

Film Bazaar Online | January 16-21, 2021

WORK-IN-PROGRESS LAB 2020

We are pleased to announce the official selection of films for the Work-in-Progress Lab at NFDC Film Bazaar Online. This year's selection includes films made in five Indian languages - Konkani, Marathi, Malayalam, Hindi and Tiwa. Four of the five selected films are debut features.

The Work-in-Progress Lab is open only for fiction features aiming for a theatrical release. A maximum of five films are selected for this Lab. The director and editor of the selected film showcase their rough cuts to the panel of mentors and receive an in-depth one-on-one feedback. The international editor assigned to the film guides the director and editor of the selected film through two sessions of the editing lab.

The international mentors include a film festival director, film critic, producers and film editors. They provide valuable feedback on the edit with the aim of helping the filmmaker achieve an accomplished final cut of the film.

Since its inception in 2008, the Work-in-Progress Lab has moulded films which have gone on to premiere at top international film festivals and receive critical acclaim. Some of the past projects of this Lab include *Laila Aur Satt Geet* (The Shepherdess and the Seven Songs) (2019), *Fire in the Mountains* (2019), *Eeb Allay Ooo!* (2018), *Aise Hee* (2018), *Nimtoh* (2018), *Soni* (2017), *Moothon* (2017), *Bombay Rose* (2016), *The Gold-Laden Sheep and The Sacred Mountain* (2016), *Lipstick Under My Burkha* (2015), *Thithi* (2014), *Titli* (2013), *Killa* (2013), *Miss Lovely* (2011) and *Ship of Theseus* (2011).

Details of the selected projects for 2020 are –

1. *Aiz Maka Falea Tuka* (Today me Tomorrow you) by Sreejith Karanavar; Konkani
2. *Ghaath* (Ambush) by Chhatrapal Ninawe; Marathi
3. *PAKA - The River of Blood* by Nithin Lukose; Malayalam
4. *Powai* by Kuldip Patel; Hindi
5. *Sikaisal* by Dr. Bobby Sarma Baruah; Tiwa

1. Aiz Maka Falea Tuka (Today me Tomorrow you)

90 min, Konkani

Director - Sreejith Karanavar

Producer(s) - Akshay Singh

Sreejith J. Karanavar is a filmmaker based in Kochi/Bombay. A graduate of the Satyajit Ray Film and TV Institute, Sreejith edited Kabir Chowdhry's *Mehsampur*, a wild and daring hybrid film about the controversial Punjabi singer Chamkila. Sreejith has worked closely with the avant-garde filmmaker Kamal Swaroop, designing a coffee table biography of the father of Indian cinema Dada Saheb Phalke.

2. Ghaath (Ambush)

120 min, Marathi

Director - Chhatrapal Ninawe

Producer - Manish Mundra, Jyoti Deshpande

Chhatrapal Ninawe is a self taught filmmaker. While working as an editor on a feature film *Toh Aani Mee* (2016), he had complete freedom to retell the story. The filmmakers shot the film without a bound screenplay. Shooting ratio was very tight and there was not much to play around with. So he ended up re-writing almost a new screenplay with available footage. They used off-screen ADR's, Sound Design and Music not only to fill gaps, but to enhance the story. It taught him the power of editing and also taught him a lot about filmmaking in general. *Ghaath* will be his official debut feature.

3. PAKA - The River of Blood

101 min, Malayalam

Director - Nithin Lukose

Producer – Raj Rachakonda

Nithin Lukose is a sound design graduate from the Film and Television Institute of India. A sound designer by profession and a screenwriter too. He has been a part of many films which have been appreciated at the international level. As a sound designer on *Thithi* (2015) which won the Golden Leopard award in Locarno International Film Festival, bagged awards from Palm Springs, Marrakech film festivals (2015), Shanghai International festival (2016) and many more. He has worked as a sound designer in India and abroad for many feature films. Recently he completed *Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar* with Director Dibakar Banerjee as the sound designer. He worked as a production sound mixer for Hollywood directors like Bennet Miller and Julie Taymor, when they shot their documentary and film in India.

