

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENT  
**CINEMA**  
IN THE PENINSULA



**Jaffna**  
INTERNATIONAL  
CINEMA FESTIVAL

15-20 September 2017

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**CEYLON THEATRES**

*Since 1928*

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AT MAJESTIC CINEPLEX  
CARGILLS SQUARE, JAFFNA

JAFFNA INTERNATIONAL CINEMA FESTIVAL

2017

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**Jaffna**  
INTERNATIONAL  
CINEMA FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY

Agenda 14

IN COLLABORATION WITH



VENUE PARTNERS



PARTNERS



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OFFICE FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND RECONCILIATION



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Australian High Commission Colombo



Sri Lanka Arch-vo of Contemporary Art, Architecture & Design



## Jaffna

Tamil : யாழ்ப்பாணம் Yalpanam

Sinhala: යාපනය Yapanaya

Jaffna is the capital city of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, located on a peninsula of the same name. It is probably the only city in the world named after a musical instrument. 'Yalpanam' derives from an ancient musical instrument call 'Yazh'(Tamil; Yaal). It is a harp with the tip of the stem of the instrument was carved into the head of the mythological animal Yali.

The Jaffna International Cinema Festival is a non-partisan platform to explore contemporary forms of creative expression in cinema. Our main aim is to celebrate independent cinema in the peninsula, whilst creating an understanding of other cultures, promote harmony and mutual understanding through cinema. The festival promotes and encourages young filmmakers by screenings of their debut films and short films. We invite film enthusiasts, Sri Lankan and International, to visit Jaffna to experience the independent cinema of a new generation.



### JAFFNAICF LOGO

Inspiration for the Jaffna Cinema Festival Logo came from 'Yazh'



It is an honour and pleasure to welcome all of you to the Third Jaffna International Cinema Festival. After watching great film festivals, as someone who is incurably addicted to visual but miserably insufficient in creating them in films, I always return to my refuge in poetry with suppressed jealousy. Each great film is like a new language framed by nuanced and subtle world views. Watching them is like acquiring a new language in 90 or 120 minutes.

The idea of the global or international film festival has its origins in post-world war Europe. The conceptualization and presentation of festivals have been, predictably, influenced by Europe. However, it is important to remember that there were parallel film society movements in various parts of the world. These movements were spearheaded by film aficionados, film activists, writers, journalists, filmophiles and film makers.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of great film festivals taking place each year in all parts of the world. The importance of the "holy trinity" of Venice, Cannes and Berlin is gradually being shifted to other places. And more and more alternative film festivals devoted to crucial themes such as human rights, indigenous resistance, and environmental activism are challenging the traditional role and mode of film festivals. There are festivals on Wheels or Travelling festivals too.

With its wonderful combo of local, global and diasporic the ICF offers a unique perspective and

curator excellence. Within a short time, what the Jaffna International Cinema Festival has achieved is significant. In his interview with a Canadian film and audiovisual journal some time ago, Dharmasena Pathiraja, this year's life time achievement award winner, and a cinematic magician with a mission, wondered how he survived as a filmmaker in Sri Lanka. Film making here is very challenging to say the least. Organizing an international festival is, at times, Sisyphean.

Cinema, like all art, is part reality and part dream. A society without good cinema is a society without dreams. Without cinema, we cannot dream. Without dreams we cannot be a coherent society.

The continued success of the Jaffna International Cinema Festival is dependent on all of us and our moral, and material support. And yes, our dreams too.



**Dr. Cheran Rudhramoorthy**

Festival Committee  
Jaffna International Cinema Festival

It is indeed a great pleasure to present the third edition of Jaffna International Cinema Festival this year in the utmost Northern part of Sri Lanka, recovering from the devastation due to a protracted war over three decades. Nevertheless, as a festival, we have been evaluating our process on how we contributed towards creating a strong culture of alternative cinema in the peninsula during the last two years as well. We hope that, this process would help us to create a strong base for exchanging expressions from various cultures that will foster better understanding and cohesion among the diversities across the world.

Last year, Tamil Cinema celebrated its century-long journey in world cinema while Sri Lankan Tamil language cinema was struggling to make a come back into cultural spheres of the South Asian region, where the enormous Kollywood distribution system dominates the screens around the region. On the other hand, we have witnessed many alternative initiatives in cinema more recently and we are happy to present both local and international alternative cinematic efforts at the festival. Some of these expressions are very promising and change making.

Today, using the revolutionary low-cost digital technology, young men and women attracted towards the film industry are making short films despite the lack of platforms to distribute their work in Sri Lanka. Against this backdrop, we are grateful to our main collaborator, Ceylon Theatres

for introducing an award for the best national short film at the festival.

We hope that this festival will become a strong platform to experience various forms of moving images and visual arts that function as a witness, representation and historical documentation.



**Anomaa Rajakaruna**

Festival Director

Jaffna International Cinema Festival

# Inspiring a New Generation of Storytellers

**"Every time I go to a movie, it's magic,  
no matter what the movie's about,"**

**- Steven Spielberg.**



At Ceylon Theaters, this quote by the award winning director of movies such as Jaws, Jurassic Park, Schindler's List, Indiana Jones, Transformers and many other highly acclaimed films, becomes true as we aspire to nurture Sri Lanka's young filmmakers and storytellers. The Jaffna International Cinema Festival (JaffnaICF), taking place for the third consecutive year, is among the initiatives that we continually support in our endeavor of



nurturing young filmmakers to gain a platform for their craft and an audience for their story. In our many years of bringing entertainment to hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankans, we have also worked behind the scenes to give people an opportunity to unite, to tell stories and to leverage the medium to promote cultural and social inclusivity. Initiatives like the JaffnalCF, have proven to be a platform bringing together communities and cultures in a manner that promotes understanding within the diverse communities that call Sri Lanka home.

In the first two installments of the festival, Ceylon Theaters played a pivotal role in the proceedings to utilize film as a medium to reach a wider audience, enabling them to interact and exchange ideas through cinema.

This year, we focus on investing in the future of Sri Lanka's film industry and will be featuring a number of short movies from young filmmakers. The Award for the Best Short Film will be a key highlight for 2017, as xxx filmmakers vie for the title.

Ceylon theaters will continue to support young filmmakers, while bringing quality

entertainment to the people by screening the latest movie productions from Sri Lanka and around the world. The investment in the Majestic Cineplex at Cargills Square in the heart of Jaffna town, hosting three screens, including the peninsula's first 3D screen is a testament to the commitment we have to serve the community better.



**CEYLON THEATRES**

*Since 1928*

# Ottayal Patha: The Narrow Path

By Satish Babusenana and Santosh Babusenana



## Directors' Bio

The two Babusenana brothers, Satish and Santosh, started their career as cinematographers and producers shooting music, corporate and short films. In 2015, they made their first feature *The Painted House*. *The Narrow Path* is their second film. Both films are jointly written, cinematographed and directed by them. Satish has an M.Des from IIT Bombay and Santosh, a PhD in film studies.

2016 | 97' | Country

## Genre

Drama

## Director

Satish Babusenana and Santosh Babusenana

## Producer

Santosh Babusenana

## Screenplay

Satish Babusenana and Santosh Babusenana

## DOP

Satish Babusenana and Santosh Babusenana

## Cast

K. Kaladharan, Sarath Sabha, Krishnapriya

## Sound

Ananda Babu

## Music

K. Santhosh



## Nominations and Awards

In competition at Cairo International Film Festival; Silver Gateway for Second Best Film, India Gold at Jio MAMI, Mumbai; Golden Bodhisattwa for Best Indian Film at the Bodhisattwa International Film Festival; John Abraham award for Best film; Kerala State awards for Second Best film; Kerala State Special Jury Prize for actor K. Kaladharan; Best Actor award to K. Kaladharan at the New York Indian Film Festival, 2017; Singapore South Asian International Film Festival (SGAIFF); Indian Film Festival of Melbourne; Edinburgh Festival of Indian Films & Documentaries (EFIFD).

## Synopsis

The film is about a father and his son who live in a slum. The movie starts one morning and ends by the next day break. The father Vikraman was a cleaner in the city corporation, now retired. His legs are partly paralysed from uncontrolled diabetes and he is mostly restricted to his bed and a wheel chair. The son Akhil is an unemployed software engineer. The father and son share a troubled relationship. Akhil has managed to find himself a job in Bangalore and plans to go away with his girlfriend Nina the next morning. But he is scared to tell his father. Although Nina keeps goading him to speak to the old man, he keeps putting off. Later in the day, Vikraman accuses Akhil of trying to kill him. This sets off a fight that gets out of hand and leads to unexpected events.

# HAUS OHNE DACH: HOUSE WITHOUT ROOF

By Soleen Yusef

2014- 15 | 117' | Germany, Iraq, Qatar

**Genre**

Drama

**Director**

Soleen Yusef

**Producer**

Jana Raschke, Mehmet Aktaş, Mehmet Aktaş

**Screenplay**

Soleen Yusef

**DOP**

Stephan Burchardt, Andreas Kielb

**Editor**

Hannes Bruun, Yvonne Tetzlaff

**Sound Editor**

Bertin Molz

**Sound Design**

Dominik Leube

**Music**

John Gürtler, Lars Voges, Jan Miserre

**Main Cast**

Mina Özlem Sağdıç, Sasun Sayan, Murat Seven, Wedad Sabri, Ahmet Zirek, Feyyaz Duman, Hussein Hassan

**Awards**

Duhok International Film Festival 2016 Audience Award; First Steps Awards, Germany 2016 for Feature Film; Montreal World Film Festival 2016 Grand Pix Special des Ameriques; Munich Film Festival 2016

**Nominated**

Tromso International Film Festival 2017 Aurora Award



**Synopsis**

Three siblings born in the Kurdish part of Iraq, who grew up in Germany, return to their country of birth in order to fulfill their late mother's last wishes, which was to be buried in her home village next to her husband. But her relatives in Kurdistan are vehemently opposed to this. The three siblings, therefore, decide to steal their mother's coffin and flee in a pickup truck through the desolate landscape.



