

OPEN FRAME 2008

12-20 September

Programme

Friday, 12 September

Auditorium

09:30 am

FILM APPRECIATION WORKSHOP I

Suresh Chabria, FTII

The workshop will draw attention to some aspects of cinematic narration and mise en scene with representative examples from classic and contemporary films. The classical or 'analytic-dramatic' style will be contrasted with modernist strategies of storytelling developed in contemporary cinema. The workshop will conclude with screening-cum-discussion on two documentaries.

***Suresh Chabria** taught Political Science at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, before joining the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, as Professor of Film Appreciation. He was Director of the National Film Archive of India from 1992—1998 during which period he initiated several restorations and programming events showcasing Indian film heritage. He has published several articles on cinema and a book, *Light of Asia: Indian Silent Cinema 1912-1934* that is perhaps the most authoritative publication on the subject. Associated with the Film Society Movement for more than 30 years, he is best known as a teacher and his short courses and workshops on film appreciation are much sought after.*

01:00 pm

BREAK

02:00 pm

BLACK LIKE ME, Renaud Le Van Kim, France, 100', INPUT

This documentary is about racism; about how men, women and children suffer from discrimination in everyday life. In 1959, white American writer J.H. Griffin turned himself into a black man to experience six weeks in the life of black people in the south of United States. Fifty years later, in a rather different environment, two French families decide to change their skin colour. The black family turns white and vice versa. This unique experience opens another window on racism in France.

03:45 pm

PAST TENSE, Karan Singh, 30', PSBT

(Followed by discussion with Filmmaker)

Past Tense explores India's conflict between urban development and heritage conservation. With its 5,000-year history, India is dotted with historical monuments, yet these are increasingly threatened by economic progress. The film explores India's capital Delhi, inhabited for over 1,000 years and home to 16 million people and Hampi, the ruined capital of the powerful Vijaynagar Kingdom.

04:30 pm

ADVERTORIAL: SELLING NEWS OR PRODUCTS?

Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, 30', **PSBT**

The film examines the commercial nature of many media organisations all over the world, and in India in particular, adversely impacting the democratic ideal of objective journalism.

05:30 pm

TV NEWS FOR SALE

NATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

(Panellists to be confirmed)

Barkha Dutt, Fali Nariman, Rajdeep Sardesai

Rajiv Mehrotra, Sucheta Dalal, Suhel Seth

Paranjoy Guha Thakurta (Moderator)

07:30 pm

IT'S A BOY (IT'S GOING TO BE A BOY)

Vani Subramanian, 30', **PSBT**

(Followed by discussion with Filmmaker)

The film travels to Bombay, Delhi, Benares and Shillong, going back in time to reveal how the current crisis of sex ratios had been foretold by those on the forefront of the campaigns against sex determination and pre-selection. It assesses government initiatives, looks beyond the rhetoric, and uses the lens of culture to explore common beliefs about daughters and sons within the family and men and women in society.

- *Best Documentary, Bollywood & Beyond – 5, Indian Film Festival Stuttgart, Germany*
- *International Video Festival, Kerala*

08:15 pm

SOUTH ASIA PREMIERE

CROSSING BORDERS, Bilal Yousef, Israel, 58'

Crossing Borders tells the story of Aisha Sidawi and Umiya Abu-Ras – two Palestinian Israeli women straggling to achieve equality against the men in their lives; taking part in a political activity which was until now an 'only men' arena; wrestling to cross both personal and political boundaries.

- *Best Documentary, In the Spirit of Freedom Category, Jerusalem Film Festival*
- *Best Documentary, The Other Israel Film Festival*

Saturday, 13 September

Auditorium

10:00 am

FILM APPRECIATION WORKSHOP II

Suresh Chabria, FTII

01:00 pm

BREAK

01:45 pm

SPECIAL FOCUS: ISRAEL-PALESTINE

PALESTINE FOR BEGINNERS, Linda Bevis & Edward Mast, USA, 72'

A fast-moving guide to the roots of conflict, key historical and current events, and the characters and motivations behind the ongoing crisis.

03:00 pm

SOUTH ASIA PREMIERE

PEACE, PROPAGANDA & THE PROMISED LAND

Bathsheba Ratzkoff & Sut Jhally, USA, 80'

The film provides a striking comparison of US and international media coverage of the crisis in the Middle East, zeroing in on how structural distortions in US coverage have reinforced false perceptions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This pivotal documentary exposes how the foreign policy interests of American political elites—oil, and a need to have a secure military base in the region, among others—work in combination with Israeli public relations strategies to exercise a powerful influence over how news from the region is reported.

- *Sixth Seattle Arab & Iranian Film Festival, Seattle*
- *Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival, Denmark*
- *Tempo Documentary Film Festival, Sweden*

04:30 pm

SOUTH ASIA PREMIERE

AT THE GREEN LINE, Jesse Atlas, USA, 52'

Military service in Israel is mandatory. The act of refusal may be considered treason by certain members of Israeli society who see no other alternative to protecting their families and their country. A passionate and raw documentary about Israeli conscientious objectors and active Israeli soldiers struggling to reconcile their roles as occupiers, as they wrestle with the effectiveness and personal morality of their choices.

- *Best Film, Conflict and Resolution, Hamptons International Film Festival*
- *Best Doc, Doxa Documentary Film Festival*
- *Toronto Jewish Film Festival*
- *Boston Jewish Film Festival*

05:30 pm

LEILA KHALED HIJACKER, Lina Makboul, Sweden, 58'

This film about a Palestinian woman hijacker challenges our assumptions about those who resort to violent means in response to oppression and gives us access to the politics of one of the most troubled regions of the twenty first century.