4. Powai

120 min., Hindi

Director – Kuldip Patel

Producers - Kuldip Patel, Neha Patel, Anish Shah, Jay Shah

Kuldip is a techie and an independent filmmaker based out of Mumbai (Powai). He founded November Films with his partners Anish Shah and Jay Shah. His Gujarati feature film *Dhunki* as a writer and producer released under the same banner last year across 125 screens and is now available on Amazon Prime. He is currently working on post-production of his debut Hindi feature film *Powai*, is writing his next Hindi feature film and producing another Gujarati film called *Aavartan*. He dabbled into filmmaking with PassionForCinema.com's 1 minute movie contest. However, he learnt the ropes while making his 30 minutes short film *Paroksh* which was selected at SAIFF(NY) and SIFF(Germany).

5. Sikaisal

111 min, Tiwa

Director – Dr. Bobby Sarma Baruah

Producer – Dr. Bobby Sarma Baruah

Dr Bobby Sarma Baruah did her Master of Arts, Postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication and Journalism from Gauhati University. Her debut feature film *Adomya* (Indomitable) was awarded with the best film in the spiritual category at the 13th Dhaka International Film festival. Her second venture, *Sonar Baran Pakhi* (The Golden Wing) is based on folk singer Pratima Barua Pandey of Assam won the “Best audience award” at 15th Dhaka International Film festival and the Grand Jury Award at the 15th Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA) 2017. Her third feature film is *Mishing* (The Apparition) won the Silver

Lotus Award (Rajat Kamal) in 66th National Film Award. As a director, producer, film researcher and scriptwriter, Dr. Bobby Sarma Baruah has a number of short films, documentaries, music videos and TV serials to her credit.

Work-in-Progress Lab Mentor Profiles

PHILIPPA CAMPBELL

Philippa is an Emmy, Golden Globe and PGA award nominee as the producer of Jane Campion's international hit television series *Top of the Lake* and *Top of the Lake: China Girl* starring Elisabeth Moss. One of New Zealand's leading film producers, she has worked with, among others, directors Christine Jeffs, Toa Fraser, Florian Habicht and Jackie Van Beek. Her features have premiered and won awards at major festivals including Cannes, Berlin, Sundance and Toronto and have been distributed in key territories. Philippa consults for International screen agencies and development initiatives including NFDC's Work-in-Progress Lab, the Bell Rock Script Laboratory, the Three Rivers Residency, and Script to Screen. She has several co-production projects in development.

DEREK MALCOLM

Derek Malcolm is a film critic with the Huffington Post, an entirely online American and British news aggregator and blog. It has a massive readership all over the world, including India. Derek has an illustrious background in film journalism and criticism, and he covers festivals all over the world. He is also the Honorary President of International Film Critics Association (FIPRESCI), and President of British Federation of Film Societies. He has served on juries at the three main European Festivals in Berlin, Cannes and Venice, as well as at the Moscow, Istanbul, Goa, Singapore, Chicago, Dinard and Rio Festivals. He was formerly the Director of the London Film Festival during the 1980s and a former governor of the British Film Institute. He had also been the chief film critic at The Guardian for 35 years before moving to the Evening Standard, which Derek left in 2015 to join Huffington Post.

OLIVIA STEWART

Olivia Stewart's films as a producer include Terence Davies' *The Long Day Closes*, *The House Of Mirth*, Mark Herman's *Brassed Off* and Todd Haynes' *Velvet Goldmine*. Her work has now evolved into broader fields and in collaboration with the Binger Film Lab Amsterdam and NFDC India. She was Mentor/Creative Producer for Scott Graham's *Shell*, Ritesh Batra's *The Lunchbox*, Kanu Behl's *Titli*, Kim Farrant's *Strangerland*, Matt Sobel's *Take Me To The River*, Gurvinder Singh's *Chauthi Koot* (Fourth Direction) and Miransha Naik's *Juze*. In 2014, on behalf of the PJLF Arts Fund, she set up the EYE Prize with the EYE Film Museum, Amsterdam to support and promote an artist or filmmaker whose work unites art and film. In 2016, she started The PJLF Three Rivers Writing Residency Programme which offers writer/ directors a five weeks retreat to write and work with expert script advisors, and the chance to present their projects at the Dubai Film Festival. In 2017, she started the PJLF Three Rivers Editing Residency with Rima Das' *Village Rockstars*, which was selected for the Toronto, San Sebastian and Mumbai Film Festivals, where it won the Golden Gateway Award, the Oxfam Best Film for Gender Equality and Young Critics Choice Award. In 2017, Olivia co-authored *Joan Leigh Fermor: Artist and Lover*, a monograph of photographs published in March 2018. She is the Director of Bellrock: Creative Scotland Screenwriting Workshops, which is now in its 2nd year. She has been a jury member for the Locarno, Fajr, Asiatica, San Sebastian Film Festivals, and is a member of AMPAS, BAFTA and EFA.