**Director's Bio**

Soleen Yusef was born in 1987 in Duhok in Iraqi Kurdistan. At the age of nine, she fled with her family to Germany. She took singing and acting lessons at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Berlin. From 2008, she studied directing at the Film Academy of Baden-Württemberg. *House Without Roof* is her graduation film.

# PILECKI

By Mirosław Krzyszkowski

2015 | 80' | Poland

**Genre**

History

**Director**

Mirosław Krzyszkowski

**Producer**

Bogdan Wasztyl

**Screenplay**

Mirosław Krzyszkowski, Bogdan Wasztyl

**DOP**

Tukasz Klag

**Editor**

Arkadiusz Chalinski

**Sound Editor**

Ewa K&Aacute;AT, AdamLipicki

**Music**

Forteca

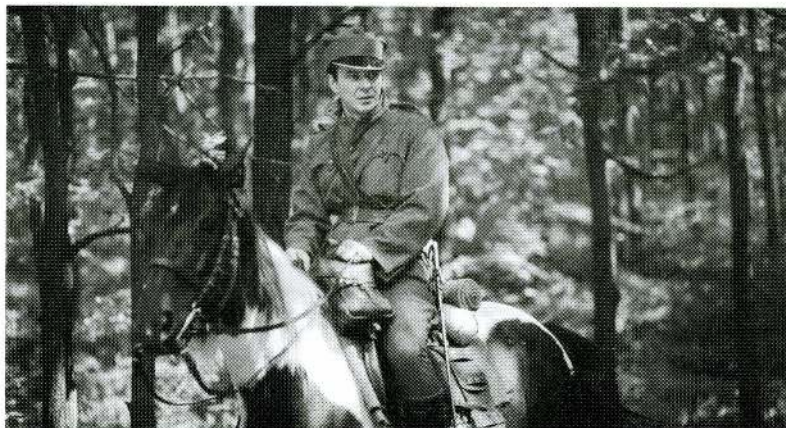
**Main Cast**

Marcin Kwaśny, Piotr Głowacki, Małgorzata Kowalska, Andrzej Pilecki, Adam Cyra



**Director's Bio**

Mirosław Krzyszkowski specializes in historic subjects, mainly connected with Polish history of the 20th century. He has made a number of short films for Polish TV.



**Synopsis**

The film is a fictionalized documentary depicting the dramatic story of Witold Pilecki, a soldier of the Home Army during the World War II. The film captures his life from his youth through action until his imprisonment and death in May 1948.

2016 | 134' | USA

**Genre**

Drama

**Director**

Stephen Hopkins

**Producers**

Karsten Brünig, Luc Dayan, Kate Garwood,  
Stephen Hopkins, Jean-Charles Levy, Nicolas  
Manuel, Louis-Philippe Rochon, Dominique  
Séguin

**Screenplay**

Joe Shrapnel, Anna Waterhouse

**DOP**

Peter Levy

**Editor**

John Smith Sound Editor:

**Music**

Rachel Portman

**Main Cast**

Stephan James, Jason Sudeikis, Eli Goree,  
Carice van Houten, William Hurt

**Awards**

Canadian Screen Award 2017 for  
Performance by an Actor in a Leading  
Role, Achievement in Sound Editing,  
Achievement in Visual Effects,  
Achievement in Overall Sound

**Nominated**

6 nominations including Canadian Screen  
Award for Achievement in Costume  
Design; Best Motion Picture Achievement  
in Art Direction/Production Design



**Synopsis**

Young Jesse Owens becomes a track-and-field sensation while attending the Ohio State University in the early 1930s. With guidance from his coach Larry Snyder, Owens gains national recognition for breaking numerous records. After heated debates, the United States decides not to boycott the Olympics in Nazi Germany. Overcoming racism at home and abroad, Owens seizes the opportunity to show Berlin and the world that he is the fastest man alive.



**Director's Bio**

Stephen Hopkins was born in Jamaica and was raised in Australia and England. With a background in art and design, he started his career in storyboarding commercial and later moved into direction.

# AUF AUGENHÖHE: AT EYE LEVEL

By Evi Goldbrunner & Joachim Dollhopf

2016 | 99' | Germany

## Genre

Comedy

## Directors

Evi Goldbrunner, Joachim Dollhopf

## Producers

Christian Becker, Alexandra Prochazka, Martin Richter

## Screenplay

Evi Goldbrunner, Joachim Dollhopf

## DOP

Jürgen Jürges

## Editor

Maja Stieghorst

## Sound Editor

Thorsten Bolzé

## Music

David Ossa. Darsteller: Luis Vorbach, Jordan Prentice, Ella Frey, Mira Bartuschek, Phil Laude, Anica Dobra

## Main Cast

Luis Vorbach, Jordan Prentice, Ella Frey, Mira Bartuschek, Phil Laude, Anica Dobra

## Awards

12 awards including Ale Kino - International Young Audience Film Festival Arthouse Cinemas Network Award for Best Film; Children's Film Society Bangladesh 2017 Jury Prize for the Best Feature Film; German Film Awards 2017; Munich Film Festival 2016 Audience Award

## Nominated

German Critics Association Awards 2016 for Children's film



## Directors' Bio

Evi Goldbrunner was born in Landshut in 1975. After a teacher training course in Munich, she worked as a freelance journalist. From 2002 to 2009, she studied Screenplay and Dramaturgy at the Academy of Film and Television in Potsdam / Babelsberg.

Joachim Dollhopf was born in Munich in 1971. He studied Humanities in Munich, Feature and Documentary Film at the Academy of Film and Television in Potsdam/Babelsberg.



## Synopsis

Michi (11) is unhappy in a children's home, where he has been housed since his mother's death. When he finds a letter from his mother to his presumed father, it offers him fresh hope. He tracks him down, but the man in no way resembles the image the boy has created in his mind. Tom, who himself has no idea he has a son, is a dwarf. Michi meets Tom and things get worse between them. The film is a testament to the remarkable relationships that are possible when perspectives are broadened.

# WATERBOYS

By Robert Jan Westdijk

2016 | 89' | The Netherlands

**Genre**

Comedy/Drama

**Director**

Robert Jan Westdijk

**Producer**

Maarten Van Der Ven

**Screenplay**

Robert Jan Westdijk

**DOP**

Alex Wuijts NSC

**Editor**

Ruben Van Der Hammen

**Sound on set**

Robil Rahantoeknam

**Sound design**

Erik Griekspoor

**Music**

Mike Scott

**Main Cast**

Leopold Witte, Tim Linde, Helen Belbin

**Nominated**

Edinburgh International Film Festival 2017  
for Audience Award and Best International  
Feature Film.



**Synopsis**

Waterboys tells the funny and moving story of crime novelist Victor and his cello-playing son Zack. When they get thrown out by their women on the same day, the two men have to sort out themselves and their relationship during a turbulent trip to Scotland, where Victor's latest book has to be promoted. The film captures the story of a father who needs to grow up and his son who should take life less seriously.



**Director's Bio**

Robert Jan Westdijk was born in 1964 in Utrecht, Netherlands. He is a director and writer, known for *Little Sister* (1995), *Phileine Says Sorry* (2003) and *Siberia* (1998). His directorial debut film, *Little Sister*, won a Golden Calf Award for Best Feature Film.

# DIE GOTTLICHE ORDNUNG: THE DIVINE ORDER

By Petra Volpe

2017 | 96' | Switzerland

## Genre

Fiction

## Director

Petra Volpe

## Producer

Lukas Hobi, Reto Schaerli

## Screenplay

Petra Volpe

## DOP

Judith Kaufmann

## Editor

Hansjorg Weissbrich

## Sound Editor

Sabrina Naumann

## Music

Annette Focks

## Main Cast

Marie Leuenberger, Max Simonishchek,  
Rachel Braunschweig, Sibylle Brunner, Marta  
Zoffoli, Bettina Stucky, Noe Krejci, Finn Sutter

## Awards

8 awards including Swiss Film Awards 2017  
for Best Actress, Best Performance in a  
Supporting Role, Best Screenplay; Traverse  
City Film Festival 2017 for Best Fiction, Best  
Foreign Film; Tribeca Film Festival 2017  
Audience Award, Best Actress

## Nominated

15 nominations including Swiss Film Awards  
2017 for Best Actor; Tribeca Film Festival Best  
International Narrative Feature.



## Director's Bio

Born in 1970 in Suhr, Switzerland, Petra Volpe holds a joint Swiss and Italian citizenship. She had been an art student in Zurich (1992-94) and lived in New York for a year after. She worked as an Editor in Zurich and then studied drama and screenwriting at HFF (Hochschule für Film) Konrad Wolf in Potsdam. Since 2001, she has been working as an independent screenwriter and director.



## Synopsis

1971. Nora is a quiet young housewife and mother, living in a quaint little village with her husband and two sons. The Swiss country side is untouched by the major social upheaval the movement of 1968 has brought about. Nora's life is not affected either, until she starts to publicly fight for women's suffrage, which the men are due to vote on in a ballot.



# DOUA LOZURI: TWO LOTTERY TICKETS

By Paul Negoescu

2016 | 86' | Romania

**Genre**

Comedy

**Director**

Paul Negoescu

**Producers**

Dragoș Bucur, Alexandru Papadopol, Dorian Boguță

**Screenplay**

Ion Luca Caragiale, Paul Negoescu

**DOP**

Ana Draghici

**Editor**

Alexandru Radu

**Sound Editor**

Florian Ardelean

**Music**

Flora Pop

**Cast**

Mircea Banu, Dorian Boguta, Dragoș Bucur



**Awards**

Monte Carlo Comedy Film Festival 2017; Zurich Film Festival 2016; Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, US; Gopo Awards Romania 2017

**Nominations**

6 nominations including Beijing International Film Festival 2017, São Paulo International Film Festival 2016

**Synopsis**

Dinel, Sile and Pompiliu are three friends. Dinel is stymied by troubles. Hearing his woes, the three friends decide to try their luck in the lotteries. They win the lottery and the money is stolen from Dinel by two thugs. Pompiliu is a conspiracy theorist, who believes this as a secret service operation. Dinel who has got his palm read believes his wife is in a dire situation and requires his help and for that he needs the money. They start searching for the stolen golden ticket.



