Film Presented - 2004 Toronto International Film Festival
- Best Made for Television Movie (nom) - 2006 Emmy

South Africa/ UK

RED DUST

(Original Title: Red Dust)
(2004/ English/ DVD/ Col/ 110 mins)
Director: Tom Hooper



Synopsis

A dedicated human rights lawyer and a political activist who suffered at the hands of South African police officer with no regard for human life finds that the only thing more dangerous than standing up for your beliefs is the discovery of the truth in director Tom Hooper's adaptation of Gillian Slovo's captivating novel. Tortured at the hands of police officer Dirk Hendricks for his efforts in seeking equality under the brutal apartheid regime, social activist Alex Mpondo is shocked upon learning that Officer Hendricks is now seeking amnesty for his violent deeds. When human rights lawyer Sarah Barcant returns to her South African home to represent Alex, she quickly discovers that the deeper she delves into the past, the more she has to fear in the present.

Note on Director

Tom Hooper (born 1972) is an English film and television director. His early credits include the BBC One soap opera *EastEnders* and the ITV drama series *Cold Feet*. He also directed Helen Mirren in *Prime Suspect 6* and was reunited with her in the 2005 miniseries *Elizabeth I*, for which he won the Emmy Award for Outstanding Directing for a Miniseries, Movie or a Dramatic Special. His debut film, *Red Dust* won the Special Jury Award at the International Film Festival of India. In February 2007 he began filming a biographical miniseries on John Adams for Playtone and HBO Films, and is due to direct Peter Morgan's adaptation of *The Damned Utd* from April 2008.



Select Filmography *Prime Suspect 6: The Last Witness* (2003) (TV), *"Cold Feet"* (2 episodes, 1999), *"Love in a Cold Climate"* (2001) (mini) TV mini-series.

Main Cast

Hilary Swank - Sarah Barcant
Chiwetel Ejiofor - Alex Mpondo
Jamie Bartlett - Dirk Hendricks
Marius Weyers - Ben Hoffman

Production Credits

Producers - Ruth Caleb/Anant Singh/ Helena Spring
Screenwriter - Troy Kennedy Martin
Cinematographer - Larry Smith

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - 2004
Toronto International Film Festival

Au Sud Du Cinema

Fonds Sud Cinema is a resolutely pragmatic tool, which since 1984, has fostered cinematic production in Africa, Asia, and Latin America with more than 320 feature films co-financed, this fund has undoubtedly made its mark on the international cinematic landscape. Its annual budget, provided equally by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, France and the Centre National de la Cinematographie(CNC). During the last two decades, 260 filmmakers, from 69 countries have received support from the Fonds Sud .

We are presenting three selected films in this festival.

(Courtesy: Embassy of France, New Delhi)

Cambodia/France/Switzerland/Germany

RICE PEOPLE

(Original Title: Neak Sre)
(1994/Khmer/ DVD/ Col/ 129 mins)
Director: Rithy Panh

Synopsis

A poor, rural Cambodian family slowly disintegrates during the cycle of a single rice crop in this moving, and beautifully photographed European drama adapted from a novel by Shahnouh Ahmad. Pouev, his wife Om, and his seven children, live in a small rural village in Cambodia. Their whole precarious life depends upon the success of their rice crop. Both husband and wife are worried, but for different reasons. Pouev is concerned because their acreage is shrinking. Om worries about Pouev; what would happen to her and the children if he died or was injured? Her worst fear is manifest after Pouev steps upon a poisoned thorn and dies.



Note on Director

The French-schooled director's films focus on the aftermath of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. Rithy Panh's works are from an authoritative viewpoint, because the Khmer Rouge expelled his family from Phnom Penh in 1975. One after another, his father, mother, sisters and nephews died of starvation or exhaustion, as they were held in a remote labor camp in rural Cambodia. His first documentary feature film, *Site 2*, about a family of Cambodian refugees in a camp on the Thai-Cambodian border in the 1980s, was awarded "Grand Prix du Documentaire" at the Festival of Amiens. His 1994 film, *Rice People*, is told in a docudrama style, about a rural family struggling with life in post-Khmer Rouge Cambodia. It was in competition at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival, and was submitted to the 67th Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film, the first time a Cambodian film had been submitted for an Oscar. His 2003 documentary, *S-21: The Khmer Rouge Killing Machine*, about the Khmer Rouge's Tuol Sleng prison, reunited former prisoners, including the artist Vann Nath, and their former captors, for a chilling, confrontational review of Cambodia's violent history.

Select Filmography *Barrage contre le Pacifique*, *Un* (2008) (in production), *Papier ne peut pas envelopper la braise*, *Le* (2007), *Artistes du Théâtre Brûlé*, *Les* (2005), *S-21, la machine de mort Khmère rouge* (2003), *Terre des âmes errantes*, *La* (2000), *Un soir après la guerre* (1998).

Main Cast

Peng Phan - Yim Om
Chhim Naline - Sakha, oldest daughter
Mom Soth - Vong Pouev

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Eve Deboise
Producer - Jacques Bidou
Cinematographers - Jacques Bouquin

Awards/Festivals

- Golden Palm – Nominee – 1994
Cannes Film Festival

MOON FATHER

(Original Title: Luna Papa)
(1999/Russian/DVD/ Col/107 mins)
Director: Bakhtyar Khudonazarov



Synopsis

Mamlakat is 17, beautiful and vivacious, and dreaming secretly of becoming an actress. She lives with her father and brother (Bleibtrau) in a small village in Central Asia. One night, an actor from a traveling troupe, who poses as a friend of Tom Cruise, seduces her and makes her pregnant. She tries to abort, but her father and brother become determined to find the seducer, setting in motion a cascade of comic adventures.

Note on Director

Born in Tajikistan during the Soviet Union period, Bakhtyar Khudonazarov worked for Tadjikfilm Studios, TV and radio, as a journalist or assistant director, from 1982 to 1984. He then studied at the Moscow Film Institute. In 1991, two years after he graduated, he directed and co-wrote his first feature film *Bratan* (1991) and won several awards in International film festivals. He eventually directed his second film *Kosh ba kosh* (1993), co-produced by many countries. He won a prestigious Silver Lion in Venice for this film. He benefited from a bigger budget for his next film, *Luna Papa* (1999), another international co-production, co-written with Georgian filmmaker 'Irakli Kvirikadze'. Khudonazarov created a Kusturica-alike poetic atmosphere for which the crew built an entire village in a desert of Central Asia. It became his most internationally famous movie.



Select Filmography Tanker 'Tango' (2006), Shik (2003), Kosh ba kosh (1993), Bratan (1991).

Main Cast

Chulpan Khamatova - Mamlakat
Moritz Bleibtreu - Nasreddin
Merab Ninidze - Alek
Ato Mukhamedzhanov - Safar
Nikolai Formenko - Yassir

Production Credits

Screenwriters - Bakhtyar Khudonazarov/
Irakli Kvirikadze
Producers - Karl Baumgartner/Heinz Stussak
Cinematographers - Martin Gschlacht/Dusan Joksimovic/Rotislav Pirumov.

Awards/Festivals

- FIPRESCI Prize (win) Special Mention 2000 - Brussels Int'l Film Fest.
- Golden Aries (win) - 2000 - Russian Guild of Film Critics.
- Golden Prometheus (win) - 2000 Tbilisi Int'l Film Fest
- Best Artistic Contribution - 1999 Tokyo Int'l Film Fest.

SILENCES OF THE PALACE

(Original Title: Samt El Qusur)

(1994/Arabic/French/DVD/Co/

128 mins)

Director: Moufida Tlatli



Synopsis

As Alia, the daughter of a beautiful servant Khedija, grows up in the Kings Palace at the end of the French colonial rule in Tunisia, she realizes the sexual favors required of her mother and other servants.

Note on Director



Moufida Tlatli was raised in Tunisia in a tradition-oriented family. It was in high school, thanks to her philosophy teacher, who ran a film club, that she developed a taste for the cinema. After graduating from the IDHEC film school in 1968, in the editing department, she went back to live in Tunisia in 1972. Her name appears on the credits of some of the most important Arab film from 1970 to 1990.

Select Filmography Nadia et Sarra (2004), Saison des hommes, La (2000)

Main Cast

Amel Hedhili - Khedija
Hend Sabri - Young Alia
Najia Ouerghi - Khalti Hadda
Kamel Fazaa - Sidi Ali
Sami Bouajila - Lofti
Hichem Rostom - Si Bechir

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Moufida Tlatli
Producers -
Ahmed Baha Eddine Attia/ Richard Magnien
Cinematographer -
Youssef Ben Youssef Editor - Moufida Tlatli
Composer (Music Score)- Anouar Brahem

Awards/Festivals

- Camera d'Or Special Mention (win)
Moufida Tlatli - 1994 - Cannes Film
Festival
- Film Presented - 1994 - Telluride Film
Festival

V
Vivre Ensemble!
Living Together!

How do you find your place in society, with your differences, Your wants, your contradictions, Your talents and your weaknesses? Sometimes sad, always sensitive, The six films in this programme take a close-up view of the pain, the frustration, the enthusiasm and the hopes of young people dealing with hardship and exclusion. Their daily lives burst through the screen. Daily lives where aspirations come up against disappointment, setbacks and anxiety, but where the power of friendship and love forms life-long bonds. Each film depicts a new horizon, where freedom wins out in the end for characters like Jérôme, Cheyenne, Samia and Zim, whether they seek their happiness in the street, In the countryside, in their local area or on the doorstep of their public housing building. These modern-day fables about french society and its divides convey the vital need to learn how to get to know and understand each other. So we can live together.

LOOKING FOR CHEYENNE

(Original Title: Oublier Cheyenne)
(2006/ French/35 mm/ Col/ 87 min)
Director: Valerie Minetto

Synopsis

As a warm and gentle human fable with a leftwing political undercurrent, the French-language picture *Looking for Cheyenne* concerns two women passionately in love with one another, and yet hopelessly separated. Journalist Cheyenne (Mila Dekker) is reeling - not only from a split with one of the great loves of her life, high school science Prof Sonia (Aurelia Petit), but from a recent and unexpected job loss - the product of her company's decision to downsize. When she finds it next to impossible to land another job, Cheyenne eventually throws up her hands in disgust and drops out altogether. Refusing to live by society's constraints, and rejecting every government "handout" that comes down the pike, Cheyenne lives without running water, electricity, or groceries, preferring instead to live off of discarded vegetables that she discovers in trashcans and to light her residence with candles.



Note on Director



Valerie Minetto was born in 1965 in Forcalquier. She is a graduate of the Ecole des Arts Decoratifs de Nice (Villa Arson) and the Fémis. She has produced two documentaries on contemporary young dancers in Moscow, "Beau Geste in Moscow" (1997 Released on Planet TV and Monte Carlo) and "Moscow between Heaven and Earth" (2003, Festival du Réel in Paris, the General Assemblies Documentary Lussas, upset Lyon), a short film, "Head Angel" (1994, Clermont-Ferrand festivals, Belfort, London) and a film, Adolescents" (1998, Clermont-Ferrand, Pantin, Belfort, Rome, Shanghai, A Summer at Cinema Lutin Best Editing and aired on France 2, Arte Cable, and TV5). *Looking for Cheyenne* is her first feature film.

[Source: AMG]

Select Filmography Adolescents (2000)

Main Cast

Mila Dekker - Cheyenne
Aurelia Petit - Sonia
Laurence Côte - Edith
Malik Zidi - Pierre
Guilaine Londez - Béatrice

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Cécile Vargaftig
Producer - Dominique Crèvecoeur
Cinematographer - Stephan Massis
Composer - Christophe Chevalier
Editor - Tina Baz

MY NEIGHBOURS

(Original Title: Voisins Voisines)
(2005/French/35 mm/ Col/90 mins)
Director: Malik Chibane



Synopsis

In the suburbs of Paris, there is a privatized former public housing estate called 'the Mozart estate'. There is no classic music there, but a rap musician lacking inspiration. Ideas? Lyrics? Music? But what if his inspiration were right on his doorstep? The rapper observes, composes, writes and sings. The life of the whole building is dissected and transformed through his writing. The Mozart estate metamorphoses into the stage for a hip-hop fable. Discussions become poetry, situations are turned into tales, and every voice brings its own melody to a unique album.

'Voisins, Voisines' is a movie about how the vision of an artist brings beauty and meaning to the lives of his entourage.

Note on Director

Malik Chibane is a french director, writer, and film producer, born March 10, 1964 in Saint-Vallier, Saône. In 1985, he worked as an electrician in the theater at Porte Saint-Martin. He received a diploma organizer of cultural events for its activities in the organization he founded. It was then that he wrote his first fiction, a film detailing the life of an immigrant Arabic family. The critics and audiences enthusiastically received the film. Malik Chibane has continued his career by writing and directing *Douce France* (1995), *born somewhere* (TV, 1997) and *Neighbors, neighbors* (2005).



Select Filmography *Nés quelque part* (1997), *Douce France* (1995), *Hexagone* (1992)

Main Cast

Frederic Diefenthal
Anémone
Jackie Berroyer
Mohamed Fellag
Gwendoline Hamon

Production Credits

Screenwriters - Malik Chibane/Jackie Berroyer
Producer - Nadia Hasnaoui
Cinematographer - Georges LeChaptois
Composers - Jean-Paul Bottemanne/ Alain Feat

Awards/Festivals

- 20th Anniversary Award, Prize of the City of Amiens - 2000 - Amiens International Film Festival.

SAMIA

(Original Title: Samia)
(2001/French/35 mm/Col/73 mins)
Director: Philippe Faucon

Synopsis

Fifteen-year-old Samia lives in Marseille's periphery. Sixth in a family of eight children of Algerian descent, she suffocates in the moralistic atmosphere made oppressive by beliefs and rules she respects but no longer shares...

Yacine, her unemployed older brother, justifies himself by upholding family and religious traditions. Older sister, Amel, has excluded herself from family life by her involvement with a boy from a different cultural background. Samia's other sisters are completely focussed on academic achievement... And Samia, a series of school failures in her wake, forced to take up technical studies that don't suit her, obliged to keep her first romance secret, becomes aware that it's absolutely necessary that she alone decides just what to do with her life.



Note on Director



Philippe Faucon was born in Oujda, Morocco, in 1958. He holds a degree in Arts from the University of Aix-en Provence, he tackles the world of the Seventh Art governed by (among others on Mauvais sang and three seats for the 26). In 1984, he made a short film, The Youth, a title that might summarize all the work ahead of the budding filmmaker.

Select Filmography La Trahison (2005), Grégoire peut mieux faire (2002) (TV), All is not black (1996), Sabine (1992), L'Amour (1989)

Main Cast

Lynda Benahouda
Mohamed Chaouch
Kheira Oualhaci
Nadia Koutei El
Yamina Amri

Production Credits

Screenwriter/Editor – Philippe Faucon
Producer – Humbert Balsan
Cinematographer – Jacques Loiseleux

Awards/Festivals

- Perspectives du Cinéma Award (win) – Cannes Film Festival.
- 20th Anniversary Award, Prize of the City of Amiens - 2000 - Amiens International Film Festival

WESH WESH, WHAT'S GOING ON?

(Original Title: Wesh wesh, Qu'est-ce qui se passe?)

(2001/ French/35 mm/Col/83 mins)

Director: Rabah Ameur-Zaimeche



Synopsis

Halfway between documentary and fiction, 'Wesh wesh' is a take on the everyday life of an immigrant family which is struggling to integrate into France or, rather into the 'Cite des Bosquets' a low-income housing project in the Parisian suburbs. Like every district, it is a world of its own, with its rules and values. Mousse, the younger brother has understood how it works there. He has integrated a gang, and deals everyday with small time drug trafficking and protects his territory. On the other hand, his older brother who just came back after 2 years in prison, wants to start a normal life and integrate into society.

Note on Director



Rabah Ameur-Zaimeche is an actor director and screenwriter. His films include *Bled number one*, and *Back Home*.

Select Filmography *Back Home* (2006)

Main Cast

Rabah Ameur-Zaimeche

Ahmed Hammoudi

Brahim Ameur-Zaimeche

Farida Mouffok

Production Credits

Screenwriters – Rabah Zaimeche/ Madjid Benaroudj

Awards/Festivals

- Bronze Rosa Camuna Award - 2003
Bergamo Film Meeting Wolfgang Staudte Award
- Berlin International Film Festival - Léo Scheer Award - 2002
- Entrevues Film Festival Best First Film - 2001
- Prix Louis Delluc - 2002

France

WHEN YOU COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN

(Original Title: Quand Tu Descendras
Du Ciel)

(2003/ French/35 mm/ Col/95 mins)

Director: Eric Guirado



Synopsis

Jerome has just arrived from his farm where there was not enough work. He's hired by the town hall and they give him the dirty job to do, whereas most of his "colleagues" accept this disgusting work. It is not long before he takes a rebel stand abetted by a young female journalist.

Note on Director



Eric Guirado started with journalism, made pictures and documentaries for regional television channel France 3. He is an actor, dialog writer, director, and screenwriter. He gained recognition with his short films at the Cannes in 1999, and the Cesar awards in 2001. In 2002 he wrote and directed a full-length feature film *Quand Tu Descendras Du Ciel* inspired by the characters he encountered during his earlier days.

Select Filmography *Le Fils de l'épicier* (2006), *From Heaven* (2002), *Un petit air de fête* (1999)

Main Cast

Benoît Giros - Jérôme

Serge Riaboukine - La Chignole

Jean-François Gallotte - Lucien

Ludmila Ruoso - Marthe

Production Credits

Producer - Jean-Fabrice Barnault

Cinematographer - Thierry Godefroy

Composers - Philippe Poirier/Sylvain Freyermuth

ZIM AND CO.

(Original Title: La Caisse)
(2002/ French/35 mm/ Col/88 mins)
Director: Pierre Jolivet



Synopsis

A minor scooter accident turns into a comic nightmare for an aimless young man and his friends in Pierre Jolivet's *Zim and Co.* Victor Zimbietrovski, or Zim (Adrien Jolivet, the director's son), works hard, but not in any organized way. He plays guitar in a band, and he has a couple of odd jobs, off the books. He lives with his easygoing mother (Nathalie Richard) and he gets by. But when he accidentally sideswipes a vengeful motorist, he ends up in a great deal of trouble.

Note on Director



Pierre Jolivet is a French director, actor and scriptwriter born Oct. 9, 1952 in Saint France. He began his film career as in 1983 as a screenwriter, with Luc Besson. He directed his first feature film in 1985 *Strictly Personal* that he wrote and produced. Since then he has written and directed many films, some of them being – *Simple Mortel* (1991), *In the Heart* (1998), *My Small Business* (1999), *Brother of the Warrior* (2002).

Select Filmography *Filles uniques* (2003), *Frère du guerrier, Le* (2002), *Ma petite entreprise* (1999), *En plein coeur* (1998), *Simple mortel* (1991)

Main Cast

Adrien Jolivet - Victor Zimbietrovski
Mhamed Arezki - Cheb
Yannick Nasso - Arthur
Naidra Ayadi - Safia

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented (Un Certain Regard) - 2005 - Cannes Film Festival

Production Credits

Producers – Frédéric Bourboulon/Pierre Kubel/Jean Labadie/ Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar
Cinematographer – Jérôme Alméras
Composers – Adrien Jolivet/Sacha Sieff
Editor - Stratos Gabrielidis

*Contemporary
Russian Cinema*

72 METERS

(Original Title: 72 Metra)
(2003/Russian/DVD/100 mins)
Director: Vladimir Khotinenko

Synopsis

The film begins in the 1980s Soviet Union. Two best friends, Orlov (Basharov) and Muravyev (Ulyanov), are serving at the Black Sea Navy Base in Sevastopol, Crimea. Both fall in love with one beautiful girl Nelly (Khamatova), and their friendship suffers a first blow. Because she picks Muravyev, his friend Orlov struggles with an inferiority complex and becomes a secretive alcoholic. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, both friends are transferred to the Northern Fleet on the Polar Ocean. One day their sub is performing a routine training. A disturbed WWII mine slowly moves on a collision course with the sub. A mighty blast knocks down everyone inside the wrecked sub, 72 meters below the sea level. Then ensues a nerve-racking struggle for survival.

Note on Director

Vladimir Khotinenko established his reputation as a filmmaker (artistic design, acting, and directing) at the studios in Ekaterinburg (formerly Sverdlovsk) before moving to Moscow, where he now also teaches directing at the State Institute for Filmmaking (VGIK). Among his major films are *Mirror for a Hero* (1987), *A Patriotic Comedy* (1992), *Makarov* (1993), and *The Muslim* (1995). His latest film, *Strastnoi bul'var* [Boulevard of Passion], premiered at the 1999 Moscow Film Festival.



Select Filmography *Musulmanin* (1995), *Makarov* (1993), *Roy* (1990).

Main Cast

Sergei Makovetsky - Chernenko
Marat Basharov - Captain-Leutenant Pyotr
Andrei Krasko - 1st Class Captain Yanychar
Dmitri Ulyanov - Captain-Leutenant Ivan Murav'yov
Chulpan Khamatova - Nelly

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Valeri Zalotukha
Producers - Konstantin Ernst/Sergei Gurevich/Aleksei Karpushin
Cinematographer - Ilya Dyomin
Composer - Ennio Morricone
Editor - Oleg Rayevsky

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - 2005 - Russian Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2004 - Golden Eagle Award



PETER FM

(Original Title: Piter FM)
(2006/Russian/DVD/85mins)
Director: Oksana Bychkova

Synopsis

Masha is a DJ at one of the most popular St. Petersburg radio stations. Maxim is a very promising young architect. Masha is preparing for her wedding with her ex-classmate Kostya, and Maxim gets an invitation to work in Germany. But both of them aren't sure that they want their lives to be like that. Maxim doesn't want to leave because of the girl who left him, and Masha isn't sure that Kostya is the right thing for her. Somehow Masha and Maxim are going to meet.

Note on Director



She was born on the 18th of June in Donetsk city. Oksana's father was a long voyage captain. After university she worked on the radio in the news department for 6 years. In 2000 Petr Todorovsky studio. FM is her first foray into Russian Cinema.

Select Filmography Three Sisters (2002/short film), Two sides of a glass (2001/short film)

Main Cast

Yekaterina Fedulova - Masha
Yevgeni Tsyanov - Maksim
Aleksei Barabash - Kostya
Irina Rakhmanova - Lera

Production Credits

Screenwriter Oksana Bychkova
Producers - Yelena Glikman/Igor Tolstunov
Cinematographer - Ivan Gudkov
Composer - Kirill Pirogov
Editor - Aleksandr Chupakov

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - 2007 - Zurich Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2007 - Chennai International Film Festival
- Film Source Embassy of the Russian Federation in India



THE ISLAND

(Original Name: Ostrov)
(2006/Russian/DVD/112mins)
Director: Pavel Lungin



Synopsis

Somewhere in Northern Russia in a small Russian Orthodox monastery lives an unusual man whose bizarre conduct confuses his fellow monks, while others who visit the island believe that the man has the power to heal, exorcise demons and foretell the future

Note on Director



In 1990 Lungin was awarded the Best Director Prize at Cannes Film Festival for the film "Taxi Blues" starring Pyotr Mamonov. That same year he took up residence in France, while making films in and about Russia with French producers. In 2006 he directed a religious film *The Island*, which also starred Mamonov. The film - which has English subtitles - closed the 2006 Venice Film Festival and was praised by the Russian Orthodox Church leader Alexis II.

