



8th BENGAL INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

15 to 18 May 2023

Nandan, The Film Centre in Kolkata

Daily from 1.30 PM to 7.30 PM



Organised by

**Bengal Film and Television
Chamber of Commerce**

184, Lenin Sarani, 1st Floor,
Suite No. 3, Kolkata 700 013



8th Bengal International Short Film Festival

Organised by

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15-18 May 2023, Nandan-III, Kolkata





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Festival Committee

Chairman

Premendra Mazumder

Vice Chairman

Anjan Bose

Spokesperson

Satarupa Sanyal

Executive Members

R.S. Khemka, Firdausul Hasan, B. L. Agarwal, Biplob Chakraborty, Tapan Roy, Suman Das

Technical Team

Arit Nag, Sukesh Agarwal, Rupam Saha

Rs.100

MESSAGE



Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce is presenting the 8th edition of the Bengal International Short Film Festival showcasing 61 films in different categories from 15 to 18 May 2023 at Nandan. Though it is a festival of short films within a duration of 40 minutes, to us it is very much important because it gives us the opportunity to find out the talented filmmakers of the future. Hope, this edition of the festival will also give us the opportunity to see many extraordinary films.

Firdausul Hasan

Vice President

Film Federation of India

MESSAGE



I am very happy and delighted that 8th edition of Bengal International Short Film Festival is going to be held at Nandan III between 15th & 18th May, 2023.

Festivals always encourage good contents, technique, technicians and overall good cinema. Moreover, the Chamber had have introduced cash prizes to the young film-makers of Short films and Documentaries as these films help in its own way in building healthy cinema.

I am proud to be a part of BFTCC and BISFF and wish all success to ensuing Short Film Festival.

R.S. Khemka

President

Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce

MESSAGE



I am very happy to be associated with the Bengal International Short Film Festival organized by the Bengal Film & Television Chamber of Commerce for eight years successfully. Since 7th edition last year we have moved to an ideal venue, Nandan, the film center in Kolkata. We are sure that the festival will reach to a larger audience and thus could create a better impact amongst the filmmakers.

Tapan Roy

Vice President

Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce

MESSAGE



It gives me immense pleasure to introduce 8th edition of Bengal International Short Film Festival. Like every year, we are overwhelmed to see the enthusiasm and works of filmmakers from all over the world. The number of entries and quality of submitted films made jobs of the juries even harder.

I take this opportunity to wish and congratulate all the participants who have submitted their short and documentary films to compete with the best in this festival. Special thanks to all the juries and entire organising team of BISFF and BFTCC.

On behalf of Film Federation of India and Bengal Film & Television Chamber of Commerce, I wish 8th Bengal International Short Film Festival to be a grand success.

Bajrang Lal Agarwal

Treasurer, Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce

MESSAGE



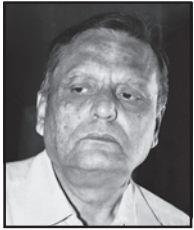
I am very happy that the 8th Bengal international Short Film Festival is being held this year with 61 films in different sections. On behalf of the Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce I wish its big success.

Biplab Chakraborty

Secretary

Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce

MESSAGE



It is my esteem privilege to associate myself with the large number of budding film makers of short and documentary films of our country and abroad. I wish 8th BISSF will be a big success in bringing together the talents in one platform.

Anjan Bose

Vice Chairman

Bengal International Short Film Festival

MESSAGE



I am very happy and delighted that 8th edition of Bengal International Short Film Festival is going to be held at Nandan III between 15th & 18th May, 2023.

New innovations and creative initiatives are being conceived and Bengal International Short Film Festival organised by BFTCC is no exception. I wish this wonderful initiative all the success and pray for more such platforms for creative minds to flourish.

Satarupa Sanyal

Spokesperson

Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce

MESSAGE



Thanks to the Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce for giving me the opportunity to work for the 8th edition of the Bengal International Short Film Festival being held in Kolkata from 15 to 18 May 2023. 61 films are being showcased in this edition of the festival with 36 in competition to be evaluated by an esteemed jury. We hope the festival will grow up further in near future with the experience it gathers from its journey.

