

With the Support of Government of Tamil Nadu



With Best Wishes & Blessings from

The Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. **M.K.STALIN**

*for the support
extended to ICAF
during Chennai International Film Festivals.*

With the Support of Government of Tamil Nadu



With Best Wishes & Blessings from

The Honourable Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. UDHAYANIDHI STALIN

*for the support
extended to ICAF
during Chennai International Film Festivals.*

Our supporters and Partners



Organized by
Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation



www.chennaifilmfest.com/www.icafe.in

CONTENTS

FILMS

COUNTRY

PAGE NO.

OPENING FILM

The Room Next Door	Spain, United States	37
--------------------	----------------------	----

CLOSING FILM

Anora	United States	39
-------	---------------	----

Tamil feature film

Amaran	India	41
Boat	India	42
Bujji at Anupatti	India	43
Sevappi	India	44
Jama	India	45
Kottukkaali	India	46
Kozhipannai Chelladurai	India	47
Lubber Pandhu	India	48
Maharaja	India	49
Meiyazhagan	India	50
Nandhan	India	51
Rasavathi - The Alchemist	India	52
Thangalaan	India	53
Vaazhai	India	54
Veppam Kulir Mazhai	India	55
Vettaian	India	56

SIDE BAR

Ayali	India	58
Demonte Colony 2	India	59
Garudan	India	60
Hot Spot	India	61
Neela Nira Sooriyan (Blue Sunshine)	India	62
Parking	India	63
Teenz	India	64
Vallavan Vaguthadhada	India	65

CONTENTS

WORLD CINEMA COMPETITION

FILMS	COUNTRY	PAGE NO.
Deewaar Ke Us Paar (Beyond The Wall)	India	67
Happy	Austria	68
Hi Nanna(Hi Dad)	India	59
In the Arms of the Tree	Iran	70
Kinaru (The Well)	India	71
Otta (The Loner)	India	72
Season of Love (Aşk Mevsimi)	Turkey	73
Sima's Unfinished Narration (Revayate Nataman -E- Sima)	Iran	74
Sleeping with a Tiger (Mit Einem Tiger Schlafen)	India	75
Tarkarí De Chivo (Spicy Goat, a restaurant whose main dish is chaos)	Venezuela	76
Committee Kurrollu (The Carnival Committee)	India	77
80 Plus	Austria	78

WORLD CINEMA

Above the Dust	China	80
Adult Best Friends	United States	81
A Girl For A day (Un jour fille)	France	82
A la belle etoile (Sugar and stars)	France	83
All Shall Be Well (Cong jin yihou)	Hongkong, China	84
Andrea Gets A Divorce (Andrea lässt sich scheiden)	Austria	85
An Ordinary Case - Le Fil	France	86
Cricket, it's your turn	Kazakhstan, France	87
Deliciosa Fruta Seca	Peru	88
Eat The Night	France	89
Emilia Perez	France, Belgium	90
Europa	Austria, United Kingdom	91
Every You Every Me (Alle die Du bist)	Germany, Spain	92
Force of Nature: The Dry 2 (La fuerza de la naturalaeza)	United States , Australia	93
Fuhrer and Seducer	Germany	94
Grand Tour	Portugal, Italy, France, Germany, Japan, China	95
In the Blind Spot (Im toten Winkel)	Germany	96
In the Face of Gravity (Magasmentés)	Hungary	97
In the land of Brothers	Iran, France, Netherlands	98
Invalid	Slovakia	99

CONTENTS

FILMS	COUNTRY	PAGE NO.
Jenni	United States	100
Kaazh	Australia	101
Khitrovka. The Sign of Four (Khitrovka. Znak chetyryokh)	Russia	102
Let Me Go / LAISSEZ-MOI	France, Switzerland, Belgium	103
The Best Families (Las mejores familias)	Peru, Columbia	104
Locust/ Chong	Taiwan, Qatar, United States, France	105
Loveable (Elskling)	Norway	106
Maidaore	Japan	107
Mastergame (Mesterjátzsma)	Hungary	108
Mamifera	Spain	109
Memories of a Burning Body/ Memories de un cuerpo quw arde	Spain, Costa Rica	110
Motel Destino	Brazil , France, Germany, United Kingdom	111
Un petit frere(Mother and son)	France	112
My Melbourne	Australia	113
Norah	Saudi Arabia	114
One Of Those Days When Hemme Dies	Turkey	115
Opazovanje/Observing	Italy, Croatia, Slovenia	116
Poslednji heroj (Shooting Blanks)	Slovenia	117
Quiet Life	France, Sweden, Germany, Greece, Finland, Estonia	118
Samia: Little Dreamer	Italy, Germany, Belgium	119
Saturn Return/ Segundo premio	Spain, France	120
Scorched Earth	Germany	121
Shahid	Germany	122
Soch: A Perception	Germany	123
Stormskerry Maja/Myrskyluodon Maija	Finland	124
To a Land Unknown	Saudi Arabia	125
The Challenge/ Vyzov	Russia	126
The Dreamer	France	127
The Girl with the Needle /Pigen med nalen	Denmark, Poland, Sweden	128
The Old Bachelor (Pir Pesar)	Iran	129
The Seed of the Sacred Fig (Dane - ye anjir-e ma'abed)	France, Germany	130
The Shameless	Switzerland, Bulgaria, France, Taiwan, and India	131
The Substance	France, United States, United Kingdom	132
The Undertaker (Sapparer)	Thailand	133
The Village Next to Paradise	France, Austria, Somalia	134
Till We Meet Again	Taiwan	135
Toxic (Akiplesa)	Lithuania	136
Tractor	France	137
Vera And The Pleasure of Others	Argentina	138
Vzornik/ Role Model	Slovenia, Serbia, Czech Republic, Italy	139
Waves	Czech Republic, Slovakia	140
Who do I belong to/ Mé el Aïn	Tunisia, Qatar, United States, France	141
Winter Crossing/Le tete froide	France	142

CONTENTS

FILMS

COUNTRY

PAGE NO.

COUNTRY FOCUS - IRAN

Hook	Iran	144
Captain/Kapitan	Iran	145
Fragrant (Atr Alood)	Iran	146

INDIAN PANAROMA

Aadujeevitham (The Goat Life)	India	148
Amar Boss	India	149
A.R.M	India	150
Big Ben	India	151
Bramayugam	India	152
Jagat (The World)	India	153
Jigarthanda DoubleX	India	154
Kishkindha Kaandam	India	155
Level Cross	India	156
My Hero	India	157
None of Her	India	158
Onko Ki Kothin	India	159
Taarikh	India	160
Vishesham	India	161
12th fail	India	162
35 Chinna Katha Kaadu	India	163

SHORT FILM BY STUDENTS OF TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT

Shoal of Fish	165
Last Drive	165
Pamela	166
Puppet	166
Kayamai	167
Kalavu	167
Ethirmarai	168

Festival Director's Message

As the Festival Director of the 22nd Chennai International Film Festival (CIFF), it is my privilege to begin by expressing heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Tamil Nadu. Their unwavering support and steadfast commitment to promoting arts and culture have been instrumental in shaping this festival into a beacon of cinematic excellence. The government's encouragement has not only enabled us to scale new heights but also reinforced Tamil Nadu's position as a vibrant cultural hub on the global stage.

Every great film festival carries its own distinct essence, much like every cuisine has its unique flavor. The Chennai International Film Festival, too, possesses a character and charm unlike any other. It is a festival imbued with the cultural richness and emotional depth that only a city like Chennai can offer. Here, cinema is not merely consumed but celebrated, cherished, and understood in all its nuance and diversity.

Our aspiration is to elevate the Chennai International Film Festival to stand among the world's most prestigious cinematic events, positioning it as Southeast Asia's foremost platform for global cinema. I envision Chennai becoming the epicenter of world cinema—a vibrant, pulsating hub where the finest films from across the globe converge, and where the timeless magic of storytelling is embraced with unparalleled fervor.

This year's edition marks another significant stride toward that vision. We are proud to present over 100 exceptional films from more than 50 countries, including award-winning masterpieces from prestigious festivals such as Cannes, Venice, Berlinale, and Toronto. The Chennai International Film Festival has always been a stage where world-class cinema finds its most ardent and discerning audience, and this year is no exception.

We are also delighted to feature films for the Indian Panorama section, thanks to the generous support of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). Their contribution has enhanced this section, which highlights the diversity and vibrancy of Indian cinema. Additionally, the festival owes its global reach to the invaluable support of over 13 embassies and consulates, who have graciously collaborated with us to showcase outstanding films from their respective countries. These partnerships underscore the universal language of cinema and its ability to foster cross-cultural dialogue and understanding.

Beyond the screenings, we are introducing a wealth of enriching experiences. Eleven masterclasses by celebrated personalities in the film industry will offer invaluable insights into the craft and artistry of filmmaking. For the first time in our history, we are proud to host 11 Master Talks, where acclaimed film personalities will share their journeys, philosophies, and creative processes, inspiring a new generation of cinephiles and creators.

This year also marks a significant milestone in our efforts to engage and empower the youth. For the first time in the festival's history, we have witnessed overwhelming student involvement and participation, with over 1,500 students registering for the 22nd Chennai International Film Festival. Students from 20 esteemed arts and science colleges in Chennai, Erode, Karaikudi, and Coimbatore will be attending the festival, making it a truly inclusive and vibrant celebration of cinema. Their energy and enthusiasm bring a refreshing dynamism to the festival, paving the way for a future where young voices play an integral role in shaping the cinematic landscape.

The 22nd Chennai International Film Festival is more than just a film festival—it is a cultural movement. It is a collective effort to make Chennai synonymous with cinematic excellence, a city that serves as a gateway to the very best of global cinema. Together, we are building a legacy that not only honors the art of filmmaking but also shapes its future.

Let us come together to celebrate this vibrant art form, learn from the greats, and create a space where cinema thrives. With your support, I am confident that the Chennai International Film Festival will continue its journey to becoming one of the most revered film festivals in the world.

Warm regards,
AVM K. Shanmugam
Festival Director
22nd Chennai International Film Festival



“

Festival greetings to the film lovers of Chennai.

It gives me immense pleasure in associating with the Chennai International Film Festival since 2008 as film Programmer and this year also I had the honour of working with the new team in promoting good meaningful cinema being organised by Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation. The festival will be screening recently acclaimed and award winning films from more than 50 countries for the benefit of upcoming and aspiring young talents from the film industry. Besides, the management decided to encourage Tamil film producers by adding more Tamil feature films which will help them for new avenues through this platform. I am really happy in getting full support from the management as well as from the team.

I wish the film connoisseurs of Chennai to enjoy the film festival and give full support for the growth of the festival to the next level.



Warm regards,

Mr. Srinivasa Santhanam

Programmer

22nd Chennai International Film Festival

”

22nd Chennai International Film Festival 2024





सत्यमेव जयते

सूचना एवं
प्रसारण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING**

NFDC

cinemas of india

PVR★INOX



**TAMIL
FILM
PRODUCERS
COUNCIL**





உழைப்பு * சிந்தனை * நேர்மை * ஒற்றுமை



தென்னிந்திய திரைப்பட தொழிலாளர்கள் சம்மேளனம்



district
BY ZOMATO

insider.in 



மாத்தி யோசி
life easy

THE
SAVERA
OUR BUSINESS IS YOU





NIKIL MURUKAN

**உங்களுக்காக நான்
உங்களால் நான்**

küjn

Where we belong

QUBEWIDE

QUBE



AVICHI COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND SCIENCE



FOR GREATER VALUES







RENAISSANCE

EVENTS & EXPERIENCES PVT. LTD.

Official Festival Newsletter Partner

DT  NEXT

FOR THE NEW AGE READER

Read | Follow | Share  www.dtnext.in  @dt_next  @dtnext  @dt_next

यूनियन बैंक  Union Bank
ऑफ इंडिया of India

FOOD PARTNERS



FOOD PARTNERS



Sangeetha's
Desi mane
VEG RESTAURANT



GUEST HOTEL



SSS INSTITUTE

CHENNAI-77



SSS INSTITUTE

AN ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED INSTITUTION



- **START YOUR OWN BUSINESS AS AN EDUPRENEUR**
LOW INVESTMENT/HIGH RETURNS
- **STUDENTS/TEACHERS TRAINING-ONLINE/OFFLINE (CLASSES AVAILABLE)**
- **EXPANDING LEARNING HORIZONS WITH THE POWER OF**
ADVANCED VR MODULES
- **EVENT ORGANIZER FOR SCHOOLS/COLLEGES -CONDUCTING STATE LEVEL,**
NATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITIONS AND WORLD RECORD EVENTS

100% JOB GUARANTEE

**CERTIFICATE COURSES
FOR ALL AGE GROUPS**

PH:9176314344/979083226

MEAL DEAL

**COME AS 5
PAY FOR 3** | **COME AS 3
PAY FOR 2**

MONDAY TO SATURDAY | LUNCH BUFFET | 12.30PM - 3.30PM

Enjoy our incredible lunch buffet deal with a variety of cuisines including mocktails, soups, seafood, continental, Chinese, oriental, Indian, South Indian, and tandoor dishes with live cooking stations, wood-fired thin-crust pizzas, breads, desserts, fruits, ice creams, and more.

For Reservations, call 7550001168



AVICHI COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

(A Co-Educational Institution Affiliated to the University of Madras)

Arcot Road, Virugambakkam, Chennai - 600 092.

Ph : +91 96001 64070 | E.Mail : avichicollege2017@gmail.com



LEARN B.Sc VISCOM

ELIGIBILITY : A PASS IN +2 - STATE BOARD/CBSE



Learn from the
PIONEERS
of Media

ADMISSION OPEN 2025 - 2026

A vibrant movie theater scene. At the top, two heavy, shimmering gold curtains are pulled back to reveal a dark red, textured background. In the center, a glowing neon sign with a pink border and yellow lights around its octagonal shape displays the words "Opening Film" in a white, cursive font. Below the sign, a bright red carpet leads towards the viewer, flanked by two rows of silver stanchions connected by red velvet ropes. The overall atmosphere is one of a grand, high-profile film premiere.

*Opening
Film*



THE ROOM NEXT DOOR

The Room Next Door

Spain, United States | 107 mins | 2024 | English

Cast & Crew

Director	Pedro Almodóvar
Producer	Agustín Almodóvar
Cinematographer	Eduard Grau
Editor	Teresa Font
Music	Alberto Iglesias
Cast	Julianne Moore, Tilda Swinton, John Turturro

Synopsis

Ingrid (Julianne Moore) and Martha (Tilda Swinton) were once close friends, working together at the same magazine. Ingrid became an autofiction novelist, while Martha became a war reporter, and life eventually separated them. After years of no contact, they reunite in an intense yet unexpectedly sweet situation.

About the director

Pedro Almodóvar is an internationally acclaimed Spanish filmmaker. From 1972 to 1978, he made short films with the help of his friends, and his early works became famous in the burgeoning Spanish counter-culture scene. His first feature film, *Pepi, Luci, Bom and Other Girls Like Mom* (1980), was shot in 16mm and later blown up to 35mm for release. In 1987, he and his brother Agustín founded their own production company, El Deseo, S.A. The "Almodóvar phenomenon" has spread worldwide, making his films immensely popular in many countries.



**Pedro
Almodóvar**

A red carpet event scene. At the top, two golden curtains are pulled back to reveal a dark red, textured background. In the center, a glowing neon sign with a pink border and yellow lights around it displays the text "Closing Film" in a white, cursive font. Below the sign, a red carpet runs down the center, flanked by two rows of silver stanchions connected by red ropes.

*Closing
Film*



Anora

United States | 2024 | 139 mins | English

Cast & Crew

Director	Sean Baker
Producer	Sean Baker, Alex Coco, Samantha Quan
Cinematographer	Drew Daniels
Editor	Sean Baker
Music	Joseph Capalbo
Cast	Mikey Madison, Paul Weissman, Lindsey Normington

Synopsis

Anora, a resilient young sex worker from Brooklyn, gets a chance at a better life when she meets the charming son of a Russian oligarch. Their whirlwind romance leads to an impulsive marriage, offering her a taste of a fairytale future. However, when his powerful parents in Russia learn of the union, they set out to destroy it, using manipulation and cultural pressure. As secrets surface, Anora must navigate a world of wealth, control, and love to fight for her own version of happiness.



Sean Baker

About the Director

Sean Baker, is an acclaimed writer, director, and producer known for his authentic storytelling and distinctive visual style. A graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts, his notable films include *Take Out* (2004), *Tangerine* (2015), and the Oscar-nominated *The Florida Project* (2017). His most recent work, *Red Rocket* (2021), premiered at Cannes and was released by A24. Baker also co-created the cult comedy *Greg the Bunny* and its spinoff, *Warren the Ape*.