- Grand Jury Award, Tri Continental Film Festival, India.
- Best Film Award, Nöjesguiden Gothenburg, Sweden
- Winner, Lena Hellman Memorial Fund, Tempo Documentary Festival, Sweden
- Honorable Mention, Spectrum Award, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, USA

06:30 pm

DIVIDED COLOURS OF A NATION, Umesh Aggarwal, 60', India, **PSBT**

One of the biggest challenges India faces today is to create an equitable society - the solutions are not easy to find. Reservation for backward castes is currently the most contentious issue. Educated young people in urban India are out on streets, up in arms, against any policy that reserves seats in educational institutes on the basis of caste. Through this miasma of caste based reservation, the film also looks at the education system in India.

07:30 pm

**REVISITING CASTE RESERVATION
DISCUSSION FORUM**

(Panellists to be confirmed)

**Dipankar Gupta, P.V. Indirasen
Sukhdeo Thorat, Umesh Aggarwal
Gurpreet Mahajan (Moderator)**

Sunday, 14 September

Auditorium

10:00 am

SOUTH ASIA PREMIERE

RED WITHOUT BLUE, Brooke Sebold, Benita Sills & Todd Sills, USA, 74'

An honest portrayal of a family in turmoil, the film follows a pair of identical twins as one transitions from male to female. Captured over a period of three years, it documents the twins and their parents, examining the Farley's struggle to redefine their family. Through candid and extensive interviews with the twins and their family, it recounts these troubled times, interweaving the twins' difficult past with their efforts to find themselves in the present.

- Audience Award-Best Documentary Feature, Slamdance Film Festival
- Best Documentary Feature & The Michael J. Burg Documentary Jury Award: Frameline: The San Francisco Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
- Best Documentary Feature, Athens International Film And Video Festival,
- Festival Directors Award, Silverlake Film Festival

11:15 am

SEARCHING 4 SANDEEP, Poppy Stockell, Australia, 55', **INPUT**

Despite living in one of the gay capitals of the world, 28 year old Sydneysider Poppy Stockell is forced online in her search for love. When she meets 31-year-old Anglo-Indian Sandeep Viridi, she thinks she's found the one. Unfortunately, Sandeep lives at home in the British Midlands with her conservative Sikh parents and three younger sisters. Oh, and she's not out to any of them. The film uses raw, incredibly frank footage, to chart Poppy and Sandeep's often funny, always tumultuous relationship over two years and three continents.

- Highest Audience Vote, Sydney Film Festival
- Hot Docs, 2008
- BFI London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

12:10 pm

SNEAK PREVIEW

ASK NOT, Johnny Symons, USA, 73'

A rare and compelling exploration of the effects of the US military's 'don't ask don't tell' policy, which forces American gay and lesbian service members to deny their sexuality. The documentary exposes the tangled political battles that led to the discriminatory law and weaves together the experiences of young charismatic veterans and community organisers using personal activism to create change. As it uncovers the full impact and hidden costs of the policy, the film provokes thoughtful dialogue about the merits of banning those who are honest about their identities from serving their country.

01:30 pm

BREAK

02:00 pm

A SECRET GENOCIDE, Alexandre Dereims, France, 52'

For 60 years, in the midst of the hostile South Burman jungle, the Karen people have fought a desperate war for survival. They are an ethnic minority in a country which does not tolerate difference; they also live amidst valuable ruby mines and teak forests.

- Red Cross Grand Prix, Monte Carlo
- Special Jury Prize, FIGRA
- Official Selection, FIPA
- Prost America Prize, SIFF, Seattle

03:00 pm

A LESSON OF BELORUSIAN, Miroslaw Dembiński
Belorus, 53'

After the Soviet Union collapsed, Belorus became an independent country. However, in 1995, Lukashenka comes to power. Democracy and freedom come to an end. Also the Lyceum is labelled a banned institution. The Presidential elections, for which Lukashenka changed the Constitution in order to be elected for a third term, become the culminating point of the film. Despite the fear of repression, thousands of people enter the streets. In the main square of Minsk, the Lyceum pupils join forces to build a tent city, which is then brutally pacified by militia. Hundreds of people end up in prison. However, the Lyceum pupils do not give up, they deeply believe that one day Belorus will be a free country.

- Best East European Documentary, International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film, Germany
- Best Film, MovieSquad DOC U! IDFA, Amsterdam
- Jury Mention, Media Festival, Poland
- Václav Havel Special Award, International Human Rights Film Festival, Prague

04:00 pm

TO CATCH THE WIND, Vasudha Joshi, 30', **PSBT**
(Followed by discussion with Filmmaker)

As a musician points out, 'People have always travelled, and so has music'. It is not strange therefore to encounter the notes of American blues music across the folk traditions of India, be it Phulbani, Jharkhand, Assam or Kerala. This film seeks to explore these connections and hints at the deep-rooted links between musical traditions which have thrived on opposite ends of the globe. The argument is developed solely through music, relying only sparsely on the words of practising musicians who have felt the impact of these overlaps and continue to be dazzled by them.

04:45 pm

BISHAR BLUES, Amitabh Chakraborty, India, 80'

Bengali Fakirs are Islamic people who live in Bengal. In their practice of Islam they have extended its scope over the complex multiplicities of their own land. The Fakirs believe that to know oneself is to know God. There is no higher entity than Man – they search for Allah in Man. Through the practice of this indigenous form of Islam, called Marfat, they keep Islam open-ended. Marfat is passed on in the oral tradition through songs. Bishar Blues undertakes a journey to

understand Marfat through encounters with various Fakirs and their songs.

- *Golden Lotus Award, Best Non-Feature Film, 54th National Awards*
- *Best Audiography and Best Editing, 54th National Awards*
- *World Premiere, IDFA, Amsterdam*

06:15 pm

ISHQ: DASTAN-E-SUFI, Murad Ali, 30', PSBT

Sufism is the spiritual quest, the heart of Islam. It is founded on Ishaq, the love between the saints and God, the Pir and his disciple – an excessive love that finds no boundaries. This film explores the growth of this movement from the twelfth century to the present day, and why it holds popular appeal today as a holistic way to living.

