

NFDC Announces Selected Projects for Screenwriters' Lab 2021

Mumbai, July 2021: NFDC is pleased to announce the selected projects for the 14th edition of NFDC Screenwriters' Lab.

NFDC Screenwriters' Lab is part of NFDC Labs' ongoing initiative to develop original voices and stories from India. Selected participants work closely with noted mentors in an intensive 5-month program to fine-tune existing screenplays through personalized interactions and group sessions. The Lab mentors for this year are screenwriters **Angeli Macfarlane, Bikas Mishra** and **Sari Turgeman**.

The 8 selected projects for NFDC Screenwriters' Lab 2021 are –

1. ***An Unreal Story* by Utpal Borpujari (Hindi, Assamese)**

Utpal Borpujari is a National Award-winning film critic-turned-filmmaker. He is a former journalist who made his debut with *Ishu*, an Assamese children's feature film. He has also made several documentary films like *Mayong: Myth/Reality*, *Songs of the Blue Hills*, *Memories of a Forgotten War*, *For a Durbar of the People* and *Soccer Queens of Rani*.

2. ***Construction* by Akshay Indikar (Marathi)**

Akshay Indikar is an Indian filmmaker, cinematographer, writer and editor from Solapur, who belongs to the nomadic folk artist family from the state of Maharashtra, India. He made his debut with the Marathi feature film *Trijya*. His second feature film, *Sthalpuran* (Chronicles of Space) – was a part of the Berlin International Film Festival, 2020 (Generation KPlus section) and many others and has also won numerous awards.

3. ***Goonga Pehelwan* (The Deaf Wrestler) by Vivek Chaudhary (Haryanvi, Hindi)**

Vivek Chaudhary is a self-taught filmmaker from Ahmedabad, India. His debut film, a mid-length documentary, also titled *Goonga Pehelwan* (The Mute Wrestler) won the National Film Award for Best Debut Film in 2015. He is currently in late-Production of a documentary titled *I, Poppy*.

4. *Gos Kota Manuh (The Woodcutter)* by Prakash Deka (Assamese)

Prakash Deka (also known as Pranjal Deka) is a 33 year old self-taught writer and director from Assam based out of Mumbai. He made his debut film with the Assamese feature *Jonaki Porua* (Fireflies), which won the National Award in 2020.

5. *Mandra Saptak (The Lower Octave)* by Kshama Padalkar (Marathi)

Kshama Padalkar is an Indian filmmaker and editor from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. She has directed, shot and edited two films, *The Strike and I* and *Cocoon* and has co-written and edited *Trijya*.

6. *Notun Gur (A New Sweetness)* by Deyali Mukherjee (Bengali)

Deyali Mukherjee is an independent filmmaker who assisted Sri Lankan director Vimukthi Jayasundara in a Bengali feature film *Chatrak* that was selected for Director's Fortnight at Cannes in 2011. Her first fiction feature film is *Three Auspicious Hours*.

7. *Oranges Smell Like Turpentine* by Sasha Singh (Hindi, English)

Sasha Singh graduated from Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) in Kolkata, India with a specialization in Direction and Screenplay Writing. In 2014, she won the 'Looking China' scholarship to make a short documentary film on Chinese culture in Tianjin. She also conducts annual workshops called the Tuning Fork Film Workshops in Himachal Pradesh with a collective of documentary filmmakers.

8. *Rekhta* by Himadri Parmar (Gujarati)

Himadri Parmar is a self-taught Indian filmmaker who believes in telling stories from lived-in experiences and memories. She largely works with first-time actors and has directed her first feature film in Gujarati, called *Abharkha*.

MENTORS

SCREENWRITERS' LAB 2021

1. ANGELI MACFARLANE

Angeli is the director of Script Cube Limited, a UK company which provides consultancy in screen story development, talent training and production. She has been the development producer and story editor on over forty feature films and works internationally with writers, directors and producers in both film and TV. She is also the development producer at Film London in the UK, where she is part of the executive team commissioning short films and features from new and emerging London based talent.

Recent feature films include: *Mari*, *Dirty God*, *Animals*, *Perfect Ten*, *Untitled Bowie Project* and *Three Seasons*. Projects in development include *Gunnars Daughter* by writer Rebecca Lenkiewicz (*DISOBEDIENCE*, *IDA*), *Sisters* from producer Lee Magiday (*THE FAVOURITE*, *THE LOBSTER*), and several features with Screen Ireland, the British Film Institute and Screen Australia. Previously Angeli worked on such titles as *The Favourite*, *The Guard*, *Death of a President* and *Outlaw Prophet*. She has recently written her own title *I Wanted You for So Long*.

She also tutors in screenwriting at the eminent National Film and TV School in the UK. She is a member of BAFTA and sits regularly on film juries.

2. **BIKAS MISHRA**

Award-winning writer-director Bikas Mishra's debut feature *Chauranga* won Grand Jury Prize at the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles in 2015 and was declared Best Indian Feature at Mumbai Film Festival (MAMI) in 2014. His short film *Naach Ganesh* (Dance of Ganesha) widely travelled to prestigious festivals including Clermont Ferrand (France), Rotterdam (The Netherlands), Busan (South Korea) and IFFLA (Los Angeles).

He adapted and directed Badal Sarkar's classic play *Pagla Ghoda* for HotStar. Bikas has served on the International Critics (FIPRESCI) Jury of International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) in 2010 and was invited on the Visionary Jury of Critics Week of the Cannes Film Festival in 2012. An alumnus of NFDC Screenwriters' Lab, ScriptStation, Berlin and Binger Film Lab, Amsterdam, Bikas received prestigious Hubert Bals Fund for his upcoming project. Bikas teaches screenwriting at the Mumbai University's Ramesh Sippy Academy of Cinema and Entertainment (RSACE) and is an elected Executive Committee member of the Screenwriters Association (SWA) where he chairs the Media Sub-Committee.

3. **SARI TURGEMAN**

Born in Cannes, France, Sari is a script editor, screenwriter and director. She has been the script editor of numerous successful TV series as *Fauda* (seasons 2, 3 and 4), *Blackspace* (season one on Netflix), *Timrot Ashan* (season1) and *Hakol Dvash* (seasons 1, 2) as well as the script editor for numerous well-known features films. In 2008 she founded her own company for script-consulting services (scriptlight.com) and developed her own method of screenwriting that she teaches in professional workshops and masterclass worldwide. In 2020 she wrote and directed her first feature film that is in post-production. For the past ten years, she had given script consultations to hundreds of project, in different stage, from development to rough-cut stage. She is a script expert at PRODUIRE AU SUD workshops in Nantes and around the world.