22nd

Chennai International Film Festival

Tamil feature film

COMPETITION 2024





Amaran

India | 2024 | 169 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Rajkumar Periasamy
Producer	Kamal Haasan, R. Mahendran
Cinematographer	CH Sai
Editor	R. Kalaivanan
Sound Designer	Hari Haran, Sachin Sudhakaran
Music	G. V. Prakash Kumar
Cast	Sivakarthikeyan, Sai Pallavi, Rahul, Bose, Bhuvan Arora

Synopsis

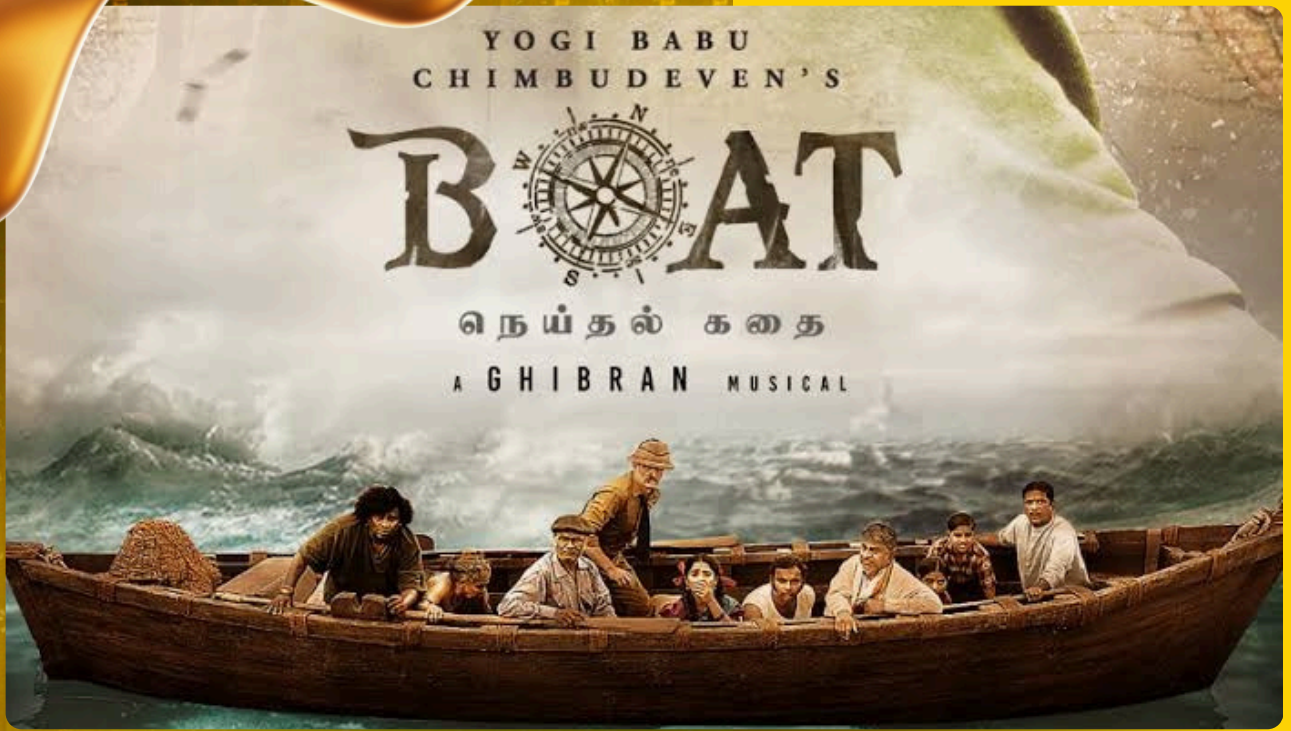
Indhu Rebecca Varghese, along with her daughter and in-laws, travels to New Delhi to receive the Ashoka Chakra posthumously awarded to her husband, Mukund Varadarajan. Their love story began at Madras Christian College, where Mukund encouraged Indhu to participate in a fashion show, leading to their romance. Despite family opposition, they married and had a daughter Arsheya. Mukund later served in the Indian Army and eliminated terrorist Altaf Baba. During a later mission, Mukund was injured but continued serving. Tragically, while hunting another terrorist, Asif Wani, Mukund was killed in a heroic operation. Indhu, devastated by his death, honors his legacy by receiving the Ashoka Chakra.



Rajkumar Periasamy

About the Director

Rajkumar Periasamy is an Indian film director in Tamil cinema, known for his debut film Rangoon (2017), after working as an associate director on Thuppakki (2012). In 2024, he directed Amaran, Produced by Kamal Haasan (RKFI), starring Sivakarthikeyan and Sai Pallavi. It's a Biographical picture of a martyred soldier Major Mukund Varadarajan (AC).



Boat

India | 2024 | 123 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Chimbu Deven
Producer	Prabha Premkumar, C.Kalaivani
Cinematography	Madhesh Manickam
Editor	Dinesh Ponraj
Music	Ghibran
Cast	Yogi Babu, Jesse Fox Allen, M.S. Bhaskar, Gouri G. Kishan

Synopsis

Set during World War II, the story follows Kumaran, a young fisherman from Madras, as he tries to escape with his younger brother, Chokkalingam, who has been detained amidst the turmoil of Japanese bombings. Together with his grandmother and a diverse group of people, they embark on a perilous boat journey to avoid British patrols. As tensions grow and conflicts arise due to their different backgrounds, the group faces survival challenges while grappling with their identities during the war. The narrative delves into themes of resilience, survival, and the strength of the human spirit in times of adversity.



Chimbu Deven

About the Director

Chimbu Deven is an Indian director and writer known for his work in Tamil cinema, particularly in the fantasy and comedy genres. He made his directorial debut with the successful 2006 film *Imsai Arasan 23rd Pulikecei*. His other notable films include *Arai En 305-il Kadavul* (2008), *Irumbukkottai Murattu Singam* (2010), and *Puli* (2015). Deven also directed the anthology film *Kasada Thapara* (2021) and an episode of *Victim* (2022). His latest project is *Boat* (2024), starring Yogi Babu.



Bujji at Anupatti

India | 2024 | 109 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Raam Kandasamy
Producer	Raam Kandasamy
Cinematography	Arun Mozhi Chozhan
Edited	Saravanan Madheswaran
Music	Karthik Raja
Cast	Lavanya Kanmani, Meena Gopalakrishnan, Kamal Kumar

Synopsis

In Uthukuli village, Durga and her brother Saravanan live with their parents, who work as farmers on landlord Shiva's estate. One day, the children find a baby goat and name her Bujji. However, their drunken father sells the goat, prompting the siblings to embark on a mission to rescue her. They are joined by Dharshini, an orphan girl, in their search. Meanwhile, landlord Shiva, realizing the children are missing, sets out to find them. The story unfolds around whether the children and Bujji will be saved, and if Shiva will locate them in time.



**Raam
Kandasamy**

About the Director

Director **Raam Kandasamy** graduated from PSG College of Technology in Coimbatore. Driven by a passion for film, he began his career as an assistant director to veteran actor and director Prakash Raj, working on the films Dhoni and Un Samayal Arayil. He also served as a co-director on Sathru. Bujji at Anupatti is his directorial debut feature film.



Sevappi

India | 2024 | 113 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	M S Raaja
Producer	Rajeshwar Kalisamy , Prasanna Balachandran
Cinematography	Manoharan M
Edited	Vachu Lakshmin
Music	A. Praveen Kumar
Cast	Rishikanth, Poornima Ravi, Shravan Athvethan

Synopsis

A four-year-old boy imagines that he has given birth to a chicken and develops an immense, limitless love for it. However, this deep affection sparks a series of challenges, eventually leading to a family dispute. As the situation escalates, it evolves into a caste issue, causing tension and conflict throughout the entire village.



M S Raaja

About the Director

M S Raaja is a Writer-Director in the Indian cinema industry, he began his journey by exploring various aspects of filmmaking, including acting, editing, DI, cinematography, and anchoring, driven by a passion to become a Writer-Director. His dream was realized with *Sevappi*. His love for films started at the age of 5 when he first watched movies in theaters, sparking a lifelong passion for cinema. He often describes films as "the light of my life." His previous pilot film, *Trikonam*, won a Special Diploma Award at the Smolensk International Film Festival in Russia.



Jama

India | 2024 | 131 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Pari Elavazhagan
Producer	Sai Devanand S, Sasikala S, Sai Venkateswaran S
Cinematographer	Gopal Krishna
Editor	Partha M.A
Sound Designer	A.M.Senthamizhan
Music	Ilaiyaraaja
Cast	Pari Elavazhagan , Ammu Abirami

Synopsis

Set in a peaceful Tamil Nadu village, the story follows Kalyanam, a folk artist who plays Draupadi in a "therukoothu" troupe. His mother wishes to change his feminine image, unaware that his persona is shaped by repeatedly playing Draupadi. Kalyanam's father, Elavarasan, once co-founded the troupe but lost control after a fallout with his partner, Thandavam. Thandavam took over and made Kalyanam play secondary female roles. Kalyanam falls in love with Thandavam's daughter, Jagathambha, but faces opposition. His mother urges him to play Arjuna before her death. The story explores Kalyanam's journey to reclaim his artistry, love, and legacy.



Pari Elavazhagan

About the Director

Pari Elavazhagan is a versatile individual with a background in software engineering who transitioned into the world of Kollywood filmmaking. His journey includes professional acting training under Mr. Mime Gopi, mastering Mime, and performing in the traditional Tamil art of Therukoothu. He has worked as a first assistant director on several productions, gaining valuable insights into filmmaking. Alongside, he has directed multiple short films.



Kottukkaali

India | 2024 | 160 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	P. S. Vinothraj
Producer	Sivakarthiskeyan
Cinematographer	Sakthivel
Editor	Ganesh Siva
Cast	Soori, Anna Ben

Synopsis

A 21-year-old girl falls in love with a boy from an oppressed caste, prompting her outraged family to believe she is under his love spell. They forcibly take her to a distant village shaman to perform witchcraft, hoping to erase her memories of him by sacrificing a rooster. This journey exposes the harmful influence of caste, religion, and patriarchy on an average Indian family. The girl's future is now controlled by violent, misogynistic forces. The story raises the question of whether the girl and the rooster will survive or become victims of this oppressive belief system.



P. S. Vinothraj

About the Director

P. S. Vinothraj is a filmmaker from Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India. His debut feature, *Koozhangal* (Pebbles), is inspired by his personal life. The film premiered in the Tiger Competition at the 50th International Film Festival of Rotterdam in 2021, where it won the prestigious Tiger Award.



Kozhipannai Chelladurai

India | 2024 | 120 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Seenu Ramasamy
Producer	D. Arulanandhu, Mathewo Arulanandhu
Cinematographer	Ashokraj
Editor	Sreekar Prasad
Sound Editor	Abrahamlijojames
Music	N. R. Raghunathan
Cast	Aegan, Yogi Babu, Brigida Saga

Synopsis

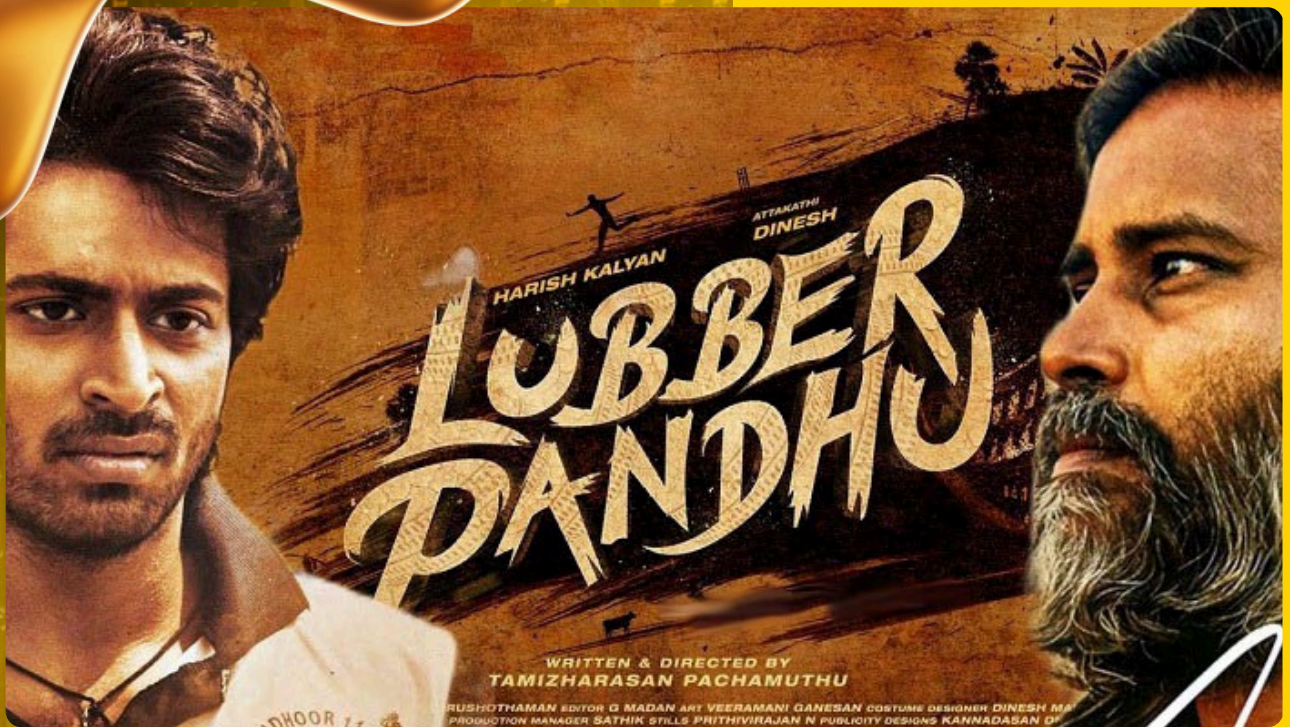
Chelladurai's life is shattered when his mother, Chitra, abandons the family due to an affair. Raised by his grandmother, who later passes away, Chelladurai struggles to care for his sister, Sudha. As an adult, he works tirelessly to support them and rejects Thamarai's love. When he learns of Sudha's secret relationship with Soundar, he reluctantly accepts him as a brother-in-law. After rescuing his mother, who has lost her memory, and later caring for his ailing father, Chelladurai forgives his past, accepts Thamarai's love, and begins a new chapter in his life.



**Seenu
Ramasamy**

About the Director

Seenu Ramasamy is an Indian filmmaker, screenwriter, and poet primarily active in Tamil cinema. He made his directorial debut with *Koodal Nagar* (2007) and gained widespread recognition for his film *Thenmerku Paruvakaatru* (2010), which won three National Film Awards, including Best Feature Film in Tamil, Best Actress, and Best Lyrics. Ramasamy is also known for directing *Neerparavai* (2012) and *Dharma Durai* (2016).



Lubber Pandhu

India | 2024 | 146 mins | Tamil

Cast and Crew

Director	Tamizharasan Pachamuthu
Producer	S. Lakshman Kumar
Cinematographer	Dinesh Purushothaman
Editor	Madan G
Music	Sean Roldan
Cast	Harish Kalyan, Attakathi Dinesh, Swasika, Sanjana Krishnamoorthy

Synopsis

Poomalai, a 39-year-old local cricket legend with 25 years of experience, becomes egoistic when facing Anbu, a talented young cricketer who is equally prideful. Their rivalry intensifies as they compete to prove who is the best. However, things take an unexpected turn when they discover that they are going to be future in-laws.



Tamizharasan Pachamuthu

About the Director

Tamizharasan Pachamuthu is known for Lubber Pandhu (2024). Earlier he worked as a writer for the movie Nenjuku Needhi (2022).



Maharaja

India | 2024 | 140 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Nithilan Saminathan
Producer	Sudhan Sundaram, Jagadish Palanisamy
Cinematographer	Dinesh Purushothaman
Editor	Philomin Raj
Sound Designer	Arun S. Mani
Music	B. Ajaneesh Loknath
Cast	Vijay Sethupathi, Anurag Kashyap, Mamta Mohandas, Natarajan Subramaniam

Synopsis

A barber embarks on a quest for vengeance after his home is burglarized, cryptically telling the police that his "lakshmi" has been stolen. The authorities are left uncertain whether "lakshmi" refers to a person or an object, and the barber's journey to recover it unfolds.



**Nithilan
Saminathan**

About the Director

Nithilan Saminathan is an Indian screenwriter and filmmaker in Tamil cinema. He made his directorial debut with Kurangu Bommai in 2017, which earned praise for its direction and storyline. His second film, Maharaja, starring Vijay Sethupathi, was released on June 14, 2024, after a seven-year gap, and became one of the highest-grossing Tamil films of the year.



Meiyazhagan

India | 2024 | 159 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	C. Prem Kumar
Producer	Jyothika, suriya
Cinematographer	Mahendiran Jayaraju
Editor	R. Govindraj
Music	Govind Vasantha
Cast	Karthi, Arvind Swamy, Sri Divya, Devadarshini Chetan

Synopsis

Meiyazhagan is a poignant tale about Arul Mozhi Varman and Meiyazhagan, two men whose lives are destined to intertwine in a remarkable way. Arul, deeply scarred by betrayal in his past, swears never to return to his hometown of Thanjavur. However, he is compelled to return for his cousin sister's wedding, a decision that forces him to confront his painful past. During his trip, he meets Meiyazhagan, a stranger whose simplicity, kindness, and honesty challenge Arul's cynical worldview. Meiyazhagan explores themes of light, darkness, human goodness, and the rediscovery of spirit, offering a quiet yet powerful reminder of the importance of being truly alive.