Premendra Mazumder

Chairman

8th Bengal International Short Film Festival

8th Bengal International Short Film Festival

JURY



Dr Gita Viswanath has a Ph.D. in Literature and Film Studies from The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. Her study, *The ‘Nation’ in War: A Study of Military Literature and Hindi War Cinema*, was published by Cambridge Scholars, UK in 2014. She has also published papers on cinema in journals and edited volumes, two novels, a children’s book, short stories, and poems. Her short films “Family Across the Atlantic” and “Safezonerz” are available on YouTube. She has also co-founded an online film club called Talking Films Online.



Dr Manas Ghosh is an Assistant Professor at the Dept. of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He teaches Contemporary Asian Cinema, Non-Fiction Film and Cinematic Realism in Global Context. His area of research interest includes Third Cinema, Alternative Cinema in India and new cinemas of East-Asia. He was awarded Foreign Sinology Scholar fellowship by the Center for Chinese Studies, Taipei, Taiwan in 2017. Dr. Ghosh publishes regularly in vernacular magazines and English journals on cinema, culture and literature.



Dr Sulagna Mohanty is an accomplished academician, author, and researcher specializing in English literature, film studies, and cinema critique. As an Associate Professor of English and a cinema researcher, she has published extensively on topics related to Indian cinema and its nuances, including co-editing the book "The Social and Cultural Dynamics of Indian Cinema," published by IGI Global, USA. As an independent researcher, Sulagna Mohanty has made significant contributions to the field of film studies, and as a cine critic, she has a keen eye for analyzing and evaluating films. Her work has earned her widespread recognition and admiration in academic and intellectual circles.

SHORT FICTION
(Competition)



50th Anniversary

(India, Bengali, 2021, 00:39:40)

Tamal Dasgupta

An elderly couple in elite area of Kolkata committed suicide on the night of their 50th wedding anniversary. Only son informed Kolkata Police from Bangalore. Police broke down the door and entered in apartment. House is decorated with flowers. Anniversary cake is on the table. The corpses are lying on the bed decorated with red rose petals holding each other's hands tightly.



Ankahi Baatien

(India, Hindi, 2023, 00:17:02)

Sujatha Rajashekar

A housewife wants to share a few moments with her family members but gets no response from anyone as they all are too busy. Gadgets and other engagements preoccupy the family members giving her least attention or importance. A quest to search for a companion, opens her world to a neighbour's courier...A doll.



Ankhidari

(India, Assamese, 2023, 00:25:09)

Mriganka Borah

Kamal and Himanshu are two good friends. Kamal is a struggling writer whereas Himanshu belongs from a rich family. They regularly used to chitchat and smoke in front of a Xerox shops where a girl used to work. They both liked the girl though they did not realize nor had conversed about their feelings to one other for the girl.



Brink of Tears

(France, French, 2023, 00:19:00)

Anne Amiand

A woman wanders through a garden in search of a lost little girl. Under the gaze of strange washerwomen, she asks walkers about this unusual disappearance.



Daah Sanskar

(India, Hindi, 2022, 00:29:32)

Falguni Bhakta

Haria is a landless lower cast farmer, works under an upper cast land lord. In the village there are separate well for drinking water. Once Haria's wife and daughter went to bring water from the upper cast's well, and she was beaten to death. Haria faced lots of trouble to burn his wife's dead body.



Daari Deepa

(India, Kannada, 2022, 00:39:23)

Vinay Kumar P

An alcoholic man who ignores his family. An stranger tells him a story which changed his destiny for ever.



Duswapna

(India, Gujarati, 2022, 00:13:00)

Jay Kholia

The long poem addressed to a woman named Mrinal (Lotus) paints strange pictures in colors and sounds; aural / visual of which adds to the woman's anonymity. And yet, the poetic enunciation by the Gujarati modernist poet Suresh Joshi acquires certain universality in its surreal imagery and sonic asymmetry....



Homecoming

(Bangladesh, Bengali, 2022, 00:30:00)

S M Kamrul Ahsan

Joya is returning home on sudden notice. Apparently that her dad is very sick. Is it just sickness or is there something more than that? Her uncle has come to the boarding school to take her back home. Before leaving, Joya's friend tells her that she has to come back.