Select Filmography Oligarkh (2002), Svadba (2000), Luna Park (1992)

Main Cast

Pyotr Mamonov - Father Anatoli
Viktor Sukhorukov - Father Filaret
Dmitri Dyuzhev - Father Iov
Yuri Kuznetsov - Tikhon

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Dmitri Sobolev
Producers - Pavel Lungin/ Olga Vasilieva
Cinematographer - Andrei Zhegalov
Composer - Vladimir Martynov
Editor - Albina Antipenko

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - 2007 - Nika Awards
- Film Presented - 2007 - Sundance Film Festival
- Best Film (won) - 2007 - Nika Awards

THE LISTENER

(Original Name: Slushatel)
(2004/Russian/DVD/94 mins)
Director: Nikolai Solvtsov

Synopsis

Hero Sergei Petrov (Nikita Vysotsky) is leading the life of a model businessman until he returns to his office one day to find his wife engaging in more than intimate relations with a subordinate.

Rather than challenge the situation, Sergei decides to simply leave it all behind for the easy, carefree lifestyle of Kulema, his recently rediscovered university friend. Having long ago given up on the establishment way of being, Kulema is the classic aferist, an opportunist who will take any road that fate offers.

Note on Director

Vladimir Zaykin was born on the 9th of April 1959. He graduated out of Krasnotarsk Dramatic School specializing in "actor of dramatic theater and films". His debut feature was *whom will god point to* (1994). He received an award from the city administration of St. Petersburg for the film *The last case of Varney*.

Select Filmography Bashmachnik (2002), Lyubov zla (1999)

Main Cast

Nikita Vysotsky - Sergey Petrov
Mikhail Yefremov - Kulema
Yevgeni Stebllov - Fedulov
Natalya Kolyakanova - Fedulova

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Vladimir Zajkin
Producers - Paradise Productions



THE MOTHER WOLF OF VES'EGONSK

(2004/Russian/DVD/104 mins)
Director: Nikolai Solovtsov

Synopsis

The Mother Wolf of Ves'egonsk tells the story of a wolf hunter, Egor Biriukov (Oleg Fomin), and a female wolf who rules the woods surrounding Egor's village. Initially Egor decides to hunt down the mother of the cubs and kill her. When he entraps the beast and shoots her at point blank, however, the wolf miraculously survives. Egor realizes that it is physically impossible to kill this bestial incarnation of the maternal spirit. Being a man of nature himself, Egor understands that there is a limit to his ability to control the creatures of the forest and decides to keep the wolf in captivity next to his house since he cannot kill or control her otherwise. Once the wolf starts living in Egor's household, the hunter is gradually transformed from captor into the captive of the wolf's will and forest's spirit. Eventually, Egor distances himself from his human community and ends up spending most of his time with his lupine partner.



Note on Director

Nikolai Solovtsov (1946-2004) graduated from the Russian state Institute of Cinematography in 1980. Before joining the institute he worked as an assistant cameraman for 'Soyuzmultfilm'. Between 2002 and 2004, he was the deputy director of 'Tsentrnauchfilm' film studio. He made more than forty films, more than half of which are devoted to life of nature and animals.

Select Filmography Mishka Tot and Others, Masha and Three Bears, Sign of a Bear, Tomazzo campanella.

Main Cast

Oleg Fomin
Elena Drobysheva
Vladimir Gostiukhin
Lev Durov

Production Credits

Screenwriters - Nikolai Solovtsov/ Eduard Volodarskii
Cinematographer - Elizbar Karavaev
Production Design - Anatolii Kachurov

YOU'LL NOT LEAVE ME

(2005/Russian/DVD/113 mins)

Director: Alla Surikova

Synopsis

A young woman comes back from a health resort, and little later a card from the resort comes from a man whom she has met there. This card is received by her husband. The husband, in turn replies to the letter on behalf of his wife.

Note on Director



Alla Surikova is also a scriptwriter, producer, and an author of the Russian Federation. Apart from feature films, she has also made some documentaries. In 1965 she graduated from the Philology department of the Kiev State University specializing in Russian literature, and also worked on Mathematical linguistics.



Select Filmography Moscow Holidays, Sincerely yours, Two Arrows, Looking for Woman.

Main Cast

Elizaveta Boyarskaya
Alexander Baluev
Mikhail Boyarskiy
Natalia Selezneva
Sergey Nikonenko
Elena Safanova

PR
Retrospectives

Kenji Mizoguchi

Julio Medem

Suresh Urs



Kenji Mizoguchi
(Director)

Kenji Mizoguchi entered the film world as a promoter of Western novelty in Japanese cinema and exited it as an acclaimed international director who exemplified Japan at its most traditional. After *The Life of Oharu* and *Ugetsu* won prizes in successive Venice Film Festivals in the early '50s, Mizoguchi became an icon for the nascent French New Wave. His mastery of *mise-en-scène* was lauded by Jacques Rivette, while Jean-Luc Godard praised his metaphysics and his stylistic elegance, at the same time deriding Akira Kurosawa as a second-rate talent. Mizoguchi is still recognized as one of the 20th century's greatest filmmakers.

Born in Tokyo, in 1898, Mizoguchi was the middle child of a roofer/carpenter. His family's financial situation went from modest to desperate when his erratic, dreamer father (who was the model for the heroine's father in *Osaka Elegy*) tried to make a killing by selling raincoats to the military during the Russo-Japanese war (1904-1905). By the time he borrowed the money, set up the factory, and produced the coats, the war was over. Not having enough money for food, Mizoguchi's older sister was put up for adoption at age 14. She was later sold to a geisha house. Mizoguchi himself was taken out of elementary school and apprenticed in a pharmacy in northern Iwate prefecture. Later, he returned to Tokyo and studied painting at the Aohashi Western Painting Research Institute. In 1922, Mizoguchi was hired as an assistant director for Osamu Wakayama at Nikkatsu Studios.

The Japanese film industry was changing rapidly when Mizoguchi entered it, Kabuki-inspired movies of the 1910s were giving way to those inspired by Western films. Mizoguchi, who became a full-fledged director in 1923, quickly showed an enthusiasm for novelty and the West. One of his first films, *Blood and Soul*, employed the kind of exaggerated sets and makeup seen in such German Expressionist films as *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*; his 1929 *Metropolitan Symphony* was a highpoint in the leftist tendency film genre. As his style matured, his work underwent an astonishing transformation. This former advocate of the faddish and the radical began creating finely crafted period pieces centered on downtrodden women. To be sure, Mizoguchi's metamorphosis was hastened in no small measure by growing political oppression during the 1930s. One of his few contemporary dramas during this time, *Osaka Elegy*, was banned by the military government in 1940.

Like Mikio Naruse, Mizoguchi populated his films with marginalized women such as geishas, barmaids, and mistreated housewives. But unlike Naruse's proud, willful heroines who toil for an elusive dignity, Mizoguchi's women selflessly devote themselves to the objects of their love. Characters such as Taki in *Taki no Shiraito* or Otoki in *Story of the Late Chrysanthemums* willingly destroy themselves to enable success for their men. The Chinese maid in *Empress Yang Kwei Fei* molds herself into the king's vision of perfection and then calmly walks to her death to save his life. Mizoguchi's heroines blame no one during their headlong trajectory toward destruction; they seem to transcend the horrors they endure in a manner that is simply not possible in Naruse films.

In his later films, Mizoguchi couched these tragic tales in a quiet lyricism that evoked the impermanence of human life. Like a traditional Chinese scroll painting that depicts unfolding human drama in the midst of an overwhelming landscape, Mizoguchi's camera lingers on the stillness of a natural setting or the passing of a moment, rather than on the machinations of plot. Individual humans seem barely consequential: they work, suffer, love, and die beneath a larger, unchanging order.

In the 1950s, Mizoguchi reached his creative zenith with masterpiece after masterpiece, including *The Life of Oharu*, *Sansho the Bailiff*, *Chikamatsu Monogatari*, and *Ugetsu*, often considered one of the most beautiful films ever made. Mizoguchi died, a devout Buddhist, in 1956.

Filmography

50's

Akasen chitai (Street of Shame) (1956)
 Shin heike monogatari (Tales of the Taira Clan) (1955)
 Yôkihi (Empress Yank Kwei Fei) (1955)
 Chikamatsu monogatari (A Story from Chikamatsu) (1954)
 Uwaso no onna (The Woman of Rumour) (1954)
 Sanshō dayū (Sansho the Bailiff) (1954)
 Gion bayashi (A Geisha) (1953)
 Ugetsu monogatari (Ugetsu) (1953)
 Saikaku ichidai onna (Diary of Oharu) (1952)
 Musashino fujin (The Lady from Musashino) (1951)
 Oyū-sama (Miss Oyū) (1951)
 Yuki fujin ezu (A Picture of Madame Yuki) (1950)

40's

Waga koi wa moenu (My Love Has Been Burning) (1949)
 Yoru no onnatachi (Women of the Night) (1948)
 Joyū Sumako no koi (The Love of Sumako the Actress) (1947)
 Utamaro o meguru gonin no onna (Utamaro and His Five Women) (1946)
 Josei no shōri (The Victory of Women) (1946)
 Hisshoka (Victory Song) (1945)
 Meito bijomaru (1945)
 The Famous Sword
 Miyamoto Musashi (1944)
 Danjuro sandai (Three Danjuros) (1944)
 Genroku Chūshingura (1941)
 47 Samurai
 Geido ichidai otoko (The Life of an Actor) (1941)
 Naniwa onna (A Woman of Osaka) (1940)

30's

Zangiku monogatari (1939)
 The Story of the Last Chrysanthemums
 Aa kokyo (Ah, My Home Town) (1938)
 Roei no uta (The Song of the Camp) (1938)
 Aien kyo (The Straits of Love and Hate) (1937)
 Gion no shimai (Sisters of the Gion) (1936)
 Naniwa ereji (Osaka Elegy) (1936)
 Gubijinsō (The Field Poppy) (1935)
 Maria no Oyuki (Oyuki, the Virgin) (1935)
 Orizuru Osen (The Downfall) (1935)
 Aizo toge (The Pass of Love and Hate) (1934)
 Jinpu-ren (The Shimpu Group) (1934)
 Gion matsuri (Gion Festival) (1933)
 Taki no shiraito (White Threads of the Waterfall) (1933)
 Manmo kenkoku no reimei (Dawn in Manchuria) (1932)
 Toki no ujigami (Man of the Moment) (1932)
 Shikamo karera wa yuku (And Yet They Go) (1931)

Tojō Okichi (Mistress of a Foreigner) (1930/1)
 Fujiwara Yoshie no furusato (Home Town) (1930)

20's

Tokai kokyogaku (Metropolitan Symphony) (1929)
 Tokyo koshin-kyoku (Tokyo March) (1929)
 Asahi wa kagayaku (1929)
 Nihon bashi (My Lovely Daughter) (1929)
 Hito no issho (A Man's Life) (1928)
 Jihi shincho (The Cuckoo) (1927)
 Ko-on (The Imperial Grace) (1927)
 Kane (Money) (1926)
 Kaikoku danji (Children of the Sea) (1926)
 Kyōren no onna shishō (The Love-Mad Tutoress) (1926)
 Shin onoga tsumi (My Fault, New Version) (1926)
 Kaminingyo haru no sasayaki (A Paper Doll's Whisper of Spring) (1926)
 Dōka-ō (The Copper Coin King) (1926)
 Nogi taisho to Kumasani (General Nogi and Kumasani) (1925)
 Furusato no uta (The Song of Home) (1925)
 Ningen (The Human Being) (1925)
 Gaijo no suketchi (Street Scenes) (1925)
 Akai yuhi ni terasarete (Shining in the Red Sunset) (1925)
 Shirayuri wa nageku (The White Lily Laments) (1925)
 a tokumukan kanto (The Special Service Vessel) (1925)
 Daichi wa hohoemu (The Earth Smiles) (1925) (part 1)
 Gakuso o idete (Out of College) (1925)
 Uchen-Puchan (No Money, No Fight) (1925)
 Kyokubadan no joō (Queen of the Circus) (1924)
 Kanraku no onna (A Woman of Pleasure) (1924)
 Samidare zoshi (A Chronicle of the May Rain) (1924)
 Itō junsu no shi (1924)
 Shichimencho no yukue (The Trace of a Turkey) (1924)
 Jin kyo (This Dusty World) (1924)
 Josei wa tsuyoshi (Women Are Strong) (1924)
 Gendai no jo-o (The Queen of Modern Times) (1924)
 Akatsuki no shi (Death at Dawn) (1924)
 Kanashiki hakuchi (The Sad Idiot) (1924)
 Toge no uta (The Song of the Mountain Pass) (1923)
 Chi to rei (Blood and Soul) (1923)
 Yoru (The Night) (1923)
 Haikyo no naka (Among the Ruins) (1923)
 Kiri no minato (Harbour in the Fog) (1923)
 813 (1923)
 The Adventures of Arsène Lupin
 Haizan no uta wa kanashi (The Song of Failure) (1923)
 Joen no chimata (City of Desire) (1923)
 Seishun no yumeji (Dream of Youth) (1923)
 Kokyo (Furusato) (1923)
 Ai ni yomigaeru hi (The Resurrection of Love) (1923)

OSAKA ELEGY

(Original Title: Naniwa ereji)
(1936/ Japanese/ 35 mm/ B & W/ 71
mins)
Director: Mizoguchi Kenji



Synopsis

Ayako becomes the mistress of her boss, Mr. Asai, so she can pay her father's debt, and prevent him from going to prison for embezzlement. She also sends money to her brother Hiroshi to pay his university tuition, but her father intercepts it. She tricks Mr. Fujino into giving her money so that she can marry her boyfriend Nishimura, but Fujino calls in the police.

Main Cast

Isuzu Yamada - Ayako Murai
Kensaku Hara - Susumu Nishimura
Yoko Umemura - Sumiko Asai

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Mizoguchi Kenji
Cinematographer - Minoru Miki
Screenwriter - Yoshikata Yoda

SANSHO THE BAILIFF

(Original Title: Sansho Dayu)
(1954/ Japanese/ 35 mm/ B & W/
132 mins)
Director: Mizoguchi Kenji



Synopsis

In mediaeval Japan a compassionate governor is sent into exile. His wife and children try to join him, but are separated, and the children grow up amid suffering and oppression.

Main Cast

Kinuyo Tanaka - Tamaki
Kyoko Kagawa - Anju
Eitaro Shindo - Sansho
Yoshiaki Hanayagi - Zushio
Ichiro Sugai - Minister of Justice

Production Credits

Screenwriter— Mizoguchi Kenji
Cinematographer — Fuji yahiro
Screenwriter — Yoshikata Yoda

Awards/Festivals

- Silver Lion (win) Kenji Mizoguchi
1954 - Venice International Film
Festival

STORY OF LATE CHRYSANTHEMUMS

(Original Title: Zangiku Monogatari)
(1939/ Japanese/ 35 mm/ B & W/
115 mins)
Director: Mizoguchi Kenji



Synopsis

Story of the Late Chrysanthemum (Zangiku monogatari) was the only film made in 1939 by the astonishingly prolific Japanese director Kenji Mizoguchi). The plot, based on an ancient legend, concerns the son of a renowned Kabuki actor. When the son falls in love with a servant girl, his father violently opposes the union. This, coupled with several impulsive decisions by the younger people, eventually results in tragedy. Like many of Mizoguchi's best works, this dwells upon the adverse results stemming from class-consciousness and the depersonalization of women.

Main Cast

Shotaro Hanayagi - Kikunosuke Onoue
Gonjuro Kawarazaki - Kikugoro Onoue
Kakuo Mori

Production Credits

Screenwriters— Mizoguchi Kenji/ Yoshikata Yoda

THE WOMAN OF RUMOUR

(Original Title: Uwasa No Onna)
(1954/Japanese/ 35 mm/ B & W/
90 mins)
Director: Mizoguchi Kenji



Synopsis

Like much of his work, Kenji Mizoguchi directs this film about an aging geisha in Kyoto's Shimabara district longing for something beyond her marginalized existence. Her aspirations for something higher are ultimately dashed when she learns that her lover has fallen for her more socially acceptable pianist daughter. Veteran actress Kinuyo Tanaka delivers a powerful multilayered performance in this movie's central role. Though this film was produced in 1954, it was screened at the 1957 *Venice Film Festival*.

Main Cast

Kinuyo Tanaka
Yoshiko Kuga
Eitaro Shindo

Production Credits

Screenwriter— Mizoguchi Kenji
Cinematographer — Kazuo Miyagawa
Screenwriter — Yoshikata Yoda

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented — 1957 - Venice Film Festival

UGETSU

(Original Title: Ugetsu Monogatari)
(1953/ Japanese/ 35 mm/ B & W/ 96 mins)
Director: Mizoguchi Kenji



Synopsis

Presented in a manner as eerie as it is heartbreaking, this film is a gorgeous supernatural fable about the folly of men with dreams larger than their abilities and their women who suffer as a result. Genjuro (Masuyaki Mori) is a potter who longs for wealth and luxury, while Tobei (Sakae Ozawa), a farmer, dreams of the glories of the samurai to the point of ignoring his wife. Though a war rages around them, they venture to town to sell their wares. Genjuro becomes bewitched by a beautiful though vengeful ghost (Machiko Kyo), while his wife is murdered by a soldier; Tobei becomes a noted warrior, while his wife descends into prostitution after being raped while searching for her husband.

Main Cast

Machiko Kyo - Lady Wakasa
Masayuki Mori - Genjuro, Pottery Maker
Kinuyo Tanaka - Miyagi, Genjuro's Wife
Sakae Ozawa - Tobei, Genjuro's Brother-in-Law
Mitsuko Mito - Ohama, Tobei's Wife

Production Credits

Screenwriters— Mizoguchi Kenji/ Yoshikata Yoda
Cinematographer — Kazuo Miyagawa

Awards/Festivals

- Silver Lion (win) Kenji Mizoguchi 1953 Venice International Film Festival
- Best Black and White Costume Design (nom) Tadaoto
- Kinoscho — 1955 Academy



Julio Medem

(Director, Writer, Editor, Producer, Actor)

Though not among the most prolific of the 1990's Spanish directors, Julio Medem has become one of the most respected and is considered by many the voice of post-democracy, Basque cinema. Medem started out directing short films and made his feature length directorial debut with *Vacas* (Cows) (1992), a beautifully rendered but unpretentious portrait of the close rivalries between Basque families; the film packed an emotional wallop not found in other art films. *Vacas* proved an auspicious debut and critics hailed Medem's craftsmanship and ability to marry the right images with his near mythic story lines. Before entering the film industry, Medem studied Medicine and General Surgery at the Universidad del Pais Vasco. He graduated in 1985. While in school, Medem wrote a movie column for the daily *La Voz de Euskadi*. He has also authored and co-authored articles for other film publications including *Cinema 2002*. He taught himself about cinematography in the mid-'70s, experimenting with a Super-8 camera. The result was a series of short films, beginning with the Hitchcockian *El Ciego* (The Blind Man) (1976). In one of his early short films, *Fideos* (1979), Medem effectively blurred the lines between recognizable reality and the abstract by having the camera view an abstract series of patterns in extreme close-up and then slowly back away to reveal a mundane scene of a man eating pasta. Medem has remained true to this blurring of lines and continues to explore the relationship between the abstract and reality in films such as *La Ardilla Roja* (The Red Squirrel) (1993) and *Tierra* (Earth) (1996), both of which have earned similar accolades at various international film festivals. [Source: AMG]

Filmography

00's

Caótica Ana (2007)

¡Hay motivo! (2004) (segment "La pelota vasca")

Pelota vasca. La piel contra la piedra, La (2003)

Lucía y el sexo (2001)

90's

Amantes del Círculo Polar, Los (1998)

Tierra (1996) (as Julio Medem LaFont)

Ardilla roja, La (1993)

Vacas (1992)

80's

Martín (1988)

Seis en punta, Las (1987)

Patas en la cabeza (1985)

Teatro en Soria (1982)

70's

Fideos (1979)

Jueves pasado, El (1977)

Ciego, El (1974)

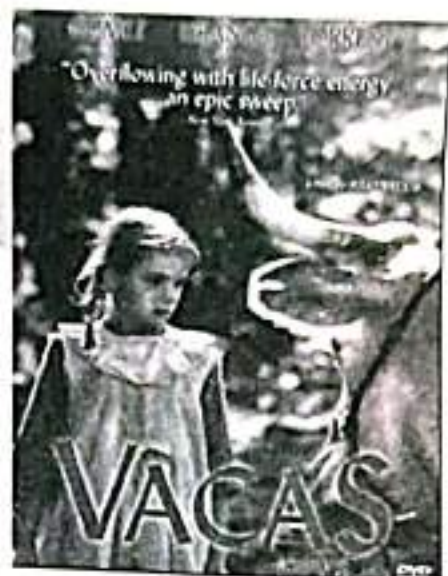
Spain

COWS

(Original Title: Vacas)
(1992/Spanish/ DVD/ Co/ 96 mins)
Director: Julio Medem

Synopsis

In Basque country, feuds, governments, and wars come and go, while cows placidly observe the strange behaviors of the humans who care for them. In 1875, during a massacre inspired by an out-of-control family feud, a farmer and his friend find themselves in a ditch together. One of them dies, and the other survives by playing possum using his friend's blood as a disguise. As the film flashes forward in time, the man is now a grandfather who amuses himself by painting the tranquil gaze of cows over and over again, while he observes that his son is having an affair with his dead friend's granddaughter. Finally, during the Civil War in 1936, violence again mars the life of the family, as the illegitimate son of the earlier affair attempts to make headway with his life. [Source: AMG]



Main Cast

Emma Suarez - Cristina
Carmelo Gómez - Manuel / Ignacio / Peru
Ana Torrent - Catalina

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Julio Medem
Producers - Fernando de Garcillan/ Jose Luis Olaizola
Cinematographer - Carles Gusi
Composer - Alberto Iglesias

Awards/Festivals

- Sutherland Trophy (win) - 1993 - British Film Institute
- Gold Award (win) - 1992 - Tokyo International Film Festival

EARTH

(Original Title: Tierra)

(1996/ Spanish/ DVD/ Co/ 122 mins)

Director: Julio Medem

Synopsis

Dressed in blinding white, carrying a strange pack upon his back and a toxin-spewing wand, comes exterminating Angel and his similarly clad army to the scorched, crimson earth of Aragon wine country, to destroy the insects that give the wine it's unique flavor. Angel finds himself falling in love with a homely cuckolded wife Angela who only stays with her cheating husband for her daughter's sake. He also falls for the town's teenage tramp, the white-hot black-leather wearing Mari, who falls in love with him after one passionate night. This offbeat Spanish romance, made with a dash of cosmic pretensions, chronicles his relationships with the two women while also dealing with his strange relationship to his alter ego who may or may not be, an angel. [Source: AMG]



Main Cast

Alicia Agut

Txema Blasco

Karra Elejalde

Production Credits

Screenwriter – Julio Medem

Producer - Fernando de Garcillan

Composer/Songwriter - Alberto Iglesias

Awards/Festivals

- Golden Palm (nom) – 1996 – Cannes Film Festival
- Critics Award (win) – 1997 – Sao Paulo International Film Festival

Spain

SEX AND LUCIA

(Original Title: Lucia y el sexo)
(2001/ Spanish/ DVD/ Co/ 129 mins)
Director: Julio Medem

Synopsis

Following up on his 1998 art-house hit *Lovers of the Arctic Circle*, Julio Medem spins this audacious film about flesh and forgetting. Lucia is a young Madrid waitress who is devastated to hear of the death of her old flame Lorenzo. Hoping to flee her troubles, she seeks out a beautiful island paradise her dead lover often talked about. There she meets and befriends Carlos and Elena who are also refugees of personal tragedies. Unbeknownst to all of them, the three each have a connection to Lorenzo. Years previously, Elena had a spontaneous fling with Lorenzo on the same island on the beach. Nine months later, she bore his daughter, but unable to raise a child on her own, she enlisted the help of a nurse, Belen. In attempting to reconnect with the child he never knew, Lorenzo had a passionate affair with Belen, one that caused her to neglect Luna, with tragic results. As Lucia slowly learns these details, she recalls the book Lorenzo was writing just before his death, and soon the lines between fact and fiction begin to slip away. This film was screened at the 2001 Toronto Film Festival.