C. Prem Kumar

About the Director

C. Prem Kumar is a cinematographer-turned-filmmaker known for his work in Tamil cinema. He has worked as a cinematographer on acclaimed films such as Pasanga (2009), Naduvula Konjam Pakkatha Kaanom (2012), and Sundarapandian (2012). In 2018, he made his directorial debut with 96, a romantic drama that he also wrote, starring Vijay Sethupathi and Trisha Krishnan. Prem Kumar's 2020 release was Jaanu, a film that followed the success of his earlier directorial work.



Nandhan

India | 2024 | 110 Minutes | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Era. Saravanan
Producer	Era. Saravanan
Cinematographer	R. V. Saran
Editor	Nelson Anthony
Music	Ghibran
Cast	M. Sasi Kumar, Suruthi Periyasamy, Balaji Sakthivel

Synopsis

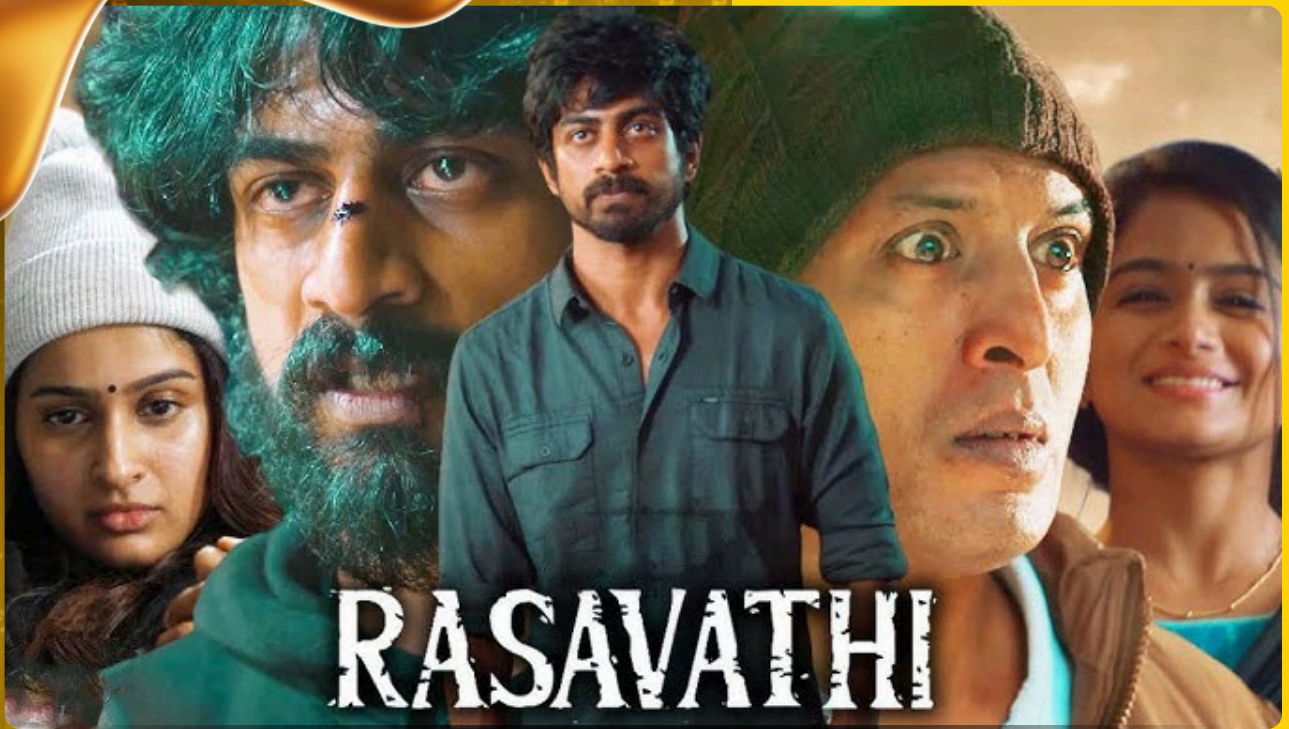
Durusupatti, an agricultural village in Pudukkottai district, is led by Koppulingam, the long-time panchayat president, who holds significant power over the Dalits working under him, including Koozh Paana, a loyal and trustworthy man managing Koppulingam's agricultural lands. During a village gathering, the decision is made to re-elect Koppulingam without a contest, but an announcement reveals that Durusupatti is now a reservation village, meaning only a Dalit can be president. Koppulingam manipulates Koozh Paana, his unwitting servant, into standing as the candidate. The story explores how dominant castes continue to control the village and Koozh Paana's eventual rise to overcome this dominance.



Era. Saravanan

About the Director

Era Saravanan a prominent figure in Tamil cinema, has received several accolades for his contributions, including the Tamil Nadu Government's Best Narrator Award in 2015 for Kathukutty and the Delhi Tamil Sangh Award. Renowned for his storytelling, he has made a significant impact in both literature and cinema. His notable works include Nandhan (2024) and Udanpirappe (2021), which further showcase his talent and influence in the industry.



Rasavathi- The Alchemist

India | 2024 | 145 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Santhakumar
Producer	Santhakumar
Cinematographer	Saravanan Ilavarasu
Editor	V.J Sabu Joseph
Music	S. Thaman
Cast	Arjun Das, Tanya S Ravichandran, Sujith Shanker

Synopsis

A small-scale Siddha doctor, seeking a peaceful life with a new-to-town girl to escape their troubled pasts, finds his life disrupted when he is targeted by a psychopathic police inspector. The inspector harbors personal vengeance and is determined to kill the doctor, forcing him to confront this dangerous threat while trying to maintain his newfound peace.



Santhakumar

About the Director

Santhakumar is a critically acclaimed international award-winning director, writer, and producer known for his unique filmmaking style. He made his debut in the Tamil film industry with *Mounaguru*, a crime thriller praised for its unpredictable screenplay and gripping storytelling. The film was later remade in Kannada as *Guru* (2012), Telugu as *Shankara* (2016), and Hindi as *Akira* (2016), directed by A.R. Murugadoss. Santhakumar's second film, *Magamuni*, won 30 international film festival awards, including 23 for Best Director, solidifying his reputation in global cinema.



Thangalaan

India | 2024 | 152 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Pa. Ranjith
Producer	K.E Gnanavel Raja
Cinematographer	A. Kishore Kumar
Editor	Selva RK
Music	G.V Prakash Kumar
Cast	Vikram, Parvathy Thiruvothu, Malavika Mohanan, Pasupathy

Synopsis

Thangalaan, a farmer in Veppur, lives a peaceful life with his family until the local Zamindar seizes his land, reducing his family to bonded labor. An Englishman, Clement, arrives seeking laborers for gold mining in Kolar, and Thangalaan sees this as an opportunity to free his family. In Kolar, they face hardship and greed, with Clement demanding more labor despite deadly accidents and attacks from the Naga chief Aarathi, who guards the gold. Thangalaan learns he is a Naga and, after a battle with Clement, avenges Aarathi's death. The land finally yields gold, and Thangalaan emerges victorious.

About the Director

Pa. Ranjith is a renowned Indian film director, screenwriter, and producer, celebrated for his exploration of Dalit identity, politics, and social issues in Tamil cinema. He gained prominence with films like *Attakathi* (2012), *Madras* (2014), *Kabali* (2016), and *Kaala* (2018), featuring Rajinikanth. Ranjith founded Neelam Productions to produce films and documentaries focused on Dalit empowerment and social justice. His works, including *Pariyerum Perumal* and *Sarpatta Parambarai*, have solidified his reputation as a bold filmmaker who challenges conventional narratives, influencing cultural and political discourse in India.



Pa. Ranjith



Vaazhai

India | 2024 | 136 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Mari Selvaraj
Producer	Mari selvaraj, Divya Mari Selvaraj
Cinematographer	Theni Iswar
Editor	Suriya Pradhman
Music	Santhosh Narayanan
Cast	Ponvel. M, Rakul. R, Nikila Vimal, Kaliyarasan, Dhivya Dhuraisamy

Synopsis

Twelve-year-old Sivanandhan, lives in the poverty-stricken village of Puliayankulam, working as a daily wage laborer in banana plantations. Along with his friend Sekar, he despises working during weekends off from school. Sivanaindhaan's playful avoidance of work causes tension in his family. One day, when he skips work to go to school, a catastrophic event occurs upon his return, forever altering his life. This incident marks a turning point, as his carefree innocence gives way to a harsh reality that changes the course of his life.



Mari Selvaraj

About the Director

Mari Selvaraj is an Indian film director and writer in the Tamil film industry, known for his impactful storytelling. He made his directorial debut with *Pariyerum Perumal* (2018), which received widespread acclaim and numerous awards. He followed it up with *Karnan* (2021), a critical and commercial success, and *Maamannan* (2023), marking his third hit. His films often reflect personal experiences. In addition to filmmaking, he has written two short story collections, *Thamirabharaniyil Kollapadaathavargal* and *Marakave Ninaikiren*, and a poetry collection, *Uchiniyenbadhu*. His fourth film, *Vaazhai*, is a reflection of his childhood.



Veppam Kulir Mazhai

India | 2024 | 132 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Pascal Vedamuthu
Producer	Dhirav
Cinematographer	Prithvi Rajendran
Editor	Dhirav
Sound designer	Raju Albert
Music	Shankar Rangarajan
Cast	Dhirav, Ismath Banu, MS Bhaskar

Synopsis

Veppam Kulir Mazhai tells the story of Petthaperumal and Paandi, a married couple in the village of Maaviduthukotai, Sivagangai. Their once happy relationship is strained when societal pressure to conceive a child affects their emotional and physical bond. The film explores the societal stigma placed on women who are unable to conceive and the fake masculine identity crisis faced by men. Amid the societal pressures and shame from both close and distant circles, the couple navigates these challenges, eventually finding love and healing, symbolized by the "heat, cold, and finally the rain of love."



**Pascal
Vedamuthu**

About the Director

Pascal Vedamuthu, known for his work as an associate director on films like Kuttram Kadithal and Magalir Mattum and the web series Suzhal, makes his directorial debut with Veppam Kulir Mazhai. The film addresses the societal pressure faced by couples to conceive a child, exploring the emotional and physical strains in their relationship.



Vettaian

India | 2024 | 163 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	T.J. Gnanavel
Producer	Subaskaran GKM. Tamil Kumaran
Cinematographer	S.R Kathir
Editor	Philomin Raj
Music	Anirudh Ravichander
Cast	RajiniKanth, Amitabh Bachchan, Fahadh Fasil, Manju Warrior, Rana Daggubati, Rithika Singh, Abhirami, Dushara Vijayan

Synopsis

Vettaian follows a highly respected super cop who becomes entangled in a series of unexpected events while investigating a criminal case. As he struggles to justify his actions, he faces a moral dilemma and is forced to confront his conscience. In the process, he battles against corrupt, larger-than-life forces. The film delves into the dark side of crime investigations, portraying one man's relentless fight in a world where justice is scarce.



T.J Gnanavel

About the Director

T.J. Gnanavel is a writer and director who began his career in 2011 with the story and screenplay for the Tamil crime action film Payanam. He later wrote the dialogues for the 2012 Tamil family drama Dhoni, starring Prakash Raj and Radhika Apte. In 2017, Gnanavel made his directorial debut with the Kootathil Oruthan, featuring Ashok Selvan and Priya Anand and his next film is *Jai Bhim* (2021), starring Suriya, Manikandan K , Lijamol Jose which was based on a case handled by Justice K Chandru.

22nd

Chennai International Film Festival

TAMIL FEATURE FILM

SIDE BAR





Ayali

India | 2023 | 181 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Muthukumar
Producer	Kushmavathi
Cinematographer	Prithvi Rajendran
Editor	Ramji
Music	Revaa
Cast	Abi Nakshathra, Anumol, Madhankumar Dhakshinamoorthy, Linga, Singampuli

Synopsis

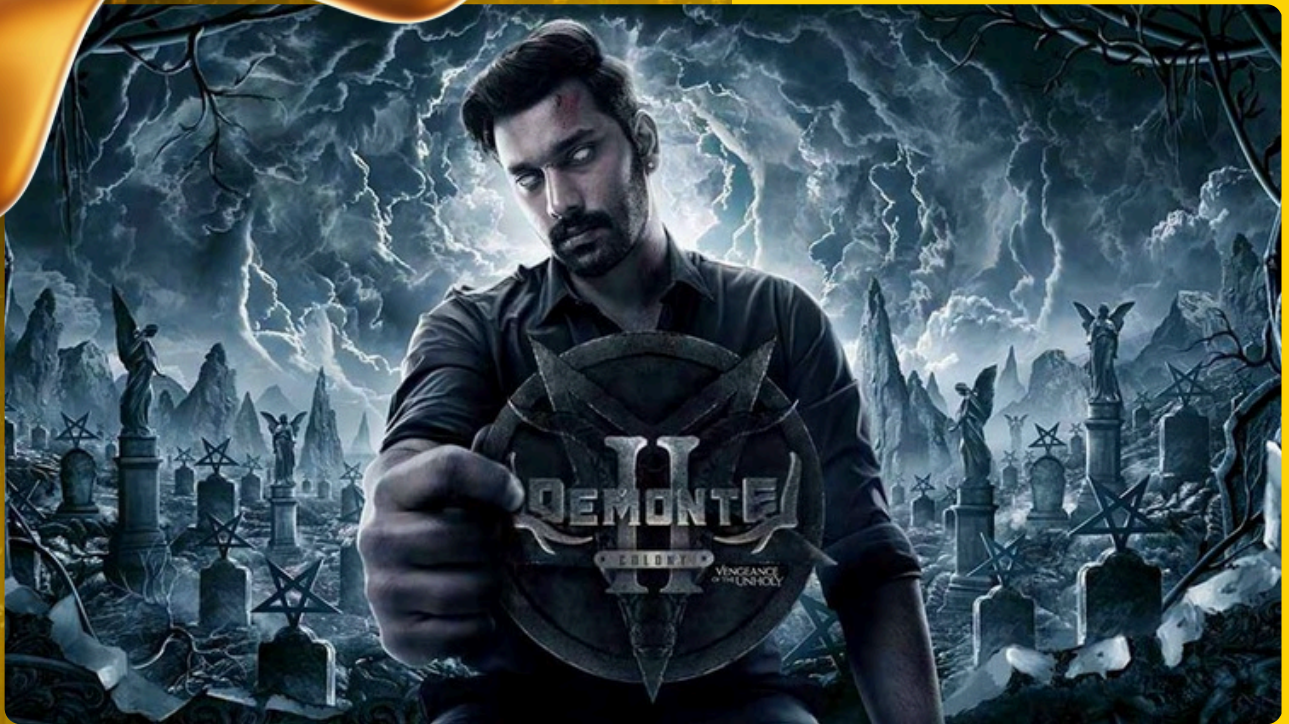
Ayali, set in 1990s Veerappan a village with a 500-year-old tradition that forces girls to marry as soon as they reach puberty. The story follows Thamizhselvi, a determined young woman who dreams of becoming a doctor. With her mother's support, she hides her puberty to continue her education, defying the oppressive tradition. This sparks a fierce conflict between the village's men and women. The series also highlights the struggles of other women, like Mythili and Kayalvizhi, and through Thamizhselvi's courage, it challenges the tradition, symbolizing hope and reclamation for future generations.



Muthukumar

About the Director

Muthukumar is the director of the 2023 Tamil-language streaming television series Ayali, available on ZEE5. The series addresses the patriarchal aspects of Indian and Tamil society, exploring themes of tradition and women's rights. The main characters include Abi Nakshatra, Anumol, Madhan, Linga, and Singampuli, each contributing to the narrative that challenges societal norms and highlights struggles against oppressive traditions.



Demonte Colony 2

India | 2024 | 136 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	R. Ajay Gnanamuthu
Producer	Bobby Balachandran
Cinematographer	Harish Kannan
Editor	Kumaresh D
Music	Sam C S
Cast	Arulnithi, Priya Bhavani Shankar, Arun Pandian

Synopsis

On June 6, 2009, cancer survivor Samuel "Sam" Richard is found dead, alongside his friends. His wife Debbie suspects foul play, and tensions rise when her mother discovers Debbie's plans to conceive using Sam's preserved sperm. Six years later, Debbie meets Srinivasan, a man linked to Sam's spirit, and uncovers connections to a mysterious book, "Unsung King of a Fallen Kingdom." The book triggers a chain of supernatural events, leading to a series of rituals to stop an evil force, Demonte. As Srimi and Debbie battle Demonte's curse, they uncover dark secrets and fight to break the cycle by 2027.

About the Director

Gnanamuthu, born on September 15, 1988, is a Tamil film director and screenwriter. He made his directorial debut in 2015 with the critically acclaimed horror-thriller Demonte Colony, which became a box office success. Gnanamuthu, a former finalist of the short film competition Naalaya Iyakunar, worked as an assistant director for A.R. Murugadoss on films like 7aum Arivu and Thuppakki. His subsequent works include Imaikkaa Nodigal (2018) and Cobra (2022). In 2024, he reunited with actor Arulnithi for Demonte Colony 2, which received positive reviews for its screenplay and performances.