07:00 pm

**CONTEMPORARY SUFISM
DISCUSSION FORUM**

(Panellists to be confirmed)

**Madan Gopal Singh, Renuka Narayan
Syed Muzaffar Ali, Syed Sadiq Sarvar Hussein
Nizami, Syed Salman Chishty, Murad Ali (Moderator)**

08:00 pm

**AUTUMN IN THE HIMALAYAS, Malgorzata Skiba, 60',
PSBT**

The story of a group of elderly Buddhist nuns from Ladakh (Western Tibet, part of India) and their dream nunnery. The nuns represent the last generation of unordained and uneducated women in robes, who lived silently in isolation of high mountains, neglected by religious and social system for centuries.

- *48th Krakow Film Festival, Krakow, Poland*
- *ECOFILMS International Films, Visual Arts Festival, Rhodes, Greece*

Monday, 15 September

Auditorium

10:00 am

SOUTH ASIA PREMIERE WOMAN SEE LOT OF THINGS, Meira Asher Netherlands, 65'

The film portrays the lives of three women ex-child combatants. They participated in the decade-long Civil Wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia. The film challenges methods of production and visual aesthetics. It contains unique sound work, hand-drawn animation, and live-action, stressing the extensive 'story-telling' skills of the three women.

- *Best Documentary, Yerevan International Film Festival*
- *Prix camera au Poing (camera at the ready) RIDM, Montreal*
- *Winner TV3 Catalunya International Award, Barcelona*

11:15 am

TO SEE IF I AM SMILING, Tamar Yarom, Israel, 59', INPUT

Israel is the only country in the world where 18-year-old girls are drafted for compulsory military service. In the film, some of them describe their experiences during their two years in the army.

- *Special Documentary Jury Prize, Sarasota Film Festival*
- *Human Rights Watch Film Festival, New York*

12:15 pm

SOUTH ASIA PREMIERE KICK LIKE A GIRL, Jenny Mackenzie, USA, 25'

The story of what happens when 'The Mighty Cheetahs', an undefeated all-girls soccer team, competes in the boys division. With humour and candour this award winning documentary hits home to all of the boy-girl issues and explores what 'Kick Like A Girl' really means on and off the playing field.

- *Best Documentary, 2008 Danville International Children's Film Festival*
- *Audience Award, Best Children's Short, 2008 Newport International Film Festival*
- *Utah Short Film of the Year, Utah Arts Festival, Salt Lake Film Center*
- *Official Selection, AFI Silverdocs*
- *Official Selection, Santa Barbara International Film Festival*

12:45 pm

BREAK

01:30 pm

THE LAST ATOMIC BOMB, Robert Richter, USA, 92'

Sakue Shimohira, age ten and hiding in a shelter when the bomb dropped on Nagasaki, survived to wage a personal campaign to abolish nuclear weapons. A tragic and inspirational figure, she has

overcome death of all members of her family, disease and destruction to struggle for a more peaceful world.

- Best Documentary, San Diego Asian Film Festival
- Audience Award, Best Documentary, Sao Paulo International Film Festival
- Press Award, Best Documentary, Goais (Brazil) International Film Festival

03:00 pm

INDIA PREMIERE

TERROR IN MOSCOW, Dan Reed, France-UK, 60'

In October 2002, 41 Chechen terrorists took more than 700 people hostage in a Moscow theatre, demanding an end to Russia's war against their homeland. This gut-wrenching documentary takes you through the endless hours of waiting, a seemingly miraculous rescue operation, and the ultimate tragedy, that could have been avoided had adequate medical personnel been on the scene after the stalemate ended.

- Best Documentary on a Contemporary Issue, Grierson Awards
- Shortlisted for International Emmy Awards
- Nominated for BAFTA, Current Affairs

04:00 pm

SOUTH ASIA PREMIERE

CONTEMPT OF CONSCIENCE, Joe Jenkins, UK, 52'

Filmed over five years, "Contempt of Conscience" follows the UK's Peace Tax Seven as they fight for a modern method of conscientious objection, revealing that we are all unwitting financial conscripts of war...

05:00 pm

CROSSING THE LINES: KASHMIR, PAKISTAN, INDIA - A STORY OF PEOPLE AT WAR OVER BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES, Pervez Hoodboy & Zia Mian, Pakistan, 45'

After four wars, Kashmiris and their land are divided between Pakistan and India, the source of recurring crises. Many feel that the next war may be a nuclear war. In this tragedy, each side tells the story of the injustice and violence of the other, and feels only the suffering of their own. This path-breaking independent documentary film, challenges us to look at Kashmir with new eyes and to hope for a new way forward.

- South Asia Human Rights Film Festival, New York
- Kara Film Festival, Pakistan
- Pakistani Film, Media and Arts Festival, Glasgow
- Bite the Mango Film Festival, UK National Museum of Photography, Film & Television
- Himalaya Film Festival, Amsterdam

05:45 pm

WAITING, Atul Gupta & Shabnam Ara, India, 40'

A story of missing people, boys and men who were picked up by security forces and then simply disappeared in Kashmir. Since the

men are missing, not declared dead, their wives are not widows but 'half widows.' The 'half widows' need extraordinary courage to continue living. Personally, they live with the memories of their love. They face a society which treats them as unattached property as it treats most single women in India. And all this in a war zone where anybody could get picked up or shot by an Indian security person or by any one of the militants roaming in the valley.