Main Cast

Paz Vega	- Lucia
Tristan Ulloa	- Lorenzo
Najwa Nimri	- Elena
Daniel Freire	- Carlos / Antonio
Elena Anaya	- Belen

Awards/Festivals

- Golden Space Needle (win) - 2002
Seattle Int'l Film Festival

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Julio Medem
Producers - Fernando Bovaira/ Enrique Lopez Lavigne
Composer - Alberto Iglesias

Spain

THE BASQUE BALL: SKIN AGAINST STONE

(Original Title: La pelota vasca, la piel contra la piedra)
(2003/ Spanish/ Documentary/ DVD/ Co/ 115 mins)
Director: Julio Medem

Synopsis

Acclaimed Spanish filmmaker Julio Medem turns toward nonfiction to direct the documentary *La Pelota Vasca: La Piel Contra la Piedra* (The Basque Ball: Skin Against Stone). This controversial film is a look at the complicated situation between the Basque nationalist movement and the Spanish government. Medem interviews politicians, novelists, musicians, and over 70 other commentators in his efforts to explain both sides of the complex situation in the Basque Country of Northern Spain. Contains French, Castilian Spanish, and Basque languages. The Basque Ball was shown at the *San Sebastian Film Festival*, the *Sundance Film Festival*, and was nominated for a Goya award.



Main Cast

Paz Vega - Lucia
Tristan Ulloa - Lorenzo
Najwa Nimri - Elena
Daniel Freire - Carlos / Antonio
Elena Anaya - Belen

Awards/Festivals

Film Presented - 2004 - Sundance Film Festival

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Julio Medem
Cinematographers - Javier Aguirre/ Ricardo de Garcia/ Jon Elicegui
Composer - Mikel Laboa

THE LOVERS OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

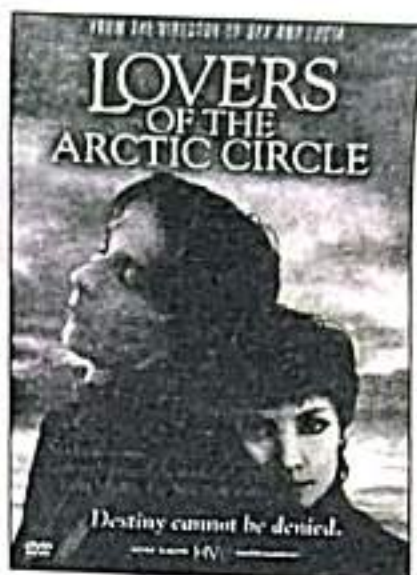
(Original Title: Los Amantes Del Circulo Polar)

(1998/ Spanish/ DVD/ Col/ 107 mins)

Director: Julio Medem

Synopsis

Julio Medem directed this romantic Spanish drama with location scenes in Finland. School children Ana (Sara Valiente) and Otto (Peru Medem) are brought together when a paper airplane flown from a window by Otto unites Ana's mother Olga (Maru Valdiviesio) with Otto's father Alvaro (Nancho Novo). After this encounter, Olga and Alvaro fall in love — with the result that Alvaro leaves Otto's German mother Ula (Beate Jensen). To be near Ana, Otto begins living with Alvaro and Olga. Ana believes that Otto harbors the soul of her dead father. As adolescents, Otto (Fele Martínez) and Ana (Najwa Nimri) share a kiss over a book opened to a passage about the Arctic Circle, and they often sleep together. Otto is grief-stricken by the death of his mother — partially due to his leaving her for Ana. Shown at 1998 film festivals (Venice, Toronto).



Main Cast

Najwa Nimri – Ana

Fele Martínez – Otto

Nancho Novo – Alvaro

Maru Valdivielso – Olga

Production Credits

Screenwriter – Julio Medem

Producers – Fernando Bovaira/ Enrique Lopez Lavigne

Cinematographer – Gonzalo Berridi

Composer – Alberto Iglesias

Awards/Festivals

- Audience Award (win) – 1998 – Athens Int'l Film Festival
- Crystal Star (nom) – 1999 – Brussels International Film Festival
- Golden Lion (nom) – 1998 – Venice Film Festival

THE RED SQUIRREL

(Original Title: La Ardilla roja)
(1993/ Spanish/ DVD/ Co/ 110 mins)
Director: Julio Medem

Synopsis

When he sees a motorcycle go over the side of the boardwalk at San Sebastian, crashing onto the beach, Jota goes to see what happened. He discovers that the vehicle was being driven by an attractive young woman. He calls an ambulance and gets onto it with her. When the emergency medical staff discover that she has amnesia, Jota takes advantage of the situation to claim that she's been living with him for the past few years. After she gets out of the hospital, the young woman accompanies him to a camping resort called "The Red Squirrel," and they have a number of adventures involving her obnoxious husband, who has been looking for her, and an equally obnoxious campsite neighbor.



Main Cast

Emma Suarez - Cristina
Carmelo Gómez - Manuel / Ignacio / Peru
Ana Torrent - Catalina

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Julio Medem
Executive Producer - Fernando de Garcillan
Composer - Alberto Iglesias

Awards/Festivals

- Award of the Youth (win) - 1993 - Cannes Film Festival



Suresh Urs
(Editor)

Suresh Urs is a film editor who is treading a record breaking path in his profession. He has already completed editing for more than 400 films. He started his career in a modest way working mostly for non commercial parallel cinema. Suresh being the brother of late Sundara Krishna Urs, a noted actor and filmmaker, established his credentials in the Kannada Film Industry in the early part of his career. His first assignment was for the Tulu film *Sangama Saakshi* and then he followed it up with *Banker Margayya*, *Aaspota*, *Muru Daarigalu*, *Benki*, *Santa Shishunala Sheripha*, and many others. His work in *Nayagan* catapulted him to a very high pedestal and he has since then won many State and National Awards. He is now the most sought after editor in the southern part of India. He has now established his own State of the Art Editing Lab in Chennai.

We are presenting four of his films in this festival.

Select Filmography

Kannada

Banker Margayya, Asphota, Santa Shishunala Sharifa, Mysore Mallige, Chinnari Mutta
(Dir: T. S. Nagabharana)
Mooru Danigalu (Dir: Girish Kasaravalli)
Surya, Kote, Thayi (Dir: Baragooru Ramachandrappa)
Bhujangayyana Dashavataragalu (Dir: Lokesh)
Hendthige Helbedi, Idu Saadhya, Maheshwara (Dir: Dinesh Babu)
Hoovu Hannu, Bharath 2000 (Dir: S. V. Rajendra Singh Babu)
Bisilu Beladingalu, Udbhava (Dir: Kodlu Ramakrishna)
Chakra, Sangya Balya (Dir: Sundara Krishna Urs)

Tamil

Dalapathi, Roja, Thiruda Thiruda, Bombay, Iruvar & Dil Se (Dir: Mani Rathnam)
Kalki, Parthale Paravasam (Dir: K. Balachandra)
Minsara Kanavu, Kandukondein Kandukondein (Dir: Rajiv Memon)
Oorukke Nooru Per (Dir: B. Lenin)
Chandramukhi, Paramashivam (Dir: Vasu)
Pooveli, Naan Avan Illai (Dir: Selva)

Hindi

Swamy (Dir: Shankar Nag)
Dil Se (Dir: Mani Rathnam)

Features

Cheluvi (Dir: Girish Karnad)
Thukrana Kathe, Udbhava (Dir: B. S. Ranga)

Television Series

Malgudi Days (Dir: Shankar Nag)
Tenali Rama, Stone Boy (Dir: T. S. Nagabharana)

Short Films

G. K. Mastar Pranaya Prasanga (Dir: Chandrashekhara Kambara)
Ayesha (Dir: Shiva Kumar)

Sri Lanka

EARTH

(Original Title: Mann)
(2006/Tamil/35 mm/Col/129 mins)
Director: R. Puthiyavan

Synopsis

Thangiah (Vagai Chandrasekar), who loses his son in civil unrest, leaves the place for Kanakarayankulam in another part of the island nation, along with his wife, and daughter Lakshmi (Sri Lankan actor Shana). Lakshmi's fiancé Raja (Kadhal Sukumar) is keen that Lakshmi should be sent to school. He undergoes much hardship to educate her. Unfortunately, her classmate Ponrasa (Vijith of Sri Lanka) worms his way into Lakshmi's heart. She soon falls for Ponrasa. After two decades, Lakshmi returns to her native. But alas, a rude shock awaits her.



Note on Director

Debutant Puthiyavan has come out with a romantic tangle in the backdrop of the existing rich-poor divide in Sri Lanka. The movie, shot entirely in the Tamil territories of Northern Sri Lanka, lends insight into the feudal set-up prevalent among the Tamils.

Select Filmography Debut Feature

Main Cast

Vijith
Vagai Chandra Shekar
Kadhal Sukumar

Production Credits

Screenwriters— Raj Kajendra/R. Puthiyavan
Producers — Raj Kajendra
Cinematographer — C J Rajkumar
Editor — Suresh Urs
Composer — German Vijay

PUNARADHIVASAM

(2000/ Malayalam /35 mm/ Col)
Director: Prakash V K

Synopsis

Drama is centered around several members of a middle class family. Sudhakaran's profession necessitates his living in the city. He leaves behind an ageing and ailing father in his home village who is being looked after by a young woman named Savithri. The father pressurizes Sudhakaran to marry Savithri.



Note on Director



Prakash who hails from Palakkad, turned to making of advertisement films which is his main vocation and occasionally takes a break only to do films of his choice. Prakash is very particular that all his films should be different in theme and treatment. "

Select Filmography Freaky Chakra (2003), Moonnamathoraa

Main Cast

Nandita Das
Manoj K Jayan
Lalu Alex
P Balachandran
Praveena

Production Credits

Producers – Prakash V K
Screenwriters– P Balachandran
Cinematographer – K Ravi Chandran
Editor – Suresh Urs
Background Score – Louis Banks
Music - Sivamani

THE ROSE

(Original Title: Roja)
(1992/Tamil/35 mm/Col/137 mins)
Director: Mani Ratnam

Synopsis

Roja, a young lady born and brought up in Southern India, who prays that the handsome young man coming to see her sister will be her future brother-in-law, only to have the tables turned on her when he openly chooses her over her sister (as her sister loves another). So Roja marries Rishi and they leave the village to settle in the city, where both fall in love. Rishi, who works for the Indian Government, is instructed to go to the troubled state of Kashmir on a classified mission, Roja also goes along. Then the innocent world of Roja is shattered when Rishi is abducted and held for ransom by a "Jihaadi" group of militants who want an independent Kashmir, and the release of a terrorist held with the Indian military forces.



Note on Director

Mani Ratnam (born June 2, 1956) is a critically acclaimed Tamil Indian film director, writer and producer.



Mani Ratnam's films often feature realistic, contemporary themes and complex plots. With a career spanning over two decades, he has garnered high acclaim and has been praised for handling serious issues whilst retaining entertainment values in his films. Familial and marital hardships, terrorism, love, class and religious conflict, war, politics, adoption, history and disability are just some of the socio-political issues to have been featured in his films. His movies are generally made in the Tamil language. Mani Ratnam's first film was a Kannada film *Pallavi Anu Pallavi*. His films include many acclaimed and commercial successes including *Roja* (1992), *Bombay* (1995) and *Kannathil Muthamittal* (2002). His most recent picture, released in 2007, is *Guru*. In 2002, Mani Ratnam was awarded the Padma Shri. His movie *Nayagan* was part of Time Magazine's All-Time 100 Movies issued in 2005.

Select Filmography *Yuva* (2004), *Alaipayuthey* (2000), *Iruvar* (1997), *Thiruda Thiruda* (1993), *Mouna Raagam* (1986).

Main Cast

Arvind Swamy
Madhoo
Pankaj Kapur

Production Credits

Producers – K Balachander/Mani Ratnam
Screenwriters– Mani Ratnam
Cinematographer – Santosh Sivan
Editor – Suresh Urs
Music – A R Rahman

Awards/Festivals

- Golden St. George (nom) – Moscow Int'l Film Festival
- Silver Lotus (1993) – Vairamuthu/ A R Rahman – National Film Awards, India.
- Nargis Dutt Award - Best Feature Film on National Integration

JASMINE OF MYSORE

(Original Title: Mysore Mallige)
(1991/Kannada/35 mm/Col/137 mins)
Director: T S Nagabharana



Synopsis

A traditionally wedded young couple yearn for romance in an otherwise undisturbed cozy family environment, tickled by the light hearted kith and kin of the wife for tradition-bound family reasons in the backdrop of India's freedom movement.

Note on Director

T.S.Nagabharana is a socially committed Indian Film Director. He is the recipient of national, state and other prestigious awards for 11 of his 26 Kannada Movies in the last 26 years. His movies have been selected for international film festivals and Indian panorama. Grahana, Banker Margayya, Chinnari Mutha, Mysore Mallige and Nagamandala are a few among other globally appreciated and acknowledged films. A stage director and an artist since college days, Bharana (as know in short among his close associates) has directed and acted in many stage plays and TV serials. After a brief initial tutelage under B.V.Karant and Girish Karnad, he began his film career in 1978-1979, directed his debut film Grahana and received best screenplay and best director awards. The film received the Manheim Critics Pool Award having been selected for International Film Festival held at Manheim, Germany. Rural villages that retain fossils of rich cultural heritage of India and her folklore are the hub of his unique movie making wherein concern to children and women is underscored. Recently, he has received the prestigious Puttanna Kanagal Award for his directorial excellence at a glittering function at Mandya in Karnataka State. [Source: Shruthalaya.com]



Select Filmography Nagamandala, The Unexpected (1993), Banker Margayya (1983), The Eclipse (1978)

Main Cast

Sudha Rani

Production Credits

Producer – Hari Khoday
Screenplay – Basavaraj/C Ashwath/ Nagabharana
Story – K S Narasimha Swamy
Dialogues – Basavaraj/ M N Vyasa Rao

Awards/Festivals

- Best Regional Film - National Award
- Second Best Film - State Award
- Best Lyrics – National award
- Best Actress – Sudha Rani – State Award
- Best Editing – Suresh Urs
- Best Sound – Aravind Kigga/
K S Krishnamurthy
- Best Cinematographer –
B C Gowrishankar

Study of a Director

Asoka Handagama



Asoka Handagama

Asoka Handagama was born in 1962, in the South Central of the Island away from the influences of sophisticated urban city life. He obtained his primary and secondary schooling in a provincial school and went on to read Mathematics at University where he was awarded a first class honors degree. After obtaining M.Sc in Development Economic at Warwick University in the U.K. in 1995, he returned to Sri Lanka and is Currently employed at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Asoka Handagama's entry to film making was via the theater and television. His maiden theatrical effort, *Bhoomika* was to address the seedling emerging ethnic crisis in the Island. The play won the National Youth award for best direction in 1985. His second stage play *Thunder*, was placed second runner up in the Best script in 1987 State drama Festival. The country was a real killing field when he directed his third, and most controversial play, *Magatha*. The play, with its radical theatrical form, bravely questioned the existing judicial system of the country. *Magatha* was shown almost through all parts of the country, not only in the theaters, in the paddy fields and work places as well. Among all the controversies, the play won the Best original script and Best Director award in 1989, State Drama Festival.

Asoka's exercises in the field of TV-art, were unique. *Dunhidda Addara*, is a clear land mark in the history of so called tele-dramas in Sri Lanka. It won all nine main awards including the Best Script and Direction, at the OCIC awards in 1994. *Diyaketa Pahana*, his third TV work, added a new dimension to the traditional tele-feature series. *Synthetic Sihina* explored a way to have a post-modern political discussion in the form of a serious episodic tele-play.

Chanda Kinnarie, was his debut effort in cinema. Breaking the rules of so called realism, this film clearly indicated the formation of a cinematic language consisting of hyper-realistic images. The film won the Award for Most Promising Director at the Critics' awards in 1994 It was also awarded Best Film, Best Director and Best Screenplay at the 1998 OCIC awards.

Asoka Handagama's academic background in mathematics and development economics has stood him in good stead as an artist. Certainly it has helped him tackle the technical intricacies of film, television and the theatre, and to use these forms to maximum creative effect. More importantly this background has enabled him to sort out his priorities as a creative artiste who is conscious of the joys, sorrow and contradictions of daily life around him. Asoka Handagama is acutely aware of the social origins and implications of his work as a film and videomaker.

These two acute concerns for the technical and the social in the movie making have not made it easy for him in his career. When he made his second film *Moon Hunt* (1996) he used the experienced Japanese cinematographer Akira Takada because this film needed a specialist lighting camera technique, as the story of the whole film takes place at night. Handagama came in for a lot of criticism from his local colleagues for using a foreign cinematographer. But he stuck to his decision and the film was a success. It won 6 main awards from Sri Lanka Film Critic's Forum awarded for Best Film, Best Director, Best Script, Best Actor, Best Actress and Best Cinematography in 2000.

Another bold endeavor was the making of an innovative educational program series aimed at bridging the wide knowledge gap between the young urban elite and their counterparts in the rural areas. Asoka Handagama's intention in this series is to reach out to all young people with different interests, and give them a deposit of knowledge, academic values and new ways of thinking. It is a bold experiment with a long-term investment value. But when he tried to find sponsors he met with a wall of rejections. The sponsors preferred to advertise their products within the mainstream television formulas of soap opera's. But he did not lose heart. He persisted his efforts and finally with the approval of the Ministry of Education he managed to reach his target objective. Today these programs travel to nearly 20 - 30 schools enhancing and distributing general knowledge to almost 25000 students each month.

Perhaps the most courageous act of Asoka Handagama's career to date is his latest movies *This Is My Moon* and *Letter of Fire*. *This Is My Moon* is his honest response to the ethnic conflict currently raging in the Country

A LETTER OF FIRE

(Original Film Title: Aksharaya)
(2005/Sinhala/DVD/ Co/ 141 mins)
Director: Asoka Handagama

Synopsis

A retired judge (Ravindra Randeniya) and his flamboyant young wife (Piyumi Samaraweera), who is also a famous magistrate, inhabit a cavernous colonial mansion with their 12-year-old son (Isham Samzudeen) and a maid (Jayani Senanayake) who shares her bed with the husband. The mother's closeness to her son soon appears a tad unhealthy as they take a bath together, with offspring ogling mom's large breasts. In an ecstatic monologue to motherhood, she explains that she has stopped sleeping with her husband since the boy was born; she believes a child is an extension of a woman herself and paramount in a woman's life.

Select Filmography Tani tatuwen piyabanna (2002), Me mage sandai (2000).

Main Cast

Piyumi Samaraweera - Magistrate
Ravindra Randeniya - Retired Judge
Saumya Liyanage - Museum Guard 1
Jayani Senanayake ... Housemaid
Isham Samzudeen - Magistrate's son

Awards/Festivals

- World Premier – San Sebastian Film Festival

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Asoka Handagama
Producers - Laurent Aleonard, Iranthi Abeyasinghe
Cinematographer - Channa Deshapriya
Editor - Ravindra Guruge

FLYING WITH ONE WING

(Original Film Title: Tani tatuwen piyabanna)
(2002/ Sinhala/ DVD/ Col/ 81 mins)
Director: Asoka Handagama

Synopsis

Flying with One Wing is an engaging parable of a person creating a life amidst a culture that deems their existence criminal. The film captures the reality of women living in present day Sri Lanka and addresses gender politics in a male dominated society from a novel perspective. *Flying with One Wing* is an edgy, gender-altering story that manages to remain lighthearted and humorous despite the building tensions that culminate with unexpected results.

Note on Director

Asoka Handagama's entry to film making was via the theater and television. His maiden theatrical effort, *BHOOMIKA* was to address the seedling emerging ethnic crisis in the Island. The play won the National Youth award for best direction in 1985. He has won numerous awards for his filmmaking. *CHANDA KINNARIE* was his debut effort in cinema, for which he won "Most Promising Director" in 1994. His other movies *MOON HUNT*, *THIS IS MY MOON* have been critically acclaimed too. [Source: IMDb]

Select Filmography *Aksharaya* (2005), *Me mage sandai* (2000).

Main Cast

Anoma Janadari - The woman
Gayani Gisanthika - The woman's companion
Mahendra Perera - The car repair employee
W. Jayasiri - The doctor

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Asoka Handagama
Producers - Upul Shantha Sannasgala,
Ilanthi Abeyasinghe
Cinematographer - Channa Deshapriya
Editor - Ravindra Guruge

Awards/Festivals

- Best Asian Film (win) - 2002 - Tokyo Film Festival
- Audience Award - Best Feature - 2002 - Torino Int'l Film Fest
- Jury's Special mention - 2002 Torino Int'l Film Fest
- GEITU Jury Prize - 2002 - San Sebastian Film Festival
- Jury's Special Prize - Best Feature 2003 - Singapore Int'l Film Fest
- Best Film (win) - 2002 - Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Vienna



THIS IS MY MOON

(Original Film Title: Me Mage Sandai)
(2000/Sinhala/ DVD/ Col/ 104 mins)
Director: Asoka Handagama

Synopsis

This Film explores the impact of the free market economy and the 19-year civil war against the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on village life. Released in 2000, it won India's Cinefan Award for best film of the year, "special mention" prizes at the Singapore and Tokyo film festivals last year and been favourably received at other international festivals.