Gnanamuthu



Garudan

India | 2024 | 134 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	R. S. Durai Senthilkumar
Producer	K. Kumar, Vetrimaaran
Cinematographer	Arthur A. Wilson
Editor	Pradeep E. Ragav
Music	Yuvan Shankar Raja
Cast	Soori, M. Sasikumar, Unni Mukundan, Revathi Sharma, Sshivada, Roshini Haripriyan

Synopsis

Karuna and Aadhi, childhood friends from Kombai, share a strong bond. They become trustees of the Kombai Amman temple. Thangapandi, a minister, plots to seize the temple's valuable land. He manipulates Nagaraj, a relative, to control the temple. Sokkan, a loyal friend of Karuna, becomes the temple head. Tensions rise as greed and betrayal consume the friends. Karuna, driven by his desires, betrays Aadhi and kills him. Sokkan, realizing the truth, avenges Aadhi's death and protects his family. In the end, justice prevails as Karuna meets his fate and Thangapandi faces consequences for his actions.



R. S. Durai Senthilkumar

About the Director

R.S Durai Senthilkumar is an Indian film director and screenwriter in the Tamil film industry. After working as an assistant to Vetrimaaran, he made his directorial debut with *Ethir Neechal* (2013), winning the Vijay Award for Best Crew in 2014. His later films include *Kaaki Sattai* (2015), a police drama, and *Kodi* (2016), starring Dhanush. In 2020, he directed *Pattas*, also featuring Dhanush.



Hotspot

India | 2024 | 122 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Vignesh Karthick
Producer	KJ Balamanimarbhan, Gokul Benoy, Suresh Kumar
Cinematographer	Gokul Benoy
Editor	Muthayan U
Music	Satish Raghunathan Vaan
Cast	Gouri G. Kishan, Adithya Bhaskar, Sandy, Ammu Abhirami, Janani, Subash, Kalaiyaran, Sofia, K. J Balamanimarbhan, Vignesh Karthick.

Synopsis

An aspiring director with a hidden agenda pitches his film story to a respected but flawed producer. The director's stories mirror and challenge the producer's ideologies, leaving the producer confused by the eerie coincidences and the director's personal vendetta. As the narrative unfolds, the producer grapples with the contradiction between the director's fictional tales and real-life actions. The story explores whether the director successfully convinces the producer and uncovers his true motives.



**Vignesh
Karthick**

About the Director

Vignesh Karthick is an Indian film director, actor, and radio jockey who started his career in short films and reality shows like Athu Ithu Ethu and Comedy Jodies. He hosted popular shows on Sun TV and STAR Vijay, and became a radio jockey at BIG FM 92.7 in 2015. Vignesh made his film debut in 2016 with Natpadhigaram 79 and later directed his first film, Yenda Thalaiyila Yenna Vekkala.

நீல நிறச் சூரியன்



Neela nira sooriyan

India | 2023 | 97 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Samyuktha Vijayan
Producer	Mala Manyan
Cinematographer	Steev Benjamin
Editor	Steev Benjamin
Music	Steev Benjamin
Sound Designer	Jaiker
Cast	Samyuktha Vijayan , Kitty Krishnamoorthy , Gajaraj

Synopsis

Neela Nira Sooriyan is a heartfelt exploration of identity and courage, following Aravind, a small-town South Indian schoolteacher, as he transitions into his true self, Bhanu. Set in a conservative community, the film portrays the challenges Aravind faces while navigating societal expectations and his personal journey. It delves into the complexities of relationships and the real struggles of transitioning in a traditional social structure, making it a powerful and authentic story.



**Samyuktha
Vijayan**

About the Director

Samyuktha Vijayan is a renowned actor and director, best known for her work in Neela Nira Sooriyan. She directed this groundbreaking film, the first Tamil movie centered on the journey of gender transition. As a transgender person herself, Samyuktha brought a unique perspective to the film, which has sparked important conversations about the lives of transgender individuals. The film aims to foster understanding and empathy, not only within the LGBTQ+ community but also among the wider society.

பார்க்கிங்

PARKING



Parking

India | 2023 | 130 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Ramkumar Balakrishnan
Producer	Sudhan Sundaram, K. S. Sinish
Cinematographer	Jiju Sunny
Editor	Philomin Raj
Music	Sam C. S.
Sound Designer	Hari Haran, Sachin Sudhakaran
Cast	Harish Kalyan, M. S. Bhaskar, Indhuja Ravichandran

Synopsis

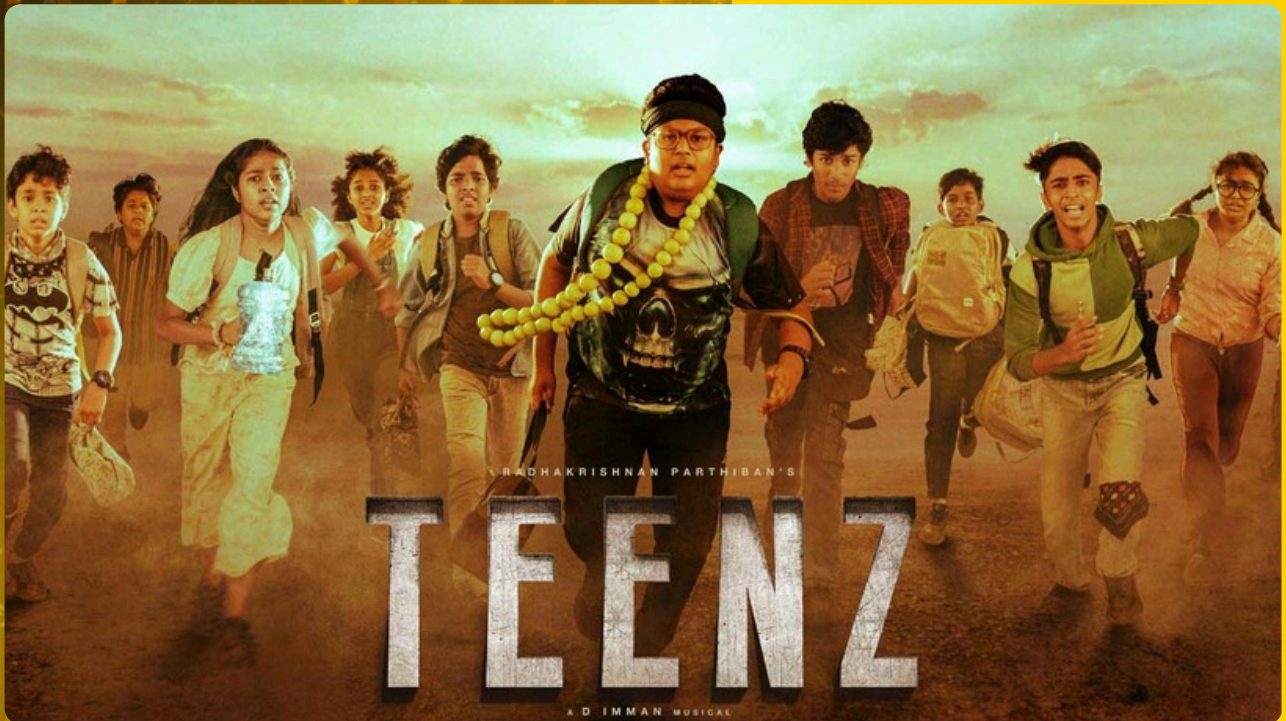
Eswar, a 28-year-old IT employee, moves into a new house with his pregnant wife, excited to start a new life. Their neighbor, Ilamparuthi, a 58-year-old government employee, has lived in the area for 15 years with his family. Tensions arise when Eswar parks his new car in the shared parking space, hurting Ilamparuthi's ego. A small misunderstanding escalates into a bitter conflict fueled by anger and pride. The story explores how a trivial issue over parking transforms both men into vengeful individuals. The film delves into whether they overcome their egos or fall deeper into their mistakes.



**Ramkumar
Balakrishnan**

About the Director

Ramkumar Balakrishnan, is a talented Indian film director best known for his critically acclaimed film *Parking*. With his creative vision and exceptional storytelling, he has made a significant impact in the world of cinema. His work, particularly in *Parking*, showcases his ability to explore complex human emotions and social dynamics, leaving a lasting impression on audiences and critics alike.



Teenz

India | 2023 | 127 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Radhakrishnan Parthiban
Producer	Ranjith Dhandapani, Caldwell Velnambi, Bala Swaminathan, Pinchi Srinivaasan, Parthiban Radhakrishnan
Cinematographer	Gavemic U. Ary, Jaya Krishna Gummadi
Editor	R Sudarshan
Music	D. Imman
Cast	13 teenagers, Radhakrishnan Parthiban

Synopsis

"We Are Not Kids Anymore!" follows a group of thirteen adolescents who, at the peak of their curiosity and rebellion, decide to skip school and explore a ghostly legend in a village. Initially driven by excitement, their adventure takes a terrifying turn when a protest disrupts their journey, forcing them to continue on foot through a desolate landscape. As they venture deeper into the wilderness, they begin to disappear one by one, leaving no trace. The group must confront the chilling question of whether a ghost is responsible or if a more earthly danger is at play.



Radhakrishnan Parthiban

About the Director

Radhakrishnan Parthiban is an acclaimed Indian filmmaker and actor, known for his contributions to New Wave cinema. A three-time winner of the Indian National Film Awards, he has acted in over 72 films, directed 15, and produced 12. Parthiban's films often feature culturally rooted themes and showcase his deep connection to the Tamil language, especially in dialogue creation. He is best known for critically acclaimed films like *Puthiya Paadhai* (1989) and *Housefull* (1999), both of which won the Indian National Film Award for Best Regional Film, highlighting his impact on Indian cinema.



Vallavan Vaguthadhada

India | 2024 | 103 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	VinayekDurai
Producer	VinayekDurai
Cinematographer	Karthick Nallamuthu
Editor	Ajay
Music	Sagishna Xavier
Cast	Rajesh Balachandiran, Tej Charanraj, Haritha

Synopsis

In a city fueled by desperation and greed, the lives of Subathra, Agalya, Chiranjeevi, Chakarai, Neethimani, and Kuberan collide during a botched heist. Subathra, struggling to save her father after a critical accident, faces a moral dilemma. Agalya, entangled in deceit, seeks funds to escape her dire situation. Chiranjeevi and Chakarai, small-time crooks, are unprepared for a disastrous heist. Corrupt cop Neethimani faces retribution, and moneylender Kuberan's greed leads to betrayal. As their fates intertwine, karma dictates who will rise or fall in this gripping tale of crime, consequence, and redemption.

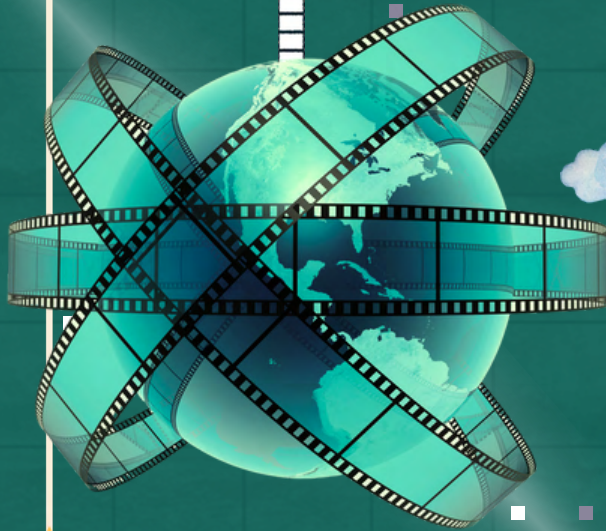


VinayekDurai

About the Director

VinayekDurai, born on October 10th, 1990, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, began his career in the film industry as an assistant and associate director. He worked on movies like Rajathandhiram, Chennai2Singapore, and the Kshatrian Singapore web series. After gaining experience in various roles, he transitioned into writing and directing. In 2024, Vinayek Durai wrote and directed his first feature film, Vallavan Vaguthadhada, marking a significant milestone in his career. His journey reflects his growth from behind-the-scenes roles to becoming a director in the Tamil film industry.

CIFF



22nd

Chennai

International
Film Festival

WORLD CINEMA COMPETITION

JANGID PRODUCTIONS

DEEWAAAR

KE US PAAR

(BEYOND THE WALL)

A FILM BY **POOJA JANGID**

WRITTEN, DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY **POOJA JANGID**

HARPREET JATAIL, DEV GANGWAR, KARANRAJ CHAVAN CO-PRODUCER **KARAN BHALERAO** CINEMATOGRAPHY **KARAN BHALERAO** EDITOR **GUL MOHAMMAD ANSARI, SAHIL ANSARI** & BACKGROUND SCORE **VISHAL & AKASH (DHANELIYA BROTHERS)** COLORIST **SHOAIK**

Deewaar Ke Us Paar (Beyond The Wall)

India | 2024 | 107 mins | Hindi

Cast & Crew

Director	Pooja Jangid
Producer	Pooja Jangid
Cast	Harpreet Jatail Dev GangwarKey Karan Chavan

Synopsis

Shivani, a 21-year-old girl from Uttar Pradesh, moves to Mumbai after marrying Aatish, a 40-year-old man from a neighboring village. Aatish's insecurities about Shivani's beauty lead him to become overprotective, isolating her from others. Feeling trapped, Shivani contemplates suicide but is saved by her neighbor, Shiv, who communicates with her through the wall. As they develop a bond, Shiv confesses his love and urges Shivani to escape with him. However, Aatish discovers their relationship, brutally hurts Shivani, and takes her away. The story revolves around whether Shivani and Shiv can reunite and find freedom.



Pooja Jangid

About the director

Pooja Jangid is an India-based independent filmmaker who began her career as an assistant writer for TV daily soaps. She gained recognition with her first short film, "A Fable of Cord," which received a positive response at film festivals. Her debut feature film, "Deewaar ke Us Paar" (Beyond the Wall), marks a significant milestone in her filmmaking journey, created with great passion and dedication.

HAPPY

A FILM BY SANDEEP KUMAR

Happy

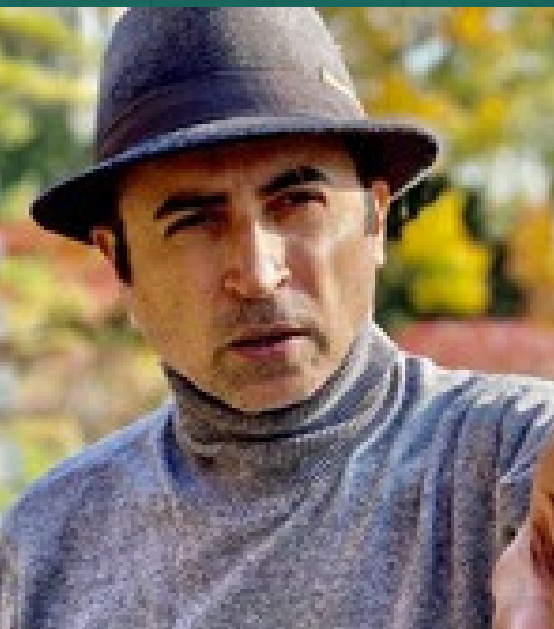
Austria | 2024 | 110 min | German, Hindi, Punjabi

Cast & Crew

Director	Sandeep Kumar
Producer	Sandeep Kumar
Cinematographer	Christian Haake, aac
Editor	Claudia Linzer

Synopsis

Happy, set in Austria, follows an illegal Indian migrant who faces the looming threat of deportation while struggling to secure a better future for himself and his daughter. The film explores his pursuit of happiness, highlighting the contrast between his challenges and the lives of others around him who appear to have it all. Through this parallel narrative, the film sheds light on the universal quest for happiness, regardless of one's circumstances.



Sandeep Kumar

About the director

Sandeep Kumar is an accomplished actor and filmmaker, known for his roles in films such as Happy (2024), Another Christmas in Manhattan (2023), Mehrunisa (2021), Another Day in Manhattan (2021), Ohne Bekenntnis (2019), Servus Ishq (2014), and Liebe ohne Grenzen (2010). He has attended various acting and film workshops, Michael Haneke's classes at the Film Academy in Vienna. Kumar is a member of both the Austrian Film Academy and the Association of Austrian Directors, contributing significantly to the Austrian film industry.



Hi Nanna (Hi Dad)

India | 2023 | 150 mins | Telugu

Cast & Crew

Director	Shouryuv
Producer	Mohan Cherukuri CVM, Vijender Reddy Teegala, Murthy K. S
Cinematographer	Sanu John Varughese
Editor	Praveen Antony
Music	Hesham Abdul Wahab
Cast	Nani, Mrunal Thakur, Kiara Khanna, Jayaram

Synopsis

A single father, Viraj, raises his daughter, Mahi, while concealing the truth about her missing mother, Varsha. The emotional drama unfolds when Mahi runs away and encounters Yashna, who is revealed to be Varsha, suffering from amnesia after a tragic accident. As Yashna reconnects with Mahi, she slowly regains her memories and realizes her love for Viraj. This revelation sparks a complex confrontation between the past and present, unraveling deep emotions and unresolved issues as the family attempts to rebuild their fractured relationships.