**Director's Bio**

Paul Negoescu, scriptwriter and director, was born in 1984 in Bucharest. He studied film directing at the National Film School. He directed several short films that were awarded and selected in many international film festivals, including Cannes (Semaine de la Critique - 2012), Berlinale (2008, 2009 and 2010), Karlovy Vary or Rotterdam. His first feature film, *A Month in Thailand* premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2012 and was awarded with the FIPRESCI prize in the Sofia IFF in 2013. His second feature, *Two Lottery Tickets*, was premiered at Transilvania IFF in 2016. He is an assistant lecturer at his film school, founder of a film festival in Timisoara and a member of the European Film Academy.

# POJEDEME K MOŘI: TO SEE THE SEA

By Jiří Mádl



## Director's Bio

Jiří Mádl is a Czech film actor, whose notable performance was in the 2008 film *Night Owls*, for which he received the Best Actor award at the 2008 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

2014 | 90' | Czech

## Genre

Family Comedy

## Director

Jiří Mádl

## Producer

Milos Smídmajer

## Screenplay

Jiří Mádl

## DOP

Edita Kainrathová Editor

Jakub Vansa

## Music

René Rypar

## Cast

P. Šimčák, J. Mařál, O. Vetchý, L. Trmíková, J.

Pokorná, M. Táborský

## Awards

Children's Jury Main Prize at the Zlín IFF 2014; Special Mention at Finále Plzeň and the Gorky Studio Special Prize at VOICES - Russia (2014); Best Film at the Motovun FF in Croatia (2014)

## Nominated

5 Czech Film Critics' Awards (2015), including Best Film, Best Direction, and Best Screenplay



## Synopsis

Tomas (12) gets a camera and begins making a film about his family. He hides a camera in his father's office and discovers that on Tuesdays and Thursdays his father leaves the house. When confronted, his father denies it. On the pursuit of the great family secret, Tomas reveals the hidden side of Haris, his best friend, who starts using a camera as the only way to get his mum and brother away from his violent father. Courage and profound friendship lead Tomas and Haris to the final revelation and an unpredictable conclusion. The whole film is shot and edited as if by a twelve-year-old boy, allowing us to perceive the world through the eyes of a child.

# PUTHTHU SAHA PIYAVARU: SONS AND FATHERS

By Sumathi Sivamohan

2017 | 97 | Sri Lanka

**Genre**

Drama

**Director**

Sumathi Sivamohan

**Producer**

Sumathi Sivamohan

**Screen Play**

Sumathi Sivamohan

**DOP**

Sunil Perera

**Editor**

Elmo Haliday

**Sound Editor**

Elmo Haliday

**Music**

Anthony Surendra

**Cast**

S.A. Vinoj, Bimsara Premaratne, Ranil Jithendra, Amavasya Sirisena, Maithreyi Rajeshkumar



**Synopsis**

The Tamil musician, Rex Periyasamy, is the lead composer of Sinhala films. At the height of his career, he marries Kanthi, a Sinhala woman, in keeping with the multicultural milieu of the country's film industry. They settle down to a life of prosperity, hopes, and dreams for themselves and their son, Lucky, and daughter, Mala. *Sons and Fathers* turns the creative lens upon the history of the film industry in Sri Lanka and its chequered path, by narrating the story of two generations of musicians who are caught in the whirlpool of political turbulence, the Tamil separatist war in the north and the growing anti-Tamil sentiments in the country.



**Director's Bio**

Sivamohan Sumathy is an academic, poet, playwright and filmmaker. She has performed widely, nationally and internationally. Born and brought up in the times of war and conflict, her work maps the tortuous contours of dissent, violence, the power of women and marginal communities. Her short films, *Piralayam* (Upheaval), *Oranges and Sing*, *Mother, Sing*, represent and explore individual and the collective psyche of women in a time of war and conflict and have been shown at international venues, including the International Film Festival of the island of Groix, France. Her debut feature *Ingirunthu* (Here and Now) an epic of the minority community of tea plantation workers has been shown at international festivals and in many other venues and won a grant from Global Film Initiative California in 2011. *Puththu Saha Piyavaru* is her first Sinhala language film.

# VINODENTRO: REWINED

By Ferdinando Vicentini Orgnani

2013 | 92' | Italy

## Genre

Comedy, Mystery, Thriller

## Director

Ferdinando Vicentini Orgnani

## Producers

Evelina Manna, Sandro Frezza

## Screenplay

Ferdinando Vicentini Orgnani, Heidrun Schleef

## DOP

Dante Spinotti Editor

Alessandro Heffler

## Music

Paolo Fresu

## Cast

Vincenzo Amato, Pietro Sermonti, Daniela Virgilio, Giovanna Mezzogiorno, Lambert Wilson

## Nominations

Italian National Syndicate of Film Journalists  
2015



## Director's Bio

Ferdinando Vicentini Orgnani is a writer, director and producer.



## Synopsis

It all starts with the first wine sip Giovanni Cuttin has in his life. Soon after, the shy clerk becomes the bank director, a lady-killer and the most revered wine expert in Italy. Being grilled by the police, Giovanni reflects on the last 3 years of his life, dominated by an only mad passion, wine. Gradually, the investigation gets caught between the boundaries of reality and its dreamlike counterpart. What if Giovanni, like Faust, met a diabolic force that made his life very special, only to settle the score later?

2012 | 143' | Canada | France

**Genre**

Drama

**Director**

Laurent Cantet

**Producers**

Carole Scotta, Caroline Benjo, Barbara Letellier, Simone Urdl, Jennifer Weiss, Julien Favre

**Screenplay**

Laurent Cantet, Joyce Carol Oates, Robin Campillo

**DOP**

Pierre Milon

**Editors**

Robin Campillo, Stephanie Leger, Sophie Reine

**Sound Editor**

Valérie Deloof

**Music**

Timbre Timbre

**Cast**

Ali Liebert, Michelle Nolden, Catherine Disher, Tamara Hope, Ian Matthews

**Awards**

Best Actress, San Sebastián International Film Festival 2012 / Silver Seashel

**Nominations**

Laurent Cantet, San Sebastián International Film Festival 2012/ Golden Seashell



**Synopsis**

Set in 1950s, Foxfire is the name given to a secret society of high-school girls determined to fight against sexual abuse and day-to-day sexism. They are led by the androgynous, fiercely leftwing Legs and their activities are chronicled by the pretty Maddy, who acts as narrator. What starts out playfully as a series of comic pranks turn into dangerously criminal acts of violent entrapment, and finally results in a serious kidnapping.



**Director's Bio**

Laurent Cantet was born in 1961 in Melle, Deux-Sevres, France. He is a director and writer, known for *The Class*, *Human Resources* and *Time Out*.

# AMAWAKA: INVISIBLE MOON

By Vijitha Gunaratne



## Director's Bio

An activist during the youth insurrection in Sri Lanka in 1971, Vijitha Gunaratne moved to Sweden, where he currently spends most of his time. He began his active engagement with the Sri Lanka Theater in 80s through his political plays. He has translated many literary works from Swedish to Sinhala. His first film *Walapatala* won three awards in Sri Lanka for Best Direction, Best Art Direction and Best Supporting Actor in 2008.

2017 | 100' | Sri Lanka

## Genre

Drama

## Director

Vijitha Gunaratne

## Producers

Hiru Gunaratne, Palitha Rathnasiri, Nelum Gunaratne

## Screenplay

Vijitha Gunaratne

## DOP

Dhanushka Gunathilake

## Editor

Ravindra Guruge

## Sound Editor

Priyantha Kaluarachchi

## Music

Tharupathi Munasinghe

## Main Cast

Suranga Ranawaka, Shyam Fernando, Shriyani Kaushalya, Duleeka Marapana, Dilum Nadeesha, Namindu Hansana, Senuri Umesha, Januja Gunaratne, Tissuri Kavindya



## Synopsis

An internally migrating family comes from the village to the city seeking a greener pasture for their young daughter and son. The geographical transition from the open space to a suffocating pigeon-hole life in the city and the bureaucratic tug of war, force the free spirited young son to limit his freedom and right to education in a country that celebrates free education for all. His parents' struggle to find a school for him leaves them baffled and exhausted. Meanwhile, the daughter adapts to the mazes of high class society in the city forgetting the psychological and social isolation of her brother. Yet, the discoveries and explanations made by the son challenges his destiny and others around him.

# COLETTE

By Milan Cieslar

2013 | 126' | Slovakia

**Genre**

Drama/History/Biography

**Director**

Milan Cieslar

**Producers**

Milan Cieslar, Wanda Hrycova

**Screenplay**

Milan Cieslar, Arnost Lustig, Geraldine Blecker

**DOP**

Marek Jicha

**Editor**

Pass Patrik

**Sound Editor**

Michal Deliopoulos

**Music**

Atli Örvarsson

**Cast**

Jirí Mádľ, Cl mence Thioly, Juraj Adamik



**Nominations**

7 nominations that include Czech Lions for Best Cinematography, Best Supporting Actress Best Art Direction Best Make up; Sun in a Net Awards, Slovakia 2014 for Best Supporting Actress, Best Music, Best Design Achievement and Best Costume Design

**Synopsis**

The film depicts the story of two young lovers and their vigorous determination to escape from a hopeless life. The film exemplifies the power of love under extremely dire conditions.



**Director's Bio**

Milan Cieslar was born in 1960 in Cesk  T s n, Czechoslovakia. He is a director and writer, known for *Spring of Life* (2000), *Sign of the Horse* (2011) and *Colette* (2013).

# RED DOG TRUE BLUE

By Kriv Stenders



## Director's Bio

Born in 1964 in Australia, Kriv Stenders is a director and writer, known for *Red Dog* (2011), *Kill Me Three Times* (2014) and *Boxing Day* (2007).

2016 | 88' | Australia

### Genre

Comedy/Drama/Family

### Director

Kriv Stenders

### Producers

Nelson Woss, Bryce Menzies

### Screenplay

Daniel Taplitz

### DOP

Geoffrey Hall

### Editors

Rodrigo Balart, Jill Bilcock

### Music

Cezary Skubiszewski

### Cast

Jason Isaacs, Levi Miller, Bryan Brown, Hanna Mangan Lawrence

### Nominations

Best Cinematography, Australian Film Critics Association Awards 2017;

Best Film, Berlin International Film Festival 2017



## Synopsis

When eleven year old Mick is shipped off to his grandfather's cattle station in the remote Pilbara region of Western Australia, he prepares himself for a life of dull hardship, but instead finds myth, adventure, and a friendship with a scrappy, one-of-a-kind dog that will change his life forever.