Select Filmography Aksharaya (2005), Tani tatuwen piyabanna (2002)



Main Cast

Jagath Chamila
Jayasiri Chandrajith
Naditha Dinesh
Dilhani Ekanayake

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Asoka Handagama
Producer - Iranthi Abeyasinghe
Cinematographer - Channa Deshapriya
Editor - Ravindra Guruge

Awards/Festivals

- Young Cinema Award - Best Feature - 2001 Singapore Int'l Film Festival
- WOOSOK Award - Best Film - 2001 - Jeonju Int'l Film Festival
- Cinefan Award - Best Film - 2001 Cinefan Int'l Film Fest
- Golden Swing Award - Jury Prize - 2001 Bangkok Int'l film Fest
- Special Jury Mention - 2001 Tokyo Int'l Film Fest
- Inaugural Film - 2001 Autumn Film Festival
- Won 9 Majors, including Best Director and Best Script Writer at the - 2002 - OCIC awards

Homages

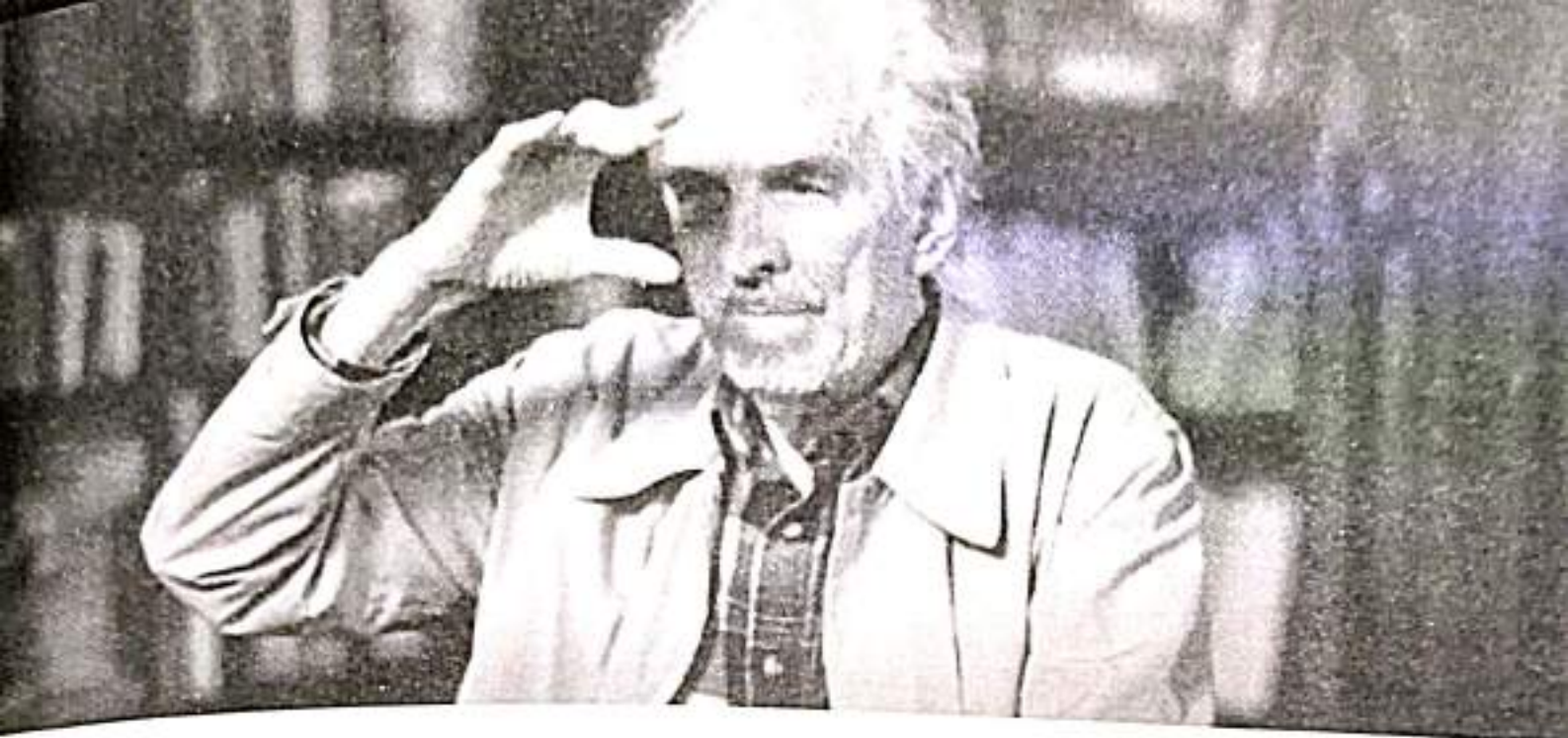
Ingmar Bergman

István Gaál

Michelangelo Antonioni

Ousmane Sembene

K.K. Mahajan



Ingmar Bergman

(Director, Writer, Producer, Cinematographer, Art Director)
1918-2007

The most famed and honored filmmaker ever to emerge from the nation of Sweden — and regarded by many as one of the three or four most brilliant directors of the 20th century — Ingmar Bergman radically altered the nature and meaning of the motion-picture form, transfiguring a medium long devoted to spectacle into an art capable of profoundly personal meditations into the myriad struggles facing the psyche and the soul. By focusing on the exploration of self with unparalleled intensity, Bergman brought to the screen a new sense of emotional intimacy, fusing the concepts behind Freudian psychotherapy with a dreamlike sensibility founded on visual metaphors, flashbacks, and extreme close-ups to create a revelatory cinematic world unlike any before it.

Born Ernst Ingmar Bergman on July 14, 1918, in Uppsala, Sweden, he followed a brief 1938 military stay by attending Stockholm University. While there, he staged his first plays, among them adaptations of Macbeth, August Strindberg's Lucky Peter's Journey and Master Olaf, and Maurice Maeterlinck's The Blue Bird. In 1939, Bergman accepted the job of production assistant at the Royal Theatre (the Stockholm Opera), leaving school the following year to focus on stage work. By early 1943, he had begun work at the script department of Svensk Filmindustri, with his original screenplay for *Hets* (Torment) filmed by leading director Alf Sjöberg the following year.

While remaining active in the theater, Bergman also continued his work in the film industry, and in the summer of 1945 he began directing his debut feature, *Kris* (Crisis), an adaptation of a drama by Leck Fischer. His next four films — 1946's *Det Regnar på Vår Kärlek* (It Rains on Our Love), 1947's *Skepp till Indialand* (A Ship Bound for India), and 1948's *Musik i Mörker* (Night Is My Future), and *Hamnstad* (Port of Call) — were all adaptations as well, although Bergman continued crafting original screenplays, including one for the 1947 Gustaf Molander feature *Kvinna Utan Ansikte* (Woman Without a Face).

In a sense, Bergman's career began in earnest with 1949's *Fängelse* (The Devil's Wanton), his first true auteur work. In addition to directing his own original script, the feature also marked the introduction of a number of Bergman hallmarks including his patented emotional complexity, a fascination with the dynamics of marriage, and a willingness to experiment with the motion-picture form and structure. *Törst* (Three Strange Loves), based on a screenplay by Herbert Grevenius, followed in 1949, but within months Bergman was filming *Till Glädje* (To Joy), another original effort again exploring a disintegrating marriage.

In 1950, Bergman began shooting *Sommarlek* (Summer Interlude), his breakthrough effort. Told extensively through flashback, the film hones in on a number of the themes, which would continue to recur throughout his oeuvre, including the loss of artistic identity, the demise of love, and the slow decay of life, all explored with a newfound confidence and grace. The political thriller *Sånt Händer Inte Här* (This Can't Happen Here) soon followed, but in 1951 the Swedish film studios suffered a shutdown, reducing Bergman to helming soap commercials. Upon returning to work in 1952, he filmed the relatively lightweight *Kvinnors Väntan* (Secrets of Women) before turning to 1953's *Sommaren med Monika* (Summer with Monika), another exploration of an ill-fated romance.

With 1953's *Gycklarnas Afton* (Sawdust and Tinsel/The Naked Night), Bergman made his next significant leap. His first period piece, the film was his bleakest work to date, drawing from the breadth of his major influences (particularly 1930s French films and silent German cinema) to create a newly mature and distinctive visual sensibility. The sense of freedom so dominant throughout *Gycklarnas Afton* remained for 1954's farcical *En Lektion i Kärlek* (A Lesson in Love). After 1955's *Kvinnodröm*, Bergman created his next masterpiece, the intricate romantic comedy *Sommarnattens Leende* (Smiles of a Summer Night).

Having hit his stride, Bergman began work on one of his most famed efforts, 1957's *Det Sjunde Inseglet* (The Seventh Seal). The film, which brought him international renown, it marked a turning point away from the romantic explorations of his earlier work toward an examination of the relationships of man to God and death, a theme, which remained at the center of his work for many years to come. A medieval morality play, *The Seventh Seal* contains one of the most memorable scenes in all of cinema, in which the knight portrayed by Max von Sydow opposes Death in a game of chess. The winner of the Special Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, *The Seventh Seal* launched Bergman to the

forefront of the global filmmaking community, a position he would not relinquish throughout the duration of his career.

Bergman's obsession with death continued in 1957's brilliant *Smultronstället* (Wild Strawberries), starring Victor Sjöström as an aging professor reminiscing about the disappointments, which tainted his life. After the somewhat slight *Nära Livet* (Brink of Life), Bergman helmed 1958's gothic comedy *Ansiktet* (The Magician), a stunning return to form. The medieval setting of *The Seventh Seal* reappeared in 1960's *Jungfrukällan* (The Virgin Spring), a controversial essay on rape, which won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. It was followed later that same year by *Djävulens Öga* (The Devil's Eye).

The outstanding *Såsom i en Spegel* (Through a Glass Darkly) was the next step in Bergman's evolution, marking the beginning of his "chamber" style of photography — essentially, a penchant for extreme close-ups designed to highlight the nuances of his actors' faces to underscore a scene's psychological intensity. It also opened his so-called "religious trilogy," a series of films exploring crises of faith, which also included 1962's *Nattvardsgästerna* (Winter Light) and 1963's *Tystnaden* (The Silence). In the wake of 1964's *För Att Inte Tala om Alla Dessa Kvinnor* (All These Women), Bergman planned to mount a theatrical production of *The Magic Flute*, but instead fell prey to a viral infection which kept him out of action during the early months of 1965.

When he returned to the screen in late 1966 with *Persona*, it was with a renewed sense of force and purpose. An intense meditation on identity which is later revealed to be an examination of the very nature of cinema itself, the film was his most avant-garde effort to date and remains his crowning masterpiece. Another trilogy of films, all of them set on the tiny island of Fårö — 1968's *Vargtimmen* (Hour of the Wolf) and *Skammen* (Shame), rounded out by Bergman's first color film, 1969's *En Passion* (The Passion of Anna) — concluded the decade. In 1970, Bergman directed his first English-language film, *The Touch*. The masterful *Viskningar och Rop* (Cries and Whispers) followed in 1972, with the acclaimed television miniseries *Scenes from a Marriage* premiering in 1973. The small screen remained Bergman's medium of choice for the next several years, with *The Magic Flute* in 1975 and *Ansikte mot Ansikte* (Face to Face) in 1976. That same year, he was arrested for alleged tax evasion, later leaving Sweden as a voluntary exile. Relocating to Munich, he began work on 1977's *The Serpent's Egg*, his first feature film in half a decade.

After completing 1978's *Autumn Sonata*, Bergman entered the 1980s with *Aus dem Leben der Marionetten* (From the Life of the Marionettes). Two years later, he released the Oscar-winning *Fanny och Alexander* (Fanny & Alexander), a final, autobiographical masterpiece announced as his cinematic swan song. He then turned strictly to television, premiering *Efter Repetitionen* (After the Rehearsal) in 1984, followed a year later by *The Blessed Ones*. He also maintained his busy theatrical schedule and in 1987 published an autobiography, *Laterna Magica* (The Magic Lantern). In 1992, his script *Den Goda Viljan* (The Best Intentions) was filmed for television by Bille August; three years later, he announced his withdrawal from the stage, but by 1996 he was shooting the television drama *Larmar och Gör Sig Till* (In the Presence of a Clown).

After years of inactivity following that project, Bergman — in late 2002 — broke his vow of cinematic retirement on one final occasion. He would later recall feeling a kind of "pregnant sickness" — as if pregnant with an idea. That idea materialized as a two-hour made-for-television sequel to the director's 1973 masterpiece *Scenes from a Marriage*. Shot in the fall of 2002 and released in 2003 to universal acclaim, *Saraband* followed *Marianne* (Liv Ullmann) and *Johan's* (Erland Josephson) reunion after a lengthy estrangement, and examined the extent to which parents can psychologically scar their children and one another.

Sadly, *Saraband* marked Bergman's last directorial outing. On July 30, 2007, he died on his island of Fårö at age 89. He left behind a body of work in the cinematic and literary realms to far outstrip that of almost anyone — work whose reputation would live centuries beyond its creator. [Source: AMG]

Filmography

00's

Saraband (2003) (TV)
Bildmakarna (2000) (TV)

90's

Larmar och gör sig till (In the Presence of a Clown) (1997)
Sista skriket (The Last Gasp) (1995)
Backanterna (The Bacchae) (1993) (TV)
Markisinnan de Sade (1992) (TV)

80's

Två saliga, De (1986) (TV)
Dokument Fanny och Alexander (Document Fanny and Alexander) (1986)
Efter repetitionen (After the Rehearsal) (1984) (TV)
Karins ansikte (Karin's Face) (1984)
Hustruskolan (1983) (TV)
Fanny och Alexander (Fanny and Alexander) (1982)
Aus dem Leben der Marionetten (From the Life of the Marionettes) (1980)

70's

Fårö-dokument (Faro Document) (1979) (TV)
Höstsonaten (Autumn Sonata) (1978)
The Serpent's Egg (1977)
Ansikte mot ansikte (Face to Face) (1976)
Trollflöjten (The Magic Flute) (1975) (TV)
Misanthropen (The Misanthrope) (1974) (TV)
Scener ur ett äktenskap (Scenes from a Marriage) (1973)
Viskningar och rop (Cries and Whispers) (1972)
Beröringen (The Touch) (1971)

60's

Fårödokument (Faro Document) 1969 (1970) (TV)
Passion, En (A Passion) (1969)
Riten (The Ritual) (1969) (TV)
Skammen (Shame) (1968)
Vargtimmen (Hour of the Wolf) (1968)

Stimulantia (1967)

Persona (Persona) (1966)

Don Juan (1965) (TV)

För att inte tala om alla dessa kvinnor
(All These Women) (1964)

Tystnaden (The Silence) (1963)

Drömspel, Ett (A Dream Play) (1963) (TV)

Nattvardsgästerna (Winter Light) (1962)

Såsom i en spegel (Through a Glass Darkly) (1961)

Djävulens öga (The Devil's Eye) (1960)

Jungfrukällan (The Virgin Spring) (1960)

Oväder (Storm Weather) (1960) (TV)

50's

Ansiktet (The Face) (1958)

Rabies (1958) (TV)

Nära livet (Brink of Life) (1958)

Venetianskan (The Venetian) (1958) (TV)

Smultronstället (Wild Strawberries) (1957)

Herr Sleeman kommer (Mr. Sleeman Is Coming) (1957) (TV)

Sjunde inseglet, Det (The Seventh Seal) (1957)

Bakomfilm smultronstället (1957)

Sommarnattens leende (Smiles of a Summer Night) (1955)

Kvinnodröm (Dreams) (1955)

Lektion i kärlek, En (A Lesson in Love) (1954)

Gycklarnas afton (Sawdust and Tinsel) (1953)

Sommaren med Monika (Summer with Monika) (1953)

Kvinnors väntan (Secrets of Women) (1952)

Sommarlek (Summer Interlude) (1951)

Sånt händer inte här (High Tension) (1950)

Till glädje (To Joy) (1950)

40's

Törst (Three Strange Loves) (1949)

Fängelse (Prison) (1949)

Hamnstad (Port of Call) (1948)

Musik i mörker (Music Is My Future) (1948)

Skepp till India land (A Ship Bound for India) (1947)

Det regnar på vår kärlek (It Rains on Our Love) (1946)

Kris (Crisis) (1946)

THE MAGICIAN/ THE FACE

(Original Title: Ansiktet)
(1958/Swedish/35 mm/ 100 mins)
Director: Ingmar Bergman



Synopsis

A carriage bumps along a wooded path. Inside is a magician, Vogler (Max von Sydow), and his entourage, including his young assistant who in his better moments is a she, the magician's wife (Ingrid Thulin); and an ancient auntie who has a sideline in love potions and, we suspect, eye of newt. They are a down-at-the-heels lot, curious about the devil out in the woods and about death, which joins them in their carriage. They are headed for a politically fraught performance, for the mute Vogler is mocked, as he is sought, for his "animal magnetism". And no one does animal magnetism better than von Sydow. We see hints of *Persona* (silence as the last refuge of the artist), *Fanny and Alexander* (family theatrics as its own refuge), and *Scenes from a Marriage* (in fact, two). But with its fairytale landscape, Expressionist sets, and old-dark-lab sci-fi, *The Magician* asks to be taken on its own terms. Max the mesmerist and Bergman the magician, each with his "apparatus", effect the willing suspension of belief. [Source: ingmarbergman.se]

Main Cast

Max von Sydow
Ingrid Thulin
Gunnar Björnstrand
Naima Wifstrand
Bengt Ekerot
Bibi Andersson

Production Credits

Screenwriter – Ingmar Bergman
Producer – Alan Eklund
Cinematographer – Gunnar Fischer
Composer – Erik Nordgren
Editor – Oscar Rosander

Awards/Festivals

- BAFTA Film Award (nom) – 1960
BAFTA Awards
- Special Jury Prize (win) – 1959
Venice Film Festival
- Golden Lion (nom) – 1959 -
Venice Film Festival



István Gaál

(Director, Screenwriter, Editor)

1933-2007

Hungarian filmmaker István Gaál was one of the key directors in Hungarian New Wave cinema. Originally Gaál studied to be an electrotechnician like his father, but then his growing interest in cinema led Gaál to study directing at Budapest's Academy of Dramatic and Cinematographic Arts. He graduated in 1959, and, after receiving an Italian State scholarship for his film *Pályamunkások/Surfacemen*, Gaál studied at the Centro Sperimentale in Rome. He continued making short films while in Rome under the supervision of different directors. Gaál made his feature-film debut in 1964 with the critically acclaimed *Sodrásban/Current*. Gaál died at age 74 in September 2007 about two years after his last credit. [Source: AMG]

Filmography

00's
 Roots: A Documentary Film (2002)

90's
 Római szonáta (1996)

80's
 Éjszaka (1989)
 Peer Gynt (1988) (TV)
 Orfeusz és Eurydike (1986) (TV)
 Isten teremtményei (1986) (TV)
 Haláltánc (1981) (TV)
 Cserepek (1980)

70's
 Legato (1978)
 Naponta két vonat (1977) (TV)
 Vámhatár (1977) (TV)
 Autre rive, L' (1976) (TV)
 Unalmukban (1976) (TV)

Képek egy város életéből (1975)
 Örökségünk (1975) (TV)
 Holt vidék (1972)
 Magasiskola (1970)
 Bartók Béla: az éjszaka zenéje (1970)

60's
 Tíz éves Kuba (1969)
 Keresztelő (1968)
 Krónika (1967)
 Zöldár (1965)
 Sodrásban (1963)
 Tisza-ősi vázlatok (1963)
 Oda-vissza (1962)
 Étude (1961)

50's
 Pályamunkások (1957)
 Védjük meg üzemeinket (1956)

Hungary

THE FALCONS

(Original Title: Magasiskola)
(1970/Hungarian/ 35 mm/ B & W/ 80 mins)
Director: Istvan Gaal



Synopsis

A young man with an interest in ornithology arrives to study the work of falcons and their human trainers. The head falconer is a cold and heartless man who obstinately demands perfection from everyone around him. His work is his life, and he doesn't care if his girlfriend makes love to other men. The young man observes all he can before leaving behind the potentially inhuman situation for brighter horizons.

Cast

Ivan Andonov - The Young Man
Judit Meszler - Terez

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Istvan Gaal
Cinematographer - Elemér Ragályi
Composer - András Szöllösy
Editor - Istvan Gaal

Awards/Festivals

- Jury Prize (win)- István Gaál - 1970 Cannes Film Festival

Italian filmmaker Michelangelo Antonioni redefined the concept of narrative cinema, challenging the accepted notions at the heart of storytelling, realism, drama, and the world at large; his films — a seminal body of enigmatic and intricate mood pieces — rejected action in favor of contemplation, championing image and design over character and story. Haunted by a sense of instability and impermanence, his work defined a cinema of possibilities, a shifting landscape of thoughts and ideas devoid of resolution; in Antonioni's world, riddles were not answered, but simply evaporated into other riddles.

Antonioni was born on September 29, 1912, in Ferrara, Italy; as a child, his interests included painting and building architectural models (an interest which continued in the design and decor of his films). After graduating from high school, he attended the University of Bologna, where he initially studied classics but later emerged with a degree in economics. While he was at college, his interest in the theater blossomed, and he also began writing short fiction and film reviews for a local newspaper, *Il Corriere Padano*, often running afoul of the motion-picture community for his savage attacks on the mainstream Italian comedies of the 1930s. Antonioni's initial attempt at filmmaking was a documentary profiling a nearby insane asylum; the project was aborted because the inmates would lapse into fits of panic each time the lights of the camera were turned on.

By 1939, Antonioni had chosen the cinema as his life's work, and he soon relocated to Rome, where he accepted a position at *Cinema*, the official Fascist film magazine edited by Mussolini's son, Vittorio. After being dismissed over a political disagreement, Antonioni enrolled at the *Centro Sperimentale* to study film technique. By age 30, he was working professionally in the film industry; his first screenplay went unproduced, but he was soon hired to co-write Roberto Rossellini's *Un Pilota Ritorna*, followed by a stint as the assistant director to Enrico Fulchignoni on *I Due Foscari*. In 1942, Antonioni traveled to France to work with Marcel Carné on *Les Visiteurs du Soir*. Antonioni was soon called back to Italy for military service, where he managed to wrangle funding from the Luce Institute for *Gente del Po*, a documentary portrait of the impoverished lives of the fishermen along the Po River.