- *Best First Film, MIFF*
- *Gold Remi for Short Documentary, Worldfest Independent Film Festival, Houston*
- *Best Documentary, Signs, John Abraham National Awards*

06:30 pm

ATHWAAS – THE JOURNEY, Ashima Kaul, 30', PSBT

In 2001, a few Kashmiri women from diverse backgrounds and who had experienced the Kashmir conflict differently, came together to listen to each other. They named themselves Athwaas, a Kashmiri word meaning a handshake. The core group of Athwaas later traveled to different parts of the Kashmir Valley and camps of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community in Jammu, listening to the stories of pain, suffering and resilience of women divided across multiple faultlines. The film traces the emotional and physical journey of each woman in Athwaas beginning from the personal narrative of the director when she first visited the Valley to the time Athwaas was formed.

07:15 pm

**DIALOGUING PEACE IN KASHMIR
DISCUSSION FORUM**

(Panellists to be confirmed)

**Ashima Kaul, Gurmeet Kaur
Malik Sajad, Meenakshi Gopinath
Navnita Behera Chadha
Uma Chakravarti (Moderator)**

08:15 pm

**OPERATION HOMECOMING, Richard E. Robbins, USA
52', INPUT**

The documentary explores first hand accounts of American troops through their written words, and offers a profound window into the human side of the war being fought in Iraq. Interviews and dramatic readings transform selections from this collection of writing into a deep examination of the experiences of the men and women who are serving in America's armed forces.. Each story displays an honesty and intensity that is rarely seen in explorations of conflict.

Tuesday, 16 September

Auditorium

10:00 am

INDIA PREMIERE

THREE TIMES DIVORCED, Ibtisam Mara'ana, Israel, 75'

Khitam, a Gaza-born Palestinian woman, was married off in an arranged match to an Israeli Palestinian, followed him to Israel and bore six children. When her husband divorced her - in absentia - in the Sharia Muslim court and gained custody of the children, Khitam was left with nothing. She cannot contact her children, has no property and no citizenship. Now she is out on a dual battle – to gain citizenship and reunite with her children.

- *FIPA Silver Special Prize, Biarritz, France*
- *Best Documentary, DocAviv International Film Festival, Israel*
- *Special Jury Prize, Sole e Luna Doc Festival, Italy*

11:15 am

MINDSTORM, Eva Larsson, Sweden, 29', **INPUT**

Do you think you have full control over your brain and your senses? How conscious are you of your behaviour and why you do certain things? Host Henrik Fexeus introduces examples of how easily we are manipulated by our surroundings. By adjusting the packaging of items in a shop, he makes everyone buy the same product and highlights the mechanisms that govern the choices we make. He also points out the rhetoric used by politicians to convince us of one point of view or another and the body language that says more than we can imagine.

11:45 am

THE LOST GENERATION, Sharmeen Obaid, UK-Syria-Jordan, 50'

In the past five years more than four million Iraqis – 20 per cent of the entire population – have been driven from their homes as a result of the war and sectarian bloodshed. The film travels to Syria and Jordan to investigate the plight of Iraqi refugees. These are the very people on whom the new, democratic Iraq was to be built – the professional middle classes – nearly half of whom now live as desperate refugees, driven out by the violence and civil breakdown.

12:45 pm

A LIFE LESS ORDINARY, Raabiya Jayaram, 30', **PSBT**
(Followed by discussion with Filmmaker)

A film on children living with HIV in India. It looks at the lives of three children who talk openly about their life and how the HIV virus affects it. It also attempts to bring in the larger perspective of the status of HIV programmes in the country, through the voices of practitioners who are working with HIV positive children.

01:30 pm

BREAK

02:15 pm

NEE YAAR – WHO ARE YOU?, R.V. Ramani, 60', **PSBT**
(Followed by discussion with Filmmaker)

A documentary on the Tamil writer Sundara Ramaswamy's struggle, to evolve a modern literature in a society stuck with caste identities, traditional hypocrisy and language chauvinism.

03:30 pm

I'M NOT THE INDIAN YOU HAD IN MIND, Thomas King, Canada, 05', **INPUT**

This short film challenges the stereotypical portrayal of First Nations peoples in the media. Thomas King narrates this spoken-word short that offers an insight into how First Nations people today are changing old ideas and empowering themselves in the greater community. The actors, in typical urban attire are juxtaposed against the loincloth-wearing, tomahawk wielding Natives of yesterday's spaghetti westerns. Through the use of stock footage, language, and common artifacts the viewer is encouraged to examine the profound role that these one dimensional media representations have played in shaping their perspectives of an entire group of people. The man living next door, the woman working in the next cubicle, or the stoic wood carving in front of the cigar store – which Indian did you have in mind?

- Honorable Mention Fargo Film Festival
- 32nd Annual American Indian Film Festival

03:45 pm

SCAVENGING DREAMS, Jasmine K. Roy & Avinash Roy, 30', **PSBT**
(Followed by discussion with Filmmaker)

The film takes a look at the lives of rag pickers and waste dealers in Delhi. It's a world which thrives on the waste that the city generates. This is big business and it largely depends on the thousands of children working as rag pickers. The film is about them and their dreams and the dreams of a city somewhere gone haywire.

- 9th Planet in Focus International Environmental Film & Video Festival, Toronto.
- International Video Festival, Kerala
- Jeevika South Asia Documentary Festival

04:30 pm

APNA ALOO BAZAAR BECHA, Pankaj H. Gupta, 30', **PSBT**

Few mountain communities, however remote, remain untouched by globalisation. Jardhar gaon, a typical village of middle Himalaya in the Indian province of Garhwal, led an isolated, egalitarian existence until just 30 years ago, living off an agro-pastoral system that sustained human life and the environment for over six centuries. Today, it is in the middle of a rapid social and environmental transformation. This short documentary, based entirely on local perspectives, reflects on this process of change – what triggers the shift to modernisation and what impacts it has on the personal, social and environmental spaces.