Kaankhowa

(India, Assamese, 2022, 00:29:04)

Hira Das

The torn school uniform of a 11 year old boy sets in motion a series of events culminating in his mother's death.



Miru

(India, Other, 2022, 00:19:49)

Shyama Sundar Majhi

The story of the film is based on a girl child named Miru who belongs to a poor family in an indigenous community in rural India. Her alcoholic father neglects his duties so her mother is burdened to provide for and manage the family. Though her parents are uneducated, Miru's mother insists on the importance of education in a girl child's life.



Mother

(India, Assamese, 2021, 00:19:39)

Anupjyoti Choudhury

It narrates the story how two childhood friends had to navigate their way through a militant organisation and their own beliefs, leaving their families behind. And, also the dilemma of a mother, whose utmost sacrifice goes unnoticed for the debated cause.



My Father's Doctor

(India, Kashmiri, Urdu, 2023, 00:18:00)

Danish Renzu

This human and uplifting short narrative aims to give voice to the voiceless. The story is an opportunity to bring forth truth through this beautiful medium to stir justice and humanity.



Pantomime - A Love Beyond Colour

(India, Hindi, 2022, 00:24:25)

Utpal Choudhury

The world is full of beautiful people, full with love. Sometimes some people colour them with identities. That kills love at times. The film depicts the life-threatening internal journey of an innocent and religious person from a world with racial colour to another world of love.



Pinky and Papa

(India, Hindi, 2022, 00:16:27)

Shivang Khanna

A conversation between a father and daughter who have no one but them for each other, they now have to handle a situation where Pinky has done something which is very hard for Rajendra to even believe. Rajendra unfolds himself in many shades, Pinky on the other hand is going through a constant fear where she needs his support the most. Pinky tries to convince Rajendra and as story goes further, we see the changes happening in Rajendra.



Portrait

(India, Bengali, 2022, 00:25:00)

Kunal Chowdhury

The story is set in 1995, Kolkata. A small photo studio in a dingy lane next to the main road. We see the photographer and his different customers depicting some stories.



Probaho (The Flow of Life)

(India, Bengali, 2022, 00:14:14)

Promita Bhowmik

A 75 year old lady has lost her son and husband in pandemic. She is all alone now. Living through this unprecedented crisis, she has seen deaths of many near and dear ones, of known and unknown people all around her. However, even after this phase of tremendous turmoil, Mrinmoyi wants to start afresh and explore life.



Stray

(India, Bengali, 2022, 00:16:14)

Abhishek Bhattacharyya

After witnessing a horrific incident involving his friend, Santanu comes back to his city. As he tries to hide from the whole world, he ends up getting involved in another incident involving a stray dog. So, when Santanu's new neighbour Rumeli arrives on the scene asking about a dog, Santanu learns new things.



Sweet Curd

(India, Assamese, 2021, 00:13:24)

Bhaskar Deka

On the day of his anniversary Tarun buys sweet curd to surprise his wife and daughter as they love to eat sweet curd. But their happy family dinner ends up as a pathetic tragedy.



Takbir

(Spain, English, French, Italian, Spanish, 2022, 00:14:49)

Jordi Calvet

After two ISIS attacks eerily resemble passages from his latest book, a TV writer finds himself under thin ice when he realizes that the new TV show he's been approached to develop by a mysterious Turkish production company might be used as a blueprint for the terrorist group's new attack.



The Green Window

(India, Hindi, 2021, 00:39:43)

Indira Dhar Mukkherjee

It's a tribute to all mothers on earth. It resolves around a Christian old age home in India and the relationship of a mother with her son and grandson.



The Money Plant

(India, Bengali, 2023, 00:27:44)

Alik Roy, Sudipta Goswami

Subir, who lives with his family in a remote village, wants her daughter to be educated like other girls of the city. For Subir, the meaning of progress is to get out of his village and getting settled in the city of Kolkata. His highest priority in life is to see her daughter speaking English fluently.



