



WITH THE SUPPORT OF
GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU



DAILY BUZZ



21st Chennai International Film Festival

Dec 16, 2023

And before we know we are already on Day 3 of our festival. We would once again like to thank each one of you for your continuous support and encouragement.

If you wish to share movie reviews or any feedback about the festival with us, please send it along with your name to icaf.2021@gmail.com



Change in Screening Schedule

Due to Administrative reasons, the following change has been made and delegates may kindly note & bear with the festival management.

| Now in the screening schedule | | Will screen | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Serene on 16th December 2023 @4.30 pm | Man in Black (Man in Black) Dir:Wang Bing France, USA, UK 2023 60' WC-NC | Serene on 16th December 2023 @4.30 pm | 3 short films namely NILA PATTU, Suitcase Subbu & Killjon (Total Duration 43 Minustes) by students of TNGMGRTVI |

21st CIFF Inaugural Function Photos





Jananam 1947 Pranayam Thudarunnu team



SCREENING SCHEDULE

DEC 16 SATURDAY

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| SANTHAM | 9.30 am #Viral World (#Viral Prapancham) Dir.:Brijesh Tanagi | 11.40 am Inside the Yellow Cocoon Shell (Bên trong vỏ kén vàng) Dir.: Thien An Pham | 3.10 pm Heroic (Heroico) Dir.: David Zonana | 5.10 pm The Teacher's Lounge (Das Lehrerzimmer) Dir.:Ilker Çatak | 7.30 pm The Plough (Le Grand Chariot) Dir.: Philippe Garrel |
| SERENE | 9.40 am One Way(One Way) Dir.:Carlos Daniel Malavé | 12.00 noon A Brighter Tomorrow (Il sol dell'avvenire) Dir.:Nanni Moretti | 2.15 pm Lost Country(Stracony kraj) Dir.:Vladimir Perisic | 4.30 pm Tamil Nadu Government M.G.R. Film and Television Institute short films by students namely Nilla Patta, Suitcase Subbu and Kill John | 6.15 pm Footprints on Water (Footprints on Water) Dir.:Nathalia Syam |
| SEASONS | 9.15 am Brainstorm (Bicho de Sete Cabeças) Dir.:Laís Bodanzky | 11.15 am A Blue Bird(A Blue Bird) Dir.:Ariel Rotter | 1.30 pm Here Comes the Leopard (Here Comes the Leopard) Dir.: Krishnamurthy CR | 4.00 pm Karumegangal Kalaiginrana (Karumegangal Kalaiginrana) Dir.:Thangar Bachan | 7.00 pm Aneethi(Aneethi) Dir.:Vasanthabalan |
| 6 DEGREES | 9.15 am Horn and Ivory(Horn and Ivory) Dir.:Vineet Yadav | 11.00 am Master Classes – 11.00 am & 12.30 pm | 2.30 pm Afire (Roter Himmel) Dir.: Christian Petzold | 4.45 pm Final Report(Zárójelentés) Dir.:István Szabó | 7.15 pm Dhai Aakhar(Dhai Aakhar) Dir.:Praveen Arora |
| ANNA CINEMAS | 9.30 am Evil Does Not Exist (Evil Does Not Exist) Dir.:Ryūsuke Hamaguchi | 11.45 am America (America) Dir.: Ofir Raul Graizer | 2.30 pm The Rapture (Le ravissement) Dir.: Iris Kaltenböck | 4.45 pm Sweet Dreams (Zoete dromen) Dir.: Ena Sendijarevic | 7.00 pm How to Have Sex (How to Have Sex) Dir.:Molly Manning Walker |

MOVIE PICKS OF THE DAY



A Brighter Tomorrow (Il sol dell'avvenire)
Dir.: Nanni Moretti
Italy, France | 2023 | 95' | WC-NC | Serene 12:00 PM
Nanni Moretti's A Brighter Tomorrow is a vibrant comedy-drama that explores the life of a film director ambitiously aiming to adapt John Cheever's The Swimmer. With a star-studded cast and Moretti's award-winning direction, this film is a delightful blend of humor, passion, and artistic struggle. Its introspective take on film-making and personal relationships makes it an engaging watch.



Brainstorm (Bicho de Sete Cabeças)
Dir.: Laís Bodanzky
Brazil | 2001 | 74' | Retrospective of Dir. Laís Bodanzky | Seasons 9:30 AM
Based on the autobiography of Austregésilo Carrano, this is a courageous, heartfelt move about a young man's journey into the Hells of public Mental Institutions and his struggle to maintain his sanity. A must-see to all of those who have ever feared losing their minds... and all of those who haven't!



The Teacher's Lounge (Das Lehrerzimmer)
Dir.: Ilker Çatak
Germany | 2023 | 98' | WC-NC | Santham 5:10 PM
The Teacher's Lounge, directed by the talented Ilker Çatak, is a gripping drama set within the confines of a school. The story of a teacher's quest to solve a series of thefts unfolds as a profound commentary on ideals versus reality. With its intense narrative and award-winning acclaim, this film promises an emotionally resonant experience.