- Golden Dear Award, 1st Prize Short Length Film, 8th Ecofilms Festival, Rodos, Greece
- Jeevika South Asia Documentary Festival

05:00 pm

CHILIKA BANK\$ - STORIES FROM INDIA'S LARGEST COASTAL LAKE - 1970-2007, Akanksha Joshi, 60', PSBT

A film on one of Asia's largest brackish water lakes, Chilika. The story tells of the time when the sun's rays touch the leaves of the Banyan tree standing on the banks Chilika. That is the time, the fisherfolks believe, to be of the tree's awakening. The tree begins to narrate stories – of the lake, of her fishers and of the changing relationship of people with nature. In the canvass of a story spread over four decades each character argues fervently in his own favour – the fishermen, the exporters, the politicians and the prawn mafia. The only one who speaks for the lake is the Banyan. He waits for the time when someone may hear his tale and feel his love for the lake that has given her all to her people.

➤ Jeevika South Asia Documentary Festival

06:15 pm

VANISHING LOCAL IN THE GLOBAL DISCUSSION FORUM

(Panellists to be confirmed)

**Aijaz Ahmed, Akanksha Joshi, Pankaj H. Gupta
Surjit S. Bhalla, Paranjoy Guha Thakurta (Moderator)**

07:30 pm

SOUTH ASIA PREMIERE

NO END IN SIGHT, Charles Ferguson, USA, 102'

The first film of its kind to chronicle the reasons behind Iraq's descent into guerilla war, warlord rule, criminality and anarchy, No End in Sight is a jaw-dropping, insiders' tale of wholesale incompetence, recklessness and venality. Based on over 200 hours of footage, the film provides a candid retelling of the events following the fall of Baghdad in 2003. How did a group of men with little or no military experience, knowledge of the Arab world or personal experience in Iraq come to make such flagrantly debilitating decisions?

- Best Documentary, NY Film Critics Circle
- Best Documentary, LA Film Critics
- Best Documentary, Toronto Film Critics Association
- Academy Award Nominee, Best Documentary

Wednesday, 17 September

Auditorium

10:00 am

SOUTH ASIA PREMIERE

BEAUTY MARK, Diane Israel, Kathleen Man & Carla Precht, USA, 75'

This courageous film examines popular culture's toxic emphasis on weight and looks through the eyes of Boulder-based psychotherapist and former world-class triathlete Diane Israel – who tells her own story while interviewing other champion athletes, body builders, fashion models and inner-city teens about their experiences relating to self-image.

- *Finalist, Moondance International Film Festival*
- *Official Selection, Boulder International Film Festival*
- *Official Selection, Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival*

11:15 am

OVER THE HILL, Sunny Bergman, Netherlands, 60',
INPUT

A unique look at the fashion and cosmetics industries and their uncanny powers of persuasion. Rather than making women feel better about themselves, they actually make them feel worse. Women are vulnerable to a seductive and corrupting business as they struggle to achieve a beauty ideal that doesn't exist. Over the Hill is a powerful analysis of an age in which imperative forces of the market economy increasingly worm their way into our bodies and psyche.

- *Award of the Mecklenburgische Versicherungsgruppe 2007*
- *Findling Award, State Association of Film Communication*
- *NIPKOW Award, Japan*

12:15 pm

NAKED ON THE INSIDE, Kim Farrant, Australia, 55',
INPUT

Five extraordinary people from around the world reveal their bodies and share their secrets in a unique documentary that explores our obsession with body and self-image. In Taiwan, a female Sunday school teacher lives a covert life as a man. In Queensland, Australia, a mother of two fights the breast cancer she feels she unconsciously created by hiding an affair from her husband. In San Francisco, a supermodel obsesses to achieve bodily perfection, while a 350-pound fat activist comes out big loud and proud. And in the UK, a critically acclaimed dancer with no legs falls head over heels in love for the very first time. It's ultimately a mediation on the soul. Bold humorous, heartfelt and quite unlike anything you've seen before.

- *Zurich Film Festival*
- *Sydney Film Festival*
- *Wisconsin Film Festival*

01:15 pm

BREAK

02:00 pm

THE LIGHTNING TESTIMONIES, Amar Kanwar, India, 113'

The film reflects upon a history of conflict in the Indian subcontinent through experiences of sexual violence. As the film explores this violence, there emerge multiple submerged narratives, sometimes in people, images and memories, and at other times in objects from nature and everyday life that stand as silent but surviving witnesses. In all narratives the body becomes central - as a site for honour, hatred and humiliation and also for dignity and protest.

04:00 pm

TWO LIVES, Samina Mishra, 30', **PSBT**

Smriti and Rupa live an hour away from each other but the only thing their worlds seem to have in common is that they are both mothers. Smriti is a stay at home mom, living in a posh South Delhi colony and Rupa is a domestic worker living in a basti in Gurgaon. Both are pregnant and as they wait for their babies to be born, they reflect on what it means to be a mother. As new worlds open up for women and old roles persist, the film looks at how women enact motherhood in our times.

➤ *Women's Film Festival, Ahmedabad*

04:30 pm

FOUR WOMEN AND A ROOM, Ambarien Al Qadar, 42', **PSBT**

Four Women and a Room is a film about the fragmented associations of four women with the Labour Room. Late into pregnancy, Mili is confounded with the unknown. Having gone through endless rituals of matchmaking, Latika is wondering about her desire to be a biological mother. The dreamscape of the filmmaker throws up images and associations of a hospital visited sometime back and reminds her of meeting the fourth woman; a fictitious character; who might have undergone a sex selective abortion. The film raises critical questions about debates around the falling sex ratios and biological motherhood while making a strong case for the agency of women.

05:15 pm

VIEW FROM A GRAIN OF SAND, Meena Nanji, USA, 82'

Shot in the sprawling refugee camps of Pakistan and the war-torn city of Kabul, three remarkable Afghan women - a doctor, a teacher, and rights activist - lead us through the maze of Afghanistan's complex history, informing this examination of how international interventions, war and the rise of political Islam have stripped Afghan women of their rights over the last thirty years. Combining verité footage, interviews and rare archival material, the film is a harrowing, thought-provoking, yet intimate portrait of a still divided and brutalised nation, that provides illuminating context for Afghanistan's current situation, and the ongoing battle women still face to gain basic human rights.

