

## NFDC India Announces Selection for Film Bazaar Co-Production Market 2016

Mumbai, October 3 2016 - Film Bazaar 2016 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.

The Co-Production Market will kickstart with Open Pitch where selected filmmakers will pitch their projects to a curated audience of national and international producers, financiers and sales agents.

The selected projects for 2016 are:

- **Apodartho (A Foolish Man) | Bengali | Bangladesh**

**Director:** Abu Shahed Emon's debut feature *Jalal's Story* travelled to more than twenty international film festivals. In 2015, the film was nominated as Bangladesh's entry for Best Foreign-Language Film at the 88th Academy Awards. *A Foolish Man* is his second feature.

**Producer:** Mostafa Sarwar Farooki, Chabial

Founded by Mostafa Sarwar Farooki, Chabial is a production house which has produced the fiction features *Television* (2012) and *Ant Story* (2013), both of which have travelled to several prestigious international film festivals and won awards. At present, Chabial is producing *No Land's Man* which won the Motion Picture Association-Asia Pacific Screen Awards Academy Film Fund 2014 and the Most Promising Project Award at Film Bazaar 2014.

- **Bhosle | Hindi | India**

**Director:** Devashish Makhija is a Mumbai-based filmmaker who has written *Bhoomi* (directed by Avik Mukherjee), *Doga* (directed by Anurag Kashyap) and *Oonga* (directed by himself). Also to his credit are several acclaimed short films like *Rahim Murge Pe Mat Ro*, *El'ayichi*, *Agli Baar*, *Absent* and *Taandav*.

**Producer:** Piiyush Singh, Muvizz.com

Piiyush Singh is an investor and consultant for Muvizz.com – a globally funded online video streaming portal for Indie cinema. Before venturing out on his own, Piiyush worked as a managing partner with companies like Friends Media Group and Rudra Enterprises.

- **Calorie | English | Canada, India**

**Director:** Eisha Marjara is a Canadian filmmaker whose provocative docudrama *Desperately Seeking Helen* received the Critic's Choice Award at the Locarno Film Festival and the Jury Prize at the München

Dokumentarfilm Festival in 2000. Eisha first drew attention with *The Incredible Shrinking Woman* in 1994, which she wrote, shot and directed. She is currently in production on her first feature, *Venus*.

**Producer: Joe Balass, Compass Productions inc.**

Joe Balass has produced and directed a number of award-winning films like *Baghdad Twist* (2007), *JOY!* (2012) and *The Length of the Alphabet* (2013), which screened at festivals around the world. In 2014, both the Toronto Jewish Film Festival and the Cinémathèque québécoise honoured him with a retrospective.

- **Dastaan-e-Awaargi | Hindi | India**

**Director: Ankit Kothari** has worked as a graphic designer, script supervisor, researcher and assistant director on the critically acclaimed films *Oye Lucky Lucky Oye*, *Love Sex aur Dhokha* and *Shanghai*. His script *Dastaan-E- Awaargi* was part of the NFDC Screenwriters' Lab in 2015.

**Producer: Priya Sreedharan, Open Air Films**

Priya's first film as an executive producer was *Oye Lucky Lucky Oye*, released in 2008. Her second film *Love Sex aur Dhokha* was the first commercially successful, breakthrough digital film in India. She was also a producer of *Shanghai*, released in 2012. Her fourth film, tentatively titled *Three Storeys* is ready for release in early 2017.

- **Ink | Bengali, Hindi | India**

**Director: Pratim Gupta's** debut film, *Paanch Adhyay* (Afterglow) premiered at the South Asian International Film Festival (SAIFF), New York and won the New Voice in Indian Cinema at MAMI. *Ink* was part of the Mumbai Mantra Sundance Screenwriters Lab 2013. Pratim's work also includes the experimental film *X: Past is Present* (SAIFF 2014 & IFFK) and *Shaheb Bibi Golaam* (New York International Film Festival 2016 premiere).