Shouryuv

About the director

Shouryuv is an Indian filmmaker and writer primarily working in the Telugu film industry. Hailing from Vishakhapatnam, he transitioned into filmmaking after completing his M.B.B.S. studies. He began his career as an associate writer with renowned writer V. Vijayendra Prasad, known for his work on the Oscar-winning film RRR. Shouryuv made his directorial debut with the film *Hi Naana*, marking the beginning of his career in the film industry.



In the Arms of the Tree

Iran | 2023 | 88 mins | Persian

Cast & Crew

Director	Babak Lotfi Khajepasha
Producer	Mohammad Reza Mesbah
Cinematographer	Babak Khajehpasha
Editor	Hosein Jamshidigohari
Music	Fardin Khalatbari.
Cast	Maral Baniadam, Javad Ghamati

Synopsis

The lives of Kimia and Farid, married for twelve years, are unraveling due to a deepening crisis, disrupting the peaceful and loving environment their children have always known. The children, who have grown up in an atmosphere of simplicity, warmth, and kindness, are suddenly forced to confront the complexities of their parents' relationship, leading to a profound emotional impact as their once stable world falls apart.



**Babak
Lotfi
Khajepasha**

About the Director

Babak Lotfi Khajepasha is a filmmaker known for his distinctive storytelling and cinematic style. His notable works include *In the Arms of the Tree* (2023), *Light Blue* (2024), and *Sane Khatir* (2020). His films have attracted attention for their exploration of complex themes and unique artistic vision, establishing him as a prominent figure in contemporary cinema.



Kinaru (The Well)

India | 2024 | 108 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	HariKumaran
Producer	Dinakar J Babu
Cinematographer	Gowtham Venkatesh
Editor	Gowtham Raj

Synopsis

The story revolves around Pethappan and his three friends, all aged 9, who play in a well owned by another man. After being chased and beaten by the man, they decide to dig their own well on Pethappan's land. However, Pethappan's family is cursed with a generational fear of water, and his grandmother strongly disapproves of the idea. The plot explores whether Pethappan will proceed with digging the well or if his grandmother's warnings will save him from the curse. The story centers on the tension between the children's desires and the family's curse.



Harikumaran

About the director

Harikumaran is a Tamil film director and screenwriter who began his career with a short film in 2015, based on the orphan child drama Aram. In 2019, he directed Mayin Niram, a film addressing discrimination among school children. The film received positive recognition, particularly from social activists, for its impactful portrayal of social issues. HariKumaran's work focuses on socially relevant themes and has earned appreciation for its thought-provoking narratives.



Otta The Loner

India | 2024 | 140 mins | Malayalam

Cast & Crew

Director	Resul Pookutty
Producer	Resul Pookutty, Hariharan. S
Cinematographer	Arun Varma
Editor	Zian Sreekanth
Sound Designer	Vijay Kumar
Music	M. Jayachandran
Cast	Asif Ali, Mamta Mohandas, Shobana, Sathyaraj

Synopsis

Otta is a gripping coming-of-age drama about two young men, Hari and Ben, as they navigate their turbulent relationships with their parents. Their journey takes unexpected turns as their actions spiral out of control, leading to a realization of life's fleeting nature. The film intertwines real-life events with fictional storytelling, exploring the challenges of growing up and the consequences of their choices. The narrative evolves with a rapidly changing cinematic sensibility, capturing the essence of personal growth and the complexities of life in a thought-provoking and emotional manner.



Resul Pookutty

About the director

Resul Pookutty, an Academy Award-winning sound designer and mixer, is renowned for his work on films like Slumdog Millionaire, which earned him an Oscar. With an impressive portfolio and numerous prestigious awards, he is one of the most recognized Indian sound designers globally. Resul is now venturing into film direction, gaining significant attention, including from Hollywood. His creative leadership and vision have earned him immense respect worldwide. Known for his contributions to major films, he maintains strong industry connections and is regarded as a visionary figure in modern cinema.



Season of Love (Aşk Mevsimi)

Turkey | 2024 | 126 mins | Turkish

Cast & Crew

Director	Murat Seker
Producer	Murat Seker
Cinematographer	Tufan Kılınç
Editor	Çagri Türkkan
Music	Serhat Ersöz
Cast	Dilan Çiçek Deniz, Cem Yigit Üzümoğlu, Firat Tanis, Duygu Sarisin

Synopsis:

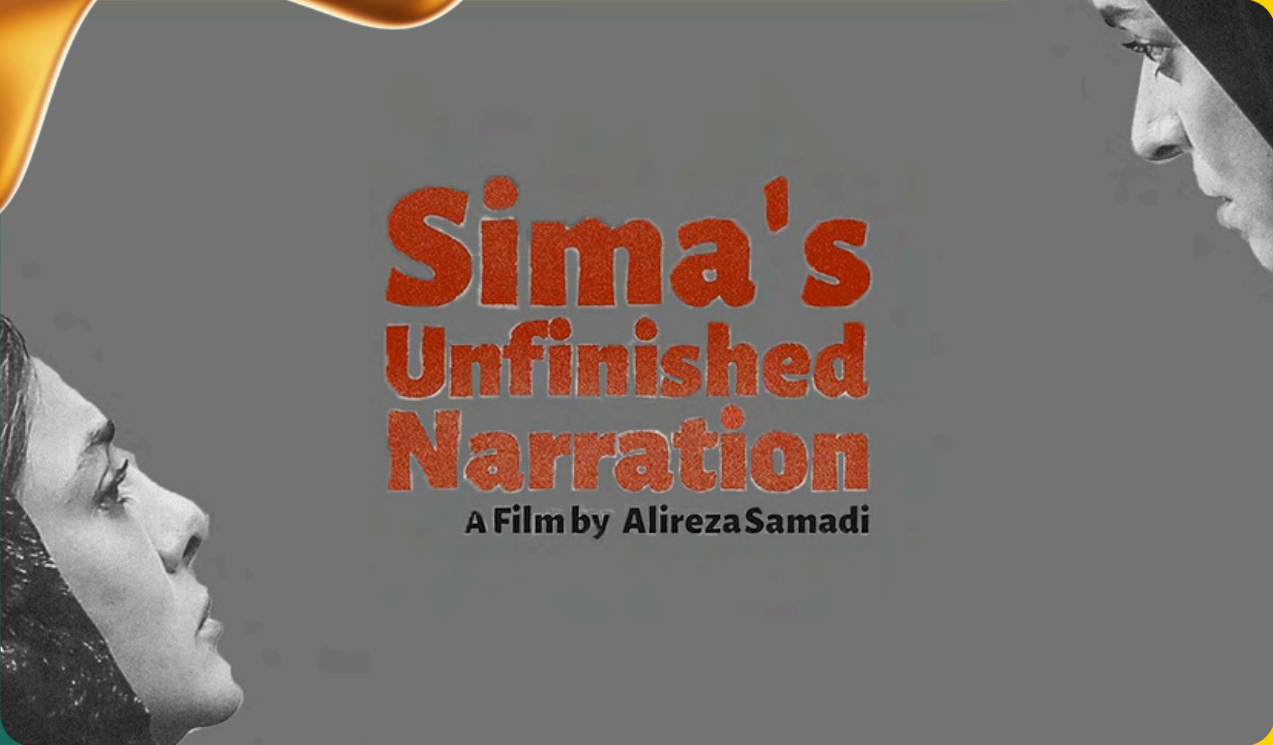
Season of Love is a heartfelt film that explores the evolution of young love through the lives of Şirin and Ali Yaman. Starting in the idyllic island of Bozcada during their childhood, their bond grows stronger over the years. Despite their deep connection, their emotions do not always align with the "season of love" at various points in their lives. The film delves into the complexities of love, highlighting how time, external factors, and conflicting emotions shape their relationship. It beautifully portrays the challenges and nuances of love and happiness as they navigate life's ups and downs.



Murat Şeker

About the Director

Murat Şeker is a renowned Turkish film director, screenwriter, and producer from Istanbul, who graduated from Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. He is best known for his Çakallarla Dans film series, blending comedy, drama, and romance. In 2024, he directed the romantic drama Season of Love (Aşk Mevsimi), which explores the complexities of love over time. Şeker's films resonate with Turkish audiences due to their relatable stories, humor, and emotional depth. His works continue to make a significant impact in the Turkish film industry, blending entertainment with poignant themes.



Sima's Unfinished Narration

A Film by **Alireza Samadi**

Sima's Unfinished Narration (Revayate Nataman -E- Sima)

Iran | 2023 | 150 mins | Persian

Cast & Crew

Director	Alireza Samadi
Producer	Majid Reza-Bala
Cinematographer	Amir Mousavi
Editor	Hayedeh Safiyari
Music	Karen Homayunfar
Cast	Azadeh Samadi, Mehran Ahmadi, Hamed Komaily

Synopsis

Sima's Unfinished Narration follows Dr. Arash Samin, a respected sociology professor, whose life with his wife, Leila, and daughter, Raha, is disrupted when a photo of him goes viral. The photo triggers a cascade of social, professional, and personal consequences, forcing Arash to confront the impact of his public image. As his family dynamics are tested, Arash must navigate the challenging balance between his private and public life. The film explores themes of identity, privacy, and the complex boundaries between personal and public life in the age of digital media.



Alireza Samadi

About the director

Alireza Samadi is an Iranian film screenwriter and director. He made his directorial debut with the feature film *Anonymity* in 2018. His second feature, *Staging* (2021), solidified his reputation as one of Iran's top filmmakers, earning the Crystal Simorgh Award. *Staging* was well-received, being featured in over 12 international film festivals.



Sleeping with a Tiger (Mit Einem Tiger Schlafen)

Austria | 2024 | 107 mins | German, French, English

Cast & Crew

Director	Anja Salomonowitz
Producer	Antonin Svoboda
Cinematographer	Jo Molitoris,
Editor	Joana Scrinzi
Sound Designer	Veronika Hlawatsch
Music	Bernhard Fleischmann
Cast	Birgit Minichmayr

Synopsis

Sleeping with a Tiger is a hybrid film that explores the life of Austrian painter Maria Lassnig, focusing on her struggle in the male-dominated art world and her quest for personal expression. The film portrays her inner pain through her art, as well as her artistic success. In a unique biographical approach, Maria is always portrayed by the same actress, regardless of her age, without makeup transformations. This technique symbolizes that the soul remains constant throughout life, reflecting her emotional journey and mental state, making the film a poetic and timeless exploration of her legacy.



Anja Salomonowitz

About the director

Anja Salomonowitz, a Vienna-born filmmaker from a Jewish family, grew up in the socialist-Zionist youth group Hashomer Hatzair. She studied film in Vienna and Berlin, collaborating with director Ulrich Seidl. Salomonowitz is known for her unique film language, blending documentary, feature film, and thesis elements. Her hybrid films, featuring a strict color concept, transform real experiences through artistic alienation. With an explicit political focus, her works challenge conventional cinematic forms, earning her international recognition and numerous awards. Salomonowitz's films are celebrated for their bold artistic and political statements.

TARKARÍ

DE CHIVO
LA CENA DEL CRIMEN



Tarkarí De Chivo (Spicy Goat, a restaurant whose main dish is chaos)

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela | 2023 | 80 mins | Spanish

Cast & Crew

Director	Daniel Yegres, Francisco Denis
Producer	Eduardo González, Humberto Gonçalves Lira, Daniel Yegres, Juan Carlos Yegres, Francisco Denis.
Cinematographer	Juan Carlos Yegres
Cast	Gabriel Agüero, Daniela Alvarado, Antonio Delli

Synopsis

Tarkarí de Chivo is a story set in a once-glorious restaurant in downtown Caracas, now struggling to survive amid the turmoil of a crumbling city. As a tropical storm approaches, a series of bizarre events unfolds in the restaurant's overwhelmed kitchen while the dining area is packed with customers. A hungry man with a suitcase full of dollars, a fake terrorist, a washed-up TV star, and a young YouTuber with a quirky camera operator collide with the eccentric family running the restaurant. This chaotic night is filled with unexpected crimes, blackmail, and absurd situations.

About the director

The filmmaker is a director and screenwriter with a Bachelor of Audiovisual Arts in Direction from the National Experimental University of the Arts, as well as experience at La Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris Studios. His notable works include the fiction feature film Spicy Goat, the documentary Communes (2022) about socio-productive communes in Venezuela, and the feature documentary Good Friday, The Story of Chema Saher (2015). He has also directed the fiction short film Look (2011) and the documentary Rainbow Warriors (2008), which was selected for the 30th Festival of New Latin American Cinema in Havana, Cuba.



Daniel Yegres

కమిటీ కుర్రలమ్మి



Committee Kurrollu

India | 2024 | 156 mins | Telugu

Cast & Crew

Director	Yadhu Vamsi
Producer	Jayalakshmi Adapaka, Padmaja Konidela, Niharika Konidela
Cinematographer	Raj Edurolu
Editor	Anwar Ali
Sound Designer	Sai Maneendhar Reddy
Music	Anudeep Dev
Cast	Sandeep Saroj, P. Sai Kumar, Yaswanth Pendyala

Synopsis

In the peaceful village of Purushothapalli, West Godavari, a close-knit group of friends—Shiva, Surya, Subbu, William, Peddodu, and others—share a strong bond until a sudden dispute shatters their unity. The fallout creates chaos, disrupting both their lives and the harmony of the village. The story explores the cause of the conflict, its impact on the community, and the potential for reconciliation. Bujji's role in the unfolding drama adds to the intrigue, with the resolution of the tensions being revealed on the big screen.

About the director

Yadhu Vamsi is a passionate filmmaker with numerous national and international awards, including the TIFA award for Best Debut Short Film and a special mention at the Madras Independent Film Festival. He made his mainstream cinema debut with *Committee Kurrollu*, a film about the lives of a group of friends in a village. The characters are inspired by everyday people, and the story explores the incidents that shape their friendships, their impact on the village, and other aspects of their lives. Vamsi's work highlights relatable, human experiences and their broader effects on the community.



Yadhu Vamsi



Ein Film von Sabine Hiebler und Gerhard Ertl

80 PLUS

80 Plus

Austria, Germany | 2024 | 95 mins | German

Cast & Crew

Director	Sabine Hiebler, Gerhard Ertl
Producer	Ulrich Gehmacher, Gerald Podgornig
Cinematographer	Anna Hawliczek
Editor	Benedikt Rubey
Music	Dirk Reichardt
Sound Designer	Inanna Palikrushev
Cast	Christine Ostermayer, Margarete Tiesel, Julia Koschitz

Synopsis

80 Plus is a poignant road movie about Helene (86) and Toni (70), two women from different backgrounds, embarking on a journey to Switzerland for assisted suicide. Helene is methodical and organized, while Toni is spontaneous and carefree. As they travel through scenic mountain landscapes, their plans fall apart, leading to unexpected detours and moments of self-discovery. The film explores themes of friendship, mortality, and life's meaning with humor and sensitivity, celebrating the unpredictability of life and the profound connections that form during its most challenging moments. Their journey becomes deeply emotional and transformative.



Sabine Hiebler

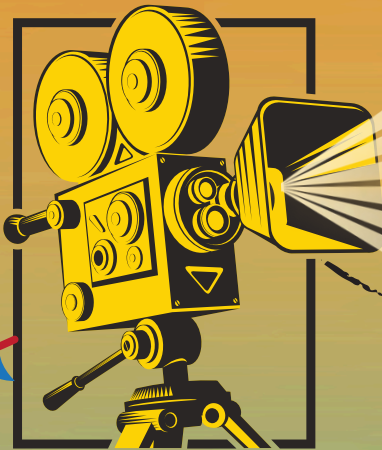


Gerhard Ertl

About the director

Sabine Hiebler and **Gerhard Ertl** are renowned Austrian filmmakers known for their collaborative works, including *Amour Fou* (2010) and *Side Effects* (2014). Their 2013 film *Anfang 80* (Beginning of 80) explores themes of love and vitality in old age, showcasing their unique storytelling style. The film combines depth, humor, and poignant realism, reflecting the filmmakers' ability to tackle complex emotional topics with sensitivity and authenticity. Their work is celebrated for its ability to blend humor with profound insights into the human experience.

22nd
Chennai International
Film Festival



World
CINEMA





GENERATION KPLUS
**ABOVE
THE DUST**
by Wang Xiaoshuai

Above the Dust

China | 2024 | 123 mins | Chinese

Cast & Crew

Director	XiaoShuai Wang
Producer	Xuan Liu, Yuan Zhao
Cinematographer	Hyun Seok Kim
Editor	Ruben Van Der, Hammen
Music	Juho Nurmela, Ella van der Woude
Sound Designer	Michel Schöpping
Cast	Jun Li, Wenxin Ouyang, Jingchun Wang, Zinchuan Wang, Mei Yong, Feng Zu.

Synopsis

In *Above the Dust*, a ten-year-old boy in rural China dreams of owning a water pistol, a wish tied to his grandfather's whimsical promise to fulfill it as a ghost after his death. Following the grandfather's passing, the boy embarks on a poignant, surreal journey, blending imagination and grief. The story shifts between dreams and reality, exploring the boy's innocence and his deep bond with his grandfather. Through poetic visuals, the film highlights the enduring connection between generations and their shared love for their homeland.