- *Silver Conch, International Documentary Feature, MIFF*
- *Best Documentary, Canada International Film Festival*
- *Audience Award, Best Feature, Seattle South Asian Festival*

07:00 pm

**WOMEN, CONFLICT AND THE POLITICS OF
FILMMAKING
COLLOQUIUM**

(Panellists to be confirmed)

**Amar Kanwar, Ambarien Al Qadar, Nandita Das
Pankaj Rishi Kumar, Samina Mishra
Gopa Sabharwal (Moderator)**

08:00 pm

THE SKY BELOW, Sarah Singh, India, 75'

The Sky Below explores the creation of Pakistan and the Indo-Pak relationship with an emphasis on lesser-known facts surrounding the 1947 event. From Kutch to Kashmir and Karachi to the Khyber Pass, from political, social, cultural, and historical perspectives, a portrait of the region and the lingering political divide emerges. Featuring some of South Asia's most dynamic voices across the Northwest of the Subcontinent.

- *Best Debut Film, Film South Asia*
- *Nominated for Social Justice Award, Santa Barbara International Film Festival*
- *Spinning Wheel Film Festival*
- *Kara Film Festival*

Thursday, 18 September

Auditorium

10:00 am

NEWS WARS WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE NEWS,
Stephen Talbot, USA, 90', **INPUT**

Third in the four-part Frontline series News War, a critical examination of the US news media, the film focuses on the economic pressures on television news divisions and daily newspapers, as well as the challenges and opportunities posed by the Internet. The film reviews the decline in TV news standards and confronts the president of ABC News with questions about his current programming. It goes on to investigate the promise and the shortcomings of news on the Web and goes inside the embattled newsroom of the Los Angeles Times, one of the few US newspapers still covering major national and international stories.

11:30 am

SOUTH ASIA PREMIERE
TARGETS: REPORTERS IN IRAQ, Maziar Bahari,
Canada, 47'

More journalists have already died in Iraq than were killed in the entire Vietnam War. Never before have journalists themselves become such a major target in a conflict. Few remain there and fewer still venture outside the Green Zone or work unembedded. Award-winning Iranian-Canadian filmmaker and war correspondent Maziar Bahari follows two journalists and their heart-stopping stories of covering the war in Iraq.

12:20 pm

LISTEN LITTLE MAN, Tangella Madhavi, 30', **PSBT**
(Followed by discussion with Filmmaker)

The film explores the tradition of ragging through the experiences of those students who have protested against it. What unfolds is a connection between ragging and larger forms of violence in society, emerging from following orders without questioning them.

01:15 pm

BREAK

02:00 pm

INDIA PREMIERE
STONE SILENCE, Krzysztof Kopczynski, Poland, 51'

This gritty documentary investigates the 2005 incident in which a 29-year-old Afghan woman named Amina was stoned to death for the crime of adultery.

- 'Sky is the Limit' Production Award, The Chicago Doc
- Prize of the Ecumenical Jury, DOK Leipzig
- Special Mention Award, Docudays.ua
- Honorary Diploma, 48th Cracow Film Festival

03:00 pm

SOUTH ASIA PREMIERE
MY COUNTRY, MY COUNTRY, Laura Poitras, USA, 90'

An extraordinarily intimate portrait of Iraqis living under US occupation. Dr Riyadh, an Iraqi medical doctor – an outspoken critic of the occupation and equally passionate about the need to establish democracy in Iraq, arguing that Sunni participation in the 2005 elections is essential. Yet all around him, he sees only chaos, as his waiting room fills each day with patients suffering the physical and mental effects of ever-increasing violence. The film follows the agonising predicament and gradual descent of one man caught in the tragic contradictions of the US occupation of Iraq and its project to spread democracy in the Middle East.

- *Inspiration Award, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival*
- *Best Long Documentary, Flahertiana Film Festival, Russia*
- *Human Rights Award, Durban International Film Festival*
- *Henry Hampton Award, Council on Foundations Film & Video Festival*
- *Official Selection, Berlin International Film Festival*

04:45 pm

WATER WARRIORS, Nutan Manmohan, 60', **PSBT**
(Followed by discussion with Filmmaker)

'Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you don't have water Don't sit this one out. Do something.' - Carl Sagan. This two-part film series profiles 'water warriors' who have launched a series of innovations to combat water stress.

06:00 pm

PEACE IS EVERY STEP: MEDITATION IN ACTION
The Life & Work of Thich Nhat Hanh, Gaetano Kazuo Maida, USA, 52'

Narrated by Ben Kingsley, this is the classic film profile of renowned Vietnamese Buddhist teacher, author, activist and Nobel Peace Prize-nominee Thich Nhat Hanh. The film includes rare archival footage from Vietnam detailing the work of his School of Youth for Social Service in the 1960s.

07:00 pm

PEACE IS EVERY STEP
DISCUSSION FORUM
(Panellists to be confirmed)

Arun Shourie, Madhu Trehan
Shantum Seth, Rajiv Mehrotra (Moderator)

07:45 pm

INDIA PREMIERE
LONG NIGHT'S JOURNEY INTO DAY, Deborah Hoffmann & Frances Reid, USA, 94'

Long Night's Journey into Day reveals a South Africa trying to forge a lasting peace after 40 years of the most notorious system of racial segregation. The documentary studies South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission set up by the post-apartheid, democratic government to consider amnesty for perpetrators of crimes committed under apartheid's reign. It tracks the human drama of just a handful of the 10,000 requests for amnesty that came before the TRC. In exchange for absolute truth about their activities and human

rights abuses, perpetrators could earn amnesty for the crimes they committed before Apartheid collapsed in 1994.