The One-Way Ticket

(Germany, Persian, 2022, 00:10:11)

Melika Rezapour

The story is being narrated from Taha's POV, a six-year old boy, who has been raised by a misogynist father and lives in a society where women have no freedom of choice. He finds out that his sister wants to escape with her lover. Now the decision is his whether to reveal the secret to his father or not.



The Parable of Tommy

(India, Malayalam, 2023, 00:37:00)

Vimal Jose Thachil

Tommy, a devout catholic, is hired by a Priest to be his driver. Things take a turn on his first day when Tommy accidentally sneezes on the priest. The rest revolves around Tommy's tryst with his faith, guilt and man's ever craving to suffer.



The Ripple

(India, Other, 2022, 00:23:24)

Khwairakpam Bishwamitra Singh

In the Meitei Community of Manipur, a child who dies before he attains the age of 3 years is to be considered a bad omen to the family and all customary post-mortal ceremonies are deprived of. But, for a mother, her child shall always be her child, no matter how old or young the child might have been.



Wagro

(India, Marathi, 2022, 00:09:45)

Sainath Somnath Uskaikar

A village boy from the marginalised strata of the society decides to move to the city. But as he spends his last day with his girlfriend, can he ever leave it all behind?



What Are You Searching?

(India, Hindi, 2022, 00:34:55)

Princy Pal

Living in a small village in Himachal, Jyotsana is still in denial of her husband's demise. The separation and longing for her husband keeps her detached from her child. Her endless search for her husband prove futile everytime and the turmoil of living a life between the past and the present make her more hostile towards motherhood.





SHORT FICTION
(Panorama)



Behind an Audition

(India, Bengali, 2023, 00:16:38)

Spandan Bandyopadhyay

On the day of his final audition, we accompany an aspiring actor as he juggles his life and aspirations.



Birohe Jodi

(India, Bengali, 2023, 00:28:00)

Anuradha Kunda

A couple, Madhura and Subhadro decide to get separated because they are tired of maintaining long distance relationship for long years. After the sudden demise of Subhadro's mother, they disclose their decision to Subhadro's father who tells the story of his long distance relationship with his dead wife.



Birthday

(India, Bengali, 2023, 00:09:40)

Sudip Chatterjee

Story of a mother and her daughter...it reflects upon the most important aspect of life...and also the dynamics of parallel coexistence of entities....



Black Gold

(India, Bengali, 2022, 00:29:14)

Debabrata Bhowmik

The story depicts how miserable and agonizing treatments are given to the girl child and throughout their womanhood in the rural areas of the country even nowadays. Only education can change this approach and turn coal into gold.

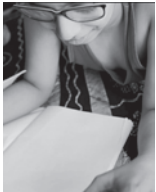


Circle

(India, Bengali, 2022, 00:04:33)

Suman Chatterjee

The film depicts the inequality in online education system due to financial disparity among different classes of schoolchildren.



Dark Mirror

(India, No Dialogue, 2023, 00:06:37)

Sayantana Roy

It is the reflection of the society through the eyes of future and at the end we see how futures meets the present society to understand its own mistakes.



Déjà Vu

(Bangladesh, Bengali, 2022, 00:23:45)

Rayhan Shoshi

A mysterious character named Jibon lives an unceremonious life. He jumps into the ocean and drags the garbage thrown by man. Jibon finds a girl on the tide. Next day he meets Bibek, they have a deep conversation about life. Next morning, the girl's guardian shows up and brings her back.



Ebong Shubho Ratri

(India, Bengali, 2022, 00:28:51)

Pratish Ghosh

Shubho comes to Kolkata to crack competitive job exams and in the process falls in love with Ratri. But they get forced to mutually breakup due to circumstances. Shubho decides to leave his exam ambitions and the city, but for Ratri continues. Shubho gradually becomes an idol for the country.



Hands of A...

(India, English, 2022, 00:14:55)

Snigdha P Roy

Story about a past that affects two people in the present. Jiten meets Reema to apologize after years, for a grave act he had done. Reema thinks that the apology is genuine. But as time unravels and talks go deeper, she realizes that Jiten is here for his own sake, there is no guilt.