**Xiaoshuai
Wang**

About the director

Xiaoshuai Wang, a celebrated filmmaker and graduate of the Beijing Film Academy, is a pioneer of the Sixth Generation of directors. His debut, *The Days* (1993), gained international acclaim and was named one of the BBC's top 100 films. Wang's works, including *Beijing Bicycle* (2001) and *Shanghai Dreams* (2005), focus on ordinary Chinese lives amidst social upheaval. With accolades like the Berlinale Silver Bear and Cannes Grand Jury Prize, his films, such as *In Love We Trust*, *Red Amnesia*, and *So Long, My Son*, explore the lasting effects of China's past.



ADULT BEST FRIENDS

Adult Best Friends

United States | 2024 | 90 mins | English

Cast & Crew

Director	Delaney Buffett
Producer	Delaney Buffett, Marie Nikolova
Cinematographer	Jessica Pantoja
Editor	Ian Holden
Music	Alexandra Kalinowski
Cast	Delaney Buffett, Hannah Campbell, Carmen Christopher

Synopsis

Adult Best Friends (2024), directed by Delaney Buffett, centers on Katie, a practical woman who invites her codependent best friend Delaney on a girls' trip to announce her upcoming marriage. As the trip unfolds, past tensions and insecurities resurface, putting their friendship to the test. What was intended as a celebration turns into a rollercoaster of emotional revelations and comedic misadventures. The film delves into the complexities of growing up, navigating change, and the enduring strength of friendship.



Delaney Buffett

About the Director

Delaney Buffett, is an emerging director and writer recognized for her insightful storytelling and ability to explore complex human relationships. Known for blending humor and emotion, Buffett's work often tackles themes of friendship, identity, and personal growth. Her 2024 film *Adult Best Friends* has received attention for its fresh take on adult relationships and the challenges of lifelong friendships. Buffett's talent for capturing raw, relatable moments has positioned her as a promising voice in contemporary filmmaking.



Un Jour Fille

A Girl For A day (Un jour fille)

France | 2023 | 97 mins | French

Cast & Crew

Director	Jean-Claude Monod
Producer	Gilles Commaille, Richard Copans, Claire Dornoy, Julien Russo
Cinematographer	Baptiste Chesnais
Editor	Joëlle Hache
Sound Designer	Xavier Dreyfus
Cast	Marie Toscan du Plantier, Iris Bry, Thomas Scimeca

Synopsis

In the 18th century, Anne, raised as a girl, is forced to "change her clothes" due to her attraction to women. After transitioning into a man, she marries and experiences a deep love story with her wife. However, her past eventually catches up with her. This true and moving story is about Anne Grandjean, born intersex, and her impactful trial, which challenges societal norms and questions our certainties.



Jean-Claude Monod

About the Director

Jean-Claude Monod is a French filmmaker and philosopher who wrote his first feature script, *Les Djinns*, at 15, which reached the finals of the Victor Hugo Competition. A graduate of École Normale Supérieure, he earned the CNRS bronze medal in 2013. Monod worked as a third assistant director on Safi Faye's *Mossane* (1996) and directed acclaimed short films like *Le Zoographe* (2006), which aired on France 3. He is the founder of Les Films du Possible and co-directed *Augustine* (2012), praised and aired on Arte. In addition to his work in cinema, Monod has been a festival jury member and acted in films by Jean Rouch and Alexandre Sokouro.



A la belle étoile (Sugar and stars)

France | 2023 | 110 mins | French

Cast & Crew

Director	Sébastien Tulard
Producer	Laurence Lascary
Cinematographer	Pierre Dejon
Editor	Marielle Babinet
Music	Brice Davoli
Cast	Riadh Belaïche, Loubna Abidar Marwan Amesker

Synopsis

The film tells the true story of Yazid Ichemrahen, a young man from a challenging foster care background who dreams of becoming a world-class pastry chef. His determination drives him to work with top chefs in Paris and Monaco, eventually leading him to win the 2014 World Frozen Dessert Championship. Riadh Belaïche delivers a breakout performance as Yazid, showcasing his resilience and dedication to achieving his dreams.



**Sébastien
Tulard**

About the Director

Sébastien Tulard is a French filmmaker renowned for creating inspiring and heartfelt stories. He gained recognition for directing *Sugar and Stars* (À la belle étoile, 2023), which follows the journey of Yazid Ichemrahen, a pastry chef who overcomes adversity to achieve greatness. Tulard's films are known for their visual elegance and emotionally resonant storytelling, focusing on authentic, character-driven narratives.



All Shall Be Well (Cong jin yihou)

Hongkong, China | 2024 | 93 mins | Cantonese

Cast & Crew

Director	Ray Yeung
Producer	Michael J. Werner, Sandy Yip, Teresa Kwong, Chowee Leow
Cinematographer	Ming-Kai Leung
Editor	Lai Kwun Tong
Sound Designer	Yi-Chen Chiag, Duu-Chih Tu
Music	Veronica Lee
Cast	Patra Au, Lin-Lin Li, Tai-Bo

Synopsis

Angie and Pat, a happy and wealthy lesbian couple in their 60s, have lived together in Pat's Hong Kong flat for 30 years, earning the respect and admiration of their friends and family. After Pat suddenly passes away, Angie finds initial comfort from friends and Pat's family. However, disputes over Pat's funeral and estate create tension, as Angie has no legal claim to the flat. Left dependent on Pat's family, Angie begins a journey of self-reliance, supported by her chosen family, as she navigates life in her later years.



Ray Yeung

About the director

Ray Yeung is a Hong Kong screenwriter and independent film director. After practicing law for two years, Yeung transitioned to filmmaking, with a focus on gay stories. His feature film debut was *Cut Sleeve Boys* (2006) in Britain, and he later returned to Hong Kong to direct *Suk Suk* (2020) and *All Shall Be Well* (2024). Yeung is also the Chairman of the Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, the longest-running LGBT film festival in Asia, which he revived in 2000.



Andrea Gets A Divorce (Andrea lässt sich scheiden)

Austria | 94 mins | 2024 | German

Cast & Crew

Director	Josef Hader
Producer	Veit Heiduschka, Michael Katz
Cinematographer	Carsten Thiele
Editor	Roland Stöttinger
Sound Designer	Manual Grandpierre, Manuel Meichsner
Cast	Birgit Minichmayr, Josef Hader, Thomas Schubert

Synopsis

Andrea, a small-town policewoman looking for a fresh start, accidentally runs over her drunk, not-yet-divorced husband while driving home. In shock, she flees the scene, and later discovers that Franz, a religion teacher and recovered alcoholic, has taken the blame, believing he was responsible for the accident. As the village supports Franz's confession, he falls back into alcoholism, while Andrea tries to cover up her involvement. As the pressure mounts, she struggles with her guilt and ultimately confronts the truth, taking responsibility for the fatal accident.



Josef Hader

About the director

Josef Hader is an Austrian comedian, actor, and filmmaker, known for his stand-up shows and tragicomic plays, such as *Indien*, which launched his career. He became a prominent figure in German-speaking comedy with shows like *Privat*, Austria's most successful comedy. Hader has starred in films like *Komm, suber Tod* and *Silentium*, winning awards including Best Actor at the Locarno Film Festival. He is also a regular guest on popular German comedy shows, increasing his fame in Germany.



AN ORDINARY CASE

An Ordinary Case - Le Fil

France | 2024 | 115min | French

Cast & Crew

Director	Daniel Auteuil
Producer	Nelly Auteuil , Hugo G�lin,
Cinematography	Jean-Fran�ois Hensgens
Editor	Val�rie Deseine
Music	Gaspar Claus
Cast	Daniel Auteuil, Gr�gory Gadebois, Sidse Babett Knudsen, Alice Bela�di

Synopsis

Jean Monier, a troubled lawyer, agrees to defend Nicolas Milik, who is accused of murdering his wife. As Monier works to prove his client's innocence, he becomes increasingly drawn into the case.



Daniel Auteuil

About the Director

Daniel Auteuil, is a renowned French actor and director, known for his versatile performances in a wide range of film genres, including period dramas, romantic comedies, and crime thrillers. He made his cinematic debut in 1972, launching a prolific career that established him as one of France's most celebrated actors. Throughout his career, Auteuil has received numerous accolades for his contributions to cinema, solidifying his status as a prominent figure in French filmmaking.

CRICKETS, IT'S YOUR TURN

A FILM BY OLGA KOROTKO

Crickets, it's your turn

Kazakhstan, France | 2024 | 105 mins | Kazakh, Russian

Cast & Crew

Director	Olga Korotko
Producer	Etienne de Ricaud
Cinematographer	Aigul Nurbulatova
Editor	Ricardo Saraiva
Music	Akmaral Zykaeva
Cast	Inzhu Abeu, Ayan Batyrbek, Alexandr Khvan

Synopsis

25-year-old Merey lives a peaceful, content life in Almaty with close friends and a steady job. When she meets the charismatic Nurlan, he invites her to a birthday party in the mountains. Eager for a change of scenery and new experiences, she agrees, expecting a relaxing celebration in nature. However, the gathering quickly turns into an intense, chaotic night. As the evening progresses, Merey discovers she is caught in a dangerous and unpredictable game where trust is broken, and survival becomes the ultimate challenge.



Olga Korotko

About the director

Born in 1988 in Uralsk, Olga Korotko began making short films while studying under Darezhan Omirbayev. She gained international recognition after being selected for the Asian Film Academy program at the Busan Festival. Korotko later earned an MFA in film directing from the Zhurgenov National Academy of Fine Arts in Kazakhstan. Her debut feature film, *Bad Bad Winter*, premiered at ACID Cannes in 2018.

Deliciosa Fruta Seca

una película de Ana Caridad Sánchez

CLAUDIA DAMMERT

Deliciosa Fruta Seca

Peru | 2019 | 82 mins | Spanish

Cast & Crew

Director	Ana Caridad Sanchez
Producer	Andrés Malatesta
Cinematographer	Juan Durán
Editor	César Pérez
Music	Lucy De Mantilla
Cast	Claudia Dammert, Hugo Vasquez, Mauricio Fernandini, Claudia Herrán

Synopsis

Deliciosa Fruta Seca follows the journey of a 60-year-old widow facing financial difficulties who decides to pursue a career as a sailor, despite her children's objections. Along the way, she meets an influential figure who helps shift her perspective. As she faces the challenges of this new path, she discovers her inner strength, rebuilds her life, and redefines her identity. The film explores themes of resilience, self-discovery, and the transformative power of embracing new opportunities later in life.



**Ana Caridad
Sánchez**

About the Director

Ana Caridad Sánchez is a Cuban director, screenwriter, and producer recognized for her unique storytelling and exploration of complex human emotions. Her works often focus on personal growth, resilience, social challenges, and female empowerment. Sánchez blends realism with emotional depth, creating characters that resonate with audiences. Her films are celebrated for their honest portrayals of life's struggles and the strength found in adversity, offering a fresh and thought-provoking perspective on cinema.



Eat The Night

France | 2024 | 106 mins | French

Cast & Crew

Director	Caroline Poggi, Jonathan Vinel
Producer	Juliette Schramek, Mathieu Verhaeghe, Thomas Verhaeghe
Cinematographer	Raphaël, Vandenbussche
Cast	Theo Cholbi, Erwan Kepoa Fale, Lila Gueneau

Synopsis

Pablo's immersion in the world of Night blinds him to the consequences of his actions, gradually eroding the trust he once shared with his sister, Apolline. As the shutdown of Darknoon approaches, the lines between the real and virtual worlds blur, transforming their digital sanctuary into a battleground for power and survival. Forced to navigate the chaos alone, Apolline discovers inner strength, while Pablo spirals deeper into his obsession with Night. As the final confrontation between rival gangs nears, both siblings must confront the truth about their bond, their choices, and the cost of their digital escape.



Caroline Poggi & Jonathan Vinel

About the Director

Caroline and **Jonathan**, both established filmmakers, began their artistic collaboration with *As Long as Shotguns Remain*, which won the Golden Bear for Best Short Film at the Berlinale. They later directed *Our Legacy*, also selected at the Berlinale. In 2018, their short film *After School Knife Fight* was showcased at Cannes Critics' Week and released in theaters as part of the sketch film *Ultra Rêve*. Their films are regularly featured at festivals, museums, galleries, cinemas, and on television, both in France and internationally. The duo resides and works between Paris, Corsica, and Toulouse.



Emilia Pérez

France, Belgium | 2024 | 132 mins | Spanish, English, French

Cast & Crew

Director	Jacques Audiard,
Producer	Jacques Audiard, Anthony Vaccarello Pascal Caucheteux, Valerie Schermann
Cinematographer	Paul Guillaume
Editor	Juliette Welfling
Music	Camille, Clément Ducol
Cast	Selena Gomez, Zoe Saldana, Karla Sofia Gascon

Synopsis

Rita Mora Castro, a talented but conflicted lawyer in Mexico, gains fame by defending a media mogul's wife but finds no fulfillment. She is later hired by cartel leader Juan "Manitas" Del Monte to help her transition into a new identity as Emilia Pérez. After undergoing surgery and faking her death, Emilia starts a new life. However, her reunion with her family under false pretenses causes tensions, leading to betrayal and a tragic car crash involving Emilia, her ex-wife Jessi, and Jessi's lover Gustavo. Emilia's nonprofit work sparks a justice movement, and Rita takes guardianship of Jessi's children in search of redemption.



Jacques Audiard

About the director

Jacques Audiard, from a film-oriented family with his father Michel Audiard being a renowned screenwriter and director, worked on projects like Roman Polanski's *The Tenant* (1976). Transitioning to screenwriting in the 1980s, his thrillers *Mortelle Randonnee* (1983) and *Grosse Fatigue* (1994) gained success. His directorial debut, *Regarde les hommes tomber* (1994), won three César Awards. Known for films like *Sur mes lèvres* (2001) and *De battre mon cœur s'est arrêté* (2005), Audiard is regarded as a master of the modern French thriller.

LILITH STANGENBERG

EUROPA

a film by
SUDABEH MORTEZAI



Europa

Austria, United Kingdom | 97 mins | 2023 | English

Cast & Crew

Director	Sudabeh Mortezaei
Producer	Mehrdad Mortezaei, Sudabeh Mortezaei
Cinematographer	Klemens Hufnagl
Editor	Julia Drack
Sound designer	Atanas Tcholakov
Cast	Lilith Stangenberg, Jetnor Gorezi, Steljona Kadillari

Synopsis

Beate, an ambitious executive at EUROPA, a mysterious corporation aiming to expand into the Balkans, is tasked with negotiating the purchase of land from locals in a remote Albanian valley. While EUROPA presents itself as promoting philanthropy, its true goal is to acquire the land. Beate faces unexpected resistance when Jetnor, a stubborn and spiritual farmer, refuses to sell the land passed down through his ancestors.



**Sudabeh
Mortezaei**

About the director

Sudabeh Mortezaei is an Austrian-Iranian filmmaker known for exploring themes of identity, migration, and women's experiences in contemporary society. She gained international recognition with her feature debut, *Macondo* (2014), a poignant drama about a young boy in a refugee community. Her second feature, *Joy* (2018), received widespread acclaim for its raw and empathetic portrayal of a young woman's struggles in a complex societal context. Mortezaei's films are celebrated for their nuanced storytelling, powerful performances, and social commentary.



Every You Every Me (Alle die Du bist)

Germany, Spain | 2024 | 108 mins | German

Cast & Crew

Director	Michael Fetter Nathansky
Producer	Michael Fetter Nathansky, Lasse Scharpen, Lucas Schmidt, Maren Schmitt
Cinematographer	Jan Mayntz
Editor	Andrea Mertens
Music	Ben Winkler, Gregor Keienburg
Cast	Aenne Schwarz, Carlo Ljubek, Youness Aabbaz, Sara Fazilat

Synopsis

Every You Every Me follows 24-year-old single mother Nadine, who leaves her rural home to work in the coal industry near Cologne. She falls in love with her impulsive colleague, Paul. However, seven years later, as the industry faces structural changes that threaten her job, Nadine begins to see Paul in a different, alienating light. Struggling to rekindle their relationship, she revisits the roles she once saw in him. The film is a socially realistic, magical love story set in Europe's brown coal mining region, exploring the fragility of love and the power of perception. It stars Aenne Schwarz and Carlo Ljubek.



Michael Fetter Nathansky

About the Director

Michael Fetter Nathansky, born in 1993, is a director and scriptwriter who grew up in Cologne and Madrid. He studied Film Directing at the Film University Babelsberg Konrad Wolf from 2013 to 2021. His short film GABI (2017) premiered at the Berlinale and won the German Short Film Award. Nathansky's M.A. graduation film YOU TELL ME (2019) won the main award at the Ludwigshafen Film Festival and was nominated for both the First Steps Award and the German Film Critics Award.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF AUSTRALIA'S SMASH HIT THE DRY

ERIC BANA

FORCE OF NATURE

THE DRY 2

Force of Nature: The Dry 2 (La fuerza de la naturaleza)

United States , Australia | 2024 | 120 mins | English

Cast & Crew

Director	Robert Connolly
Producer	Eric Bana, Robert Connolly, Jodi Matterson, Bruna Papandrea, Steve Hutensky,
Cinematographer	Andrew Commis
Editor	Alexandre De Franceschi, Maria Papoutsis
Music	Peter Raeburn
Cast	Eric Bana, Anna Torv, Deborra-Lee Furness

Synopsis

Force of Nature: The Dry 2 follows federal agents Aaron Falk and Carmen Cooper as they investigate the disappearance of an informant during a hiking retreat in the mountains. Five women set out, but only four return. As Falk and Cooper search the wilderness for the missing woman, they uncover secrets and hidden tensions within the group. With time running out, the agents must navigate the harsh landscape and follow a trail of clues while confronting their own personal struggles.