**Producer: Firdausul Hasan, Friends Communication**

Friends Communication, formed in 2012, has produced films like *Take One*, *Abby Sen* and *Natoker Moto* (2015) which was part of the International Competition section at the International Film Festival of India. In 2013, they produced *Rupkatha Noy* which starred Soumitra Chatterjee and Radhika Apte.

- **Insha'allah | Malayalam, Hindi | India**

**Director: Geetu Mohandas'** first feature *Liar's Dice* (Sundance Film Festival 2014) received the Hubert Bals Fund for development and won six major international awards, and two National Awards in India. It was also India's official submission for the Best Foreign Film for the 87th Academy Awards. Geetu's earlier work includes the short film *Are You Listening?* which premiered at International Film Festival of Rotterdam (IFFR) 2010.

**Producer: Ajay G. Rai & Alan McAlex, JAR Pictures**

In 2011, Ajay set up Jar Pictures in partnership with Alan McAlex. From the critically acclaimed *Liar's Dice* to the mainstream *Luv Shuv Tey Chicken Khurana*, the company's filmography boasts of a variety of genres. In 2014, Jar Pictures production *Killa* won the Crystal Bear at Berlinale and a National Award in India. Their latest release, *The New Classmate*, premiered at the BFI London Film Festival.

- **Jhyalincha (Season of Dragonflies) | Nepali | Nepal**

**Director: Abinash Bikram Shah** is a filmmaker based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Abinash's short films have traveled to film festivals worldwide including Berlin, Venice and Busan, winning a host of awards. An alumnus of Asian Film Academy 2008 and Berlinale Talent Campus 2010, Abinash works as the Programming Director at Ekadeshma International Short Film Festival.

**Producer: Ram Krishna Pokharel, Icefall Productions**

Over the past several years Ram has developed and produced shorts and feature films like *L'ascension*, *Number One*, *Everest - Summit of the Gods* that have appeared in many national and international film festivals. He is currently working on *Jhyalincha* (Season of Dragonflies).

- **JosephKi Macha (Joseph's Son) | Manipuri | India**

**Director: Haobam Paban Kumar** is a Manipuri filmmaker whose debut fiction feature *Loktak Lairambee* (Lady of the Lake) was selected for world premiere at Busan International Film Festival 2016. The film was part of the Film Bazaar Work-in-Progress Lab 2015. Paban's documentary *Floating Life* was nominated for the Leipziger Ring award at the 58th DOK Leipzig 2015. His films have screened in various festivals and have won awards including the FIPRESCI prize at Mumbai International Film Festival 2006.

**Producer: Oli Pictures**

Oli Pictures was established in the summer of 2005 in Imphal, Manipur. The company has notable productions to its credit namely – *Kangla*, *Orchids and Manipur*, *A Cry in the Dark*, *Mr. India* among others. Oli Pictures' latest production is the fiction feature film, *Loktak Lairambee* (Lady of the Lake).

- **Kabuliwala (Man From Kabul) | Animation | Hindi | India**

**Director: Soumitra Ranade**, an alumnus of Sir J.J.School of Arts and Film and Television Institute of India, has written, directed and produced children's feature films *Jajantaram Mamantaram* and *Goopi Gawaiyaa Bagha Bajaiyaa*, animated TV serials *Karadi Tales* and *Bandbudh Aur Budbak*. Soumitra's latest live-action feature *Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyun Aata Hai?* is slated for release soon. He is the Founder/Chairman of Paperboat Design Studios Pvt. Ltd. and also the Co-founder/Chairman of School of DAAF (Design Art Animation Film).

**Producer: Sunil Doshi, Handmade Films**

Sunil Doshi has worked in production, acquisition and distribution of different kinds of films and programming of the Indian films at various film festivals. Handmade Films has previously produced Santosh Sivan's *Navarasa* (Nine Emotions), Rajat Kapoor's *Mixed Doubles*, Sagar Ballary's *Bheja Fry*, Rupali Guha's *Aamras*, Bela Negi's *Daayen ya Baayen*, Jaideep Varma's *Hulla*, Jaybarto Chatterji's *Love Songs*, Maneej Premnath's *The Waiting Room* and Sharat Katariya's *10ml Love*. Handmade Films is currently involved in the post-production of *Bioscopwala*, a live action feature-film based on Rabindranath Tagore's 'Kabuliwala'.