# BURNING MEMORIES

By S. Someetharan

2008 | 45' | Sri Lanka

**Genre**

Documentary

**Direction**

S. Someetharan

**Producer**

Someetharan Nihari Production

**Screenplay**

S. Someetharan

**DOP**

S. Someetharan

**Editor**

Krishna Dft

**Sound**

Nethaji Ranganathan Dft

**Official Selection**

International documentary and short film festival Kerala; Sings film festival Kerala; 10th edition of Asiatica film mediale Encounters with Asian Cinema; 11th Mumbai International Film Festival, for Documentary, Short & Animation Films; Fourth Edition of the VIBGYOR International Film Festival for Short & Documentary films; Malaysian freedom film festival; Beloit Festival USA; Brave Festival 2009, Poland



**Synopsis**

One of the most traumatic events of the early stages of the civil war in Sri Lanka that has been raging for more than 25 years is the burning of the Jaffna Public Library, which housed more than 97,000 books and irreplaceable palm leaf manuscripts. The wanton burning of the most important library of the Tamils was a major loss to the cultural heritage. This documentary attempts to document the war-scarred life of the Library and the socio-political violence connected with it. The film narrates the entire history of the library since its inception in 1933 by juxtaposing voiceover and interviews of the former employees of the library.



**Director's Bio**

Someetharan is an audio-visual journalist-turned film maker. He was born in Point Pedro in the Northern District of Jaffna District in 1981. He had his schooling in the Eastern District of Batticaloa. He was first displaced with his family when he was 4 years old, followed by many throughout his school life due to war. He has made several documentaries including those on environmental issues in India. Currently he is based in Chennai.

# A UNITED KINGDOM

By Amma Asante

2016 | 111 | UK | France | Czech Republic

## Genre

Biography/Drama/Romance

## Director

Amma Asante

## Producers

Cameron Oyelowo, Charlie Mason, Justin Moore Lewy, Brunson Green, Rick McCallum, Cameron McCracken

## Screenplay

Guy Hibbert, Susan Williams

## DOP

Sam McCurdy

## Editors

Jonathan Amos, Jon Gregory

## Music

Patrick Doyle

## Cast

David Oyelowo, Rosamund Pike, Tom Felton, Jack Davenport

## Nominations

British Independent Film Awards 2016 Best Supporting Actress



## Director's Bio

Born in 1969, Amma Asante is a British screenwriter, film director, and former actress. She began her film and television career as a child actress, appearing as a regular in the British school drama.



## Synopsis

In the 1940s, Prince Seretse Khama of Botswana shocks the world when he marries a white woman from London leading to political and diplomatic turmoil.

# ROSALIE BLUM

By Julien Rappeneau

2015 | 95' | France

**Genre**

Comedy

**Director**

Julien Rappeneau

**Producers**

Michael Gentile, Charles Gillibert

**Screenplay**

Camille Jourdy, Julien Rappeneau

**DOP**

Pierre Cottureau

**Editor**

Stan Collet

**Sound Editor**

Fred Demolder

**Music**

Martin Rappeneau

**Cast**

Noémie Lvovsky, Kyan Khojandi, Alice Isaaz,  
Anémone, Philippe Rebbot



**Synopsis**

Vincent Machot knows his life by heart. But life sometimes surprises even the most cautious. When he meets up with Rosalie Blum, a mysterious lonely woman, he is convinced to have already met her not knowing where. Intrigued, he decides to follow her, hoping to learn more. He did not suspect that this spinning will take him on an adventure full of surprises. Will his life change?

**Nominations**

Cesar Awards, France 2017, Best First Film



**Director's Bio**

Born in a family of artists, Julien Rappeneau is a French screenwriter and director. In 2002, he co-wrote his first screenplay with comedians Kad Merad and Olivier Baroux, *But who killed Pamela Rose?*

# PANAIMARAKKADU: PALMYRAH FOREST

By Kesavaraj Navaratnam



## Director's Bio

Kesavaraj's films mostly deal with war, its impact and Tamil identity. Though the protracted conflict was an impediment to his filming aspirations, he continued his efforts to make over ten films. He has also produced documentaries and music videos for television.

2017 | 149' | Sri Lanka

## Genre

Tragedy

## Director

Kesavaraj Navaratnam

## Producer

Kesavaraj Navaratnam

## Screenplay

Kesavaraj Navaratnam

## DOP

Kesavaraj Navaratnam and Yarl Jaceetharan

## Editors

Sri Thusikaran, Narendran

## Sound Editor

Priyan Thambirajah

## Music

Priyan Thambirajah

## Cast

Priyatharshini, Vikky, Juls Kolin, Darshen  
Darmaraj, Erampu, Kalaingar Arasu, Yarl  
Jaceetharan, Kamalarani, Raja Mahendrasin-  
gam, Jeevesvaran, Ambikai, Anparasi



## Synopsis

The film is about the struggles of Alahi, a young war widow. Unable to return to her village to resettle in a post-war scenario, she lives in a rented house. The temple they used to visit is now dilapidated and belongs to the security forces. It is soon learnt that this temple is to be sold for the construction of a star hotel. Conflict ensues, which leads to a string of events.

# IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK (DOCUMENTARY)

By Leena Manimekalai

2017 | 30 | India

**Director**

Leena Manimekalai

**Producer**

Leena Manimekalai

**Screenplay**

Leena Manimekalai

**Live Sound**

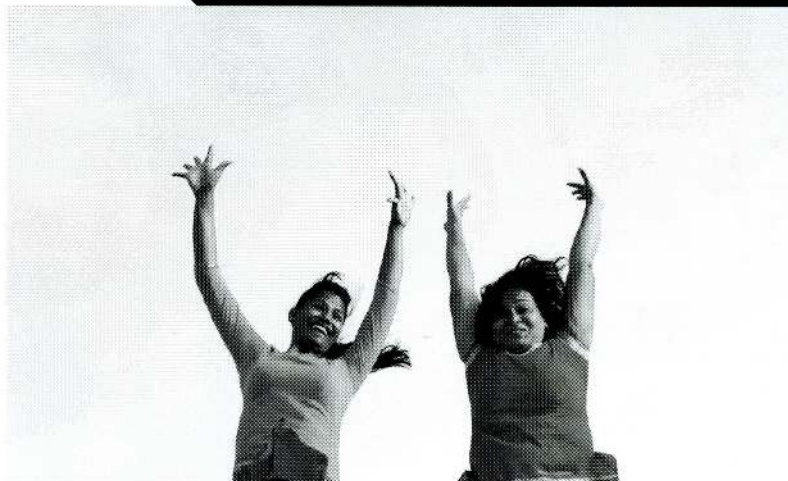
Adarsh

**Sound Design and Mix**

Tapas Nayak

**Protagonists**

Living Smile Vidya, Gladly Angel



**Synopsis**

The film follows the journey of two friends, Smile and Gladly, looking for a rental apartment in Chennai. They face obstacles and social stigma as they are single and transgender. Their identity render them helpless before the caste ridden, feudal and patriarchal landlords of the city who by denying them apartments, deny their existence too. But Smile and Gladly face life as it comes with so much grace, humor and undying positivity.



**Director's Bio**

As a leading Tamil poet and filmmaker, Leena Manimekalai's films and writings are deeply driven by her social commitment. All her films across genres and lengths, which count to a dozen now, deal with the dynamics of caste, gender, globalization in the contemporary society, art therapy, student politics, post disaster trauma and environmental issues among others.

# TARAMANI

By Ram

2017 | 150' | India

**Genre:**

Drama/Thriller

**Director**

Ram

**Producers**

L Gopinath, J Satish Kumar

**Screenplay**

Ram

**DOP**

Theni Eshwar

**Editor**

Sreekar Prasad

**Music**

Yuvan Shankar Raja

**Cast**

Andrea Jeremiah, Anjali, Vasanth Ravi, Adrian

Knight Jesly, Azhagamperuma, Barnabas

JSK, Lizzie Antony, Saara George, Abhishek D

Shah, Nivasadithan



**Director's Bio**

Ram began his career as a writer. In 2007, his debut directorial venture *Katradhu Tamizh* was critically acclaimed and discussed the impact of globalization and the resultant social imbalances in the life of a common man graduated from a literature background. His second movie *Thangameenka!* released in 2013 discusses the impacts of globalization and the modern day educational system on a middle class family. The film won the Best Regional Film, Best Child Artist and Best Lyrics in 61st National Film Awards India 2013. It also won the Best Film award at the 11th Chennai International film festival.



**Synopsis**

The film narrates the story of modern male-female relationships in a globalized city of Chennai. Taramani, an ancient town in Chennai, India, has now developed into an IT hub. A home to migratory birds as well as labourers from other states, skyscrapers and multilingual people, it depicts the contemporary lifestyle and its influences on relationships. This story addresses the universal dilemma of a modern relationship, its ambition, pleasure, excitement, grief and how it evolves. This is not a love story; but a story about everything that comes with love.