Juddho Joyer Kishore Nayak

(Bangladesh, Bengali, 2022, 00:29:21)

Shaila Rahman Tithi

The film is based on the courage, strategy and confidence of a fourteen-fifteen-year-old boy named Nuru. People can overcome big obstacles if they have confidence and courage. He very bravely steals weapons from Pakistani soldiers and delivers them to the camp of freedom fighters of Bangladesh Liberation War.



Karonda Keema

(India, Hindi, 2022, 00:19:35)

Tabish

Samir comes to his hometown Lucknow after living in America for 10 years, and comes to know about the death of his childhood friend, Saif. He meets his old friend Ankit and recalls his last memory with Saif, of eating Karonda Keema together. Samir and Ankit decide to go back to the restaurant where they used to eat Karonda Keema.



Last Wish

(Bangladesh, Bengali, 2021, 00:14:53)

Chowdhury Asif Jahangir Arko

A son trying to get back to life, after his sudden accident/death... to fulfill his mother's only dream.



Mafia

(United States, English, 2022, 00:20:38)

Harshad Mahadeshwar, Mrudhu Kiran Akella

8 friends end up at a hosts party which turns out to be professor's house and are playing the game Mafia which ends in a killing spree. By the rules of the game, villagers die one by one if they don't spot the Mafia. Unfortunately it's too late before the Mafia kills everyone in the room to accomplish his vengeance.



Memoriam

(United Kingdom, English, 2022, 00:11:00)

Kayser Foyz

Dean remembers Natalie. They only just fell in love. He lost her too soon. He's being helped by Jessie to overcome his loss and move on. Dean keeps regressing to past memories of his time with her. Jessie is trying to get him to face up to his current situation so he can move on. The story of loss and how love goes beyond death.



Qurbat - A Dark Desire

(India, Hindi, 2022, 00:12:22)

Subhadip Mazumdar

In a stormy night, tension unfolds in the affluent household of Akram and Noorie, a middle-aged couple. They are not the only people who inhabit the sprawling mansion. Abdul, their seventy years old servant and his young petite wife Fatima share the space. Each resident of the household is driven by their dark desires.



Skylamp

(India, Bengali, 2021, 00:27:25)

Pavel Paul

Deceased old Janardan descends on earth responding to Sonai's call. Sonai, Janardan's granddaughter, welcomes her 'dadu' with a warm heart. But gradually it becomes difficult for Janardan to accept the changes in the family and house that happened in his absence.



Urula

(India, Malayalam, 2022, 00:15:42)

Sanju M Suresh

It portrays how contradictions of the human mind towards the same thing in two different situations creates artefacts of curiosity within a nature that seems out of place in a man-made world.





DOCUMENTARY
(Competition)



Elemental & Calm Abiding

(Canada, English, 2021, 00:38:52)

Barbara Willis Sweete

Elemental, choreographed by Nova Bhattacharya, celebrates the act of dance through an offering of movement and emotion. Using the most basic and primary elements of the performer's technical training and creative influences, it exposes the architecture of the body in relation to music, invokes the imagination and stimulates the senses.



Haatkatha-Tale of a Community Market

(India, Assamese, 2022, 00:14:55)

Sangeeta Medhi

Since antiquity, Assam has a tradition of holding community marketplaces known as haat. These haats are held in specific places on a specific day of the week, and each haat carries a uniqueness of its own. Beltola haat is one of those few surviving haats that still retain their own peculiarities and uniqueness even today.



Immaculate

(France, French, 2022, 00:02:49)

Charlie Haan

Once was here but flew away. Unveiled taboo.



Madan Veri - Breath of the Ghasis

(India, Bengali, 2023, 00:33:02)

Somnath Mondal

Struggle to preserve the heritage of Madan Veri which has been prevalent for centuries at the Manbhum region of Jharkhand and West Bengal. Madan Veri alias “Turi” played by a singular sub caste called “Ghasi” to deliver important message during some specific rituals of the Hindus.



Made In Belda

(India, Hindi, 2022, 00:23:10)

Rafina Khatun

This is a journey to home, is about dreams... of dreams, those are fulfilled... of dreams those are demolished by the circumstances. It traces back the journey of the family members who couldn't continue their education. Yet there are dreams that they are trying to fulfil through their children.