- **Nonajoler Kabbo (The Salt in Our Waters) | Bengali | Bangladesh**

**Director: Rezwan Shahriar Sumit's** docudrama *City Life* was selected at Berlinale Talents 2008. His shorts have traveled to Copenhagen International Children's Film Festival, among other festivals in the US. His films have been acquired by MUBI, VPRO for worldwide distribution. Rezwan attended the Graduate Film Program of NYU Tisch School of the Arts as a Tisch Fellow.

**Producer: Gigi Dement, Laboratory NYC**

Gigi has produced several award-winning films, including *God of Love* (winner of the 2011 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short), *Bastards of Young*, and the critically acclaimed film *Babygirl* that premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival 2012.

- **Punyakoti | Animation | Sanskrit | India**

**Director: Ravi Shankar** has been a multimedia and animation pioneer in India since he directed the

first interactive CD-ROM in India in 1995. He is an HR professional and works in Infosys as a Senior HR Solutions Designer. Ravi has over 20 years of experience in directing and managing large programmes/productions.

**Producer: Sindhu SK, Puppetica Media**

Sindhu SK managed the largest crowd-funding campaign in India through a platform last year and was instrumental in the success of the campaign. She has previously worked with her husband Ravi on several creative projects.

- **Ram Ji Ka Ghoda (The Dragonfly) | Hindi | India**

**Director:** An alumna of Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, **Bishnu Dev Halder's** documentary, *Bagher Bachcha*, won the National Film Award in 2007. It was also the Opening Film of International Film Festival of India 2007. Selected for Talent Campus India in 2007, Bishnu was awarded the UK Environment Film Fellowship in 2010. Bishnu's debut film, *I Was Born in Delhi*, was nominated at the prestigious IDFA in 2011.

**Producer: Courtyard Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.**

Courtyard Entertainment's award-winning body of work comprises of feature-length projects that have been co-produced in partnership with Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program, Japan Broadcasting Corporation and NHK among others. Apart from ethnographic, educational and promotional films, the company has also produced *I Was Born In Delhi*, *English For All*, *Blocks of Green* and *The Diary Of A Refugee*.

- **The Biryani Seller | Bengali | India**

**Directors: Rajdeep Paul and Sarmishtha Maiti** are National Film Award winning filmmakers and alumni of Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute. They have worked with Doordarshan, PSBT and Ministry of External Affairs, India, and PBS, US. Their debut fiction feature script *The Biryani Seller* was part of the Mumbai Mantra Cinerise Screenwriters Lab. The duo's short fictions include *3 on a Bed*, *The Woman and the Man*, *Itvar*. Their documentary *At the Crossroads, Nondon Bagchi Life and Living* won a National Award.

**Producer: Mahesh Mathai, Highlight Films**

Mahesh Mathai founded Highlight Films in 1987 which became one of the most successful advertising commercial companies in India. In 2000, he made the acclaimed feature film, *Bhopal Express* that opened the Panorama section of the Berlin Film Festival and won seven International Awards. In 2005, Mahesh directed the British film, *Broken Thread*. Highlight Films' has also produced *Mystic India* in 2005, *Outsourced* in 2006, *Aapa Akka* and *Manali Cream* 2009 among others.

- **The Cineaste | Persian | China, Netherlands**

**Director: Aboozar Amini's** graduation film *Kabul Tehran Kabul* (2010) won the Wildcard Award of the Dutch Film Fund. His film *Angelus Novus* (2015) premiered at International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) and won various awards worldwide. His latest film *Where is Kurdistan* (2016) was commissioned by IFFR. His Afghan origin plays an important role in his work.