The Allied invasion of Italy brought film production there to an end for some time, forcing Antonioni to earn his living as a book translator; he also wrote prolifically for a number of magazines, including *Film Rivista* and *Film d'Oggi*. Additionally, he was commissioned by Luchino Visconti to write a pair of screenplays, *Furore* and *The Trial of Maria Tarnowska*, neither of which was ever produced. Finally, in 1948, Antonioni was able to return behind the camera, and over the course of the next two years he directed no less than six documentary shorts; among them, *Nettezza Urbana*, *L'Amorosa Menzogna*, and *Superstizione* hinted most strongly at the work still to come, their style of photography Spartan and unadorned, forgoing strong contrasts to focus on the middle range of gray tones.

After completing the short subject *La Villa dei Mostri*, Antonioni was able to secure financing for his 1950 feature debut, *Cronaca di un Amore*. Here he turned away from the neorealism so much in vogue, employing professional actors and focusing on interpersonal relationships instead of social criticism. More importantly, the film further developed his increasingly unique visual aesthetic, honing a rigorously disciplined brand of "anti-cinema," favoring long, deep-focus shots in opposition not only to the gritty, newsreel-like feel of the neorealists but even the montage dynamic perfected by Sergei Eisenstein. With *Cronaca di un Amore*, Antonioni first moved into a realm of film previously explored only by the likes of Carl Dreyer and Robert Bresson, a form of interior cinema concerned far less with the body than with the soul, and less by the actual arc of his plot than by the characters' reactions to it. Rather inexplicably, *Cronaca di un Amore* made next to no impact upon its original release, and Antonioni spent the remainder of the decade in relative obscurity.

In 1952, he collaborated with Federico Fellini on the script to *Lo Sceicco Bianco*, followed by a directing assignment helming an episode of the triptych *I Vinti*. Antonioni did not mount another feature-length project until 1953 with *La Signora Senza Camelie*, an essay on the world of show business which further developed the formula of internalized action. Yet again, the film received virtually no notice, and was barely even screened outside of Italy; Antonioni spent the next several years in relative seclusion, directing only a segment of *L'Amore in Città* as well as *Uomini in Fiù*, a documentary commissioned by an international committee studying overpopulation.

Finally, in 1955 he was able to mount his third feature, *Le Amiche*. Though beset by troubles from the outset — financing even ran out halfway through the production, suspending the shooting schedule for several months — the completed film was Antonioni's most mature to date. Based loosely on the Cesare Pavese novella *Tra Donne Sole*, it further rejected all notions of traditional narrative and literary value, even garnering some degree of attention from the international cinema community. *Il Grido* followed in 1957, and in 1958 Antonioni resurfaced with a pair of films, *La Tempesta* and *Nel Segno di Roma*. The period was one largely defined by artistic and commercial disappointment, and of the three films, the director allowed his name to remain on *Il Grido* alone.

In 1960, Antonioni's masterpiece *L'Avventura* premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. His most extreme work to date, as a study of alienation among the bourgeoisie, it progressed at a snail's pace, its long, beautiful shots telling virtually no story whatsoever. Even the basic plot — the search for a missing woman — willfully disintegrated at the end, prompting a near-riot among Cannes viewers. Ultimately, *L'Avventura* won the festival's Grand Jury Prize, becoming a phenomenal success across the globe. Antonioni became a major figure in international cinema virtually overnight, and his lead actress, Monica Vitti — a luminous cipher perfectly suited to her director's austere formalism — emerged as a huge star.

La Notte — the second film in the trilogy begun with *L'Avventura* — appeared in 1961, exploring the existential ground of alienation, non-communication, and meaninglessness. A transitional work also starring Vitti as well as Marcello Mastroianni and Jeanne Moreau, *La Notte* experimented more freely with editing techniques, relying less on the long, expansive takes which defined Antonioni's earlier work. The 1962 release *L'Eclisse* reduced its plot structure to the barest minimum, replacing narrative with an acute psychological portrait of a woman (Vitti) who drifts from one romantic liaison into another. *Il Deserto Rosso*, his fourth and final film starring Vitti — as well as his first color feature — followed in 1964.

In 1966, Antonioni went to England to shoot *Blow-Up*, his most commercially successful effort. Set in the "Swinging London" scene of the mid-'60s, it starred David Hemmings as a fashion photographer who accidentally photographs a murder. The wide popularity of *Blow-Up* brought Antonioni to America, where in 1970 he made his lone U.S. feature, *Zabriskie Point*. *Chung Kuo/Cina*, a four-hour television documentary filmed in China and subsequently denounced by the nation's government, followed in 1972. *The Passenger*, a thriller shot in North Africa starring Jack Nicholson, appeared three years later, while *Il Mistero di Oberwald* did not bow until 1980.

With 1982's *Identificazione di una Donna*, Antonioni's career largely ground to a halt; a savage early review by New York Times critic Vincent Canby prompted the film's U.S. distributor to drop the film, and due to the loss of potential revenue, Antonioni was unable to realize several planned projects. A 1985 stroke left him partially paralyzed and unable to speak, but a decade later Antonioni returned to filmmaking with *Par-Dela les Nuages* (*Beyond the Clouds*), a feature co-directed by Wim Wenders.

It would be nearly another ten years before Antonioni stepped behind the camera again, but in 2004, at the age of 91, he involved himself with two new projects. The first film, *Michelangelo Eye to Eye* was a 35-minute documentary, while *Eros* featured multiple segments directed by such auteurs as Antonioni, Steven Soderbergh, and Wong Kar-Wai. In 1995, Antonioni received an honorary Lifetime Achievement Academy Award. He passed away at the age of 94 on July 30, 2007, in Rome. [Source: AMG]

Filmography

00's

Eros (2004) (segment "Il filo pericoloso delle cose")
Sguardo di Michelangelo, Lo (Michelangelo Eye to Eye) (2004)

90's

Sicilia (1997)
Al di là delle nuvole (Beyond the Clouds) (1995)
Noto, Mandorli, Vulcano, Stromboli, Carnevale (1993)
12 registi per 12 città (1989) (segment "Roma")

80's

Kumbha Mela (1989)
Ritorno a Lisca Bianca (1983) (TV)
Identificazione di una donna (Identification of a Woman) (1982)
Mistero di Oberwald, Il (The Oberwald Mystery) (1981)

70's

Professione: reporter (The Passenger) (1975)
Chung Kuo - Cina (1972)
Zabriskie Point (1970)

60's

Blowup (1966)
Tre volti, I (1965) (Three Faces of a Woman) (segment "Il provino")
Deserto rosso, Il (The Red Desert) (1964)

Eclisse, L' (The Eclipse) (1962)
Notte, La (The Night) (1961)
Avventura, L' (The Adventure) (1960)
The Fling

50's

Nel segno di Roma (Sign of Rome) (1959) (uncredited)
Grido, Il (The Cry) (1957)
Amiche, Le (The Girlfriends) (1955)
Amore in città, L' (1953) (Love in the City) (segment "Tentato suicidio")
Vinti, I (The Vanquished) (1953)
Signora senza camelia, La (Camille Without Camellias) (1953)
Cronaca di un amore (Chronicle of a Love) (1950)
Funivia del faloria, La (The Funicular of Mount Faloria) (1950)
Villa dei mostri, La (The Villa of Monsters) (1950)

40's

Amorosa menzogna, L' (Loving Lie) (1949)
Bomarzo (1949)
Ragazze in bianco (1949)
Sette canne, un vestito (Seven Reeds, One Suit) (1949)
Superstizione (Superstition) (1949)
N.U. (1948)
Oltre l'oblio (1948)
Roma-Montevideo (1948)
Gente del Po (People of the Po Valley) (1943)

THE ADVENTURE

(Original Title: L'Avventura)
(1960/ Italian/ 35 mm/ B & W/
145 mins)
Director: Michelangelo Antonioni

Synopsis

This groundbreaking film won a Special Jury Prize at the 1960 Cannes Film Festival and established its director, Michelangelo Antonioni, as a major international talent.

The plot concerns a yachting trip by a small group of jaded socialites, including Sandro, an aging architect who sold out for easy money long ago, his mistress Anna, and her friend Claudia, who doesn't fit in with the wealthy jet setters' dissolute ethics. When Anna disappears during a tour of a volcanic island, Claudia initially blames Sandro's emotionally barren behavior toward her. As they search the island, however, Claudia and Sandro grow closer and — when it is apparent that Anna is gone forever — become lovers. Unfortunately, Sandro cannot find anything decent inside himself and betrays Claudia with a local prostitute. Caught in the act, Sandro has a heartrending breakdown on a desolate beach, but Claudia silently forgives him. *L'avventura* caught many audiences who were expecting a mystery by surprise; as in *La notte* (1961), *The Eclipse* (1962), and *Red Desert* (1964), Antonioni is interested less in developing a logical story than in exploring states of feeling and breakdowns in human connection.



Main Cast

Gabriele Ferzetti - Sandro
Monica Vitti - Claudia
Lea Massari - Anna
Dominique Blanchar - Giulia

Production Credits

Screenwriter— Michelangelo Antonioni
Producer - Luciano Perugia
Screenwriters — Elio Bartolini/Tonino Guerra
Cinematographer — Aldo Scavarda

Awards/Festivals

- Best British Film (nom) Michelangelo Antonioni 1960
- British Academy Awards
- Special Prize (win) 1960 Cannes Film Festival



Ousmane Sembene
(Director, Screenwriter, Book Author, Actor)

Ousmane Sembene (born Jan 1, 1923 - Ziguinchor, Casamance, Senegal; died - Jun 10, 2007 - Dakar, Senegal) was a pioneer of African cinema and one of the foremost filmmakers in world cinema. He was also a prominent African novelist. Prior to entering the arts, Sembene worked as a fisherman, did a stint in the French army, and worked on the construction of the Dakar-Niger railway where he took part in the great strike that inspired him to write his 1960 novel *God's Bits of Wood*. He became a writer after joining Presence Africaine, a Parisian literary society. His subsequent works were done in French. Sembene, realizing that relatively few Africans would be able to read his books in that language, decided that he would be able to reach a wider audience if he made films. He then went to Moscow to train. In 1963, he made his directorial debut with *Borom Sarret*, which chronicles a day in the life of an impoverished cart driver. Set over the basic story is another theme that allows the audience to see that the real cause of his poverty are the corrupt politicians heavily involved with neo-colonialism who strive to deliberately prevent the poor from improving their lives' lot. Sembene died on June 10, 2007 at the age of 84, following a long illness. [Source: AMG]

Filmography

00's

Moolaadé (2004)

Faat Kiné (2000)

90's

Guelwaar (1992)

80's

Camp de Thiaroye

(The Camp at Thiaroye) (1987)

70's

Ceddo (Outsiders) (1977)

Xala (The Curse) (1975)

Emitai (God of Thunder) (1971)

Tauw (1970)

60's

Mandabi (The Money Order) (1968)

Borom sarret (1966)

Noire de, La (Black Girl) (1966)

Niaye (1964)

Empire sonhrai, L' (The Sonhrai Empire) (1963)

THE MONEY ORDER

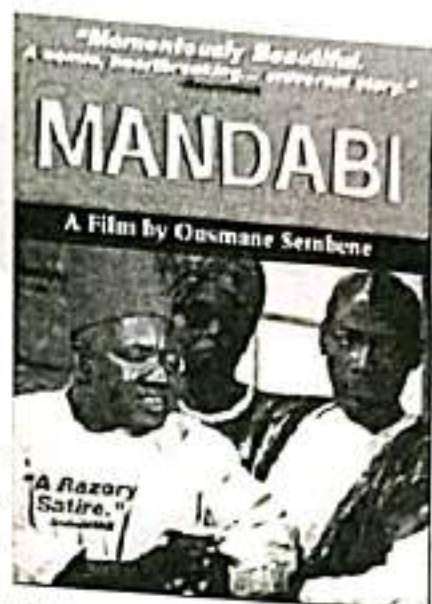
(Original Title: Mandabi)

(1968/French/Wolof/ DVD/ Col/ 90 mins)

Director: Ousmane Sembene

Synopsis

This French-Senegal co-production is based on a story by L.S. Senghor. An out of work Senegalese man, Ibrahim (Makhouredia Gueye), receives a money order by his nephew. Unfortunately, the uncle has no identity card, which will enable him to cash the check. He tries to obtain a card, but is stymied because he lacks a birth certificate. In order to get this valuable document, he must have a photograph taken...and on and on and on it goes. Thus begins Ibrahim's nightmarish foray into the honeycomb-like world of African bureaucracy.



Main Cast

Makhouredia Gueye - Ibrahim

Production Credits

Screenwriter - Ousmane Sembene

Producer - Jean Maumy

Cinematographer - Paul Soullignac

Editor - Gilbert Kikoïne



K.K. Mahajan
(Cinematographer)
1944-2007

K.K. Mahajan (1944-2007) is considered one of India's best-ever cinematographers with a body of work comprising over 80 feature films, about 100 commercials, over 20 significant documentaries and several television serials. A four-time National Award winner, his cinematographic contribution to both mainstream and art cinema has remained unparalleled. His prolific virtuosity has rightly been considered a major factor in the Indian New Wave which saw the emergence of path-breaking feature films like Mrinal Sen's *Bhuvan Shome* (1969), Basu Chatterji's *Sara Akash* (1969), Mani Kaul's *Uski Roti* (1970) and Kumar Shahani's *Maya Darpan* (1972). The one common factor to all these classics was brilliant cinematography by 'KK', as he was fondly known. Born on 2nd October 1944, at Gurdaspur, Punjab, India, Mahajan was a graduate in Physics from Punjab University (1963).

He attended the prestigious Film Institute of India, Pune (later known as the FTII) for a three-year course in Motion Picture Photography and was a Gold Medalist in the class of 1966. As one of the early graduates of the FTII, he began his career at a time when the film industry was unwilling to believe that training in cinema could be imparted, since apprenticeship had been the traditional entry route, right from the silent era. Trained and qualified technicians from the FTII had a difficult time and felt constantly pressurised to prove themselves. In more ways than one, Mahajan was a trailblazer.

He began working as an independent cinematographer in Mumbai in 1966, at first with advertising films and then with documentaries and short films, with renowned directors. Fittingly, his first break into feature films came as a result of the impact that his work at the FTII, with Kumar Shahani (their *avant garde* graduation film *The Glass Panel*), had on Mrinal Sen. That led to *Bhuvan Shome*, and the beginning of a long journey. Over the next three decades and more, KK's cinematographic oeuvre was quite impressive not only quantitatively but also in terms of its qualitative variations. More than any other cinematographer, even as he worked with many "off-beat" filmmakers, photographing acclaimed albeit low-budget films, he proved that he had no problems in adjusting to the so-called gap between art and commercial films, with his work in mainstream Hindi cinema. His oeuvre included films by directors like Subhash Ghai, Ravi Tandon, Mohan Kumar Ramesh Sippy and Basu Chatterji, to name a few. His craft is said to "... evoke memories of impressionist painting, setting new standards in motion picture photography, which even today remains a source of inspiration for all aspiring cinematographers." (From the citation, MAMI Award, 2000).

Mahajan received his four National Awards for Best Cinematography quite early in his career, for his work on films by directors Basu Chatterji (*Sara Akash* 1969, which got him the first of his four National Awards), Mani Kaul (*Uski Roti* 1970), Kumar Shahani (*Maya Darpan* 1972) and Mrinal Sen (*Chorus* 1974). A record that he particularly valued, considering the near-feudal conditions in which he started his own career, is that about 25 of those who assisted him over the years went on to become cinematographers in their own independent capacity. Over the years, along with his professional commitments, K K Mahajan continued his association with the FTII, with the workshops he held for students. He was a member of the Governing Council and of the Society of the FTII for two terms. He also conducted workshops at the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata. He was also on jury panels of several major film awards and on the script advisory committee of the NFDC. In May 1999, he got together with a small group of concerned cinematographers in Mumbai, to form Cinematographers' Combine, a forum for cinematographers and those associated with cinematography.

Among the honours he received were the Mumbai Academy of the Moving Image (MAMI)'s 1st Kodak Technical Excellence Award for his "Innovative Contribution to Cinematography and Enrichment of Indian Cinema" (2000), Honorary Membership of the Indian Society of Cinematographers (ISC) for his "Outstanding Contribution to Indian Cinematography and Excellence in Professional Work" (2003), Honorary Life Membership of the Western India Cinematographers' Association (WICA) for his "Outstanding Contribution in the field of Cinematic Art" (2005), and the Ezra Mir Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Indian Documentary Producers' Association (IDPA) for a "Lifetime of Excellence and Inspiration" (2006). He also received the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Award for "Outstanding Contribution to Indian Cinema" in 2006. In June 2007, he was conferred the 1st Katha Centre for Film Studies Lifetime Achievement Award given in recognition of "Outstanding Contribution to Indian Cinema." As KK had said once, "I am lucky to be in this profession. This is a beautiful profession. I meet and work with a lot of people. You travel a lot. And the best thing about this profession is that I am learning every day. There is no end to learning ... Nobody is the master of his craft. It changes every day and you have to learn..."

THE RUINS

(Original Title: Khandhar)
(1984/Hindi/35 mm/ Col/108 mins)
Director: Mrinal Sen

Synopsis

Three friends from the city make a brief trip to the countryside. In one part of the ruined mansion that they visit, lives a frail old woman (Gita Sen) and her daughter Jamini (Shabana Azmi). The mother optimistically awaits the arrival of Niranjana, from overseas, the cousin who was promised years ago as a husband to Jamini. The sad truth is that Niranjana is not abroad, but is already married and living somewhere else. Jamini keeps the truth from her mother out of loving devotion to her. When Subhash (Naseeruddin Shah) a photographer (one of the three friends visiting them), meets Jamini and her mother. The latter mistakes him for the long-awaited Niranjana. Subhash goes along with the act, out of pity for the old woman, much to the discomfiture of the daughter. The three friends, refreshed by their short vacation in the countryside, return to the city, leaving behind Jamini amidst the ruins.



Main Cast

Shabana Azmi
Naseeruddin Shah
Gita Sen
Pankaj Kapoor
Annu Kapoor

Production Credits

Producer – Jagadish and Pushpa Chowkhani
Story – Premendra Mitra
Screenwriters – Mrinal Sen
Photography – K K Mahajan
Editors – Mrinmoy Chakrabharty
Art Director – Nitish Roy
Composer – Bhaskar Chandavarkar

Awards/Festivals

- Best Director - 1984 - National Award
- Best Actress - 1984 - National Award
- Best Editor - 1984 - National Award
- Gold Hugo - 1984 - Chicago Film Festival
- Silver Award - Montreal Film Festival
- Film Presented – 1984 - Int'l Film Festival, Cannes
- Film Presented – 1984 - London Film Festival
- International Film Guide selection, 1984
- Top 5 films of the year

Chitrabharathi

India

BEYOND THE MIND

(Original Title: Atheetham)
(2007/Malayalam/ 35 mm/ Col /
123 mins)
Director: Devan Nair



Synopsis

Anandan, who is being trained in Vedic studies and spirituality by his guru, is all set to be ordained a monk. But certain experiences that he has in the meanwhile raise doubts in his mind and he sets out on a quest for truth. That quest, which forms the central theme of Atheetham, leads him on to certain revelations.

Note on Director

Devan Nair was born in Kerala south part of India in 1960. He has a postgraduate in History from Kerala University. He started his career as an Advertising filmmaker. After his return from the UAE, started his own advertising firm Sonnet, and began working in a very involved manner when he got the chance to produce the television serial Nalukettu, based on the famous novel of the same name written by M.T.Vasudevan Nair. His interest in films grew and that led him to Atheetham, which he has produced as well as directed. In a recent interview, Devan Nair spoke in detail about his film and its message to Unni Nair of nowrunning.com.



Select Filmography Debut Feature

Main Cast

Rahul Eswar
Sreeraman
Manikandan

Production Credits

Producer – Sonnet Cinema
Screenplay – Shartrughnan
Cinematographer – M J Radhakrishnan
Composer – Pradyuman Sharma

CROSS OVER

(Original Title: Daatu)

(2007/Kannada/ 35 mm/ Col/ 120 mins)

Director: K Shivarudraiah



Synopsis

Annappa, resident of Dharma Kunda, a small village has been given the responsibility to collect taxes from the villagers. He and his wife Sharada are compassionate individuals, and respected by everyone. Once while cleaning the idols of the puja room, she removes a bundle of anklets of their ancestors. For her mistake Sharada now needs to perform a 21 days prayer of Mastamma in the temple campus of Dharmakunda, as penance. Around the same time a cloth merchant Usman Khan comes to the village and begins selling clothes with the permission of Gowda and Annappa. Sharada is invited to inaugurate this sale. Usman Khan casts an evil eye on Sharada and kidnaps her a little later. Sharada's absence creates panic in the family and the village. A police complaint is lodged. Usman Khan wants Sharada to embrace Islam and marry him. Sharada somehow escapes captivity and reaches the village.

Note on Director



An established theatre personality and recipient of the Natak Academy Award for the year 2001 from Government of Karnataka, Shivarudraiah has won numerous distinctions in the fields of photography and theatre. His first feature film Chaitrada Chiguru won the Best Director award for the year 1999 – 2000. Also an established actor, Shivarudraiah has directed several shorts in addition to his latest feature film Daatu.

Main Cast

Rajesh
Dattatreya
Pooja Iyer
Girija Lokesh
Venkata Rao

Production Credits

Producer – Dr. M Byre Gowda
Cinematographer – S Ramchandra Aithal
Editor – Anil Naidu
Music - Hamsaleka

Awards/Festivals

Film Presented - 2007 - IFFI Goa

Contact : Aneka Creations, No. 3091, Gayithri Nagar, Mariyappana Palya, Bangalore - 560021.
Tele : (+91) (80) 65748449, 09448102158

DOOSRA

(2006/Hindi/35 mm/ Col/114 mins)
Director: Anand Subramaniam

Synopsis

A former underworld fake currency operator Raghu, under trial but on parole, is contacted by his mentor and contact, Printer Master Nayak, for a delicate job. Raghu is now retired and not inclined to return to the world of crime. He even turns down the offer of Superintendent of Police Sadat Hussein to turn approver in the fake currency investigation because he believes big people, including top bureaucrats and politicians, are involved in the racket. Naming them would mean certain death, even if you were in prison.



Note on Director



Anand Subramaniam from Bangalore, is a graduate in film Direction from FTII, Pune. He has also done a programme in independent filmmaking at the USC film School in Los Angeles. His diploma film *Ordinary Love* was selected and screened at the Calcutta International Film Festival in 1994. He has directed several commercials, corporate videos and telefilms. His Telefilm *Vapasi* done for Zee TV in Hindi inspired Ashutosh Gowariker, to make the critically acclaimed film *Swades*. He has acted in several films and also teaches at the center for Film and Drama, Bangalore. *Doosra*, is his first full length feature film.

