

NFDC India Announces Selection for Film Bazaar Co-Production Market 2017

Mumbai, October 9 2017 - Film Bazaar 2017 announces its official selection of projects for its main segment, the Co-Production Market, held between 20 – 24 November in Goa.

This year, 18 projects have been selected to participate in the Market.

After the success of Open Pitch 2016, this year again the selected filmmakers will be pitching their projects to a curated audience of national and international producers, financiers and sales agents.

The selected projects for 2017 are -

- **Aamis (Voracious) | Assamese | India**

Director: Bhaskar Hazarika's directorial debut film *Kothanodi* premiered at Busan International Film Festival in 2015 and won the Asian Cinema Fund's Post Production Award. *Kothanodi* travelled to many international festivals and also won Best feature Film in Assamese at the 63rd National Film Awards.

Producer: Poonam Deol, Signum Productions

Poonam Deol, founder of Signum Productions, is a graduate from St. Stephens College, Delhi University and holds a Master of Philosophy degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Intellectual by training and an artist at heart, she believes that films provide her a tremendous opportunity to combine both.

Producer: Shyam Bora, Metanormal Motion Pictures

From being the Executive Producer on Bhaskar Hazarika's *Kothanodi* (2015) to line producing Pan Nalin's *Angry Indian Goddesses* (2015; winner, Audience Awards at TIFF and Rome) and *Faith Connections* (2013; World Premiere, TIFF), Shyam has been working on international co-productions of independent films from India for the last five years. *Voracious* is his first feature as Producer.

- **Badhonhin (Free) | Bengali | Bangladesh**

Director: Taneem Rahman has made two feature films titled *Aadi* and *Shopnobari* (2016). He introduced the use of visual effects in television dramas of Bangladesh and created dialogue based musical stories in the music video industry. He has directed several TV Fictions and documentaries.

Producer: Mahboob Rahman, Show Motion Limited

Mahboob Rahman is an entrepreneur who revived the cinema culture in Bangladesh by building the

first world class multiplex movie theatre in Dhaka. He has hosted several film festivals including the first ever Bangladesh EU Film Festival and introduced DCI compliant Digital Projection system with 3D technology in 2012. He has distributed many large Hollywood and international films in Bangladesh and has produced two films and one music video.

- **Chowsang On (The Little Monk) | Thai | India**

Director & Producer: Nang Tanvi Manpoong is a filmmaker from Arunachal Pradesh, India. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Theatre and Performing Arts from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her first feature film, *1962 My Country Land* was co-written by her. She was also involved in the creative development, finance and PR management of the project.

- **Distant Teardrop | English | India**

Director: Padhmakumar Narasimhamurthy's first feature film *A Billion Colour Story* opened at Busan in the competition section and has won several awards at prestigious international film festivals all over the world. A poet and a photographer, Padhmakumar is also a well-known professional in the advertising industry.

Producer: Satish Kaushik, The Satish Kaushik Entertainment

Satish Kaushik is an internationally known actor, producer and director, known for his exceptional comic performances in several hugely mounted Hindi feature films. He was the co-producer for *A Billion Colour Story* with Padhmakumar, and continues as his partner in *Distant Teardrop*.

- **Holy Fire | Hindi | India**

Director & Producer: Miransha Naik, Thin Air Productions

Miransha Naik's first feature film *Juze* premiered in Hong Kong International Film Festival 2016, and was part of the Film Bazaar Work-in-Progress Lab 2015. He began working as a writer at Gitanjali Creations, a Mumbai-based production house before making short films under his own banner, Thin Air Productions. In 2016, *Holy Fire* was selected for Three Rivers Residency in Italy.

- **Laila Aur Satt Geet (The Shepherdess and the Seven Songs) | Pahadi | India**

Director: Pushpendra Singh's directorial debut feature film *Lajwanti* premiered at the 64th Berlin International Film Festival in the Forum section and his second feature *Ashwathama* premiered in the Competition section at Busan International Film Festival 2017. Pushpendra is an alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune.

Producer: Sanjay Gulati, Crawling Angel Films

Sanjay Gulati has produced Pushpendra Singh's *Ashwathama* and Kanwal Sethi's *Once Again*. *Hola Venky* is another independent film co-produced by him.

- **A Lottery Ticket | Hindi | India**

Director: Sagarika Banik started her career as an assistant director working in films, documentaries, television series and commercials. She has written and directed several short films and documentaries. Her short films *We* and *Stuck in Traffic* have been screened at several film festivals. *A Lottery Ticket* was part of the Film Bazaar Children's Screenwriters' Lab 2015.

Producer: Indrani Chakrabarti, Chiaroscuro Productions

Indrani Chakrabarti is the founder of Chiaroscuro Productions and has produced many short films, documentaries, corporate films, educational films, audio-visual presentations and ad films like *Ladakh Chale Rickshawala*, *Ekti Choto Chobi*, *Destiny*, *New Arabian Nights* among other under this banner.