- *Grand Jury Award, Sundance*
- *Peace Film Prize & Berliner Zeitung Reader's Jury Prize, Berlin Film Festival*
- *Golden Spire Award, San Francisco International Film Festival*
- *Critics' Prize For Best International Documentary, Hot Docs*
- *In The Spirit Of Freedom Award, Jerusalem Film Festival*
- *Audience Award For Best Documentary & Documentary Jury Award, Newport International Film Festival*
- *International Premier Award, One World Broadcasting Trust*

INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS ON ASPECTS OF FILMMAKING

16-20 September 2008

(By prior registration only)

Venue: Basement Theatre

Some of the most vital elements in creating powerful and engaging films are the most basic. These intensive Workshops aim to bring to the participants some of the best and most experienced names in documentary filmmaking to revisit the essential aspects of filmmaking relating to production, content, camera, editing and sound. Each of these stages is crucial to the process of creating a film. The interactive Workshops will provide to filmmakers the space and platform to learn from specialists from the field and engage in sharing of ideas and knowledge. Through dialogue and conversations, the Workshops will help broaden the participants' understanding of filmmaking and its processes and nuance the skills and techniques employed in their work.

Schedule

(Subject to change)

Tuesday, 16 September

ASPECTS OF FILMMAKING I

Thinking through Form: Documentary Filmmaking by Amar Kanwar

A workshop about analysing the image and thinking through the dilemmas of visual languages and form while making documentaries and films.

Emerging from the Indian subcontinent, Amar Kanwar's films are complex, contemporary narratives that connect intimate personal spheres of existence to larger social political processes. Finding a contextual relationship with diverse audiences, Kanwar's work maps a journey of exploration revealing our relationship with the politics of power, violence, sexuality and justice. Amar Kanwar is the recipient of the 1st Edvard Munch Award for Contemporary Art from Norway, an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts, Maine College of Art, USA, the MacArthur Fellowship in India, the Golden Gate Award (San Francisco International Film Festival); Golden Conch (Mumbai International Film Festival); The First Prize (Torino International Film Festival, Italy); Jury's Award (Film South Asia, Nepal), Grand Prix at EnviroFilm, Slovak Republic and the Golden Tree at the 1st National Environment and Wildlife Film Festival, Delhi. His films are screened in several film festivals and museums like the Museum of Modern Art, New York, National Museum in Oslo, Norway, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. He has also participated in Documenta 11 (2002) and Documenta 12 (2007), Kassel, Germany.

Wednesday, 17 September

ASPECTS OF FILMMAKING II

Telling Stories through the Documentary by Shohini Ghosh & Sabeena Gadihoke, James Beveridge Media Resource Centre, AJK MCRC

The Workshop is designed as a refresher module for existing practitioners of non-fiction. The sessions hope to address debates around issues of representation, ethics and the role of subjectivity within documentary practice.

Shohini Ghosh is Zakir Hussain Professor at the AJK Mass Communication Research Centre. She has been Visiting Associate Professor at the Department of Communication, Cornell University, USA (1990-1996); Globalisation-McArthur Fellow at the University of Chicago (2001), Fellow at the Gender, Sexuality and Law

Research Group of the Law Department at Keele University, UK. Ghosh's first independent film *Tales of the Night Fairies* (2002) is about the sex workers of Calcutta mobilising to fight for their rights. A major part of her current work involves theoretical interventions in public debates around issues of sexuality, speech and censorship. Ghosh works on popular culture and the media for both academic journals and the popular press.

Sabeena Gadihoke teaches Video and Television Production at the Mass Communication Research Centre at Jamia University in New Delhi. She is also an independent documentary filmmaker and cameraperson. Her film *Three Women and a Camera* won awards at the Film South Asia at Kathmandu (1999) and at the Mumbai International Film Festival (2000). She was a Fulbright Fellow during 1995-6 and has received research grants from India Foundation for the Arts, Bangalore, the Charles Wallace Trust and the Majlis Foundation for her research on photography. Her book *Camera Chronicles of Homai Vyrawalla* (Mapin/Parzor Foundation) on India's first woman photo-journalist was published in 2006.

Thursday, 18 September

ASPECTS OF FILMMAKING III

On Style in Documentary Cinematography...by Ranjan Palit

What is style when you're shooting a slice of life? When things are beyond your control, when there are no lights for you to set-up, or when you don't have the option of doing a re-take if things go wrong... do you even consciously give a thought to the idea of style?

Ranjan Palit has shot nearly a 100 documentaries, won the National Award for Best Cinematography, twice, and worked with the best filmmakers in the country. Ranjan is a cinematographer who has also directed and co-directed several documentary films including 'Follow the Rainbow' for Channel 4. His film 'Voices from Baliapal' won the National Award in 1989, the Golden Conch (1990) and the City of Freiburg Award (1991). 'The Magic Mystic Marketplace', won the Golden Conch (1996) and the UNESCO Prize (1997). He has also shot 7 feature length fiction films, including *Dreaming Lhasa*, produced by Richard Gere and Sir Jeremy Thomas. He has worked for the BBC and UNICEF.

Friday, 19 September

ASPECTS OF FILMMAKING IV

Essentials and Techniques of Sound Recording by Uma Shankar

The Workshop aims at sensitising the participants to the audio aspects of a film. Very often the audio element is given least attention while planning a film shoot or production, despite its vital role in the process. Planning the audio is a prerequisite to a good film.

Uma Shankar started his career as a journalist with the Indian Express in 1976 where he wrote the science column and edited the arts page on a regular basis. He came to Delhi in 1977 and worked as script writer for science films with Pradip Krishen. When he forayed into films, he decided to work on Sound and Audio, an interest for many years. He has worked on a number of films since and is currently Senior Research Fellow with the Department of Culture and is researching Ancient Acoustics. He is also associated with the Archive for Music.