Main Cast

H G Dattatreya
Raj Zutshi
Mandeep Rai
Mallika Prasad

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented –
Indian Cinema Today – 2007
IFFI Kerala

Production Credits

Producer – Center for Film and Drama Prod.
Executive Producer – Gurudas Shenoy
Screenwriters – Prakash Belawadi/Pallavi
Dattu/ Mallika Prasad
Cinematographer – Vinod Raja
Editing – Suresh Urs
Composer – Veerendra

FOUR WOMEN

(Original Title: Naalu Pennungal)
(2007/Malayalam/ 35 mm/ Col /
105 mins)
Director: Adoor Gopalkrishnan



Synopsis

A film about four women- each coming from a different social stratum: A prostitute gives up her profession to lead a normal life with her lover but the law of the land catches up as they fail to produce evidence of their matrimony. The second is a farm-worker whom her parents marry off to a petty shopkeeper. The bridegroom strangely avoids any intimacy with her. The third is a housewife who is visited by a senior classmate of hers. The two reminisce old days of small adventures and frolics and also ponder over her being childless. The last story, the Spinster, is about a middle class girl who is already past her marriageable age. Her widowed mother, who runs the house with four children to look after, tries her best to find a boy for her.

Note on Director

Adoor Gopalakrishnan was born in 1941. He started acting on the amateur stage at the early age of eight and went on to write, produce and direct over twenty plays during his student days. A graduate in Political Science and Economics, he graduated from the Film Institute of India in 1965. He has scripted and directed ten feature films and more than two-dozen Shorts and Documentaries. His first film, Swayamvaram went on to win national awards for best film, best director, best cameraman and best actress setting a record of sorts. His film, Kathapurushan also won him the national award for the best feature film in all Indian languages. He has won national award for best director four times and best script writer twice. His films have been shown in Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Toronto, Rotterdam, London, and every important festival around the world. In the year 2004 the French Government conferred on him the title of The Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters recognizing his contribution to cinema. Following it, the Indian nation presented him the Dada Phalke Award, the highest recognition for lifetime achievement in Cinema. The next year he was given the country's top civilian award of the title of Padma vibhushan. The same year, the Mahatma Gandhi University conferred on him the honorary degree of D.Litt.



Select Filmography Shadow Kill (2002), Man of the Story (1996), The Walls (1990), Yakshagana (1979).

Main Cast

Nandita Das, Padma Priya
Geethu Mohan Das, Manju Pillai

Awards/Festivals

■ Film Presented - 2007 IFFI Goa

Production Credits

Producer – Adoor Gopalkrishnan Productions; Screenplay – Adoor Gopalkrishnan
Cinematographer – M J Radhakrishnan ; Editor – B Ajith Kumar
Composer – Isaac Thomas

Film Source

Adoor Gopalakrishnan Productions, Darsanam, Trivandrum, Kerala - 695017, India.
Phone: (+91) (471)2446567, (+91)(471) 2425239 Fax: (+91)(487) 2425241.

KAAL

(Original Name: Our Time)
(2007/Bengali/ 35 mm/ Col/ 123 mins)

Synopsis

KAAL is an introspective journey into the lives of 4 women who, are trapped in the world of human trafficking, because of poverty. They are lured by an agent who promises them a better life in a distant city. Betrayed in love and let down by family members, they change their names and sneak into a metropolis. The real drama unfolds when the young women, utterly lost in the city's glitter and glamour, become call-girls for the sake of survival. Slowly, their dreams change, they now hunger for more money in the new environment. Things become intriguing when a European girl, who has suffered the same fate at the hands of the traffickers, starts sharing their apartment.

Note on the Director

Bappaditya Bandopadhyay is the recipient of the Most Promising Director Award for the year 2003, by the BFJA (Bengal Film Journalists Association). His second feature film *Silpantar* (*Colours of Hunger*) was premiered at the Sofia International Film Festival, Bulgaria. The film was selected in the prestigious competitive section of the Art Film Festival Bratislava, Slovakia, 2003. It was the only Indian film other than *Devdas* selected at the Helsinki International Film Festival, Finland, 2003. Debashree Roy won the Kalakar Award for the Best Actress for her performance in the film. Bappaditya Bandopadhyay's first feature film *Sampradan* (*The offering of the Daughter*) was selected in the competitive section of the 6th Dhaka International Film Festival, 2000. The film won three major awards in the categories of Best Supporting Actress, Best Supporting Actor and Best Female Playback Singer in the BFJA Awards that year.

Select Filmography: *Silpantar* (2003), *Sampradan* (2000), *Devaki* (2005)

Main Cast

Sandhya Shetty— Itu
Dola Chakraborty— Fermesk
Chandrayee Ghosh - Fatima.
Rudranil Ghosh - Ratanda

Production Credits

Director: Bappaditya Bandopadhyay
Producer - Abdallah Bhaidani
Photography - Rana Dasgupta
Editor - Uttam Roy

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - 2007 - Cairo International Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2007 - Sao Paulo International Film Festival
- Film Presented - 2007 Stockholm International Film Festival

MOONLIT FOREST

(Original Title: Kaada Beladingalu)
(2007/Kannada/ 35 mm/ Col/
113 mins)
Director: B S Lingadevaru



Synopsis

Kaada Beladingalu presents a larger picture of total degradation of the country's rural space, which is turning into a sanctuary for old people. The villages seem to be turning into old age homes as the young rural population has migrated to the cities in search of greener pastures. The film reveals this inherent message through the sojourn of a young female journalist Sudheshne, who wants to investigate into a bomb blast. She hails from a village but has migrated to the city in search of a job. She now has to visit the village on this professional assignment. As Sudheshne begins to investigate, she is startled at the process of degeneration in the village. The transformation in the village life surprises her.

Note on Director



A graduate in pharmacy, B.S. Lingadevaru directed his first feature film Mouni. The film was screened in many international film festivals and received wide critical acclaim. He has directed several tele serials and films ever since. Kaada Beladingalu is his second feature film. The film has participated in the 9th Ocean Film Festival in Delhi this year and also received Karnataka State award for the year 2006-07 for Best Film on Social Issues and Best Story.

Main Cast

C H Lokanath
H G Dattatreya
Ananya Kasaravalli
Bhargavi Narayan

Production Credits

Producer – Bengalooru Company
Cinematographer – H M Ramchandra
Editor – Anil Naidu
Composer – Rajesh Ramanathan

Awards/Festivals

■ Film Presented - 2007 - IFFI Goa

Contact: Bengalooru Company, 152, 5th Main, 6th Cross, KEB Layout, Sanjay Nagar,
Bangalore-94, India Phone: (+91) (80)23332290, (+91) 9448093636
Email: lingadev@gmail.com

SPRING AND DEW

(Original Title: Yenning Amadi Likla)

(2007/Manipuri/35 mm/147 mins)

Director: Makhonmani Mongsaba

Synopsis

Ten years old Sanatomba is a neglected child of alcoholic father Ibohal and Leipaklei - a rice mill worker Sanatomba is growing up watching his father Ibohal's bad temper. Nature and peace loving Sanatomba watches his mother Leipaklei leave home after her fight with Ibohal. Lonely Sanatomba is helped by his female friend Thambal's mother. Another couple Vijaya and Ibotambi are childless. On hearing of Sanatomba's plight Vijaya wants to adopt and raise him. The film deals with difference in principles and values between the two women Leipaklei and Vijaya as also innocent Sanatomba's desires and aspirations.



Note on Director



Born in Imphal. Having acquired a Masters degree in literature, he worked as an actor on both stage and film. He worked with Ratan Thiyam, in his various theatre productions and performed at many National and International theatre festivals. Makhonmani started his film career in 1980s. He has produced and directed short films, documentaries, tele serials, tele plays for Doordarshan Kendra, Imphal, Guwahati and Films Division. He won State and national award as a producer and director for his first Manipuri feature film CHATLEDO EIDEE. Makhonmani is a Board Director and member of Manipur Film Development Corporation Ltd., Script Panel Committee member of NFDC, Kolkata. He was a jury member for the 51st National Film Awards.

Select Filmography Chattleo Eidee

Main Cast

Master Muru

Baby Reshmi

Production Credits

Producer - SURVI

Screenwriters - Makhonmani Mongsaba

Cinematographer - Dilip

Editing - K Ramu

Composer - Tijendra

Film Source

Survi, Nogina Films, Uripok Ningthoukh Ongjam Leikai, Imphal - 795001 (Manipur) Phone: (+91) (385) 2414270, 09856080136.

Awards/Festivals

Film Presented - 2007 IFFI Goa

THE PLAIT OF JASMINE BUDS

(Original Title: Moggina Jade)
(2007/Kannada/ 35 mm/ Col/
104 mins)
Director: P R Ramdas Naidu



Synopsis

Srikantaiah and Sarasamma, an elderly couple, are well entrenched in traditional values. Their son, Raghavendra, working in a multinational corporation and Rekha have a girl child, Priya, studying in primary school. Priya having been raised by the old couple has imbibed her grand parents' approach to life, while her mother's milieu is different. Priya is enamored with the jasmine plaits, which other girls' sport. Shri is dreaming of dressing up like them, get photographed, and win accolades.

Her grand parents promise to fulfill her desire. Rekha dismisses this as an old fashion trait for which she neither has time nor interest.

Note on Director



P.R. Ramadas Naidu, 55, has been in the film and television industry for 33 years. He has eight telefilms and ten documentaries besides a large number TV serial episodes, to his credit. He made his feature film debut in 1981 with 'Amara Madhura Prema'. He has since made five more features. This is his third film in Indian Panorama.

Main Cast

Baby Srisha
Master Aniruddha
Pavitra Lokesh
Rajesh

Awards/Festivals

Film Presented - 2007 - IFFI Goa

Production Credits

Producer - Naidu Studio Productions
Cinematographer - S Ramchandra
Editor - Tulasi Kishore
Composer - L Vaidynathan

Film Source

Naidu Studio Productions, 132, (above Srinidhi Co-operative Bank), RB Road, Bangalore - 560004. Ph: (+91) (80) 26608134/Fax: (80) 266081341 India. Email: naidustudio@vsnl.net. Website: www.naidustudio.com

THE SEA WITHIN

(Original Title: Ore Kadal)
(2007/Malayalam/ 35 mm/ Col/
123 mins)
Director: Shyamaprasad

Synopsis

Ore Kadal (The Sea Within) is the sensitive study of Deepti, a middle class housewife, who is irresistibly drawn to a radical intellectual, Nathan. As the affair grows in passion and intensity, Deepti's mounting sense of guilt pushes her towards mental instability. Her husband and children are caught unawares in her emotional conflict and her return to sanity only adds to her inner torment. Relationships, the searing lure of love, the pain and agony of having to live a life without love, the pain of walking into someone's life and of walking out, the trauma of giving birth to babies and families, the tortuous wander between lust and love, these are the dilemmas that haunt this film.



Note on Director

Born in 1960, Shyamaprasad had his basic degree in Theatre Arts from the eminent School of Drama of Calicut University, India. Having been awarded the Commonwealth scholarship in 1989, he did his Masters in Media Productions at the Hull University, U.K. He has also worked as media researcher and creative contributor for BBC, Pebble Mill studios. Some of his most interesting work has been with Channel Four Televisions of Britain for their multi-racial programs. His features for TV and cinema have won him several national and provincial awards.



Main Cast

Mammooty
Meera Jasmine
Narein
Remya Krishnan

Production Credits

Producer – Vindhyam
Screenplay – Shyama Prasad
Cinematographer – Alagappan
Editor – Vinod Sukumaran
Composer – Ouseppachan

Awards/Festivals

Film Presented - 2007 - IFFI Goa

Film Source

Contact: Vindhyam for Rasika Entertainments, 23, Ambady Retreat, Chelavannoor Road, Kadavabthara Post, Kochi – 20, Kerala, India. Phone: (+91) (484) 23111919, (+91) 9846206456.

VANAJA

(Original Title: Vanaja)
(2006/Telugu/35 mm/Col/ 111 mins)
Director: Rajnesh Domalpalli

Synopsis

Vanaja, the 15-year-old daughter of a financially troubled fisherman goes to work in the local landlady's house in hopes of learning Kuchipudi dance. She does well, but when the Landlady's son returns from the US, what begins as innocent sexual chemistry turns ugly, ending in a rape - a rape of a minor. Set in rural South India, a place where social barriers are built stronger than ancient fort walls, the film explores the chasm that divides classes as a young girl struggles to come of age.



Note on Director

Rajnesh Domalpalli was born in Chennai, but spent his childhood in small rural towns associated with dam construction projects where his father worked as a civil engineer for the Andhra government. After completing his B. Tech in EE from the IIT Mumbai in 1984 and an MS from SUNY, SB in 1986 he worked as a Computer Engineer in California's Silicon Valley before deciding to take up Film at Columbia University in New York and graduating with an MFA in 2006. "Vanaja" is not only his first Feature but also his Thesis at Columbia. Rajnesh loves writing, and feels that it is the greatest challenge in making a good film. While at the IIT, he had dabbled in penning short stories during his spare time, and one of these, "The Dowry" was eventually picked up and broadcast by BBC's World Service in Sept 1984 and Aug 1989. College was also where he was introduced to South Indian classical music on the veena, before following it up with several years of training in the vocal tradition. Rajnesh's other passions are photographing with friends in the California Sierras and wildlife. He currently lives in Hyderabad.

Select Filmography Debut Feature *Vanaja*.



Main Cast

Mamatha Bhukya - Vanaja
Urmila Dammannagari - Rama Devi
Ramachandriah Marikanti - Somayya
Krishnamma Gundimalla - Radhamma
Karan Singh - Shekar

Production Credits

Producer - Latha R Domalapalli
Screenwriter/ Co-Editor - Rajnesh Domalpalli
Cinematographer - Milton Kam
Dance Director - Srinivas Devarakonda
Editor - Robert Q Lovett

Awards/Festivals

- Swarovski Trophy - 2007- Asian First Film Festival
- Best Debut Film - 2007- Berlin Film Festival
- Another 21 wins and 3 nominations

WISP OF COTTON

(Original Title: Shevri)
(2007/Marathi/ 35 mm/ Col/ 104 mins)
Director: Gajendra Ahire



Synopsis

The film is the turmoil in the mind of Vidya Barve, a divorced working woman, taking place on one single night which she is forced to spend on the streets. She recalls her relationships – her estranged husband, her teenaged son staying with her mother in another small town, her boss, her colleague, her room mate. As the dawn breaks Vidya regains her composure, appears visibly confident and prepares to face the world.

Note on Director

Gajendra Ahire has successfully tackled films based on women's rights and also against communalism, social injustice and national integration. His body of work can be categorized under three distinct categories:



a) Script Writer b) Lyricist c) Dialogues. Most of the award winning films have been nominated for the various prestigious film festivals which include the Asian Film Festival, NESCON, Czechoslovakian Film Festival, Panorama and the American Film Festival. Gajendra Ahire has won the following awards as a play writer: Natya Darpan Award, Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award, Mama Verekar Award and the Jayawant Dalvi Award. Gajendra Ahire has won the following awards for films like 'Krishna Kathachi Meera' (three State Awards), 'Not Only Mrs Raut' (the National Award (Silver Lotus) for Direction and Film, 10 State

Awards including one direction award. Nominated for Asian Film Festival/Panorama (for Film), and Czechoslovakian Film Festival. 'Vitthal Vitthal' (Four State Awards in 2003 including Direction Award) 'Pandhar Film' (two State Awards) 'Sail' (One State Award, also participated at the Asian Film Festival 2005 and Pune Film Festival).

Select Filmography Divasen Divas (2006), Sail (2006), Sarivar Sari (2005), Not Only Mrs. Raut (2003)

Main Cast

Neena Kulkarni - Vidya Barve
Ravindra Mankani
Dilip Prabhawalkar
Mohan Agashe
Meeta Vasisht

Production Credits

Producer – Nina Kulkarni
Screenwriter – Gajendra Ahire
Cinematographer – Imtiaaz Bargir
Editor – Zafar Sultan

T *Tribute*



M.R. Vittal
(Director)
1908 - 1994

M.R.Vittal - A Pioneer Filmmaker

Born in 1908, M.R.Vittal had his early education in Mysore and Madras, studied Engineering, became an Automobile Engineer and established a college in Kolhapur. He then studied Sound Engineering and took to filmmaking. He had the distinction of working under the father of the Indian Cinema D.G.Phalke. It was in Lahore that he had his first hand experience in making a film in the 1930's where he did the sound recording. His first venture as a Director was in a Hindi film which he made in Lahore. He also made several documentaries after returning to Madras. His keen interest in filmmaking made him to visit France and England in 1949 for taking up further training.

M.R.Vittal made his first feature films in Malayalam and Tamil and it was only in 1963 that he made his first film in Kannada- *Nandadeepa* which won the National Award. He always believed in writing a detailed screen play to the last detail before commencing the shooting. Later he settled in Karnataka and made a good number of Kannada films, including *Nakkare Ade Swarga* and *Hannele Chiguridaga* which won several awards. He also authored a book under the title 'Art of Direction'. The Government of Karnataka bestowed on him the prestigious Puttanna Kanagal Award in recognition of his lifetime achievement. He passed away in 1994.

Suchitra is bringing out a Monograph on this pioneer film personality as a glorious tribute to his achievements. The publication is being released during this film festival.

SACRED LAMP

(Original Title : Nandadeepa)
(1963/Kannada/35 mm/B&W)
Director: M.R. Vittal

Synopsis

It is the story of a lady who reforms the wayward people and her family as well and becomes a model for others. Gowri falls in love with Shankar who is a poet. But in order to save the honor of her father she has to become the second wife of a rich man Shrikanth. But the husband suspects the character of his wife. Gowri's brother marries a rich girl and forgets the family. An old friend of Gowri tries to flirt with her. She not only makes him behave properly but also sets right the affairs of the family.



Main Cast

Rajkumar
Uday Kumar
K S Ashwath
Leelavati
Harini
Jayashree
M N Lakshmi Devi

Production Credits

Producer - Vadiraj/ Jawahar
Screenplay/ Dialogues/Lyrics - Sorat Ashwath
Story - Vadiraj
Cinematography - R Madhu
Music - M Venkataraju

Awards/Festivals

- Best Regional Film - National Award

Biftis-08

DOCUMENTARIES

Compiled by

VIKALP

**films for
FREEDOM**
Bengaluru

Vikalp Bengalooru is happy to be curating the Documentary Section of the 2nd Bengalooru International Film Festival 2008.

We have put together a package of 30 documentaries for BIFFES08.

It includes a Retrospective of US based Italian documentary filmmaker Gianfranco Norelli. Being the first time that documentaries are a part of BIFFES, we found it necessary to include 5 hours of Landmark Indian documentaries. This includes Satyajit Ray's film on Rabindranath Tagore and works of Mani Kaul, Anand Patwardhan and Madhusree Dutta to name a few. In the International and Indian Current Trends Sections, we have focused mainly on documentaries that have been made in the last 2-3 years. These documentaries engage with diverse concerns of the universe – from the life of an Ethiopian immigrant in Israel to a tribute to Kumar Gandharva, and a whacky look at moustaches.

We are privileged to have Gianfranco Norelli with us. The Indian filmmakers who will participate include Deepa Dhanraj, Stalin K, Ashok Rane, Meghnath, Paromita Vohra, Chandra Siddan and Vinod Raja.

We realise that our list is far from comprehensive, and there are many films glaringly absent, but we sincerely appreciate the response of all the filmmakers in sending us their films at short notice. We would also like to thank Michael Treves of JMT Films, Israel and the Films Division of India for sharing their films. We would like to specially thank our volunteers, and of course *Suchitra* for inviting us to curate the films.

We hope all of you, as the audience, will enjoy the package of films we have for you.

About Vikalp Bengalooru

Dissent is the hallmark of a vibrant civil society. It has been, and continues to be the force that shook up stagnant societies, confronted status quo, and kept the streams of dreams running.

For the last thirty years, the independent documentary film movement in India has kept up the spirit of creative dissent. Sporadic in the age of 16mm, and prolific with the advent of DV, the documentary filmmaker continues to search for truth in its many forms. Documentaries continue to be the voice of the people from the margins, and bring their struggles into public discourse.

'Vikalp - Films for Freedom' was born out of a countrywide protest against an attempt at censorship, at the Mumbai International Film Festival in 2004. It is a loose association of individuals from all over the country, committed to addressing issues of censorship - whether imposed by the state or by sectarian interests. Vikalp Bengalooru has been a continuation of that protest. Over the last three years, we have been regularly screening documentaries and non-fiction films in an attempt towards creating a documentary film viewing culture in this city.

For more information about Vikalp Bengalooru, please visit – www.vikalpblr.org

PR Retrospective



Gianfranco Norelli

Gianfranco Norelli is an independent filmmaker and journalist. He was born in Rome, Italy, where he received a degree in political science at the University of Rome. He has lived in the United States from 1979 when he won a scholarship from New York University to study journalism and television production. In the last 25 years Norelli has produced a broad range of award-winning documentaries distributed worldwide.

Vikalp Bengaluru will be presenting a Retrospective of 3 documentaries of Gianfranco Norelli.

BITTER BREAD

(Original Title : Pane Amaro)
(Italy / 2007 / 104 mins)
Director: Gianfranco Norelli

Synopsis

Pane Amaro presents the trajectory of Italian immigration to the United States from its beginnings in the 1880's, marked by violence and racism against these newcomers, to World War II and their "assimilation" into American society. The film brings to life some of the forgotten episodes in the history of the over five million Italians who immigrated to the United States, a history which includes lynchings at the hands of "white" Americans, terrorist activities and militant labor unionism. Gianfranco Norelli himself migrated to New York twenty-seven years ago.

Director's Note

I have used hundreds of original photographs and documents, ranging from newspapers to cartoons, silent movies and rare contemporary films, as well as interviews with present-day Italian-American historians and scholars, to focus attention on one of the most tragic and least known episodes in the history of Italian immigration to the US. More than five million Italian immigrants who arrived in the United States between 1880 and the Second World War went through hell to be accepted and integrate.



Production Credits

Eurus Productions – New York & Rai Tre –
Italian Television
Co-producer: Suma Kurien

Awards/ Festivals

- Special Selection at the "Libero Bizzarri Film Festival", Urbino, Italy, September 2007

CITY OF DREAMS

(Original Title : City of Dreams)
(UK and Canada / 2000 / 44 mins)
Producer/Director: Gianfranco Norelli, Bruno Sorrentino



Synopsis

Juarez on the USA-Mexico border is often called "City of Dreams" because thousands of young women from impoverished villages all over Mexico have been drawn to it to work in the mostly US-owned factories at the border. Since 1993, over 300 of these young women have been murdered. The documentary investigates these murders, which Mexican human rights activists see as rooted in the gender conflicts caused by the rapid changes in the male/female roles in a society marked by machismo.

Production credits

A co-production of BBC and CBC Canada

TAXI DREAMS

(USA and UK / 2001 / 113 mins)

Producer / Directors: Gianfranco Norelli;
Joanna Head

Synopsis

A two-hour special for PBS in the US and BBC Worldwide, the documentary focuses on the American immigrant experience as seen through the eyes of five New York City taxi drivers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Tajikistan and Ghana. It follows the protagonists in New York City as they confront issues of cultural identity, racial prejudice and assimilation, and during the journeys that two of them make to India and Pakistan.