- **Mogulmarir Katha (Mogulmari Tales) | Bengali | India**

Director & Producer: Prantik Basu is an Indian filmmaker and visual artist. An alumnus of the FTII, Pune, his latest film, *Sakhisona* (2016) won the Tiger Award for Short Films at the 46th Rotterdam International Film Festival. His other works, *Makara* (2013) and *1,2* (2011) have been screened at various film festivals including Oberhausen, Rome and BFI London Film Festival.

Producer (s): Heer Ganjwala & Karma Takapa, Human Trail Pictures

Founded by Heer Ganjwala and Karma Takapa from Film and Television Institute of India, Human Trail Pictures has produced the feature film *Ralang Road* (2017) that premiered at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Their other feature, *Mor Mann Ke Bharam* (2015), premiered at the MAMI Film Festival, Mumbai, and won the Jury Special Prize.

- **Mukti (The Gift) | Bengali, Hindi | India**

Director: Tamal Sen's graduation film *Still Voices* at Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute was screened at various international festivals. Since 2011 he has worked in the advertisement film industry in Mumbai as a visual consultant on projects, and director of commercials. *The Gift* was selected for the NFDC Screenwriters' Lab 2016.

Producer: Pooja Gupte, Easel

Easel is a production, marketing and distribution company that distributed *Miss Lovely* (directed by Ashim Ahluwalia, Cannes 2012) theatrically in 250 screens all over India. Pooja has produced *Crossing Bridges*, a National Award winning feature film that was part of the Film Bazaar Work in Progress Lab 2012. She is an alumnus of Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute of India, Kolkata.

- **Nasir | Tamil | India**

Director: Arun Karthick is an independent filmmaker based in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Self-taught, he began producing and directing short films at the age of seventeen. He finished his debut feature *Sivapuram (The Strange Case of Shiva)* with a 'Gap Financing award' at Film Bazaar 2014. The film premiered in the Bright Future section of International Film Festival Rotterdam, 2016. His second feature *Nasir* has received the Hubert Bals Fund for script development.

Producer: Mathivanan Rajendran, Stray Factory

Mathivanan Rajendran is the founder of Stray Factory, a performing arts and new media entertainment company. Since 2010, he has produced over 20 theatrical productions across the globe at various performing arts festivals. He has produced *Black Sheep*, one of South India's first web series and also launched *Stray Stories*, a short documentary series which is focused on bringing to the fore positive stories from marginalized communities in Tamil Nadu.

- **Ommi | Bengali, English | Bangladesh, UK**

Director: Amit Ashraf's directorial debut film *Udhao* premiered at the Goteborg International Film Festival and went on to win several awards at other festivals across the globe. He has also produced a sci-fi

teledrama and a super-heroine series *Kali*, which has gained a cult following. He is a graduate of NYU's Tisch Film School.

Producer: Jenny Walker, FoR Films

Jenny has over 10 years of experience of working as a producer of notable and award-winning documentaries and docu-dramas for UK broadcasters like BBC, C4 and ITV including top-flight series *X-creatures*, *Tomorrow's World*, *Horizon*, *Dispatches* and *West Eye View* (winner; Royal Television Society Award). Since 2000, under the banner FoR Films she has produced films like *Delilah* (highly commended by BAFTA/Kodak at Cannes in 2002), *In Da Mix* and *I'll Tell You* in collaboration with BFI finance and development support from Creative Europe.

- **Omniyam | Hindi | India, USA**

Director: Kamal Swaroop is the screenwriter and director of the path breaking film *Om-Dar-B-Dar* (1988). He has received the President's award and Filmfare Award, and has also worked in television and radio. He has directed *The Battle of Benaras* (2014) (produced by Medient), *Tracing Phalke* (2015), (produced by Films Division of India), *Pushkar Puran* (2016) and *Atul* (2016) which is based on the world-renowned Dadaist artist Atul Dodiya.

Producer: Vijay Singh, Match Cut Films

Vijay Pratap Singh is a San Francisco based developer and film producer who has financed and produced Kamal Swaroop's recent documentary *Pushkar Puran* (2016). As producer, *Omniyam* will be his first fiction feature.

- **Permanent Resident | English, Hindi, Punjabi | Canada, India**

Directors: Satinder Kassoana is a Canada based Indian director, actor, and filmmaker who is interested in telling multicultural and diversity-oriented stories. He has made the short films *Bonjour Ji* (2015) and *Don't Walk Among the Dead* (2016), which won the 'Story hive' script contest as well as a successful Kickstarter campaign.

Producer: Julian Black Antelope, Herd of 1 Media

Julian Black Antelope founded Herd of 1 Media and has been nominated for several awards like AMPIA's 'Best Dramatic Production' for *Empyrean* (2015), Governor Generals Award for Canadian History (2016) and AMPIA's 'Best Screenwriter Drama Under 30 Minutes' (2017) for their short film *The Agreement*. Currently he is working on the development of a TV docu-drama series *Secret History of the Wild West*, for the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) along with the script development for a full-length feature film called *War Party*.