Mulsotan - The Rooted

(India, Gujarati, 2022, 00:27:36)

Janantik Shukla

'Mulsotan' is a documentary on the non-violent struggle of the Vasava tribal community in south Gujarat and their non-violent struggle for their land and forest rights spanning three decades. The film delves into the 32-year-old struggle of the community.



My Son and His Grandfather

(India, Bengali, 2021, 00:38:30)

Bijoy Chowdhury

A daily account of a very ordinary grandfather of a lower-middleclass family in a suburban town – in the absence of the grandson.



Searcher

(India, English, 2022, 00:19:28)

Divya Sachar

The artist begins an imaginative search into how she developed her schizophrenia, and wonders if trauma is passed down genetically through generations. She talks to the jamun tree in the courtyard and the tree replies in the voice of an old woman.



Submerged

(India, Other, 2023, 00:25:00)

Iqbal Hussain

Kotmir, a village in the Dharaji Panchayat, was under the submergence area of the Omkareswar Dam built in the Narmada River. But many of the people from Kotmir had refused to leave the village due to unsettled compensation packages and they lived a subsistence life as migrant labourers in the cities.



Summer in Corbett

(India, English, 2022, 00:17:00)

Swarnendu Biswas

How the forest dwellers in Jim Corbett National Park behave and survive during the summer is the main objective of this documentary. This is the oldest national park in India, established in 1936 in the foothills of the Himalaya covering over 520 sq. km area with about 600 species of flora, 50 species of mammals, 580 bird species and 25 reptiles.





DOCUMENTARY
(Panorama)



Angels from Water

(India, Bengali, 2023, 00:08:00)

Bishwajit Sheel

Set during a recent devastating flood in Assam, the film questions the inadequacy of the rapid response mechanism against the emergence of youth-led NGO's as a saviour of people's lives.



Before Pandemic and War, There Were Bed Bugs and Love!

(Lithuania, English, Lithuanian, 2022, 00:17:00)

Nuruzzaman Khan

He was filming her. They were dreaming of living together between Bangladesh and Lithuania. They were dreaming to make films together, to open a 5 meals restaurant and to adopt orphans. Now he looks back at his life and his broken love relationship.



Dear Maa

(Malaysia, English, 2022, 00:20:00)

January Low, Ineza Roussille

The film investigates the spirit of Navaratri, the 9 nights of the Goddess that is widely celebrated every year in Malaysia. This film is a prayer, an offering, a reminder of Shakti, the divine feminine force inherent in us all.



Flower of Mother Earth

(India, Other, 2022, 00:16:21)

Laxminarayan Devda, Pradeep Lekhwar

Natthu Kaka waits for the rains every year hoping to find the wild mushrooms which spring out when the rains hit the ground. He finds them when he goes to graze his goats in the forests. He specially mentions the taste of these mushrooms, and talks of its nutrition too. He reminisces the times from his childhood when they were abundant.



Mother will arrive

(India, Bengali, English, 2023, 00:29:42)

Runa Mukherjee Parikh

In 2020, the pandemic hit small businesses around the world and the idol makers of Kolkata too faced its brunt. As these artisans waited for a few orders to trickle in, life stood still and yet cost them time, money and patience. Slowly, the idol of the Mother goddess took shape, as did their hope.



Native Place

(India, Bengali, English, Hindi, 2022, 00:34:59)

Andrew Francisco

It is a film about movement and economic competition, told through the stories of those who have come to Delhi to earn. From day laborers to a stock broker, these characters are all compelled by the push and pull of the need to make a living.



Sadai Fakirer Pathshala

(India, Bengali, 2022, 00:19:23)

Satyajit Dasgupta

Sujit Chatterjee, a retired teacher from Burdwan, West Bengal, giving tuitions to the poor students of the village for last 20 years for only Two Rupees per student per year. He won Padmashree in 2021.



The Robot and The Butterfly

(Lithuania, Lithuanian, 2021, 00:25:03)

Gaile Garnelyte

Young artist and mother Ieva follows her lover Vadim to a small Lithuanian town and together they create musical performance "The Robot and the Butterfly". While her daughter stays with grandparents, young artists meet creative challenges that sour their relationship.





Rs.100