Director's Note

TAXI DREAMS may seem less overtly political in content, but I want the film to raise some questions about what it means to be a multicultural society. Through understanding the lives of these immigrants we become more accepting of differences and more able to welcome the contribution they can make.

Production credits

A Lion TV Production for PBS
and BBC Worldwide.

Awards/ Festivals

- Golden Eagle Award, Cine International Film Festival, Washington D.C., 2002

*L*andmark Indian
Documentaries

BOMBAY: OUR CITY

(Original Title : Hamara Shahar)
(1985, Colour, 75 mins)
Director: Anand Patwardhan

SYNOPSIS

BOMBAY: OUR CITY tells the story of the daily battle for survival of the 4 million slum dwellers of Bombay who make up half the city's population. Although they are Bombay's workforce - industrial labourers, construction workers, domestic servants - they are denied city utilities like electricity, sanitation, and water. Many slum dwellers must also face the constant threat of eviction, as city authorities carry out campaigns to "beautify" Bombay.

BOMBAY: OUR CITY is an indictment of injustice and misery, and a call to action on the side of the slum dwellers.

Note on Director

Anand Patwardhan has been making political documentaries for nearly three decades pursuing diverse and controversial issues that are at the crux of social and political life in India. Many of his films were at one time or another banned by state television channels in India and became the subject of litigation by Patwardhan who successfully challenged the censorship rulings in court.

Patwardhan has been an activist ever since he was a student, and is today most active in movements for housing rights of the urban poor, for communal harmony and in movements against unjust, unsustainable development, militarism and nuclear nationalism.



Production Credits

Camera:

Ranjan Palit,

Anand Patwardhan,

Pervez Merwanji

Sound: Indrajit Neogy

Editing: Anand Patwardhan

Production, Editing Assistance:

Ramesh Asher, Sanjiv Shah

Awards/Festivals

- Best Non-Fiction National Award, India, 1986
- Special Jury Award Cinema du Reel, Paris, 1986
- Filmfare Award Best Documentary, India, 1986

FLASHBACK

(1974/ 22 mins)

Director: SNS Sastry

Synopsis

The film shows the father of documentary, John Grierson, talking about the documentary and its function in India; "You may remember in the history of actuality... documentary, I find out that with all your persuasions, in all your grandeurs.... Claims for yourself, in all your filthy little prizes from all the filthy little festivals in the world, you have only reached a hundred and twenty, or a hundred thirty million people. That's peanuts. You have got 550 million in this country, and that's where your contact is.... That's where the big-time is....that's where your future is!" Grierson addressed the Indian documentary film-maker. While eliciting the views of Ezra Mir and Sukhdev, the role of Films Division is also highlighted in a nutshell.

Note on Director

For too long the Indian audience had been "informed and educated" through didactic narrated documentaries. It was about time - and 20 years after Independence, the right time - that the Indian citizen would speak from the screen. One of the filmmakers to start this trend was S.N.S. Sastry, a diploma holder in cinematography from the Bangalore Polytechnic, who had joined Films Division as a cameraman and started directing films in 1956. Sastry made a large number of films for Films Division but it was with *I am Twenty* that he made his mark. The film was structured around interviews with young people who were born in 1947 when India attained her freedom. The film made a tremendous impact because the young people whom Sastry interviewed on camera came out with force and pungency. They looked credible and convincing and expressed their feelings with candour. Young men with uncertain future questioned bitterly:

"Is it freedom to starve and go naked?"

"Well I don't love my country... and even if I did, to whom should I speak of my love."

This note of dissonance, an element of doubt was something new to Indian documentary, at least the official documentary. The value of the film lay in the fact that it provided a basis for discussion.

Sastry later made several other notable films like '*And I Make Short Films*', '*On the Move*', '*Yes It's on*', and '*Burning Sun*'. Unfortunately, he suffered a fatal heart attack and died tragically young.

Under the banner of Films Division and operating within its constraints Sastry has left a large body of work that can inspire us even today.

I LIVE IN BEHRAMPADA

(1993 / 46 Mins.)

Director: Madhusree Dutta

Synopsis

The communal riots that reduced Bombay into two distinct communities in December '92 and January '93 also created an underclass of citizens. During this time, Behrampada a slum colony in the city's western suburb with its predominantly (80%) Muslim population was cast as the villain by the majoritarian media and the communal forces. *I LIVE IN BEHRAMPADA* traces the history of this Muslim ghetto, which was first inhabited in 1950 and grew through the efforts of the slum dwellers who turned the slimy marsh land into solid ground. But in the face of rapid development 'yesterday's pathfinders' have become today's interlopers. 'Is the dividing line language, culture, religion or class?'



Note on Director

Madhusree Dutta is an alumni of the National School of Drama, New Delhi. She has been making non-fiction films since 1993. Formal challenges and possibilities involved in non-fiction films inspired her into this genre of communication. Gender, Identity and Marginalisation are her chosen areas of work. Her films have been screened widely, both nationally and internationally, in film festivals and art events and also taught as texts in academic, media & film institutions.

Madhusree is Founder and Executive Director of Majlis, a centre for multi-disciplinary art initiatives and rights discourse. She has scripted and produced an animation-game CD for children, titled *Spice Adventures*. She has co-edited two anthologies of essays: *The Nation, The State and Indian Identity*, 1996 and *Sites and Practices: an exercise in cultural pedagogy*, 2006.



Production Credits

Camera: Moloy Roy

Sound: Namita Nayak

Editing: Sujata Narula

Awards/Festivals

- Filmfare award, 1994
- Second best film award in International Video Fest, Trivandrum, 1995

KAMLABAI

(1992 / 45 mins)
Director: Reena Mohan

Synopsis

Kamlabai Gokhale was one of the first actors of India, and the first lady of Indian film. She was ninety-two years old when the film was shot and lived by herself in a flat.

Family members come to visit her now and then. She is an invalid, confined to her bed. But her personality is unwavering and she beams forth power when she recalls her former parts in pieces by Shakespeare, in Indian epics, or when she talks of the poverty she had to fight against. The base of the documentary are conversations with Kamlabai Gokhale. Her present and past are discussed through photographs. There are parts from a play Kamlabai acts out again, and music from the beginning of this century. However, the film is not purely nostalgic. It gives an impression of the history and the changes, particularly the history of Indian film and theatre from the perspective of a woman who struggled against the social structures of her times.



Note on Director

Reena Mohan is a graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India and is the editor of a number of acclaimed non-fiction films. Kamlabai was her first directorial work. Several of the films that Reena has made or edited have won awards apart from being screened at various international film festivals.



She has also been a teacher for over a decade conducting workshops on documentary film making in leading educational institutions in India. More recently, she worked for a year as the Course Coordinator, Film, in a leading media institute in Dubai.

She has researched extensively and written on the silent cinema of India. She has also served on the selection committees of two international film festivals.

Awards/Festivals

- Best First Film of a Director: Bombay International Festival for Documentary, Short and Animation Films, 1992
- Best First Non-Feature Film: President's Silver Lotus (Rajat Kamal), National Awards, 1992
- Featured in DOX magazine, December 2003, as one of the 50 most outstanding documentaries ever made.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

1961 / B/W / 54 mins
Director: Satyajit Ray

Synopsis

The documentary details the life and work of the celebrated Bengali writer Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941). He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 "because of his profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse, by which, with consummate skill, he has made his poetic thought, expressed in his own English words, a part of the literature of the West." The documentary was made to celebrate Tagore's birth centenary in May 1961. Ray was conscious that he was making an official portrait of India's celebrated poet and hence the film does not include any controversial aspects of Tagore's life. However, it is far from being a propaganda film. The film comprises dramatized episodes from the poet's life and archived images and documents. Ray has been reported to have said, "Ten or twelve mins of it are among the most moving and powerful things that I have produced".



Note on Director



Satyajit Ray, the master storyteller, has left a cinematic heritage that belongs as much to India as to the world. His films demonstrate a remarkable humanism, elaborate observation and subtle handling of characters and situations. The cinema of Satyajit Ray is a rare blend of intellect and emotions. He is controlled, precise, meticulous, and yet, evokes deep emotional response from the audience. His films depict a fine sensitivity without using melodrama or dramatic excesses. He evolved a cinematic style that is almost invisible. He strongly believed - "The best technique is the one that's not noticeable".

Satyajit Ray's filmography is too long to fit into a page of this brochure, but the few documentaries he made lie hidden in that impressive list. One of them is a portrait of his father Sukumar Ray.

Production Credits

Script & commentary: Satyajit Ray
Cinematography: Soumendu Roy
Editing: Dulal Dutta
Art Direction: Jyotirindra Moitra
Producer: Films Division, Govt. of India

Awards/Festivals

- President's Gold Medal, New Delhi, 1961
- Golden Seal, Locarno, 1961
- Special Mention, Montevideo, 1962

SOMETHING LIKE A WAR

(1991 / 53 mins)

Director: Deepa Dhanraj

Synopsis

Something Like a War examines India's national Family Planning programme from the perspective of women, who are its primary targets. The programme, launched in 1952, was formulated in collaboration with Western population control experts. It is based on the assumption that the irresponsible, anti-national breeding of the poor and the illiterate is the main cause of the nation's backwardness and that population control is the magic key to success.

As the women discuss their status, sexuality, fertility control and health, they clearly establish that population control is an empty slogan in the absence of developmental inputs such as education, healthcare, land reform, employment opportunities, social security and improvement in women's status.

Note on Director



Deepa Dhanraj has been actively involved with the women's movement since 1980. Over the last few years, she has participated in workshops, seminars and discussion groups on various issues related to women's status - political participation, health and education. She has taught video to women activists from South-East Asia. Some of her works include 'Kya Hua Iss Sheher Ko', 'The Legacy of Malthus', 'Girija', 'Nari Adalat' and 'Love in the time of AIDS'.

Production credits

Camera: Navroze Contractor

Sound: Dilip Subramani

Editor: Haida Paul

Awards/Festivals

- 1992 - Bombay International Film Festival for Short Films and Documentaries
- 1992 - Festival International Du Film Documentaire - Nyon, Switzerland. Won the Swiss Television Award -
- 1992 - International Short Film Festival - Leipzig, Germany.
- 1992 - Festival of South-Asian Women Directors - Sakhi, New York, U.S.A.
- 1993 - Films De Femmes - Creteil, France - Award for Best Long Documentary.



THE NOMAD PUPPETEER

1974 / 20 mins

Director: Mani Kaul

Synopsis

The film is a brief cinematographic report on the string puppets of Rajasthan, their traditional method of manipulation, changing idiom and the living conditions of the puppeteers who live a nomadic life. The film follows a troupe of puppeteers as they move from place to place entertaining and eking out a miserable living. An entire family is involved in entertaining and making the puppets, which they carve out of softwood and then paint and clothe. To our dismay, we discover that this remarkable art is on the wane with the easy accessibility of the moving pictures. The circulation of films in India through a wide distribution system has made the travels of these nomad puppeteers completely ineffectual. In the absence of puppeteer work, they have developed two distinct but allied skills: making of statues and selling puppets as toys, and street singing. What is even worse, the puppeteers now prostitute their art by enacting scenes from popular cinema where the puppets dance to the tunes of film songs.

The Nomad Puppeteers of Rajasthan was Mani Kaul's first documentary.

Note on Director

Mani Kaul is credited with defining much of New Indian Cinema's formal vocabulary. One of the early graduates of the Film and Television Institute of India, Mani Kaul was initially inspired by the great Bengali filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak, although later, in his own words, he "betrayed Ghatak" when he saw Robert Bresson's 'Pickpocket', which changed his outlook completely. With his first film itself, *Uski Roti* (A Day's Bread) he explored new forms of expression, each successive film being the product of his evolving ideas on the nature of cinema.

He began his filmmaking with documentaries, and often went back to it amidst making feature films. Mani Kaul's keen interest in Hindustani classical music has informed his documentaries 'Siddheshwari Devi' and 'Dhrupad'.

His elaborate theory of contemporary aesthetic practice, 'Seen from No where', was published in the book, *Concept of Space: Ancient and Modern*.

Select Filmography : *Uski Roti* (1969), *Ashadh Ka Ek Din* (1971), *Duvidha* (1973), *The Nomad Puppeteer* (1974), *Satah Se Uthata Admi* (1976), *Ghashiram Kotwal* (1979), *Dhrupad* (1982), *Mati Manas* (1984) *Siddheshwari* (1989), *Nazar* (1989), *Idiot* (1991), *The Cloud Door* (1995), *Naukar Ki Kameez* (1999)

*Current Trends -
Indian Documentaries*

AFSPA 1958

(2006 / 77 minutes)

Director: Haobam Paban Kumar

Synopsis

Th. Manorama Devi, a 32-year-old lady (a separatist suspect) was picked up by the forces of the 17th Assam Rifles from her home on 11th July, 2004, issuing an arrest-memo. Her dead body was later found near a hillock under suspicious circumstances. People largely believe that she was raped and later shot. From there onwards people throughout the state started holding protests and agitations against the excesses of the security forces and Armed Forces Special Power Act, 1958. This film is a diary of events, which took place in Manipur from the day Th. Manorama Devi died, till a youth dies setting self on fire protesting against the Armed Forces Special Power Act, 1958.



Note on Director



Haobam Paban Kumar has a PG Diploma in Direction & Scriptwriting from SRFTI Kolkata. His works include KANGLA, A CRY IN THE DARK, ESHING, NGAIHAK LAMBIDA. Haobam is currently based in Manipur.

Production credits

Producers: Haobam Paban Kumar

B.M. Sunzu Sharma

Camera: Saikhom Ratan

Editor: Chalee Sankhavesha

Awards/Festivals

- Best Documentary Award, 6th KARA 2006, Pakistan.
- Jury Award, 10th Ismailia International Film Festival Egypt 2006
- NETV People's Choice Awards 2006, Guwahati.
- Best Documentary Award, SIGNS 2006
- International Critics Award – FIPRESCI PRIZE, 9th Mumbai International Film Festival, India 2006

GADI LOHARDAGA MAIL

(2006 / 27 mins)

Director: Meghnath and Biju Toppo

Synopsis

This film is a tribute to the Meter Gauge Passenger Train, popularly known as the Lohar Daga Mail.

This train had its last run in January 2004 after plying between Ranchi and Lohardaga for about a century. This film is the only visual document of this little wonder of the past.



Ranchi was brought on the railway map with the opening of the Purulia- Ranchi narrow gauge line in November 2007. This line was extended up to Lohardaga in 1911. A narrow gauge train ran on this track until January 2004, when it was withdrawn, as the work for converting it to a broad gauge section began.

Realising that train journeys would never be the same again on the route, Meghnath and Biju Toppo thought of documenting its final journey. A group of prominent personalities, singers and filmmakers from the region joined them. The film is an emotional journey of travellers reminiscing about the train and the memories associated with it. Songs play a major role in the narrative.

Note on Directors

Meghnath and Biju Toppo have been making documentary films for over 10 years. Their films give voice to the struggles of the adivasis – indigenous peoples of India. Their film 'Development flows from the barrel of guns' won an award at the Vatavaran Film festival 2005, and their film 'Kora Rajee' (The land of the diggers) won the Silver Conch at MIFF 2006.



They have founded and run an organization called AKHRA, which works closely with the adivasis of Jharkhand. Their aim is to promote local talent and cultural activities and make a space for them in the

mainstream. AKHRA runs a library, which houses about 3000 books and about 350 documentary films.

Main Cast

Mukund Nayak

Madhu Mansuri Hasmukh

Dr. Ramdayal Munda

Production Credits

Camera : Biju Toppo

Editing : Ajit Kumar

HANS AKELA

(2005/ 65 mins)
Director: Jabbar Patel

Synopsis

'Hans Akela' is the search of a grandson into his grandfather's life and works. Bhuvanesh Komkali takes us along a journey into history, to look into his grandfather, Kumar Gandharva's musical roots. He analyses what made Kumarji's singing the way it was and the reason for it being an inspiration and beacon to coming generations of musicians. He talks of Kumar Gandharva not as a singing legend but as musicologist too. Kumar Gandharva not only defied the norms of traditional Hindustani Classical Music, but also critically analyzed it before revolutionizing the form. In the same spirit, 'Hans Akela', defying the traditional norms of a documentary, becomes a delightful foray into the world of the singing legend. Highlighting the various facets of his life, his work and his music are friends, family, followers and fans – all those whose lives intersected with him and his music. A treasure trove of information, incidents, photographs and some rare footage unravels the magic of Kumar Gandharva.

Note on Director



Dr Patel is pediatrician who turned to theatre and filmmaking and made a name for himself in both fields. He founded Theatre Academy, an experimental theatre group in Pune, which staged the well known play 'Ghashiram Kotwal' written by Dr. Vijay Tendulkar, and performed all over the world. Dr. Patel has directed several highly acclaimed feature films and won awards for many of them. His films make an astute comment on our social and political environment. His recent biographical film on Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has won critical acclaim.

Select Filmography : Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar (2000), Mukta (1994), Ek Hota Vidushak (1992), Forts of Maharashtra (1990), Indian Theatre (1990), Laxman Joshi (1989), Pathik (1988), Mi SM (1987), Musafir (1986) - director; Umbartha (1982) - director, producer; Simhasan (1980) - director; Jait Re Jait (1977) - director; Samna (1974) - director

Production Credits

Editor: Vijay Kochikar

Produced by: films Division

Awards/Festivals

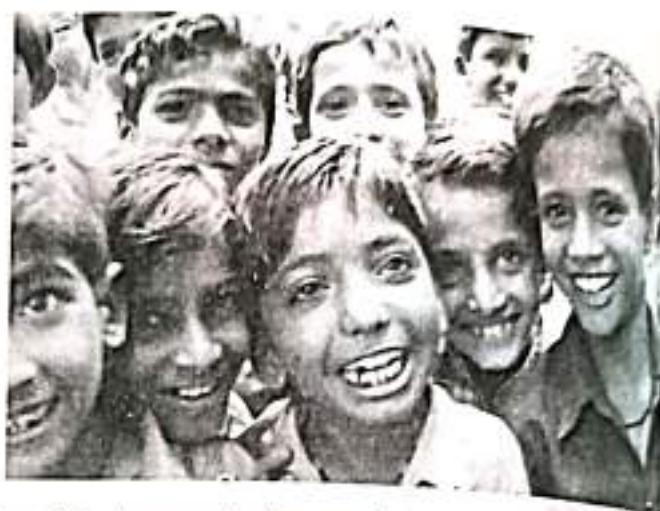
- The National Film Awards 2005, for the best biographical-historical reconstruction
- MIFF 2006, Mumbai, India
- IFFI 2006, Goa, India

INDIA UNTOUCHED

Stories of a People Apart

(2007 / 108 mins)

Director: Stalin K



Synopsis

This documentary is the most comprehensive look at the "untouchables" in India. Motivated by ancient religious edicts, no amount of governmental encouragement has been able to stem the tragic custom that separates human beings according to their birth. While the media projects a positive image of a democratic India, filmmaker Stalin K spends four years traveling the country to expose the continued oppression of the Dalits, "the broken people," in a wide variety of communities, including Sikhs, Christians and Muslims.

Note on Director



Stalin K is a human rights activist and award-winning documentary filmmaker. He is known for his 'community media' work with urban and rural communities, in which local people produce their own videos and radio programs as an empowerment tool. He is the Co-Founder of DRISHTI- Media, Arts and Human Rights, Convener of the Community Radio Forum-India, and the India Director of Video Volunteers. He has taught at over 20 institutions ranging from the National Institute of Design and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in India, to New York University and Stanford and Berkeley in the US.

Production Credits

Producer: DRISHTI Media, Arts & Human Rights
Camera: Stalin K., Nirmala Nair, Sooraj Nambiar,
Anuradha Srinivasan

Sound: Same as Camera

Editing: Nirmala Nair, Stalin K

Awards/Festivals

- Best Documentary, Mahindra IAAC Film Festival, New York, November 2007
- Best Film, One Billion Eyes Film Festival, Chennai, India, August 2007
- DC Meets Delhi Film Festival, Washington DC, September 2007
- CineCufa Festival, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, September 2007
- Hamptons International Film Festival, New York, October 2007
- Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival, November 2007
- KaraFilm – Karachi International Film Festival, Pakistan, November 2007

IN SEARCH OF GANDHI

(2007 / 52:30 mins)

Director: Lalit Vachani

Synopsis

In the early decades of the twentieth century, Mahatma Gandhi's legacy of satyagraha inspired a mass movement of millions of Indians to rise up against the British colonial state and successfully agitate for the establishment of a democratic and free India. But what kind of a democracy does India have today?

In road-movie style, the film crew travels down the famous trail of Gandhi's Salt March, the remarkable mass campaign that galvanized ordinary Indians to join the non-violent struggle for democracy and freedom in 1930. Stopping at the same villages and cities where Gandhi and his followers had raised their call for independence, the film documents the stories of ordinary citizens in India today. Although inspired by a historical event, *In Search of Gandhi* is not a journey back in time. Instead it is a search for the present and future of democracy in India. For more information, see: <http://whydemocracy.net/film/9>



Note on Director



Lalit Vachani is Director of the New Delhi based Wide Eye Film.. His previous documentary films have been on the star-system and the social worlds within the Bollywood film industry (*The Academy*, 1995; *The Starmaker*, 1997) and on the indoctrination, ideology and the politics of Hindutva propagated by the Hindu fundamentalist organization, the RSS (*The Boy in the Branch*, 1993; *The Men in the Tree*, 2002). His most recent work, prior to this film was *The Play Goes On* (2005), a documentary about JANAM, a socialist street theatre group in India.

Production Credits

Producer: Don Edkins

Camera: Mrinal Desai

Sound: Anita Kushwaha

Editing : Menno Boerema, Mahadeb Shi

THE MAHUA MEMOIRS

(2007/ 82 mins)
Director: Vinod Raja

Synopsis

When a nation begins to grow rapidly at over 9 percent, what does this mean for 8 percent of people, who remain unseen and unheard? Through stories and songs, Mahua Memoirs unravels the struggles of the Adivasis (indigenous peoples) against the state and the mining companies.

Most mineral resources are buried deep in lands and forests of the Eastern Ghats, a mountain tract that is home to the Adivasis. They were the guardians of these traditional treasures, until, in the age of industrialisation when control over natural resources shifted from the community to state. In 1993- 98, in the process of liberalising the economy, the Indian state opened up the mining space to private and international companies.

In the last ten years, thousands of mining leases have been issued, giving away prime Adivasi lands for mining and industries, despite a number of constitutional safe guards.

"Mahua Memoirs" documents the "last struggle" of millions of Adivasis across the states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chattisgarh and Jharkhand to retain their identity, protect their livelihood and save their homelands. (Word Count -206)

Note on Director

Vinod Raja graduated from the Film and Television Institute of India with a specialisation in cinematography.