# Davena Vihangun: Burning Birds

By Sanjeewa Pushpakumara

2016 | 84' | France, The Netherlands,  
Qatar, Sri Lanka

**Genre**

Drama

**Director**

Sanjeewa Pushpakumara

**Producers**

Antonin Dedet, Sanjeewa Pushpakumara

**Screenplay**

Sanjeewa Pushpakumara

**DOP**

Kalinga Deshapriya

**Editors**

Ajith Ramanayske, Katharina Wartena

**Sound Engineers**

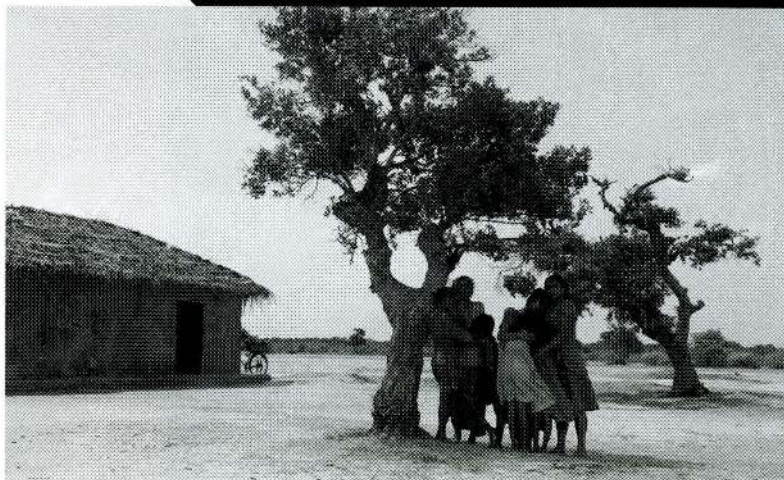
Aruna Priyantha Kaluarchchi, Nicolas D'halluin

Music

R.Abaji, Philip David Sheppard

**Cast**

Anoma Janadari, Samanalee Fonseka,  
Mahendra Perera, Dasun Pathirana, Chandani  
Seneviratne



**Synopsis**

In a small village in Eastern Sri Lanka in 1989, after her husband was abducted, tortured and murdered by a paramilitary group, 37 year old Kusum has to fight to look after her eight children and mother-in-law by herself. After a series of unsuccessful odd jobs, where she is constantly abused physically and sexually, Kusum falls into prostitution. Soon, the Police arrest her in a brothel. This event adversely affects her childrens' schooling. Her revengeful reaction unfolds thereafter.



**Director's Bio**

Born in 1977, Sanjeewa Pushpakumara did his Master's Degree in Mass Communications in Sri Lanka. Further to pursuing a diploma in Film Making at the Sri Lanka National Film Corporation, Sri Lanka, he obtained his Master of Fine Arts in film-making from the Chung-Ang University in South Korea as a Korean Government Scholarship Holder (KGSP). *Flying Fish*, his debut film was nominated for the Tiger Awards at the International Film Festival of Rotterdam and was invited to more than 30 international film festivals around the world. He is currently working on this third film.

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In the fifties and sixties when Sinhala cinema was coming into its own with Lester James Pieris making a path breaking contribution to the aesthetics of the Sinhala film, Dharnasena Pathiraja entered the scene with a distinctive style and cinematic vision of his own. Pathiraja's vision shared little with Pieris' either in style or the subject matter. More concerned with the lower middle class than with the decadent aristocracy, whom Pieris focused on, Pathiraja's early films also captured an emerging ethos in cultural production: a language of the 'masses'.

This language idiom is expressly at the cross roads of a consciousness about the texture and complexities of the postcolonial state of Sri Lanka and of reaching out to an international audience. This consciousness has been his strength, and the audience has instinctively realized this as part of a new wave. Critics and the public have hailed him as the enfant terrible of the '70s.

Pathiraja began making films in the late '60s and '70s and took the film world in Sri Lanka by storm



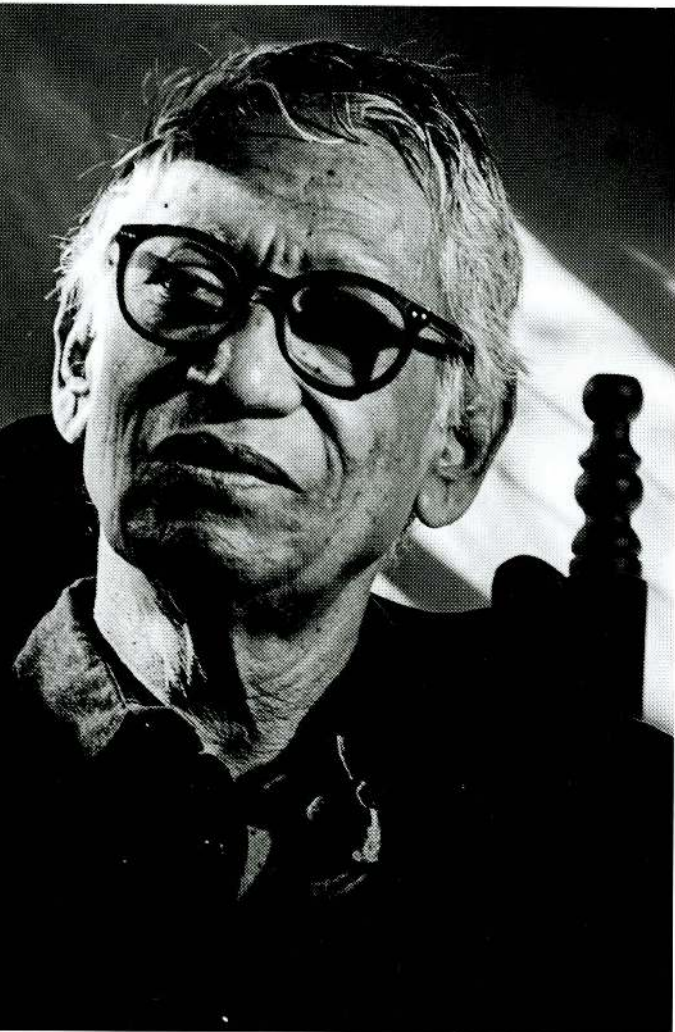


with his astonishing new wave style in the tradition of Post-war European cinema. His debut film *Sathuro* (Enemies), a ten-minute short film won the Film Critics' and Journalists' Award in 1972. It was chosen as one of the best 10 films at the Bilbao Short Film Festival (Spain) in '72. His first full-length film, *Ahas Gawwa* (One league of Sky) bagged all the prestigious film awards at the Film Critics' and Journalists Awards, Sri Lanka. His Tamil film *Ponmani* (1977) was a powerful counterpoint to the main Stream Indian Tamil cinema.

From there onwards he began to make other award winning films and several tele features and documentaries. His films have been shown at prestigious films festivals around the world, including Moscow, London, Italy, India, and Singapore and have won acclaim. A graduate of the University of Peradeniya, he obtained his PhD in cinema studies from Monash University, Australia. He has taught at several universities in Sri Lanka and has been a pioneer in introducing film and television as a discipline to the curricula. He continues to teach and train emerging film makers and artistes at various institutes within the country.

He has also served on the jury of several international film festivals. In 2000, Pathiraja was awarded the 'Golden Lion' for his life time contribution to Sri Lankan cinema and in 2003 the first ever retrospective of his films was held at the Singapore International Film Festival followed by retrospectives at other international film festivals. Since then, retrospectives of his films have been held in several festivals, which include, Vessoul, France, Jogja Netpac Festival and others. In honouring his commitment to cinema, the Jaffna International Cinema Festival presents the Lifetime Achievement Award 2017 to Dr. Dharmasena Pathiraja.

## RETROSPECTIVE

**Dr. Dharmasena Pathiraja**

Pathiraja graduated from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka with an Honors Degree in Sinhala and Western Classical Culture in 1967. Subsequently, he began work as a lecturer in Drama and Performance Arts, and later obtained a PhD in Bengali cinema from Monash University. He learnt the language of cinema from the film society movement, which was very popular in Sri Lanka in the early sixties. He also recognized their socio-political limitations in a country which was heading for a period of deep turmoil. He was influenced by radical activists like Jean-Luc Godard and Third Cinema filmmakers like Fernando Solanas and Glauber Rocha. He is a recipient of several national awards and a nominee of many international festivals including Golden Prize, Moscow International Film Festival (Eya den loku lamayek, 1975), Silver Screen Award for Best Asian Feature Film, Singapore International Film Festival (Mathu Yam Dawasa 2002), Golden Hanoman Award, Jogja-NETPACE Asian Film Festival (Swaroopu 2014).



## AHAS GAWWA (ONE LEAGUE OF SKY)

1974 | 110' | Sri Lanka

### Synopsis

Three young men have to face the realities of adult life as they move on from youthful frolicking to battle issues of unemployment, restlessness, and the allure of the city. In search of quick and easy money, they fall into the hands of a scheming network of underworld figures. They become hustlers and decide to outwit their contact. Will they succeed?



## BAMBARU AVITH (THE WASPS ARE HERE)

1978 | 90' | Sri Lanka

### Synopsis

When a regular dealer in a fishing village falls ill, his son takes over the business with a different set of ethics of doing business, still alien to the village. This sets off a series of cataclysmic events plunging the village into a network of intrigue, suspicion and violence.



## PAARA DIGE (ON THE RUN)

1980 | 100' | Sri Lanka

### Synopsis

The film is about the instabilities of youthful urban life, its search for roots and the lust for survival. Full of twists and turns, the film ends as inconclusively as it begins.



## SOLDADU UNNEHE (OLD SOLDIER)

1981 | 76' | Sri Lanka

### Synopsis

Old Soldier is a film about four people, all exiles from society, bound together by affection and mutual interdependence. The film moves between their dreams and memories, and the realities of their lives.



## MATHU YAM DAWASA (SOME DAY IN THE FUTURE)

2000 | 116' | Sri Lanka

### Synopsis

Two marginal underworld characters move centre stage in this dynamic unfolding of political violence and social tragedy, as they become actors and agents seeking adventure, romance, excitement and power in a society that is moving towards disaster and tragedy.

## RETROSPECTIVE



### Agnès Varda

An honoree of the prestigious Honorary Oscars of 2017 awarded to '*honor extraordinary distinction in lifetime achievement, exceptional contributions to the state of motion picture arts and sciences, or for outstanding service to the Academy,*' Agnes Varda was born in 1928 in Brussels, Belgium as Arlette Varda. The only female director of the French New Wave, she has been called both the movement's mother and its grandmother. Varda not only made films during the nouvelle vague, she helped inspire it. Her self-funded debut, the fiction-documentary hybrid 1956's *La Pointe Courte* is often considered the unofficial first New Wave film; when she made it, she had no professional cinema training (her early work included painting, sculpting, and photojournalism).

