

## NFDC India Announces Children's Screenwriters' Lab 2016 Selection

Mumbai 11, July 2016 : NFDC India is pleased to announce the six projects selected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Children's Screenwriters' Lab.

With an aim to cultivate original Indian stories specifically for children and adolescents, the Children's Screenwriters' Lab will provide participants the opportunity to explore their stories through one-on-one and group sessions with international mentors. The participants will also get a chance to pitch their scripts to producers and investors in a specially designed session during Film Bazaar 2015.

This edition of the Children's Screenwriters' Lab will be held in collaboration with the Cinekid for Professionals which is the industry event organised parallel to the Cinekid Festival in Amsterdam.

The selection consists of narratives and perspectives that would engage young audiences.

- Beej** (Hindi)  
**Sneha Nair** worked as a journalist before she decided she wanted to write for films. She has worked as an assistant director and researcher before attempting her first screenplay, *Beej*.
- Chuskit** (Hindi, Ladaki)  
**Priya Ramasubban** has made films for National Geographic, Discovery, the History Channel and other major international broadcasters. A storyteller at heart, her approach to films builds on her strong documentary experience. *Chuskit* would be her first fiction feature.
- Krikus** (Hindi)  
**Nitin Zihani Chaudhary** is a visual artist based out of Mumbai. He holds a Bachelors in Fine Arts in Applied Arts from Delhi College of Art. He has experience in illustrating children's books, animation and VFX. Nitin has also designed sound and light shows and has worked as a production designer for numerous ad-films. Among feature films, his work includes films like *Ship of Theseus* (2013), and the upcoming *Tumbad*.
- Little Thomas and the Miracle of Life** (Hindi, English)  
**Kaushal Oza** is a graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune. He has been awarded the National Film Award twice for his work. Kaushal's short films have won several Best Film Awards and have been screened in various international film festivals. His film *Afterglow* has featured as one of the best Indian Short Films to watch online.
- Malli** (Tamil)  
**Mrudhula Sridharan** is a young writer whose brief stint in ad films led her to discover her love for storytelling. She holds a mass communication post-graduate degree from Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication. *Malli* would be her first feature screenplay.
- The Girl and Autorickshaw** (Marathi)  
**Mayur Kulkarni** is an emerging filmmaker whose short films have received awards at various International film festivals. Mayur runs his own graphic design studio and has also worked in Marathi films as a costume designer, still photographer & publicity designer. For the last 8 years, he has worked as the director of Kalamaharshi Baburao Painter Film Society, in Kolhapur. Mayur has been a former participant at the Marathi Voices Script Camp organized by NFDC in collaboration with the Maharashtra State Government.

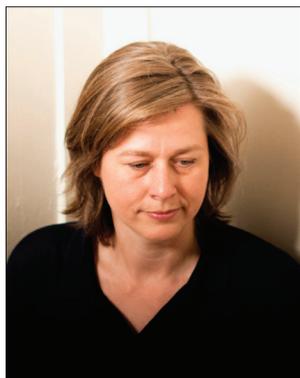
## MENTORS

### Tijs van Marle



Tijs van Marle graduated as a screenwriter from the Dutch Film School in Amsterdam in 2002. Since then, he has written for film and television for the Dutch cinema and broadcasters. His focus is on light drama and content for children. Tijs' work is very diverse, with small personal stories, mostly made for television, as well as bigger commercial projects for the cinema. His recent work, the *Mister Twister* trilogy was sold worldwide and the film *Accused* was a runner up for the Best Foreign Film at the Academy Awards 2014. In India, the historical children's film *Code M* won Best Screenplay Award at the 19th International Children's Film Festival 2015. Apart from writing, Tijs sometimes teaches at the Dutch Film School, works as a consultant on film projects and runs a small souvenir business in Amsterdam with his father.

### Sytske Kok



Sytske Kok graduated from the Netherlands Film academy and the Binger Filmlab as a writer and director. Among other shorts, she directed the internationally acclaimed short *The Chinese Wall* and the TV film *Impasse* for which she wrote the script as well. Over the last years, Sytske has focused primarily on script writing. She wrote the script for the TV film *Tunnel Vision* directed by Stefano Odoardi. *Tunnel Vision* has been selected and awarded in several international film festivals. Besides writing herself, Sytske teaches scriptwriting at the Schrijversvakschool, the Amsterdam Film School and at the animation department of the Art academy St. Joost.

Together with Odoardi, she is currently developing two feature film projects. One of these projects, *Dark Matter*, will be developed during an Artist in Residence in Rome which is supported by the Dutch Academy of the Arts. The other project *LIVE!* has just received script development support from the Dutch Film Fund.

### Jolein Laarman



Jolein Laarman likes to make films that tell something about life and also put a smile on your face, for children and adults alike. Jolein worked as a producer and production-designer before she began working as a scriptwriter and script-coach. She (co-)wrote the script for the film *Kauwboy*, which was screened in many festivals around the world and won over 30 international prizes. She has also written several television series like *Ik ben Willem* (1, 2 en 3) and *Taxi van Palemu*, both of which have won numerous prizes. Jolein's other work includes *Stages*, *Sister of Katia*, *Brittle*, *Among Us*, *Frailer*. For her work as a scriptwriter, Jolein has been awarded the Gouden Kalf (for Best Script, Dutch Film Festival 2008), the Zilveren Krulstaart 2012 (Best Script according to the Dutch Society of Scriptwriters), Best Script in L'Atelier (Film Festival of Cannes 2012). Her upcoming films include *Disappearance*, (in production), *Invite Me to War*, *Roxy* (both in development).