- **Pina Vaasam (Scent of a dead body) | Tamil | Sri Lanka**

Director: Ilango Ramanathan's short film, *Silent Tears* has travelled to 27 International Festivals, and won 19 Awards. A graduate from the Rockport College USA, he has participated in Asian Film Academy and Berlinale Talents. He has taught filmmaking at the University of Kelaniya and has been in the jury panel at Colombo International Film Festival. He has directed several social awareness commercials for child abuse, autism, and heart and cancer awareness for organizations like Unicef.

Producer: Hiranya Perera, Silent Frames Productions Pvt. Ltd

Hiranya started out as the producer of Good Morning Sri Lanka-MTV. As the youngest woman director-producer, she has directed TV commercials for Stein Studios, while also taking care of the end-to-

end production. She started own production house, Silent Frames Productions where she produced her first short film, *Silent Tears*. She continues to produce TV commercials and films in Sri Lanka.

- **Postman | Dari | Afghanistan**

Director: Siddiq Barmak is an award winning Afghan director. His debut feature *Osama* (2003) won the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film and was screened at festivals across the world. He directed *Opium War* (2008) and has been on juries for many festivals.

Producer: David Wahab, Star Group Media

David Wahab is an award winning Afghan producer whose film *An Apple from Paradise* (2007) won the Best Film awards at Didor film festival, Tajikistan; Almaty Film festival, Kazakhstan and Tolo film festival in Kabul. *Neighbour* (2009), another film he produced has been screened in various film festivals. He has produced many TV and Radio programmes, including fiction series. He has also produced more than 20 Public Service Announcements on counter terrorism and counter insurgency in Afghanistan.

- **Spirogyra | Malayalam | India**

Director: Abhilash Vijayan completed Diploma in Direction and Screenplay Writing from FTII, Pune. His short film *Dwand (The Dual)* was in competition at 20 international film festivals, and won 4 international and 24 awards at national competitions. He was selected for an International Exchange Program at La Femis Film School in Paris. *That Elephant from the Bridge* premiered at Dok- Leipzig and *Chaver* at International Student Film Festival, Beijing. The screenplay of *Spirogyra* was selected for NFDC Screenwriters' Lab 2016.

Producer: Radhika Lavu, Ellanar Films

After completing her Masters in Filmmaking from Goldsmiths University, Radhika Lavu started working with the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Government for 3 years. After a successful stint as a freelance filmmaker, Radhika founded Ellanar Films.

- **The Whole-Timers | Nepali | Nepal, France**

Director (s): Pooja Gurung and Bibhusan Basnet's first short film *The Contagious Apparitions of Dambarey Dendrite* (2013) was selected at the Abu Dhabi Film Festivals among others. *Dadyaa*, their second short film, premiered at the Venice Film Festival and was screened at the Toronto Film Festival and the Sundance Film Festival where it won the Award for Best Cinematography. *The Whole-Timers* was selected at the Atelier of the Cinéfondation of the Cannes Film Festival in 2016.

Producer (s): Marie Legrand & Rani Massalha, Les Films du Tambour

Marie Legrand and Rani Massalha created Les Films du Tambour in 2014 produced *Degrade*, first feature film of twin directors Arab and Tarzan Nasser (Gaza) which premiered in competition at Cannes' Semaine de la Critique and was released in French theatres in 2016. The company recently produced Bibhusan Basnet and Pooja Gurung's short film *Dadyaa*.

- **Uljhan (The Knot) | Hindi | India, USA**

Director: Ashish Pant's experimental feature film *Byron Jones* is being released by the global VoD platform Tao-Films. His latest short film *Hi I am Sam* has recently played at several festivals across the world. Ashish has worked as an Assistant Director with several directors in New York. Currently Ashish

is a faculty member at Tom Todoroff Acting Conservatory in New York. .

Producer: Christopher Zalla, Roz Films

Christopher Zalla's first feature *Sangre De Mi Sangre* won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival. He had directed *Beautiful & Twisted* (a Sony/Lifetime production) and several episodes of the television series *Law & Order*. His writing credits include *Marching Powder* (an adaptation of the international best-seller), which he set up at Brad Pitt's Plan B entertainment. Chris has taught screenwriting at Harvard University and directing at Columbia University.

ABOUT FILMBAZAAR

Film Bazaar is a platform exclusively created to encourage collaboration between the international and South Asian film fraternities. The market aims at facilitating the sales of world cinema in the region. The 2016 market saw an attendance of 1206 delegates from 36 countries with a country delegation from Canada. The 11th Edition of Film Bazaar will be held from 20-24 November 2017 at the Marriott Resort in Goa, India.

FilmBazaar Co-Production Market Team can be reached at – coproduction@filmbazaarindia.com

ABOUT NFDC

Incorporated in the year 1975 National Film Development Corporation Ltd is formed by Ministry of Information and broadcasting (GoI) with the primary objective of promoting the good cinema movement. NFDC is instrumental for creating an ecosystem to support the financing, distribution and development of independent films across the country.