Her seminal work in 1962 *Cleo from 5 to 7*, a bold character study that avoids psychologizing, announced her official arrival. Over the coming decades, Varda became a force in art cinema, conceiving many of her films as political and feminist statements and using a radical objectivity to create her unforgettable characters. She describes her style as *cinécriture* (writing on film) and it can be seen in formally audacious fictions like *Le Bonheur* and *Vagabond* as well as more ragged and revealing autobiographical documentaries like the *Gleaners and I* and the *Beaches of Agnes*.



## CLEO DE 5 TO 7

1962 | 90' | France

### Genre

Comedy/Drama/Music

### Synopsis

Cleo a singer and hypochondriac, becomes increasingly worried that she might have cancer while awaiting test results from her doctor.



## SANS TOI NI LOI

1985 | 105' | France

### Genre

Drama/Romance

### Synopsis

A young woman's body is found frozen in a ditch. Through flashbacks and interviews, we see the events that led to her inevitable death.



## JACQUOT DE NANTES

1991 | 118' | France

### Genre

Biography/Drama

### Synopsis

Jacquot Demy is at the end of his thirties. His father owns a garage and his mother is a hairdresser. The whole family lives happily and likes to sing and to go to the movies.



## LES GLANEURS ET LA GLANEUSE

2000 | 82' | France

### Genre

Documentary

### Synopsis

The film takes an intimate, picaresque inquiry into French life as lived by the country's poor and its provident, as well as by the film's own director, Agnes Varda.



## LES PLAGES D'AGNÈS

2008 | 110' | French

### Genre

Documentary/Biography

### Synopsis

Agnès Varda explores her memories, mostly chronologically, with photographs, film clips, interviews, reenactments, and droll, playful contemporary scenes of her narrating her story.

# INTERNATIONAL CRITICS' JURY - DEBUT FILMS



## **Etami Borjan (Croatia)**

Etami Borjan works as Assistant Professor of Film Studies at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. She holds MA in Film Studies from the University La Sapienza in Rome and PhD in Film Studies from the University of Zagreb in Croatia. She has participated at international conferences in Europe, USA, Latin America and New Zealand. She had been a guest professor at the universities in Europe, USA and Asia and has served as a jury member at international film festivals in Europe and Asia. She has worked as programmer for the Subversive Film Festival and Motovun Film Festival in Croatia and she has curated the Festival of Native American Cinema and the Festival on Indian cinema in Croatia. She has organized festivals of Italian cinema in South Eastern Europe and Festival of the Cinemas of the Balkans in Italy. Etami Borjan has been a member of the International Federation of Film Societies (IFFS) since 2003.



## **Philip Cheah (Singapore)**

Philip Cheah is a film critic and Editor of BigO, Singapore's only independent pop culture publication. He is Advisory Council member of Network for the Promotion of Asia-Pacific Cinema (NETPAC), and is currently program consultant for the Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival, the Eurasia International Film Festival, and Shanghai International Film Festival. He co-founded the South-east Asian Film Festival and is Advisor to the Hanoi International Film Festival. He is Patron of the SEA (South-east Asia) Screen Academy in Makassar, Indonesia and is Co-Director of the Asia Pacific Screen Lab. He was given an award for Achievement in the Promotion of Kyrgyz film by the Kyrgyzstan Film Critics in 2010, an award for promoting Vietnamese film by the Vietnam Cinema Association in 2008, an Award for Asian Cinema at the 8th Cinemanila International Film Festival in 2006, and the Korean Cinema Award at the 9th Pusan International Film Festival in 2004.



## **Premendra Mazumder (India)**

Premendra Mazumder works on cinema in many capacities. He is a film critic and has been an activist of the film society movement since 1976. He is the President of the Film Critics Circle of India and General Secretary of the Indian Film Critics Association. He is the Indian Correspondent of the Cannes Critics Week and works as Advisor and Curator for several International Film Festivals. He had been a jury member of in 6th Abu Dhabi Film Festival 2012, 9th International Film Festival for Documentary, Short and Animation Films 2006 and 10th Mumbai International Film Festival 2005. He was the Asian Secretary of the International Federation of Film Societies (2010-12), Vice President of the Federation of Film Societies of India (2010-14) and General Secretary of the Federation of Film Societies of India (2014-16). He is an Executive of the National Body of the Federation of Film Societies of India and is based in Kolkata.

# HARIKATHA PRASANGA CHRONICLES OF HARI

By Ananya Kasaravalli

2015 | 106' | India

**Genre**

Drama

**Director**

Ananya Kasaravalli

**Producers**

Amrita Patil, Basanth Kumar Patil

**Screenplay**

Girish Kasaravalli, Gopalkrishna Pai,

Ananya Kasaravalli

**DOP**

Udit Khurana

**Editor**

Mohan Kamakshi

**Music**

Bindhu Malini Narayanaswamy

**Cast**

Shrunga BV, K G Krishnamurthy, Sri,

Ganesh, Geetha Surathkal, Shringeri

Rammana, Gururaj Barkur



**Synopsis**

Harikatha Prasanga (Chronicles of Hari) is set in a coastal town of southern India. It narrates the story of a Yakshagana artist Hari, who has gained extreme popularity portraying female roles. The story of Hari's life unfolds through different perspectives and is captured in three episodes across four audio-visual interviews conducted by two filmmakers. In spite of immense fame, Hari shares a troubled relationship with his brother.



**Director's Bio**

Ananya Kasaravalli has a Masters Degree in film making from L.V. Prasad Film and TV academy, Chennai. Born into a family of film makers, her interest in film making comes naturally to her. She has had a successful career in acting for films, Tv and theater. As a young director Ananya has won many awards for her short films and a documentary on transfemininity. *Harikatha Prasanga* is her first feature film.

# MANHOLE

By Vidhu Vincent

2016 | 85' | India

## Genre

Drama

## Director

Vidhu Vincent

## Producers

M P Vincent, Jose Vincent

## Screenplay

Umesh Omanakuttan

## DOP

Saji Kumar

## Editor

Appu Bhattathiri

## Sound Editor

Faizal Ahamed

## Music

Sidhartha Pradeep

## Cast

Rincy, Ravikumar, Shylaja, Suni, Baiju and Gouri

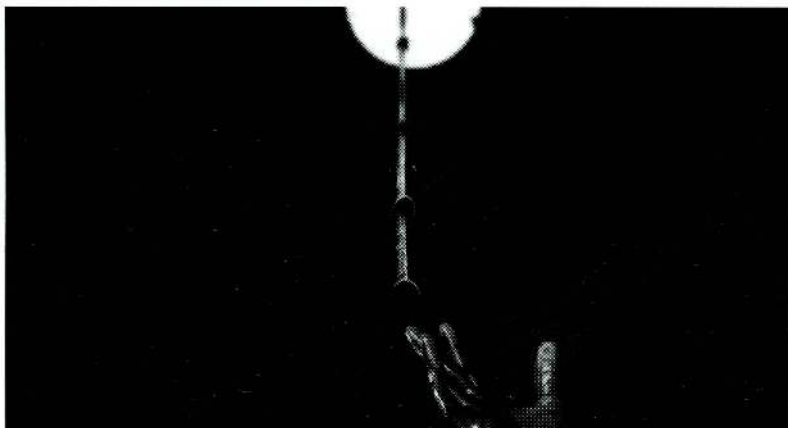
## Awards

Kerala State Film Award for Best Director and Best Film; 2016- Best Debut Director and FIPRESCI Award in the International Film Festival of Kerala(IFFK)



## Director's Bio

Vidhu Vincent is a journalist-turned Indian film director in Malayalam language. She won the Best Director award in Kerala State Film Awards 2016 for *Manhole* to become the first woman to win the award in its 47-year-old history. The film was selected as the Best Film in the same awards. Before venturing into her debut film, she had made several documentaries, which won many awards and critical acclaim. She has extensively worked in electronic media and holds a Masters in Philosophy, Masters in Social Work, a Post Graduate Diploma in Science and Development Communication and Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism.



## Synopsis

Shalini, daughter of a manual scavenger and a housemaid, tries to hide her caste background to avoid social exclusion in school. Despite her wish, her father is unable to find other vocational options due to his caste identity. Her father's sudden death in the manhole reveals her identity to her friends. She finds it hard to face the social antipathy due to this. After the death of her father, the burden of running the family falls on her mother. Shalini supports her mother by working in a local super market. She manages to pass the entrance exam to do a graduate course in Law. Her friend, who does manual scavenging to self-support his studies also happens to die in the manhole. This shakes her faith and she decides to fight against the no-exit situation in which those engaged in scavenging are caught in.



# FOR A SON

By Suranga D. Katugampala

2016 | 74' | Italy | Sri Lanka

**Genre**

Drama

**Director**

Suranga D. Katugampala

**Screenplay**

Suranga D. Katugampala, Aravinda  
Wanninayake

**DOP**

Channa Deshapriya

**Editor**

Silvia Pellizzari, Lizi Gelber

**Sound Recordist**

Adams Striner

**Music**

Federico Imperiale

**Cast**

Kaushalya Fernando, Julian Wijesekara,  
Nella Pozzerle



**Synopsis**

Sunita, a middle-aged Sri Lankan woman, lives with her teenage son on the outskirts of a Northern Italian city, where she works as a caregiver. The relationship between mother and son is fraught with tension and silence. Having grown up in Italy, the boy is a cultural hybrid, which his mother struggles to understand, as she fights to live in a country to which she does not want to belong.



**Director's Bio**

Born in Sri Lanka, Suranga Deshapriya Katugampala immigrated with his family to Italy at a young age. He graduated in computer multimedia studies and teaches video storytelling. He has made several experimental short films before creating the 2013 web series a zero-budget project about his community in Italy.

# YELLOW BIRD

By K. Rajagopal

2016 | 112 | Singapore | France

**Genre**

Drama

**Director**

K. Rajagopal

**Producers**

Fran Borgia, Claire Lajoumard, Jeremy Chua

**Screenplay**

Jeremy Chua, K. Rajagopal

**DOP**

Michael Zaw

**Editor**

Fran Borgia

**Sound Editor**

Justin Loh, Roman Dymn

**Cast**

Sivakumar Palakrishnan, Huang Lu, Seema Biswas, Udaya Soundari, Nithiyia Rao, Indra Chandran



**Director's Bio**

Born in 1965, Rajagopal lives and works in Singapore. He has won the Singapore International Film Festival's Special Jury Prize for 3 consecutive years. *I Can't Sleep Tonight*, *The Glare* and *Absence* have been featured at international festivals around the world. In 2012, K. Rajagopal was a recipient of the New Feature Talent Grant from the Media Development Authority of Singapore. *A Yellow Bird* is his first feature film.