Evil Does Not Exist (Aku wa sonzai shinai)
Dir.: Ryūsuke Hamaguchi
Japan | 2023 | 106' | WC-NC | Anna Cinemas 9:30 am
Compositional quirks and unhurried direction turn this tale of a Tokyo company buying up land near a pristine lake into a complex and mysterious drama. It's a complex drama, a realist film teetering on the edge of the uncanny, whose very title points the way towards the idea that there are shades of grey in every judgment we make.



Afire (Roter Himmel)
Dir.: Christian Petzold
This Screening is Exclusively for Women Audience
Germany | 2023 | 102' | German Corner | 6 Degrees 2:30 PM
Christian Petzold's Afire is a captivating thriller that ignites a tale of obsession and mystery in Berlin. Following a firefighter's pursuit of an elusive arsonist, the film intertwines suspense with an intense character study. Acclaimed for its storytelling and performances, Afire is a must-see for its thrilling plot and psychological depth.

I always felt my movie is an untold love story!: Dir. Abijith Ashokan



Director Abijith Asokan in a conversation with Ms. Divya Jay from the 21st CIFF team shared his journey of becoming a filmmaker and what his debut film so special!



I'm a film camera lens rental company owner. I entered the film industry at the age of 22 as a film producer and writer. I got the Kerala State Award at the age of 22. I am the youngest producer to receive this award for making a kids' movie. I wanted to make a unique and rare movie so I pitched this subject for my directorial debut and I always felt it to be an untold love story!
In Tamil I like the movies Pariyerum Perumal, Soorai Pottru, Anbe Shivam, Vada Chennai, Visaranai and Super Deluxe. My favourite directors are Pa Renjith, Sudha Kongara, Goutham Menon and Venkat Prabhu.

I think if the director and writer are the same, we can execute the film easily. I think education is needed to be a good filmmaker, I'm an MBA graduate.

Support from friends and family is very essential to become a good filmmaker. It is very primary. I feeling proud that 21st Chennai International Film Festival selected my film. I loved the audience and I would like to thank CIFF for giving me this golden opportunity.

12 AMAZING FILMS AT THE TAMIL FILM COMPETITION THIS YEAR!!



Aneethi by Vasanthabalan

Aneethi is a 2023 Indian Tamil-language romantic psychological thriller film written and directed by Vasanthabalan. It is produced by Vasanthabalan himself, V M. Krishna Kumar, Murugan Gnanavel, Varadharajan Manickam under the banner Urban Boyz Studios. The film stars Arjun Das and Dushara Vijayan in the lead roles.

The film was announced in February 2021, under the tentative title Production No.1, as it is the production banner's maiden production, while the title of the film was revealed in September. Principal photography commenced in February 2021 and wrapped in May 2022. The music is composed by G. V. Prakash Kumar, while

the cinematography and editing are handled by A. M. Edwin Sakay and Ravikumar M, respectively.



Ayothi by Manthira Moorthy

Ayothi (transl. Ayodhya) is a 2023 Indian Tamil-language drama film directed by newcomer R. Manthira Moorthy, starring M. Sasikumar, Yashpal Sharma, Preethi Asrani, Pugazh, Anju Asrani and Master Advait Vinod in the lead roles. The music was composed by

N. R. Raghunathan with cinematography by Madhesh Manickam and editing by San Lokesh. The film released theatrically on 3 March 2023 and digitally on ZEE5 on 7 April 2023 and opened to highly positive reviews among audience and critics, with praise directed towards the direction, screenplay, cast performances and social message. The film contains Hindi dialogues and a song. The film was a critical and commercial success.



Karumegangal Kalaiginrana by Thangar Bachan

The story is about Human Emotions and how to value the family when they are within reach 'not' after you realize you had lost. A family without a strong foundation and values will disintegrate. Director and Writer is Thangar Bachan. The movie stars Yogi Babu, Aditi Balan and Bharathiraja.



Maamannan by Mari Selvaraj

Maamannan (transl. Emperor) is a 2023 Indian Tamil-language political drama film written and directed by Mari Selvaraj, and produced by Udhayanidhi Stalin of Red Giant Movies. The film stars Vadivelu, Fahadh Faasil, Keerthy Suresh and Udhayanidhi Stalin. The film was announced in March 2022. Principal photography commenced

the same month and wrapped in September.

The music is composed by A. R. Rahman, while the cinematography and editing are handled by Theni Eswar and Selva R. K., respectively. Maamannan released on 29 June 2023. The film received positive reviews from critics and grossed ₹52 crore (US\$6.5 million) worldwide against a production budget of ₹35 crore.