Saturday, 20 September

ASPECTS OF FILMMAKING V

Editing by Rajesh Parmar

How is the film made? What gives it a shape, a form and a body that is uniquely it's own? The Workshop will focus on constructing a film and creating its narrative – of putting together images to tell a certain story.

Rajesh Parmar graduated from FTII in 1984 with a specialisation in Editing. A two-time National Award winner, he has edited a whole range of short films and documentaries. He is passionate about cinema and is Visiting Faculty at the Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute and Whistling Woods International.

TERRORISM OF 'PEACE'
An Installation by Malik Sajad

Stein Auditorium Foyer, India Habitat Centre

In the name of peace, innocent people are being tortured. Lakhs have been killed and thousands still disappeared. What seems as the nest of the peace bird from a distance, is actually a bunch of barbed wire.

The art work Terrorism of 'Peace' is what I have seen all my life... Malik Sajad

Malik Sajad is a student at the Institute of Music and Fine Arts in Kashmir. Since 2003, he has served as the Editorial Cartoonist at Greater Kashmir, an English language news publication and at Kashmir Uzma, an Urdu language newspaper. In addition, Sajad has created digital art and short animation for television programs and has designed cover art for Combat Law, an international human rights magazine. His work is regularly shown in international exhibitions and his first graphic novel is currently under publication. Sajad's other interests include photography, painting, sculpture, animation and short film.

THE VOICE WITHIN: COURAGE, STRIFE & AWAKENING
An Installation by Akanksha Joshi

Stein Auditorium Foyer, India Habitat Centre

When conflicts take away our homes or destroy our sense of belonging: a need for a home within arises. This need, sometimes, transforms into the voice of courage that we see shining through the eyes of the survivors of the Gujarat carnage. The voice of awakening that we hear in the call of the people of Narmada. Or the silent voice of strife that lies resting on the dark streets of Old Delhi – homeless and yearning. 'The Voice Within' is a glimpse of people across India in search of a Home.

***Akanksha Joshi** is an independent filmmaker and a photographer. She has travelled extensively across the country and has created telling films depicting the lives and the living of the people of India. She has documented the oral histories of Partition survivors and created photo biographies of the Gujarat carnage's survivors and saviors. She has also made a critically acclaimed film on the carnage, *Passengers*. Many of her short films, features and programmes have appeared on national television. The photo installation, 'The Voice Within' is a glimpse of her work with conflict related displacement in various forms and in various parts of India.*

PRINT SOURCE

A Lesson of Belorussian

Film Studio Everest
Poland

A Life Less Ordinary

Public Service Broadcasting Trust
New Delhi

A Secret Genocide

Premiere Nouvelle Productions
France

Advertorial: Selling News or Products?

Public Service Broadcasting Trust
New Delhi

Apna Aloo Bazaar Becha

Public Service Broadcasting Trust
New Delhi

Ask Not

Persistent Visions
California

At The Green Line

Jesse Atlas

Athwaas – The Journey

Public Service Broadcasting Trust
New Delhi

Autumn in the Himalayas

Public Service Broadcasting Trust
New Delhi

Beauty Mark

Carla Precht
New York

Bishar Blues

Amitabh Chakraborty
Kolkata

Black Like Me

INPUT

Chilika Bank\$ - Stories From India's Largest Coastal Lake

Public Service Broadcasting Trust

New Delhi

Contempt of Conscience

Clarity Productions

UK

Crossing Borders

Ruth Diskin Films Ltd.

Israel

Crossing the Lines: Kashmir, Pakistan, India

Eqbal Ahmad Foundation

New Jersey

Divided Colours of a Nation

Public Service Broadcasting Trust

New Delhi

Four Women and A Room

Public Service Broadcasting Trust

New Delhi

I'm Not the Indian You Had in Mind

INPUT

Ishq: Dastan-e-Sufi

Public Service Broadcasting Trust

New Delhi

It's A Boy (It's Going To Be A Boy)

Public Service Broadcasting Trust

New Delhi

Kick like a Girl

Jenny Mackenzie Films

Salt Lake City

Leila Khaled Hijacker

Lina Makboul

Sweden

Listen Little Man

Public Service Broadcasting Trust

New Delhi

Long Night's Journey into Day

Iris Films

Mindstorm

INPUT

My Country, My Country

Praxis Films

New York

Naked on the Inside

INPUT

Nee Yaar – Who Are You?

Public Service Broadcasting Trust

New Delhi

News Wars What's Happening to the News

INPUT

No End in Sight

Charles Ferguson

Operation Homecoming

INPUT

Over The Hill

INPUT

Palestine for Beginners

Palestine Solidarity Committee

Seattle

Past Tense

Public Service Broadcasting Trust

New Delhi

Peace, Propaganda & the Promised Land

Media Education Foundation

USA

Red without Blue

Altcinema Distribution

California

Scavenging Dreams

Public Service Broadcasting Trust

New Delhi

Searching 4 Sandeep

INPUT

Stone Silence

Eureka Media
Poland

Targets: Reporters in Iraq

Maziar Bahari

Terror in Moscow

Dan Reed

The Last Atomic Bomb

Richter Productions
USA

The Lightning Testimonies

Amar Kanwar

The Lost Generation

Sharmeen Obaid Films
Totonto

The Sky Below

Sarah Singh

Three Times Divorced

Ruth Diskin Films Ltd.
Israel

To Catch the Wind

Public Service Broadcasting Trust
New Delhi

To See If I Am Smiling

INPUT

Two Lives

Public Service Broadcasting Trust
New Delhi

View from a Grain of Sand

Under Construction
C/O Magic Lantern Foundation
New Delhi

Waiting

Atul Gupta

Water Warriors

Public Service Broadcasting Trust
New Delhi

Woman See Lot of Things

Bodylab Art Foundation
The Netherlands