**Synopsis**

38-year old Siva Sudhakar, a Singaporean Indian man is released after 8 years from jail for contraband smuggling. He learns that his room at his mother's apartment has been rented out to migrant workers while his ex-wife and daughter have left without a trace. He begins his quest for them. In this lonely journey, he finds Chen Chen, a Chinese lady, who works illegally to support her family in China. Just as he begins to find solace and hope, he discovers the whereabouts of his ex-wife and daughter.

# TIERRA YERMA: WASTELANDS

By Miriam Heard

2016 | 94 | Chile

**Genre**

Drama

**Director**

Miriam Heard

**Producers**

Miriam Heard, Gregorio González Nicolini, Anna Holburn

**Screenplay**

Miriam Heard

**DOP**

André Szankowski

**Editor**

Luca Alverdi

**Sound Editor**

Robert Espinoza

**Music**

Jorge Arriagada

**Cast**

Julio Milostich, Erto Pantoja, Heidrun Breier, Julio Milostich, Erto Pantoja

**Awards**

WFF Bangkok, Femcine Santiago Chile;  
2016 Eurasia International Film Festival;  
Haniff Vietnam; 2016 Arica Nativa Chile;  
2016 IFFI Goa



**Synopsis**

Two brothers, Pelao and Jorge return to Chile after working for a US private military company in Iraq. Woven through the depiction of the brothers' tortured relationship is the story of Jorge's journey across the Altiplano with Pelao's ex-wife to take his ashes to their ancestral village.



**Director's Bio**

With English and German parents, Miriam was brought up in Abu Dhabi, UAE. She studied English Literature at Oxford University before training as an actress at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (London) and the Conservatoire Nationale d'Arts Dramatiques in Paris, and working both as an actress and a screenwriter. She studied filmmaking at NYU-SCPS in New York and now works as a director, writer, actress and literary translator in Paris and Santiago. *Tierra Yerma* (Wastelands) is her debut feature film as writer / director.

# RATHU SAMANALA HEENAYAK: RED BUTTERFLY DREAM

By Priyantha Kaluarachchi

2015 | 93 | Sri Lanka

## Genre

Drama

## Director

Priyantha Kaluarachchi

## Producers

Nuwan Alwis, Thushara Dissanayake, Subhash Pinnapola, Chandana Aluthge

## Screenplay

Priyantha Kaluarachchi, Shashi Reka Yagaraj

## DOP

Viswajith Karunaratne

## Editor

Saman Alvitigala

## Sound Editor

Music: Ajith Kumarasiri

## Cast

Mahendra Perera, Dharmapriya Dias, Niranjani Shanmugarajah, Shyam Fernando

## Awards

Best Cinematography, Nice International Film Festival 2017, France



## Director's Bio

Priyantha Kaluarachchi followed the Film Appreciation course held by Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) 2006. He has 7 years' experience as Programme Producer at MTV and Young Asia Television in Sri Lanka. He was also involved in the many national level award-winning stage plays. His documentary on the train caught by Tsunami, *Peralaiya* was selected at the Berlinale Talent Campus at the 57th Berlin International Film in 2007. *Peralaiya* was also short listed at the 15th edition of Cinerail international film festival in Paris.



## Synopsis

Ajith is a serial killer and Samantha, his friend. According to an ancient script held by Samantha and his uncle, who is a priest, a treasure can be attained by sacrificing a virgin with four birthmarks on her neck. Samantha meets a young Tamil with similar marks. Samantha goes against sacrificing her for the treasure. A string of events follow; he goes insane and entangles with her spirit in love.

# DISIDI PATH: WITHERED LEAF

By Duminda Sanjeewa

2016 | 90 | Sri Lanka

**Genre**

Drama

**Director**

Duminda Sanjeewa

**Producers**

Sahan Wejethunga, Rasitha Jinasena, Shasya Gamage, Film Equipment Gallery (Pvt) Ltd

**Screenplay**

Duminda Sanjeewa

**DOP**

Sampath de Silva

**Editor**

Sudesh Kumarasingha

**Sound Editor**

Sudesh Kumarasingha

**Music**

Somapala Rathnayaka

**Cast**

Ruvi Lakmali, Sampath Jayaweera, Lanka Bandaranayaka, Oshada Gihan Sith

**Official Selection**

57th Asian Pacific Film Festival" Hangzhou, China; 16th Imagine India International Film Festival" Madrid ,Spain; Indian Film festival Of Melbourne 2017 ,Australia; Singapore South Asian international Film Festival 2017,Singapore; Voices from the Waters International Traveling Film Festival 2017, Bangalore , India; Film Bazaar Recommends 2016



**Synopsis**

Kusumalatha is an attractive village woman. She is isolated from her family as she had chosen to marry a man from a lower cast. Widowed and a single mother, she struggles to make both ends meet. She is desired by many men. She fights her battles, stands by her virtues and does not let her get exploited. She loses her final battle, when she is not allowed to draw water from the common village well.



**Director's Bio**

Duminda Sanjeewa was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka. His keen cinematic eye has enabled him to create some of Sri Lanka's out-of-the-box TV programs, music videos and films. He carries a deep passion for motion graphics and special FX while greatly enjoying the process of film making that allows audiences to escape the harsh realities of daily life.

# SOMETHING IN BLUE

By Yunbo Li



## Director's Bio

Yunbo Li graduated in Communications from the University of China. He is a film critic, a Committee Member of Chinese Film Media Awards and one of the reviewers of Shanghai International Film Festival. He has co-founded several websites in China.

2015 | 107 | China

### Genre

Drama

### Director

Yunbo Li

### Producers

Yunbo Li

### Screenplay

Yunbo Li

### Editor

Yunbo Li

### Cast

Zhang Xingchao, Ye Ruihong, Li Hui



### Nominations

Beijing International Film Festival 2016 for Best New Director, Best Picture by a New Director; Osaka Asian Film Festival 2017 for Best Film; New Director's Award

# TRAMPOLIN

By Katarina Zrinka Matijević

2016 | 82 | Croatia

**Genre**

Drama

**Director**

Katarina Zrinka Matijević

**Producer**

Ivan Maloča

**Screenplay**

Katarina Zrinka Matijević, Pavlica Bajsić, Ivan

Salaj

**DOP**

Vjeran Hrpka

**Editors**

Ana Štulina

**Sound Editor**

Ivan Zelić

**Music**

Šumovi protiv valova

**Cast**

Franka Mikolaci, Tena Nemet Brankov,

Marija Tadić, Lana Barić, Frano Mašković, Asja

Jovanović

**Official Selection:**

Pula Film Festival 2016; TOFIFEST International Film Festival in Toruń, Poland 2016; Kolkata International Film Festival 2016; Just Film - Children's and Youth Film Festival 2016; Zagreb Film Festival 2016; Through Women's Eyes 2017; Athens International Film and Video Festival 2017; Uruguay International Film Festival 2017; Durban International Film Festival 2017; Divan Film Festival 2017; Jaffna International Film Festival 2017; Films Femmes Méditerranée 2017; Braunschweig Int'l Film Festival 2017; Eastern Neighbors Film Festival 2017; CINEDAYS - Festival of European Film 2017.



**Director's Bio**

Katarina Zrinka Matijević graduated in film and TV directing from the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb in 2002 with her documentary *The Duel*, which won several awards at domestic and international film festivals. Her first professional documentary *Of Cows and Men* (co-directed with N. Slijepčević) was shown at major international documentary film festivals such as IDFA, Munich, Bogota, Austin, and Rhodes. Over the past fifteen years, she has directed numerous documentaries, short fiction films and voice synchronizations of Disney animated feature films and TV series. *Trampoline* is her first narrative feature film.



**Synopsis**

A child jumping on a trampoline in the park, and a rainstorm breaking over the city: this is the crossroads where the film's three stories meet. Running away from her mother, seven-year-old Lina meets teenage dreamer Nika and mother-to-be Nikolina. Superficially very different, they act as mirrors into one another's lives, providing a glimpse into what Lina's own future might hold. Like her, they are scarred by a painful secret. Their chance encounter will open up new possibilities and reveal the fault lines in their families that until now, have been carefully hidden from sight. The little girl still wants to win her mother's love, the teenage girl dreams of escaping from a mother's love gone sour, and the pregnant woman is terrified of repeating the abusive cycle of her childhood.

# SHORT FILM JURY



## **Dr S Raguram**

Dr. S. Raguram is a Senior Lecturer in Media Studies from the University of Jaffna. Before joining the academic field, he had worked as a Journalist in both print and electronic media. Further, he has served as Information, Education and Communication Specialist in a project funded by the Asian Development Bank in the North and East of Sri Lanka in the community development sector.



## **Priyantha Fonseka**

Priyantha is an influential film critic and a scholar who currently works as Course Director of the Film Direction and Aesthetics Diploma Course at the Sri Lanka Media Training Institute. He completed his graduate studies at University of Sydney in 2015 and his thesis titled "Silence in Sri Lankan Cinema from 1990- 2010" was highly admired and is a prominent scholarly work. He served many universities in the country as a lecturer of film studies for more than 15 years. Currently he is a visiting lecturer at University of Peradeniya and Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology. He also works as a consultant in the World Bank, Sri Lanka. Priyantha is an author, poet, translator, blogger and an active member of current cinematic dialogue of the country.



## **Francesca Bremner**

Francesca Bremner is an American anthropologist, born in Sri Lanka. She holds MA, MPhil and PhD degrees from Columbia University, USA. Francesca has made several short films and has worked extensively in the North of Sri Lanka as an anthropologist during the war and immediate post war periods. She teaches at the City University of New York, Queens College.