Robert Connolly

About the Director

Robert is a highly acclaimed Australian filmmaker with a career spanning over 30 years. His notable films include Paper Planes (starring Sam Worthington), Balibo (featuring Oscar Isaac and Anthony LaPaglia), and the anthology film The Turning (with Cate Blanchett and Rose Byrne). Recently, he directed The Dry, based on Jane Harper's best-selling novel, starring Eric Bana. On television, he directed the International Emmy-nominated series and has produced projects like The Boys, Romulus My Father, The Warriors, Gallipoli, and Chasing Asylum.

FÜHRER UND VERFÜHRER



Führer and Seducer

Germany | 2024 | 135 min | German

Cast & Crew

Director	Joachim Lang
Producer	Till Derenbach, Michael Souvignier
Cinematographer	Klaus Fuxjäger
Editor	Rainer Nigrelli
Music	Michael Klaukien
Cast	Robert Stadlober, Fritz Karl, Franziska Weisz

Synopsis

The film follows Joseph Goebbels, Nazi Germany's Minister of Propaganda, from the 1938 "Anschluss" of Austria to his death in the Führerbunker in 1945. As Hitler rises to power, Goebbels shapes the propaganda that rallies the masses, including the notorious anti-Semitic films *Jud Sub* and *Der ewige Jude*. As the war turns against Germany, particularly after the defeat at Stalingrad, Goebbels orchestrates his final, most extreme propaganda act—Hitler's suicide, the murder of his family, and his own death in 1945.



**Joachim
Lang**

About the Director

Joachim Lang, born in 1959 in Spraitbach, Germany, is a distinguished German director and writer. He is best known for his 2018 film *Mack the Knife - Brecht's Threepenny Film*, which examines Bertolt Brecht's iconic play. Lang's other significant works include *Goebbels and the Führer* (2024), a historical drama, and *George* (2013), a biographical film. His films often explore historical and literary subjects, skillfully blending factual storytelling with compelling visuals. Lang's contributions to cinema have earned him recognition as a prominent figure in contemporary German filmmaking.



GRAND TOUR

BY MIGUEL GOMES

Grand Tour

Portugal, Italy, France, Germany, Japan, China | 2024 |
128 mins | Portuguese, Burmese, Vietnamese

Cast & Crew

Director	Miguel Gomes
Producer	Filipa Reis
Cinematographer	Guo Liang, Rui Poças, Sayombhu Mukdeeprom,
Editor	Telmo Churro, Pedro Filipe Marques
Cast	Gonçalo Waddington, Crista Alfaiate, Cláudio da Silva

Synopsis

In 1917, Edward, a civil servant, flees his fiancée Molly on their wedding day in Rangoon. His journey across Asia shifts his panic into melancholy, while Molly, determined to marry him, follows him with a sense of amusement.



Miguel Gomes

About the director

Miguel Gomes (born 1972) is a Portuguese film director, screenwriter, and editor, known for his distinctive storytelling. A graduate of the Lisbon Theatre and Film School, his notable works include *The Face You Deserve* (2004), *Our Beloved Month of August* (2008), *Tabu* (2012), *Arabian Nights* (2015), and *Grand Tour* (2024). Gomes won the Best Director award at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival for *Grand Tour*.



In the Blind Spot (Im toten Winkel)

Germany | 2024 | 117 mins | German

Cast & Crew

Director	Ayşe Polat
Producer	Mehmet Aktas, Ayşe Polat Janna Heine
Cinematographer	Partick Orth
Editor	Serhad Mutlu, Jörg Volkmar
Music	Jürgen Funk
Cast	Katja Bürkle, Ahmet Varli, Çagla Yurga

Synopsis

In the Blind Spot follows a German film crew shooting a documentary in northeastern Turkey, where they observe an elderly Kurdish woman performing a ritual to honor her missing son. The Kurdish translator, who also works as a nanny for Melek, a 7-year-old Turkish girl, becomes entangled in a web of intrigue. Melek's father, Zafer, works for a dangerous organization and faces a conflict between his loyalty to them and his fear for his family's safety when Melek appears to be haunted. The film explores themes of conspiracy, paranoia, and generational trauma as these characters' lives intersect with destructive consequences.



Ayşe Polat

About the Director

Ayşe Polat is a German-Kurdish director, screenwriter, and producer, born in Malatya, Turkey, and raised in Hamburg, Germany. She began her career with several award-winning short films before making her first feature, *Tour Aboard* (1999). Her 2003 film *En Garde* won two Silver Leopards for "Best Film" and "Best Actress" at the Locarno Film Festival in 2004. Polat went on to direct *Luks Glück* (2009), *The Heiress* (2013), and the documentary *The Others* (2016), in addition to several TV movies. She is currently working on a new feature film.



In the Face of Gravity (Magasmentés)

Hungary | 2023 | 106 mins | Hungarian

Cast & Crew

Director	András Fésös
Producer	Barnabás Hutlassa
Cinematographer	Péter Szatmári
Editor	Anna Kornis
Music	Gábor Keresztes
Cast	Bogdan Dumitrache, Eszter Bánfalvi, György, Cserhalmi

Synopsis

Felix, a high-risk rescue specialist, saves people from suicide attempts on bridges in a city in crisis. His son, secretly filming and selling videos of these rescues, holds Felix responsible for the death of his mother. As Felix struggles to reconnect with his son and continues his work, a tragic rescue goes wrong, leading to public scrutiny. Felix must confront his own vulnerabilities and, amidst the turmoil, father and son work to repair their broken relationship before it's too late.



András Fésös

About the Director

András Fésös, born on May 2, 1963, in Budapest, Hungary, is a renowned director and actor known for his compelling storytelling and performances. He gained recognition for films like *Balra a nap nyugszik* (2000), *Control* (2003), and *Három séta* (2005). Fésös' works often delve into complex human emotions and relationships, blending narrative depth with visual artistry. In addition to directing, he has acted in various Hungarian films and TV series, earning respect in both national and international film circles for his contributions to Hungarian cinema.

IN THE LAND OF BROTHERS



In the land of Brothers

Iran, France, Netherlands | 2024 | 95 mins |
Persian, Dari

Cast & Crew

Director	Raha Amirfazli, Alireza Ghasemi
Producer	Raha Amirfazli, Alireza Ghasemi, Adrien Barrouillet, Emma Binet, Charles Meresse
Cinematographer	Farshad Mohammadi
Editor	Hayedeh Safiyari
Music	Fredric Alvarez
Cast	Hamideh Jafari, Bashir Nikzad, Mohammad Hosseini

Synopsis

Three members of an Afghan family flee to Iran as refugees, seeking safety and a new beginning. Their journey to find stability and a sense of belonging spans decades, marked by resilience, challenges, and an enduring hope of finally feeling at home.



Alireza Ghasemi



Raha Amirfazli

About the director

Raha Amirfazli is known for her works *In the Land of Brothers* (2024), *Solar Eclipse* (2021), and *Nausea* (2017). **Alireza Ghasemi**, an Iranian filmmaker from Tehran and a graduate of the Art University of Tehran, gained international recognition when his short film *Lunch Time* was nominated for the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 2017. An alumnus of Berlinale Talents (2022), Ghasemi made his feature debut with *In the Land of Brothers*, which premiered at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival, where he won the Best Directing award.



Invalid

Slovakia | 102 mins | 2023 | Slovak, Romanian

Cast & Crew

Director	Jonas Karasek
Producer	Maros Hecko, Peter Veverka
Cinematographer	Tomas Juricek
Editor	Matej Benes
Music	Marcel Buntaj, Matus Siroky
Cast	Gregor Holoska, Zdenek Godla

Synopsis

Laco, a grumpy handyman, loses everything to ruthless mobsters and is left wheelchair-bound, consumed by bitterness and despair. His life begins to change when he forms an unlikely friendship with Gabo, a wise and free-spirited Roma. Inspired by Gabo's resilience and belief in justice, Laco finds new strength. Together, they devise a plan for revenge, but Laco ultimately discovers that true redemption lies not in vengeance, but in finding the courage to reclaim his life and humanity.



**Jonas
Karasek**

About the Director

Jonas Karasek, a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Bratislava, worked for many years as an art director in advertising. As a commercial director, he directed over 200 TV ads for both international and national clients. His work earned numerous prestigious awards, including the Filip 2009 award for personal contribution to Slovak creativity, Grand Prix at the National Award Golden Nail, Golden Drum, New York Festivals, and multiple Epica awards.



Jenni

United States | 2024 | 107 mins | English

Cast & Crew

Director	Gigi Saul Guerrero
Producer	Phillip Braun, Simon Wise
Cinematographer	Diana Garay
Editor	Josh Stein
Music	Carl Thiel
Cast	J.R. Villarreal, Annie Gonzalez, Cinthya Carmona

Synopsis

This biopic on Jenni Rivera, the iconic Mexican-American singer-songwriter, actor, producer, and women's rights activist, follows her remarkable journey from humble beginnings to international stardom in the regional Mexican music scene. It explores her struggles with domestic abuse, her dedication to empowering women, and her groundbreaking success in a male-dominated industry. The film also highlights her lasting impact before her tragic death in 2012, offering a heartfelt tribute to her resilience, talent, and advocacy for social change.



Gigi Saul Guerrero

About the Director

Gigi Saul Guerrero is a Mexican-Canadian filmmaker, actress, and writer renowned for her innovative contributions to the horror genre. Known as "La Muñeca Del Terror," she blends bold storytelling with cultural themes, gaining recognition for projects such as Culture Shock (part of Hulu's Into the Dark series) and her directorial debut Bingo Hell. A trailblazer in genre cinema, Guerrero has received accolades at international film festivals and is praised for amplifying Latinx voices in the industry.



Kaazh

Australia | 2024 | 123 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Mohanraj VJ
Producer	Mohanraj VJ, Kirushika Anantharaj, Selvakumaran Kathiresan
Cinematographer	Vasanth Gangadharan
Editor	Ignaitious Aswin
Cast	Yugendran, Siddarth Anbarasu Mimi Leonard

Synopsis

The movie portrays the life & struggle of a South Indian couple in Australia to build their dream home. The story line revolves around the various disappointments that they endure in the process and the extent to which they are willing to go in order to achieve their dreams, eventually succeeding. The story is also entwined with the struggles of a student in Australia trying to settle down. These stories run parallel to each other and connected at some points, trying to emphasize the fact that life in the western world after all is not as easy as it seems!



Mohanraj V J

About the director

Mohanraj V J is known for *Kaazh* (2024), and short films such as *Ivaral* (2016), *Petty Lie* (2019) and *Stay together* (2021). Mohanraj is a doctoral graduate and work full-time as Regulatory Affairs Executive in a Pharmaceutical company based at Melbourne, Australia. His native place is Vellore in India but now settled and lives with his family in Australia for over 20 years. It is his long-time dream to make a feature film and *Kaazh* is his debut Tamil feature film.



Khitrovka. The Sign of Four (Khitrovka. Znak chetyryokh)

Russia | 2023 | 129 mins | Russian

Cast & Crew

Director	Karen Shakhnazarov
Producer	Karen Shakhnazarov, Galina Shadur
Cinematographer	Oleg Lukichyov
Editor	Irina Kozhemyakina
Music	Yuriy Poteenko
Cast	Konstantin Kryukov, Mikhail, Porechenkov, Alexandr Oleshko

Synopsis

As Stanislavsky and Gilyarovsky investigate the murder of the Sikh in the grim underbelly of Khitrovka, they uncover a web of secrets linking the crime to political intrigues and social unrest. Their journey through Moscow's underworld reveals the desperation and resilience of its people, bringing Stanislavsky closer to understanding the raw emotions that would shape his revolutionary theater approach. However, as the investigation deepens, both men realize they are in perilous territory, where allies may be enemies, and the boundaries between performance and reality begin to blur.



Karen Shakhnazarov

About the Director

Karen Shakhnazarov is a renowned Russian filmmaker known for his distinct cinematic style, blending drama, psychological depth, and philosophical themes. He gained international recognition with films such as *Zerograd* (1988), *Ward No. 6* (2009), and *White Tiger* (2012). Shakhnazarov is celebrated for pushing the boundaries of Russian cinema, creating thought-provoking and complex narratives.



Let Me Go / LAISSEZ-MOI

France, Switzerland, Belgium | 2024 | 93 Mins | French

Cast & Crew

Director	Maxime Rappaz
Producer	Gabriela Bussmann, Yan Decoppet
Cinematographer	Benoit Dervaux
Editor	Caroline Detournay
Sound Designer	Vuk Vukmanovic
Cast	Jeanne Balibar, Thomas Sarbacher, Pierre-Antoine Dubey

Synopsis

Every Tuesday, Claudine's neighbor looks after her son while she meets men at a mountain hotel. When one of the men decides to stay longer for her, Claudine becomes confused and begins to dream of a different life.



Maxime Rappaz

About the director

Maxime Rappaz born in 1986 in Geneva, is a filmmaker known for *Let Me Go* (2023), *Tenderness* (2018), and *Sorry Angel* (2018). After transitioning from the fashion industry, he earned a master's degree in cinema and screenwriting from HEAD/ECAL in 2016. Rappaz directed the short films *Summertime* (2016) and *Tenderness* (2018). His debut feature, *Let Me Go*, was selected for ACID in 2023. He is currently working on his second feature film.



The Best Families (Las mejores familias)

Peru, Columbia | 2022 | 99 mins | Spanish

Cast & Crew

Director	Javier Fuentes-León
Producer	Javier Fuentes-León, Delia García, Michel Ruben
Cinematographer	Mauricio Vidal
Editor	Javier Becerra Heraud
Music	Selma Mutal
Cast	Ghia Burns, Gracia Olayo, Roberto Cano

Synopsis

Luzmila and Peta, two sisters working as maids for Peruvian aristocrats Alicia and Carmen, are seemingly treated as part of the family. However, during a birthday celebration amidst violent citywide protests, tensions escalate, and a long-hidden secret involving both families is revealed. This revelation shatters the illusion of their harmonious lives, exposing deep divisions and forever challenging the fragile façade of their aristocratic world.



**Javier
Fuentes-León**

About the Director

Javier Fuentes-León, a Peruvian filmmaker and CalArts graduate, gained recognition with his award-winning thesis film *Espacios* and the play *Mr. Clouds*, which won Best Play at Peru's National Theatre in 2000. His notable films include *El Elefante Desaparecido* (premiered at TIFF) and *Las Mejores Familias* (premiered at Rome and Busan). Fuentes-León directed Netflix's *Distrito Salvaje* and co-directed the series *Contigo Capitán* about Paolo Guerrero. He is currently developing projects such as *The Woman Who Feared the Sun* and *Sinister*, a futuristic rock musical.



Locust/ Chong

Taiwan, Qatar, United States, France |2024 | 128 mins | Hakka, Min Nan, Mandarin, English

Cast & Crew

Director	KEFF
Producer	Anita Gou, Siuloku O.
Cinematographer	Nadim Carlsen
Editor	KEFF, Siuloku O., Jenson Tay Yi
Music	Yoshihiro Hanno
Cast	Wei-Chen Liu, Rimong Ihwar, Devin Pan

Synopsis

As the 2019 Hong Kong protests unfold, Zhong-Han, a quiet twenty-something in Taiwan, leads a double life—working at a family restaurant by day and associating with local gangsters by night. However, when the restaurant changes ownership, it triggers a series of events that force Zhong-Han to confront the corrupt power dynamics in his country.



KEFF

About the director

A Taiwanese-American multidisciplinary artist based in New York and Taipei, he is a writer and film director who recently completed the NYU Graduate Film program on scholarship. His first short film, *Secret Lives of Asians at Night*, was supported by the Spike Lee Film Fellowship and won the Jury Prize for Best Asian-American Film at the Director's Guild of America. His second short film and NYU thesis, *Taipei Suicide Story*, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival (Cin fondation) and won the Grand Jury Prize for Narrative Feature at the Slamdance Film Festival.



Loveable (*Elskling*)

Norway | 2024 | 101 Mins | Norwegian

Cast & Crew

Director	Lilja Ingolfsdottir
Producer	Thomas Robsahm
Cinematographer	Øystein Mamen
Editor	Mirja Melberg, Hilde Bjørnstad
Cast	Oddgeir Thune, Helga Guren, Kyrre Haugen Sydness

Synopsis

Maria struggles to juggle parenthood and a demanding career while her second husband, Sigmund, frequently travels for work. After a heated argument, Sigmund asks for a divorce, which sends Maria into a spiral of grief, anger, and unresolved memories from her past. She begins to understand that her issues are linked to her relationship with her mother and her self-image. Through confronting her mother, Maria gains a deeper understanding of herself. When she finally meets Sigmund, the pain of abandonment no longer feels the same.