**Producer: Jia Zhao, Silk Road Film Salon**

Jia Zhao is the founder/producer at Mui Film (cultural/artistic documentary) and Silk Road Film Salon. Her recent works include projects with Frank Scheffer (*The Perception*, IFFR 2016, KNF award; *Inner Landscape* Holland Festival 2015), Yan Ting Yuen (*Mr Hu and the Temple*, in competition at IDFA 2015 and at NFF 2016), Aboozar Amini (*Where is Kurdistan?* IFFR 2016; *Angelus Novus*, IFFR 2015), Yang Yang (*Steel Rose*, 2016) and Laetitia Schoofs (*Unbinding Feet*).

- **The Sunshine | Tamil | India**

**Director:** Leena Manimekalai is a Tamil poet and filmmaker who has made films like *My Mirror is the Door*, *Goddesses*, *Sengadal* (The Dead Sea) and *White Van*. Stories about Eco-feminism, Dalit women lives, plight of refugees and fishermen in the Palk Strait, and enforced disappearances in the background of Tamil ethnic cleansing in Sri Lanka form the core of her work.

**Producer:** SR Prabhu, Dream Warrior Pictures

Dream Warrior Pictures (DWP) was co-founded by SR Prakash Babu and SR Prabhu in 2010. *Saguni*, their debut film, was a successful Tamil feature starring Karthi Sivakumar. As partner and co-producer at Studiogreen from 2006 to 2015, Prakash Babu and Prabhu have successfully produced 14 Tamil feature films. Recently, they produced the fiction feature *Maya*, which went on to become one of the most successful commercial releases in 2015.

- **The Umesh Chronicles | English, Hindi | India, Sweden**

**Director:** Pooja Kaul's short films *Rasikan Re* (O Lover of Life) 2003, *Winter Trail* 2002, *Notes For a Film* 2000, *Sheher: Lucknow* 1997 have been screened and awarded at festivals worldwide. Her current project *The Umesh Chronicles* received the Hubert Bals Fund for script and project development.

**Producer:** Charlotte Most, Mostfilm AB

Charlotte Most set up her company Mostfilm in 2000. Attending EAVE 2010, established Charlotte as a producer in Europe. Her films have been screened at various festivals and venues throughout the world. Her productions have been acquired by Swedish National Television (SVT). Her Filmography (2012-2016) includes – *Egg*, *Swoon* and *The Girl King* among others.

- **Tribhanga (Three Curve Bent) | English, Marathi | India**

**Director:** Renuka Shahane has been an Indian actress for the last 29 years. She won the Best Director award for her debut directorial Marathi film *Rita* at the Star Screen Awards 2010 and the best screenplay award for Marathi films at the 8th Pune International Film Festival. *Tribhanga* was part of the Mumbai Mantra Sundance Screenwriter's workshop in 2013.

**Producer:** Padachinnha Production

Renuka Shahane started Padachinnha Production in September 2015. Two Marathi short films - *Saathvan* (Mementos) & *Aathvan* (Memory) have been produced under this banner. *Saathvan* was officially selected for the Trinity International Film Festival in Detroit this year.

- **Wapsi (The Return) | Hindi | India**

**Director:** Asad Hussain was one of the writers on *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*. He has also co-written *Children of War*, a film about Bangladesh's war for independence. Asad has collaborated with internationally acclaimed directors Siddiq Barmak (Afghanistan) and Murali Nair (India). He has been awarded the prestigious MacDowell Fellowship for his writing. His screenplay, *Wapsi* was part of the NFDC Screenwriters' Lab 2015.

**Producer:** Abbas Khan, Paandan Pictures

Paandan Pictures has been co-founded by Asad Hussain and Abbas Khan. Abbas has worked on Indian and international films, TVCs and Studio Projects since 2008. He has collaborated with directors like Ashim Ahluwalia, Murali Nair, Rob Cohen, Paula Van Der Oest and Sharat Katariya.

## **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 2015 market saw an attendance of 1102 delegates from 38 countries with a country delegation from Canada. The 10th Edition of Film Bazaar will be held from 20-24 November 2016 at the Marriott Resort in Goa, India.

FilmBazaar Co-Production Market Team can be reached at – [coproduction@filmbazaarindia.com](mailto: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.