As a cinematographer he worked on several feature length documentaries, public awareness films and TV commercials.

In the last few years, he has been making short documentaries on issues of livelihood, environment, appropriate technologies, and renewable clean and safe energy resources through a film collective called Grass roots media.

"Since the success of my last documentary 'The bee, the bear and the kuruba' made in 2001, I have been drawn into long form documentary films", says Vinod.

His current projects include a long form documentary on the nomadic and denotified tribes across six states in India.



Production Credits

Executive Producer: Ashok Maridas

Script : Madhu Bhushan, Vinod Raja

Editor: Atul Gupta

Photography: Vinod Raja

Narration Voice: Aporup Acharya

Produced by: EQUATIONS & Grass Roots media Pvt. Ltd.



MASTI BHARA HAI SAMA

A musical journey of music director Dattaram

(2007/ Colour/ 80 mins.)

Director: Ashok Rane



Synopsis

'Masti Bhara Hai Sama', captures the life and work of renowned music director Dattaram, who began his career with the legendary film music duo Shankar - Jaikishan, first as a tabla and dholak player, and later as their assistant. He turned independent music director with the film 'Ab Dilli Door Nahi' produced by another legend of Indian cinema, Raj Kapoor. His very first film established him as a music director of repute. Dattaram has 20 films and numerous melodious songs to his credit. He will be forever remembered for songs such as, 'Aansu bhari hain ye jeevan ki rahein', 'Masti bhara hai sama', 'Chun chun karati aayi chidiyan', 'Mere dil mein hai ek baat', 'Na jane kahan tum the', 'Tumhe husna de ke khudane', 'Mithi mithi baaton se bachna jara' etc, and even more than that for his hugely famous rhythm that came to be known as 'Dattu theka'.

Note on Director

Ashok Rane is a film critic, researcher, documentary filmmaker and academician. He has six books to his credit. He has received two National Awards, one each in the 'Best book on Cinema' and 'Best Film' category. He has been visiting faculty in Mumbai University, SNDT and various other prestigious institutions. He has also lectured in various universities U.S. and Europe. He is the director of Indian Film Academy. (www.ifacinema.com) through which he conducts various film related workshops, especially on Film Appreciation and Script Writing. He has been attending film festivals the world over and was a member of the FIPRESCI Jury at Moscow and Montreal Film Festivals.

He has conceived, written and directed a documentary 'Singing in Cinema' dealing with songs and dance forms of Indian Cinema which has been well received at home and abroad. 'Masti Bhara Hai Sama' is his second documentary.

Production Credits

Producer - Passiflora Films

Cinematographer - Prakash Samel

Editor - Jesel

Awards/Festivals

- Film Presented - 2007 IFFI Goa



MORALITY TV AUR LOVING JEHAD: EK MANOHAR KAHANI

(2007 / 29 mins)

Director and Writer: Paromita Vohra



Synopsis

In the winter of 2005 Indians switched on their TV sets to watch yet another "breaking news" story, but one which shocked them. In the town of Meerut, police officers, mostly women, swooped down on lovers in a park and began to beat them up. Along with them they took photographers and news cameramen with the promise of an exclusive sting operation.

What is the story of this news story? The film looks outside the frames that weave the frenetic tapestry of Breaking News on India's news channels to uncover a town's complex dynamics – the fear of love, the constant scrutiny and control of women's mobility and sexuality, a history of communal violence, caste brutalization and feudal equations. Assuming the tone of pulp fiction and tabloid features it examines the legacy of this kind of story telling, from the relishing accounts of true crime magazines like Manohar Kahaniyan to the double morality of pulp detective fiction and tabloid news on Indian TV, to unfold a thrilling but disturbing tale of it's own.

Note on Director



Paromita Vohra is a documentary filmmaker and screenwriter. She has also directed "Q2P", "Where' Sandra?", "Work In Progress: At the WSF 2004," "Cosmopolis: Two Tales of a City," "Unlimited Girls," "A Woman's Place," "A Short Film About Time" and "Annapurna: Goddess of Food." She has written the script for the feature "Khamosh Pani" and documentaries "A Few Things I Know About Her," "If You Pause" and "Skin Deep."

Production Credits

Producer: PSBT

Camera: Avijit Mukul Kishore

Editing: Sankalp Meshram

Sound: Samina Mishra

Music: Chirantan Bhatt

Narrator: Lovleen Mishra

MOUSTACHES UNLIMITED

(2006 / 30 mins)

Director: Vasudha Joshi

Synopsis

A whacky look at what moustaches mean to people – men and women. Characters include women who have found moustaches embarrassing, others who have found them 'empowering'. The film interviews a cross section of men and women to explore what moustaches signify, why they take pride in the moustaches they wear, (or don't) how they cultivate and nourish them, explore how moustache stroking becomes a mannerism, a gesture, a show of élan/strength and sometimes for women too



Note on Director

Vasudha Joshi has worked in television and and directed several documentaries including "Voices from Baliapal" (National Award for the best film on social issues, 1989, Golden Conch , MIFF 1990) "Follow the Rainbow" (Valais Award, North South Media Meeting, Geneva, 1992) " A Report on Mahila Samakhya UP (Silver Conch 1996) "For Maya" (Anandalok Editor's Choice award 1998) "Girl Song" (Honourable Mention, IAWRT awards, 2005) . Her special interests include gender, education and traditional playing cards. She has also executed graphic design projects for print, notably for the kantha exhibition in Bolzano, Italy, in 2005 and more recently, interactive DVD projects that include short films along with text and images.

Production Credits

Producer: PSBT

Camera: Ranjan Palit & Setu

Sound: Samina Mishra

Editing: Shubham Kasera

Awards/Festivals

- PSBT festival, Delhi
- Film South Asia 07, Kathmandu

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PRESENT

(2006 / 80 mins)

Director and Writer: Chandra Siddan

Synopsis

Long divorced and newly remarried, Chandra Siddan, a Canadian immigrant, returns to Bangalore, India after 12 years' absence to enquire into the reasons for her early first marriage arranged by her Hindu urban middle class family and confronts her parents and relatives with her lost childhood while also presenting them her new husband. Reuniting with her daughter Smruthi, (now in her twenties), Chandra finds her refreshingly liberated. But the life of her parents' teenage servant, Sudha shows that the past is anything but over.

Simultaneously a family drama and a social history, *Remembrance of Things Present* rejects a reactionary notion of 'home' and theorizes global female migrant labour as an anti-odyssey, a journey without a return.

Note on Director



Chandra Siddan was born and brought up in Bangalore, India. She studied English Literature till she moved to New York where she studied filmmaking. A few years later she moved to Germany. Here she made 'The Gift', a short film and 'Williamsburg Experiment', a documentary. She moved to Toronto, Canada in 2000 and made 'Remembrance of Things Present', her first feature length documentary. She also founded the Regent Park Film Festival in 2003.



Production Credits

Producer: Chandra Siddan
Co-producer: Monika Boettcher
Camera: Monika Boettcher
Editing: Dennis Day

Awards/Festivals

- March 2008 Screening at IFFK Video Festival Trivandrum.
- Oct 2007 Won the Second Best Film at Film South Asia, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Aug 2007 Premiered at FILMI festival, Toronto.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

(2007 / 28 mins)

Director: Bharath Murthy

Synopsis

In 2002, a video featuring a couple having sex - in which the lovers who were college students had filmed themselves - got into the porn circuit and became a hit. It was an amateur video.

This film is a survey of that event and the reactions of young people to pornography.

This film is the result of the filmmaker's fascination with an amateur pornographic video called 'Mysore Mallige'.



Note on Director



To quote Bharath Murthy, he has "survived two art schools (painting and film direction)". He is now making videos and comics.

Production Credits

Producer: PSBT

Editor: Rajarshi Basu

Co-director: Alka Singh

*Current Trends -
International Documentaries*

ATHEISM

(2006/ Canada/ 72 mins)
Director: Julian Samuel

Synopsis

"Atheism" confronts religion and its discontents by introducing the views of a physicist who refutes the Big Bang, and with it the possibility of a creation; a novelist who uses post-Newtonian concepts as a story-telling device; two experts on Islam; a Christian thinker from within the church; an atheist, originally from an Islamic country; and a philosopher who topples the world of miracles by subjecting them to the rational waters of logic upon which, it emerges, one can't walk, despite surface tension.

Note on Director

Julian Samuel wears many hats. He is a linguist, proficient in English, French and Urdu. He is a teacher. He has been involved with radio, has participated in art juries, written on the issue of minorities and has 4 books to his credit. Some of his films include *Save and Burn*, *The Librarian in Crisis*, *City of the Dead* and *the World Exhibitions*, *Into the European Mirror*, *Raft of the Medusa*. He is currently working on a novel, *Dark Interloper of the Eastern Trade / Radius Islamicus*.



Awards/Festivals

- 20th Singapore Film Festival

DESCRIPTION OF A MEMORY

(Israel/ 2006/ 80 mins)
Director: Dan Geva

Synopsis

A cinematic journey to the recesses of the photographed memory in Chris Marker's 1960 impressionist film about Israel, "*Description d'un combat*" (*Description of a Struggle*), which won the *Golden Bear* at the 1961 *Berlin Festival*. Dan Geva creates a poetic and philosophic cinematic dialogue with the original text. Geva takes us to places that Marker warned about half a century earlier and to those which the French master could not even have imagined. The present film goes into the innermost parts of the original and places Israel's present as a future to Marker's prophecy.



Note on Director



Dan Geva was born in Israel, 1964. He graduated from The Sam Spiegel film Institute Jerusalem with Best Graduate and Best Cinematographer Awards, 1994. Since then he has produced, written, filmed & directed more than 10 films that have won prestigious prizes in Israel and around the world.

Production Credits

Photographer: Dan Geva
Scriptwriter: Dan & Noit Geva
Editor: Dan & Noit Geva
Editing Script: Noit Geva
Original Music: Alex Claude
Producer: Dan & Noit Geva
Production Company: Habayit Hakatom

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Web: www.JMTFilms.com

Awards/Festivals

- Grand Prize: RIDM International Documentary Film Festival (Montreal, Canada 2007)
- DokuARTS International Festival for Films on Art (Berlin, Germany 2007)
- DOCNZ International Documentary Film Festival (New Zealand 2007)
- Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival (Czech Republic 2007)
- Jerusalem International Film Festival (Israel 2006)

LOSERS AND WINNERS

(Germany/ 2006/ 96 mins)

Directors: Ulrike Franke and Michael Loeken

Synopsis

400 Chinese workers break down the Kaiserstuhl coke factory in the Ruhr Valley into manageable parts and ship them back to their homeland: disassembly in the West – reassembly in the Far East. Dortmund's last coke workers find themselves helping the Chinese to dismantle their own workplace.



Note on Directors



Ulrike Franke, born 1970 in Dortmund. Studied theatre, film and television, romance literature and art history in Cologne. Received educational grant from the Filmstiftung NRW in 1992 in the field of film directing. Continuous work on various television and feature films. Has worked since 1996 as author, director and producer. Lecturer on documentary film at the isf – International Film School Cologne, member of AG DOK and from 2001 to 2005 on the board of the Filmbüro NW.



Michael Loeken, born 1954 in Neviges. Studied theatre, film and television in Cologne. Wrote screenplay and directed documentary "Ich hatte schon begonnen, die Freiheit zu vergessen" in 1981. From 1982 to 1996 worked as sound mixer on several documentaries and fiction films for TV and cinema. Has worked since 1996 as author, director and producer. Member of AG DOK and the award committee for film funding of the Filmbüro NW (2002) as well as in the Production II award committee for the Filmstiftung NW (2003).

Production Credits

Written, Directed by: Ulrike Franke, Michael Loeken
Dir. of Photography: Michael Loeken, Rüdiger Spott
Location Sound: Ulrike Franke and Csaba Kulcsar
Editor: Guido Krajewski
Line Producer: Christian Fürst
Music: Maciej Sledziecki
Sound Mixing: Tilo Busch, SoundVision
Commissioning Editor: Sabine Rollberg, WDR/arte
Producer: filmproduktion loekenfranke
Co-Producer: WDR, Goethe Institut in collaboration with: arte
Sponsored by: Filmstiftung NRW

Awards/Festivals

- HOTDOCS: Best Int. Feature Doc., Toronto, 2007
- WORLDVEST: Golden Remi Award, Houston, 2007
- CIDE: Honorable Mention, Chicago, 2007
- CIDE: Film Critics Award, Chicago, 2007
- IT'S ALL TRUE: Special Jury Award, Brazil, 2007
- ONE WORLD :Best Film Award, Prague, 2007
- DOK Leipzig: Opening Film, 2006

SISAI

(2005/ Ethiopia-Israel/ 56 mins)
Director: David Gavro

Synopsis

20-year-old Sisai, Ethiopian immigrant in Israel, lives with his adoptive family - the Gavros. Father Gavro returns from Ethiopia with news of Sisai's biological father's whereabouts. Confused by the news and the fresh confrontation with his past, Sisai does not share his family's excitement. He is too busy with his own news; Sivan, his girlfriend, is pregnant. The director, who is also Sisai's brother, joins him and their father on a journey to Ethiopia on their search for identity, blood connection, love and longing.



Note on Director



Born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1977. He immigrated to Israel at the age of seven, without his parents that arrived only six years later during Operation Salomon. He is a graduate of the Film and Television School, Sapir Academic College, Israel. He participated at the Haifa Film Festival 2004 in a Reshet TV project in which various directors created short films interpreting "Hatikva", the national anthem. Gavro directed a short poetic film about Jerusalem from the perspective of an Ethiopian Jew. Sisai, his debut film, won the Best Documentary Award at the Jerusalem Film Festival 2005.

Production Credits

Written and Directed by: David Gavro
Produced by: Avner Faingulernt,
David Gavro, Yael Shavit
Cinematography: Ronen Amar
Editing: Kobi Plumnik
Sound: Oren treitel, Toni Tuito
Original Score: Amit Cohen

Production Company

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Awards/Festivals

- FIPA D'OR: Best Documentary Award – FIPA Biarritz International Film Festival - France 2006
- Best Documentary Award – DeReel Independent Film Festival - Australia 2007
- Best Documentary Award – Jerusalem International Film Festival - Israel 2005
- Lombardia Prize for Best Documentary Film – Milan African Film Festival - Italy 2006
- Best First Film Award – Israel Documentary Awards 2006

THE AGRONOMIST

(2004/ English/ Canada-Haiti/ DVD/ Col/ 90 mins)
Director: Jonathan Demme

Synopsis

A profile of Haitian radio journalist and human rights activist, Jean Dominique. It includes: historical footage of Haiti's vivid and tumultuous past; interviews with Dominique, himself and with Michele Montas—his heroic wife, life-long love, and extraordinary partner; and incorporates footage shot before Dominique's assassination on April 3, 2000.



Note on Director



Jonathan Demme (born February 22, 1944, in Baldwin, New York) is an Academy Award winning American film director, producer and writer. Demme broke into feature film directing working for Roger Corman. His first mainstream feature Melvin and Howard caught the eye of Hollywood and he was signed to direct the Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell vehicle Swing Shift. In 1991, Demme won the Academy Award for The Silence of the Lambs—one of the few films to win all the major categories (best film, best director, best screenplay, best actor, and best actress). Demme formed his production company, Clinica Estetica, with producers Edward Saxon and Peter Saraf. They were based out of New York for fifteen years.

Select Filmography Man from Plains (2007), The Manchurian Candidate (2004), Philadelphia (1993), The Silence of the Lambs (1991), Caged Heat (1974)

Main Cast

Jean Dominique – Himself
Aboudja – Himself
Ronald Reagan – Himself (Video Footage)

Production Credits

Executive Producer - Edwidge Danticat
Producers – Jonathan Demme/Bevin
McNamara/ Peter Saraf
Cinematographers – Aboudja/Jonathan
Demme/Bevin McNamara/Peter Saraf
Original Music – Wyclef Jean

Awards/Festivals

- Best Documentary – 2004 Gotham Awards

THE BLACK ROAD:

On the Front Lines of Aceh's War

(2005/ Australia / 52 mins)

Director: William Nessen



Synopsis

The 2005 tsunami suddenly turned the isolated Indonesian province of Aceh into a household name. Yet the deeper story of the Acehnese and their long struggle for independence remains largely unknown. Filmed over four years, *The Black Road* is a harrowing account of a journalist determined to find the truth and tell the world. William Nessen gains the friendship of the top Indonesian general in the province and patrols with his men. He marries a local translator 'trusted by the military' but working secretly for the independence movement. The security forces kidnap his 'best man', an outspoken human rights activist. Nessen lives for many months with the independence guerrillas. Pulled deeper and deeper into the conflict, he wrestles with the dilemma of remaining an observer in a place of terrible misdeeds. But there is some laughter here too, and the possibility of healing. The film is a story about how people endure, struggle and maintain their dignity against odds.

Note on Director



William Nessen is an American print journalist and photographer turned filmmaker and *The Black Road: On the Front Line of Aceh's War*, is his debut film. His bold decision to side with Free Aceh movement caused him to be imprisoned and twice expelled from Indonesia.

Producer:

Andrew Ogilvie

Camera: William Nessen

Editing: Lawrence Silvestrin

Music: Tim Count, Keith Van Geyzel

Awards/Festivals

- Best Documentary under 60 mins and the Best Film of the Festival at the 2006 Mumbai International Film Festival.
- Special Mention - DOCNZ Film Festival

THE GENERAL STORE

(France/ 2005/ 84 mins)
Director: Chantal Briet

Synopsis

This elegant vérité-style documentary gracefully explores the quotidian lives in an immigrant-heavy Parisian suburb, Epinay-sur-Seine, taking us into the everyday life of a small grocery store. Customers arrive, one after the other, under the happy gaze of Ali, the charismatic owner. There is the old lady with the dog, the unemployed philosopher, the youngster who dances hip hop and the kids who want candies. The film shows us the importance of the small shop "around the corner": a space, where you can find human warmth, laughter and conviviality in spite of the difficult conditions.



Note on Director



Chantal Briet was born in Roubaix (North of France). She first studied Modern Literature before going to film school. She co-directed her first film *INCH'ALLAH* in 1987 with Jean-Pierre Lenoir. This short film (24') was awarded Price of the Jury at the Lille Film Festival. Between 1988 and 2002, she directed a dozen films (short and documentaries). *ALIMENTATION GÉNÉRALE* is her first feature-length film.

Production Credits

Scriptwriter and Director:
Chantal Briet
Camera: Sophie Bachelier, Sylvia
Calle, Chantal Briet
Sound: Jean-Paul Guirado,
Guillaume Le Braz
Editor: Benoît Alavoine, Nathalie
Charles
Sound Editing: Nadine Makris
Sound Design: Frédéric Bielle
Music: Martin Wheeler
Producer: Ludovic Arnal
Production Company: Yenta Prod

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Awards/Festivals

- Documenta Madrid: First Prize – Spain 2006
- Doc Lisboa: Best Feature Award - Portugal 2005
- Cannes International Film Festival: Selection ACID - France 2005
- Melbourne International Film Festival - Australia 2007
- C.O.L. C.O.A. French Film Festival - Los Angeles, USA 2007
- European Feature Documentary Film Festival: The Magnificent Seven - Serbia 2007
- Cinémed Mediterranean Film Festival – Montpellier, France 2006
- Créteil Intl Women's Film Festival - France 2006
- Miami International Documentary Film Festival - U.S.A. 2006
- Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival – Toronto, Canada 2006
- Rencontres Internationales du documentaire Montréal - Canada 2006
- Sheffield International Documentary Film Festival - U.K. 2006
- Punto de Vista International Documentary Film Festival, Pamplona - Spain 2006
- Shadow International Film Festival – Amsterdam, the Netherlands 2006

VIETNAM SYMPHONY

(Australia/ 2005/ 52 mins)

Writer and Director: Tom Zubrycki

Synopsis

In 1965, as the Vietnam War intensified and faced with the threat of massive bombing, the Hanoi Conservatorium of Music - all 600 students and teachers - fled to the countryside where they built an entire campus underground, remaining there for 5 years as the war raged around them. The film is a look at Vietnam today through the prism of the past.



Note on Director

Tom Zubrycki has earned international reputation for his substantial and widely respected body of documentaries. He works mainly in an observational style and his films are narrative-based and strongly character-driven. Credited with thirteen films as a writer/director and six as a producer, over his four-decade career, Zubrycki has tackled contentious social and political issues in more than a dozen documentaries. He has examined some loaded themes: the plight of refugees and the working class, the power of trade unions in industrial relations disputes, and hate crimes driven by racism.



He regularly teaches courses in documentary production at the University of Technology, Sydney, and has written several articles about his own work as a documentarian.

His works include Molly & Mobarak (2003), The Diplomat (2000), Billal (1996), Amongst Equals (1991) Waterloo (1982)

Production Credits

Producer: Penny Robins

Camera: Simon Smith

Editing: Ray Thomas

Awards/Festivals

Film Presented - 2007 - IFFI Goa

WITHOUT THE KING

(USA/ 2007/ 83 mins)
Director: Michael Skolnik

Synopsis

The tiny country of Swaziland is the last absolute monarchy on the African continent. Its leader, King Mswati III, faces huge challenges as he fights to save his people from starvation and the worst AIDS crisis in the world. At a startling 31 years, Swaziland has the lowest life expectancy in the world. It is these problems that have given birth to an underground revolutionary movement intent on bringing democracy to the country. The film explores the Royals' lavish lifestyle, replete with palaces for each of the King's fourteen wives, a fleet of expensive cars, designer wardrobes, and schooling abroad for his 22 children, while underscoring the poverty-like conditions lived by the majority of the people.



Note on Director

In 2006, Michael co-directed *Lockdown USA*, a documentary film about Russell Simmons and his quest to end New York State's Rockefeller Drug Laws, that premiered at the 2006 Tribeca Film Festival. Currently, Michael is in post production for a film he is co-directing about Grammy Award winning artist, Wyclef Jean's quest to bring peace to his homeland, Haiti. In 2004, Michael Skolnik made his feature film directorial debut with the award winning, *On the Outs*, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and won the Grand Jury Prize & the Audience Award at the 2005 Slamdance Film Festival. Michael was nominated for a Gotham Breakthrough Director Award and an IFP Indie Spirit Award for Best Feature.



Production Credits

Producer: Paola Mendoza
Executive Producer: Ted Sarandos
Cinematographer: James Adolphus
Composer: Mark Kilian
Editor: Martha Skolnik

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Red Envelope Entertainment
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Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Of. (310) 734-2943
baaronson@netflix.com Awards/Festivals

Awards/Festivals

- RIDM International Documentary Film Festival: Grand Prize, Montreal, Canada 2007
- DokuARTS International Festival for Films on Art Berlin, Germany 2007
- DOCNZ International Documentary Film Festival New Zealand 2007
- Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival Czech Republic 2007
- Jerusalem International Film Festival Israel 2006

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