# SHORT FILMS IN COMPETITION

## National Category

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**12:21:21**

a short film by Hilusha Hewagama

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**LOTUS**

a short film by Nalamudu Samarasinghe

---

**SONG OF THE INNOCENT**

a short film by Dananjaya Bandara

---

**UNTITLED**

a short film by S. Rinoshan

---

**INSIDE ME**

a short film by Mathavan Maheshweran

---

**MOSS**

a short film by Kasun Sankalpa

---

**THE DARKNESS**

a short film by T. Anpumain than

---

**DARK ROOM**

a short film by Kiruthigan kahendren

---

**LOVE ME**

a short film by Jiwantha Batagalgedara

---

**THE BORDER**

a short film by Thaneswaram Shamithan

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## International Category

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**THE PAPERMAN**

a short film by Abhiroop Basu (India)

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**CAMERA COLLECTOR**

a short film by Andrea Casanova (Italy)

---

**GRATITUDE**

a short film by Stefan Scarlatescu (Romania)

---

**THE BLACK CAT**

a short film by Bhargav Saikia (India)

---

**LA BOUCHE**

a short film by Camolice Restrepo (Columbia)

---

**GHURI (THE KITE)**

a short film by Nahida Sultana (Bangladesh)

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**DOLACHAL / BETWEEN**

a short film by Sreecheta Das (India)

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**STATEMENT AFTER MY POET HUSBAND'S DEATH**

a short film by Tasmiah Afrin Mou (Bangladesh)

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**POUNOPUNIK**

a short film by Khandaker Sumon (Bangladesh)

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**UN-FILLED**

a short film by Renuka Soraisam (India)

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**DAY 01 - 15TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

	KAILASAPATHY AUDITORIUM UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA	MAJESTIC CINEPLEX	HNB AUDITORIUM JAFFNA
10.30am		<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b>	
		Opening Film  <b>OTTAYAAL PAATHA (THE NARROW PATH)</b> dir. Satish & santosh Babusenana India/2016/97'	
1pm	<b>AHAS GAWWA</b> dir. Dharmasena Pathiraja Sri Lanka/1974/110'		
3.30pm	<b>CLEO DE CINQ A SEPT</b> dir. Agnès Varda France/1962/90'	<b>AMAVAKA (INVISIBLE MOON)</b> dir. Vijitha Gunaratne Sri Lanka/2017/100'	
6pm	<b>HOUSE WITHOUT ROOF</b> dir. Soleen Yusef Germany/2016/117'	<b>PUTHTHU SAHA PIYAWARU (SONS AND FATHERS)</b> dir. Sivamohan Sumathy Sri Lanka/2017/97'	

**DAY 02 - 16TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

	KAILASAPATHY AUDITORIUM UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA	MAJESTIC CINEPLEX	HNB AUDITORIUM JAFFNA
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>PARA DIGE</b> dir. Dharmasena Pathiraja Sri Lanka/1980/100'		<b>MASTER CLASS PRACTICAL CHALLENGES IN MAKING DOCUMENTARIES IN SRI LANKA</b> by S.Sometharan 9.30AM - 12.30PM
<b>1pm</b>	<b>SANS TOI NI LOI</b> dir. Agnès Varda France/1985/105'		<b>SHORT FILMS IN COMPETITION</b>
<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>ROSALIE BLUM</b> dir. Juliaen Rappeneau France/2015/95'	<b>SOMETHING IN BLUE</b> dir. Yunbo Li China/2015/107'	
<b>6pm</b>	<b>VINO DENTRO</b> dir. Ferdinando Vicentini Orgnani Italy/2013/92'	<b>YELLOW BIRD</b> dir. K Rajagopal Singapore, France/2016/112'	<b>COLETTE</b> dir. Milan Cieslar Slovakia/2014/120'
<b>8.15pm</b>			<b>BAMBARU AVITH</b> dir. Dharmasena Pathiraja Sri Lanka/1978/90'

**DAY 03 - 17TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

	KAILASAPATHY AUDITORIUM UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA	MAJESTIC CINEPLEX	HNB AUDITORIUM JAFFNA
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>AT EYE LEVEL</b> dir. EviGoldbrunner, Joachim Dolhopf Germany/2016/99'		<b>MASTER CLASS REPRESENTING THE OTHER : ETHICS AND POLITICS IN ETHNOGRAPHIC AND INDIGENOUS CINEMA</b> by Dr. Etami Borjan 9.30AM - 12.30PM
<b>1pm</b>	<b>JACQUOT DE NANTES</b> dir. Agnès Varda France/ 1991/118'		<b>SHORT FILMS IN COMPETITION</b>
<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK?</b> (DOCUMENTARY) dir. Leena Manimekalai India/2017/30'	<b>DISIDI PATH (WITHERED LEAF)</b> dir. Duminda Sanjeewa Sri Lanka/2016/90'	
	<b>BURNING MEMORIES</b> (DOCUMENTARY) dir. S.Someetharan Sri Lanka/2008/45'		
<b>6pm</b>	<b>A UNITED KINGDOM</b> dir. Amma Asante UK/2016/110'	<b>WASTELANDS</b> dir. Miriam Heard Chile /2016/94'	<b>PANAIMARAKKADU</b> dir. Kesawaraj Navaratnam Sri Lanka/2017/149'
<b>8.15pm</b>			<b>FOXFIRE</b> dir. Laurent Cantet Canada/2012/143'

**DAY 04 - 18TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

	KAILASAPATHY AUDITORIUM UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA	MAJESTIC CINEPLEX	HNB AUDITORIUM JAFFNA
10.30am	<b>LES GLANEURS ET LA GLANEUSE</b> dir. Agnès Varda France/2000/82'		
1pm	<b>SOLDADU UNNAHE</b> dir. Dharmasena Pathiraja Sri Lanka/1981/76'		
3.30pm	<b>REG DOG TRUE BLUE</b> dir. Kriv Stenders Australia/2016/89'	<b>TRAMPOLINE</b> dir. Katarina Zrinka Matijevic Croatia/2016/82'	
6pm	<b>THE DIVINE ORDER</b> dir. Petra Volpe Switzerland/2017/97'	<b>RATHU SAMANALA HEENAYAK (RED BUTTERFLY DREAM)</b> dir. Priyantha Kaluarachchi Sri Lanka/2016 /93'	

**DAY 05 - 19TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

	KAILASAPATHY AUDITORIUM UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA	MAJESTIC CINEPLEX	HNB AUDITORIUM JAFFNA
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>TO SEE THE SEA</b> dir. JiříMádl Czech Republic/2014/90'		
<b>1pm</b>	<b>TWO LOTTERY TICKETS</b> dir. Paul Negoescu Romania/2016/86'		
<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>RACE</b> dir. Stephen Hopkins USA/2016/134'	<b>HARIKATHA PRASANGA</b> dir. Ananya Kasaravalli India/2015/106'	
<b>6pm</b>	<b>WATERBOYS</b> dir. Robert Jan Westdjik The Netherlands/2016/89'	<b>MANHOLE</b> dir. Vidhu Vincent India/2016/85'	

**DAY 06 - 20TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

	KAILASAPATHY AUDITORIUM UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA	MAJESTIC CINEPLEX	HNB AUDITORIUM JAFFNA
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>PILECKI</b> dir. Mirosław Krzyszkowski Poland/2015/80'	<b>THARAMANI</b> dir. Ram India/2017/150'	
<b>1pm</b>	<b>MATHUYAM DAWASA</b> dir. Dharmasena Pathiraja Sri Lanka/2000/116'		
<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>MODERATED DISCUSION ON DR.DHARMASENA PATHIRAJA'S CINEMA</b>	<b>FOR A SON</b> dir. Suranga Katugampala Italy, Sri Lanka/2016/74'	
<b>6pm</b>		<b>AWARDS CEREMONY</b>  Closing film <b>DAVENA VIHAGUN (BURNING BIRDS)</b> dir. Sanjeewa Pushpakumara France, The Netherlands, Qatar, Sri Lanka/2016/84'	

## FRINGE EVENTS

	AMERICAN CORNER	BRITISH COUNCIL JAFFNA
17th September 3.30pm	<b>MOANA</b> USA   107'   2016	
18th September 3.30pm		<b>CINEMA OF AGNÈS VARDA</b> Discussion with Francis Cappe  Followed by screening of <b>LES PLASES D AGNÈS</b> France/2008/110'
19th September 10.30am	<b>HIDDEN FIGURES</b> USA   127'   2016 Followed by a discussion with Vidhu Vincent (India), Thulasi Muttulingam (Sri Lanka), Francesca Bremner (USA), Nancy VanHorn (USA) Moderated by Jeeva Perumalpillai-Essex	<b>EARLY SRI LANKAN DOCUMENTARIES FROM GFU</b> (Government Film Unit, Sri Lanka) Nelungama by Ralph Keene (1953/35') Kamam by Tissa Abeysekera (1970/14') The First Year Anniversary Celebrations of Independence (1949/14')



# MASTERCLASS AT HNB AUDITORIUM, JAFFNA

Jaffna International Cinema Festival is pleased to announce a Masterclass series in the peninsula. These Masterclasses would create a perfect opportunity for young filmmakers, cinema enthusiasts and students to learn from local and international award winning industry professionals.



## **Practical Challenges of Making Documentaries in Sri Lanka**

By S. Someetharan | 16 September | 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Someetharan is an audio visual journalist-turned film maker. He was born in Point Pedro in the Northern District of Jaffna District in 1981. He had his school education in the Eastern District of Batticaloa. He was first displaced with his family when he was 4 years old, followed by many throughout his school life due to war. He has made several documentaries including those on environmental issues in India. Currently, he is based in Chennai.

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## **Representing the Other: Ethics and Politics in Ethnographic and Indigenous Cinema**

By Dr. Etami Borjan | 17th September 2017 | 9.30am - 12.30pm

Etami Borjan works as Assistant Professor in Film Studies at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, Croatia. She teaches courses on ethnographic, documentary, global, Italian and European cinemas. She holds a MA in Film Studies from the University of La Sapienza in Rome and PhD in Film Studies from the University of Zagreb in Croatia. Etami Borjan has been a member of the International Federation of Film Societies (IFFS) since 2003. She has participated in several activities of IFFS, first in collaboration with the Italian Federation of Film Societies, and later, with the Croatian Federation of Film Societies.





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