MARCO MÜLLER

Film critic and historian, director and writer of documentaries about cinema, Marco holds the chair of Production Design at the Academy of Architecture, USI. He started working in 1978 as a festival programmer in Italy (Consultant for Asian cinema at the Venice Film Festival from 1981 to 1995). He created the Ombre Elettriche (Electric Shadows) Festival in Turin (1981). Subsequently he was the director of the festivals of Pesaro (1982-1989), Rotterdam (1989- 1991) and Locarno (1992-2000), Venice Film Festival (2004-2011) and Rome Film Festival (2012-2014). After one year of head-programming festivals in Mainland China (Beijing IFF, Fuzhou Silk Road IFF), he directed until November 2016 the 1st Macau International Film Festival and Awards. He is the Artistic Director of PYIFF – Pingyao Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon International Film Festival, the new Chinese festival initiated by the celebrated director, Jia Zhangke. In his parallel career as a film-producer, Müller has produced and co-produced 11 features that include award-winning movies (Academy Award for Best Foreign Film, top-tier honours in Cannes, Venice and other major festivals) from Russia, Central Asia, Bosnia, China, Turkey, Iran and Brazil. He has also produced short films and documentaries. He has written and edited several books about Indian cinema and filmmakers, programmed Indian films and monographic retrospectives about Indian films and filmmakers for all the festivals he has directed. For his contribution to the international promotion of non-western cinema, he has received the top honours granted to foreign citizens for cultural merits by nine different Asian governments and foundations.

MARIE-PIERRE DUHAMEL

Graduated in Chinese studies and Cinema studies in Paris Universities, and after years spent distributing films in the French noncommercial cultural network, she worked as production manager for public television La Sept/Arte, before joining production company Pathé as a producer. She teaches in film and art schools both in France and abroad, including Paris' Fémis and Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. At Paris national film school Fémis, she is part of the Editing Department teaching staff. She also worked as editor and editing consultant for both fiction and documentary films, mainly from China and South-east Asia. She is currently editing two films from China. As a freelance curator, she was a programmer for Locarno IFF and a member of the selection committee for Venice Mostra del Cinema and Roma IFF (2005-2014). She headed the film festival Cinéma du Réel - Centre Pompidou, 2004-2008. She was part of the team of the Pingyao Film Festival (China) headed by Chinese filmmaker Jia Zhangke. She curates retrospectives, film programs, workshops and tributes in France and abroad, and writes for various cinema publications, while continuing being an editor, editing consultant and film translator

LIZI GELBER

Lizi Gelber was raised in Italy by American parents, and completed her education at Columbia University in NYC. She returned to Rome where she started working in film editing on feature films such as *Once Upon a Time in America* by Sergio Leone and participated in a prolific moment of filmmaking at Cinecittà. She then worked on feature films in Los Angeles for many years. She is grateful to have worked with many talented directors such as Roman Polanski, Michael Cimino, Robert Altman, Paul Schrader and Roland Joffé. She moved to Paris after meeting her French husband on a film in Zimbabwe, and became interested in the challenges of feature length documentaries, which combined her love of drama and storytelling with her concern for social issues. When Jonathan Demme spent a year in Paris shooting a feature, she edited and associate produced his documentary *The Agronomist*. She was also at the origin of *Sacro Gra*, Gianfranco Rosi's documentary which won the Golden Lion in 2014. She has continued to edit both feature films and documentaries, often supervising and helping to find solutions for problematic narratives.

ABOUT FILM BAZAAR

Since its inception in 2007, Film Bazaar focuses on discovering, supporting and showcasing South Asian films and talent in filmmaking, production, and distribution. The Bazaar also facilitates the sales of world cinema in the South Asian region. The 14th edition of NFDC Film Bazaar will be held online from 16-21 January 2021.

ABOUT NFDC

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

Film Bazaar Work-in-Progress Lab Team can be reached at films@filmbazaarindia.com.