Por Thozhil by Vignesh Raja

Por Thozhil (transl. The Art of War) is a 2023 Indian Tamil-language crime thriller film directed by Vignesh Raja in his directorial debut. The film stars R. Sarathkumar, Ashok Selvan and Nikhila Vimal, with Sarath Babu, Nizhalgal Ravi, Sunil Sukhada and Santhosh Keerthathoor in supporting roles. The music was composed by Jakes Bejoy, while the cinematography and editing were handled

by Kalaiselvan Sivaji and Sreejith Sarang.

Por Thozhil was released theatrically on 9 June 2023 to positive reviews from critics and became a commercial success at the box office.



Raavana Kottam by Vikram Sugumaran

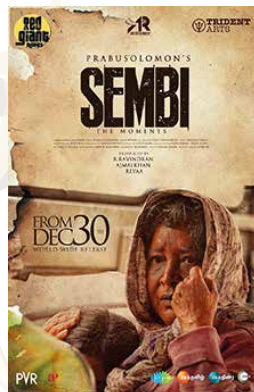
Raavana Kottam (transl. Ravana's gathering) is a 2023 Indian Tamil-language political drama film written and directed by Vikram Sugumaran of Madha Yaanai Koottam fame and produced Kannan Ravi under the banner of Kannan Ravi Group. The film stars Shanthanu Bhagyaraj, Anandhi and Prabhu. The music was composed by Justin Prabhakaran. The film was released on 12 May 2023



Saayavanam by Anil

Malayalam movie director Anil is making his Kollywood debut with 'Saayavanam' starring Soundararaja and Devananda in the lead roles and produced by Santhosh Damodharan under the Damor Cinema banner. Anil has directed more than 40 Malayalam movies and has worked with top Malayalam heroes. Damor Cinema commenced their production journey with the movie

'Pakalpoom' which was also directed by Anil. The production company has so far made several hit movies including 'Vaalkannadi', 'Ivar', 'Chandrolsavam' and 'Kurushetra'.



Sembi by Prabu Solomon

Sembi is a 2022 Indian Tamil-language adventure drama film directed by Prabhu Solomon. The film stars Nila, Kovai Sarala, and Ashwin Kumar Lakshmikanthan, along with Thambi Ramaiah, Nanjil Sampath, and Pala. Karupiah in supporting roles. The music was composed by Nivas K. Prasanna with cinematography by M. Jeevan and editing by Buvan. The film released theatrically on 30 December 2022 to highly positive reviews from critics.



Start Camera Action by Santhosh Nambirajan

The actor Santhosh is a commercial actor who wishes to act in realistic movies. Director Nambirajan is trying to take a movie based on true events that happened during the pandemic. The two then decide to join hands with which the pre-production starts. Meanwhile Nambirajan's friend Babu a director himself, his story gets stolen by another director, so director Nambirajan asks justice for the theft of Babu's story. The director faces many difficulties due to this. Will he win the challenge?



Udanpaal by Karthik Seenivasan

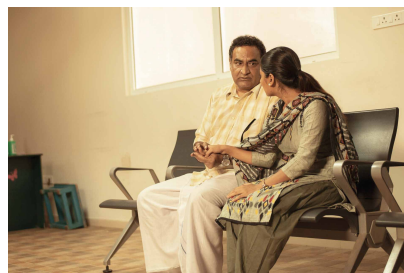
Udanpaal is a 2022 Indian Tamil-language comedy drama film directed by Karthik Seenivasan and starring Linga, Gayathrie and Vivek Prasanna in the lead roles. The ensemble cast shot the entire film in one schedule in the same location. Revolves around the offspring of a father plotting to kill him for his property. Paraman and his sister Kanmani, who are in dire financial straits, angrily refuse to advise their father Vinayakam to sell their house. When the news comes that Vinayakam has died in an unexpected tragedy, even in that grief-stricken state, the family gets greedy for the compensation that the government is going to provide. But fate twists again as the situation becomes funny yet tragic all at once.



Viduthalai Part 1 by Vetrimaaran

Deep in a mountainous jungle, an armed people's movement is at war with the police. The state apparatus is scrambling to identify the mysterious leader of this movement — Makkal Padai (People's Army) — who goes by the moniker Vaathiyar. The authorities don't even know what he looks like. A young police

constable (PC) is transferred to one of these remote outposts, setting him on a collision course with powerful men. Director Vetrimaaran's Viduthalai - Part 1 seems set to tell a gritty political tale led by an actor few would have expected in such a serious and complex role.



Vindhya Victim Verdict V3 by Amudhavanan P

Vindhya Victim Verdict V3 is a 2023 Indian Tamil-language film directed by P. Amudhavanan and starring Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Paavana Gowda, Esther Anil and Aadukalam Naren. It was released on 6 January 2023. V3 is a fight for their rights and against an injustice on a gang rape-murder and encountered case, achieving a poetic justice with the help of the system which fails initially on due to the undue pressure of representatives and thy people.