**Lilja
Ingolfsdottir**

About the director

Lilja Ingolfsdottir, born in 1972 in Akranes, Iceland, is a crime fiction writer, playwright, and scriptwriter. Raised in Mexico, Sweden, Spain, and Iceland, she studied at MH secondary school, trained as a secretary in England, and earned a BA in pedagogy and education from the University of Iceland. Ingolfsdottir has worked as an education expert and has written and edited professional materials for preschools.



Maidaore

Japan | 2024 | 59 mins | Japanese

Cast & Crew

Director	Shin Yokooji
Producer	Yoshiyuki Takagi, Takanori Shimoura
Cast	Matsuda Ryo, Rita Aizawa, Shohei Hashimoto, Noa Kawazoe, Asuka Kurosawa, Kenta Nitta

Synopsis

Set in the fictional year of Showa 99 on Sado Island, Japan is at war with a major power, though Sado remains untouched, preserving its unique culture. The 'Tokin-ryu' guild, symbolizing the island's Noh traditions, is led by Chigusa and his son Hazama, along with disciples Agata and Orito. Hazama becomes the guild's successor after performing the 'Yaobikuni' dance. However, after being summoned by the navy, Hazama dies in service, leading to Orito's succession. This triggers conflict between Orito and Agata, sparking tensions among their peers. The story takes place in a fictionalized version of 2024, during the Showa era's 99th year.



Shin Yokooji

About the director

Born on June 7, 1982, he developed a unique sensibility from living in the U.S. and Belgium. A student at Aoyama Gakuin, he joined the Yen theatre troupe and continued working in film, stage, and commercials after leaving. A multi-talented creator, he composes, shoots, and edits films and commercials, showcasing his versatile skills.



Mastergame (Mesterjátzsma)

Hungary | 2023 | 90 mins | English

Cast & Crew

Director	Barnabás Tóth
Producer	János Szurmai
Cinematographer	Másik Szöke András
Editor	Károly Szalai
Music	Gábor Keresztes
Cast	Károly Hajduk, Pál Mácsai, Gergely Váradi

Synopsis

Barnabás Tóth's psychological thriller reimagines Stefan Zweig's *The Royal Game* against the backdrop of Hungary's turmoil in November 1956. The film follows Márta (Sára Varga-Járó) and István (Gergely Váradi), who board the last refugee train, fleeing with precious church relics. As government agents interrogate Father B (Károly Hajduk) for the escape route, a high-stakes chess game onboard intertwines their fates. The survival of the relics and their lives depend on the outcome, with unexpected twists and gripping tension. Tóth's film redefines Hungarian storytelling on the global stage.



Barnabás Tóth

About the Director

Barnabás Tóth is a two-time Oscar shortlisted Hungarian writer, director, and actor. His second feature, *Those Who Remained* (2019), premiered at the Telluride Film Festival and was shortlisted for the Best International Film category at the 2020 Oscars. His short film *Chuchotage* (2018) was also shortlisted for the 91st Academy Awards. Tóth's short film *My Guide* (2013) gained significant attention, amassing over 1.5 million views on Vimeo within a week. His third feature, *Master Game* (2023), won the Excellence in Film Directing Award at the Stony Brook Festival in New York, and garnered Best Film Awards at various international festivals, including in Vukovar and Parma.



Mamífera

Spain | 2024 | 93 minutes | Catalan and Spanish

Cast & Crew

Director	Liliana Torres
Producer	Carla Sospedra Salvadó, Miriam Porté
Cinematographer	Lucía C. Pan
Editor	Sofi Escudé Poulenc
Sound Designer	Enrique G. Bermejo
Music	Jordi Matas, Joan Pons
Cast	Maria Rodríguez Soto, Enric Auquer, Ruth Llopis

Synopsis

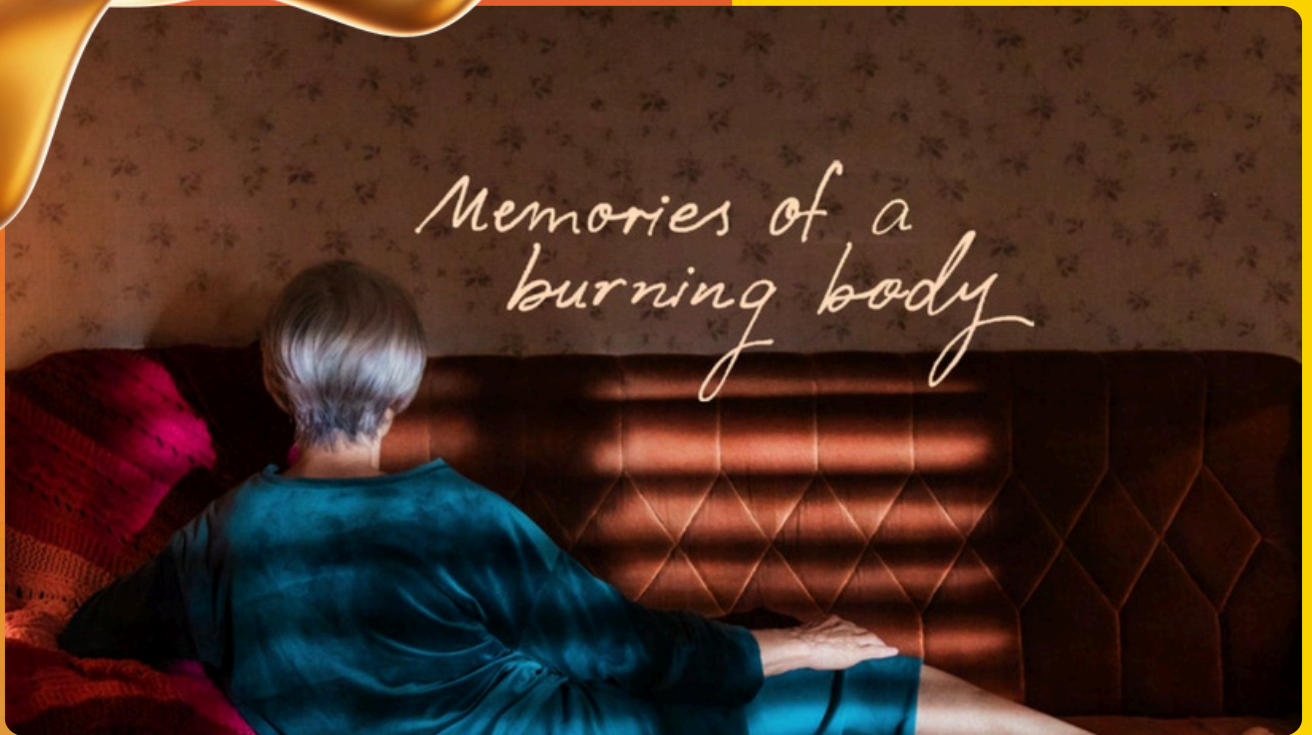
Lola's life with her partner, Bruno, is turned upside down when she unexpectedly becomes pregnant. Despite having always been clear about not wanting children, Lola faces societal pressures and her own fears about motherhood. Over the course of three days leading up to her clinic appointment, she seeks support from friends and family to reaffirm her decision. Meanwhile, Bruno, who had never envisioned himself as a father, begins to reconsider his stance.



Liliana Torres

About the Director

Liliana Torres, born in 1980 in Vic, Barcelona, is a writer and director known for her autobiographical films. Her debut feature, *Family Tour* (2013), premiered at the San Sebastián International Film Festival and won the Best European Film Award at Crossing Europe. Her second film, *What Went Wrong?* (2021), premiered at Tallinn Black Nights and competed in multiple festivals, including Seville and Miami. *Mamífera* (2024) will complete her trilogy, exploring themes of family, relationships, and motherhood.



Memories of a Burning Body/ Memories de un cuerpo que arde

Spain, Costa Rica | 2024 | 90 mins | Spanish

Cast & Crew

Director	Antonella Sudasassi
Producer	Antonella Sudasassi,
Cinematographer	Andrés Campos
Editor	Bernat Aragonés
Music	Valeria Castro, Juano Damiani
Cast	Paulina Bernini Viquez, Sol Carballo, Juliana Filloy Bogantes

Synopsis

Ana, Patricia, and Mayela were raised in a repressive era where sexuality was taboo, and their understanding of womanhood was shaped by unspoken rules and implicit expectations. Now, their fearless voices are embodied in a 65-year-old woman who reflects on a kaleidoscopic life filled with intertwined memories, secrets, and hidden desires.



Antonella Sudasassi

About the director

Antonella Sudasassi is a Costa Rican writer, director, and producer. Her debut film, *The Awakening of the Ants*, premiered at Berlinale 2019 and was selected as Costa Rica's entry for the Academy Awards. The film became the first Central American film to receive a Goya Award nomination and win a Platinum Award. It was featured in over 65 international film festivals and won 15 international awards. *Memories of a Burning Body* is her second film.



Motel Destino

Brazil , France, Germany, United Kingdom | 2024 |
115 mins | Portuguese

Cast & Crew

Director	Karim Aïnouz
Producer	Janaina Bernardes, Didar Domehri, Caio Gullane, Fabiano Gullane, André Novis, Gabrielle Tana, Hélène Théodoly
Cinematographer	Hélène Louvart
Editor	Nelly Quettier
Music	Amine Bouhafa
Cast	Iago Xavier, Nataly Rocha, Fábio Assunção

Synopsis

Motel Destino, a neon-lit roadside hotel on Brazil's northeastern coast, is managed by Elias, a short-tempered man, and his restless wife, Dayana. Their routine is disrupted when 21-year-old Heraldo arrives, fleeing after a failed hit job. In this tropical noir setting, hidden desires and shifting loyalties emerge, unraveling complex relationships. Under the burning blue skies, the characters' lives intertwine, as destiny challenges the fragile balance of power and trust in their isolated world.

About the director

Karim Aïnouz is a Brazilian filmmaker and screenwriter, known for his distinctive style blending sensuality and intense human emotions. Born in Fortaleza, Brazil, in 1966, Aïnouz's works often explore themes of identity, desire, and societal change. He gained international recognition with films like *Seashore* (2015) and *The Silver Cliff* (2011), which focus on intimate, often queer, stories set against the backdrop of Brazilian culture. His recent works include *Motel Destino* (2024), a tropical noir thriller. Aïnouz's films have been featured at major film festivals, including Cannes and Venice, solidifying his reputation in world cinema.



Karim Aïnouz



MOTHER AND SON

Un petit frère (Mother and son)

France | 2023 | 116 mins | French

Cast & Crew

Director	Léonor Serraille
Producer	Sandra da Fonseca
Cinematographer	Hélène Louvart
Editor	Clémence Carré
Cast	Annabelle Lengronne, Stéphane Bak, Kenzo Sambin

Synopsis

Set in the late 1980s, this film follows Rose, a determined single mother who moves from the Ivory Coast to Paris with her two sons, Jean and Ernest, in search of a better life. Over the course of two decades, the story explores their journey as they face both triumphs and challenges in a new country. The film delves into the evolving dynamics of their family, highlighting themes of identity, sacrifice, and the strong, unbreakable bond between mother and children.



**Léonor
Serraille**

About the Director

Born in Lyon, **Léonor Serraille** is a French filmmaker who studied at La Fémis and earned a master's degree in general and comparative literature from Sorbonne-Nouvelle University in 2013. Her debut feature film received critical acclaim, establishing her as a talented director in contemporary cinema. Léonor Serraille gained widespread acclaim for her debut feature film, which won the prestigious *Caméra d'Or* for Best First Feature at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival. The film also earned the Best French Feature Film award at the 6th Champs-Élysées Film Festival in Paris, further establishing Serraille's reputation as a talented and promising filmmaker.



My Melbourne

Australia | 2024 | 100 mins | English

Cast & Crew

Director	Imtiaz Ali, Arif Ali, Rima Das
Producer	Mitu Bhowmick Lange, Leanne Tonkes
Cinematographer	Brad Francis
Editor	Irene Dhar Malik
Music	Tamil Rogeon, Anurag Sharma
Cast	Arka Das, Arushi Sharma, Kat Stewart

Synopsis

My Melbourne is an anthology film celebrating diversity, exploring themes of sexuality, gender, disability, and race through four unique stories based on real-life experiences. The film brings together iconic Indian filmmakers—Onir, Rima Das, Imtiaz Ali, and Kabir Khan—with emerging creatives from underrepresented backgrounds to highlight authentic migrant experiences. Nandini (Onir): A queer Indian man and his estranged father reunite in Melbourne, exploring their strained relationship and the power of forgiveness amidst grief. Jules (Imtiaz Ali): Newly married Sakshi and homeless Jules form an unexpected bond, finding connection despite their struggles. Emma (Rima Das): A deaf dancer overcomes self-doubt and discrimination, inspired by a fellow dancer to embrace her uniqueness. Setara (Kabir Khan): A 15-year-old Afghan girl rebuilding her life after fleeing the Taliban finds belonging through cricket, despite family tensions and past trauma.

About the Director

Kabir Khan is a multi-award-winning Indian director known for films like Ek Tha Tiger, Bajrangi Bhaijaan, and 83. **Rima Das**, a self-taught filmmaker from Assam, is celebrated for her award-winning films like Village Rockstars and Bulbul Can Sing. **Imtiaz Ali**, Bollywood's "bard of young love," is renowned for films like Jab We Met, Rockstar, and Amar Singh Chamkila. **Onir**, a pioneering filmmaker in India's Indie and LGBTQI+ cinema, is known for My Brother...Nikhil and I Am.



Imtiaz Ali



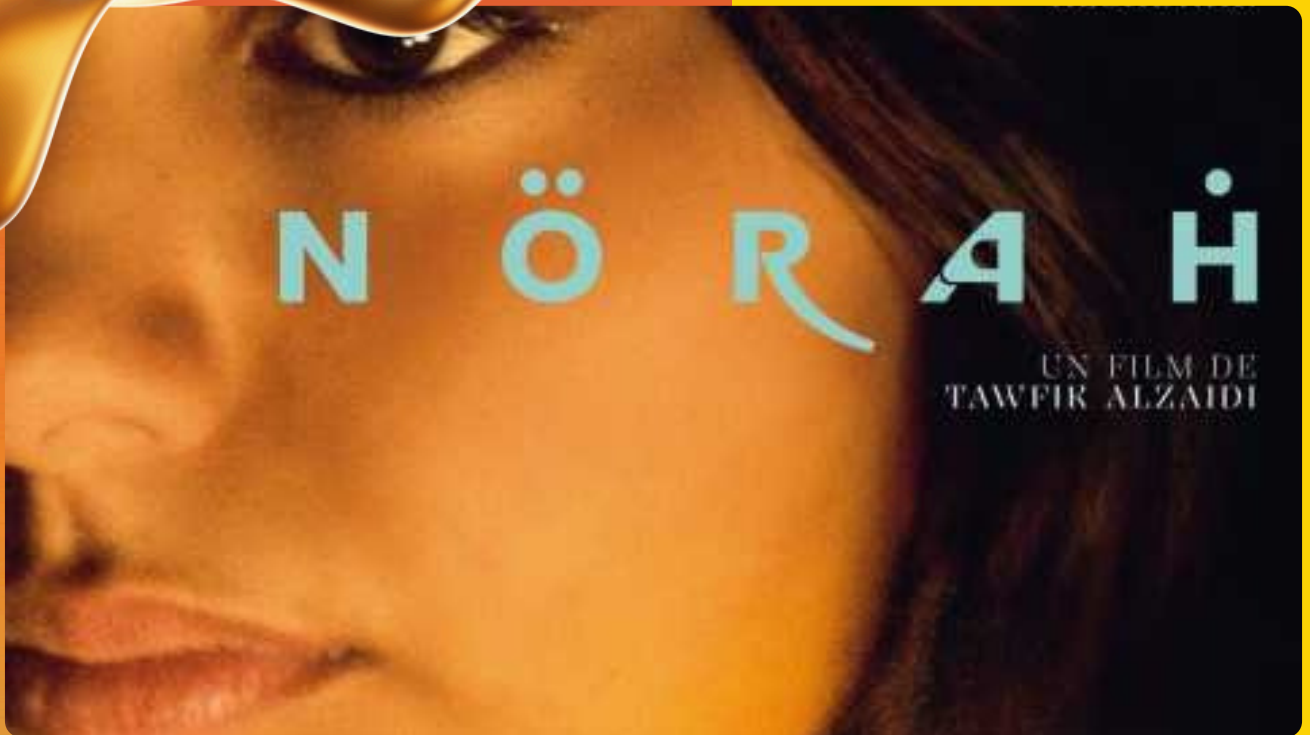
Kabir Khan



Rima Das



Onir



Norah

Saudi Arabia | 2024 | 94 mins | Arabic

Cast & Crew

Director	Tawfik Al-Zaidi
Producer	Tawfik Al-Zaidi, Sharif Majali, R. Paul Miller
Cinematographer	Shaun Harley Lee
Editor	Mounir Soussi, Sarah Zaanoun
Music	Omar Fadel
Cast	Yaqoub Alfarhan, Maria Bahrawi, Abdullah Al-sadhan

Synopsis

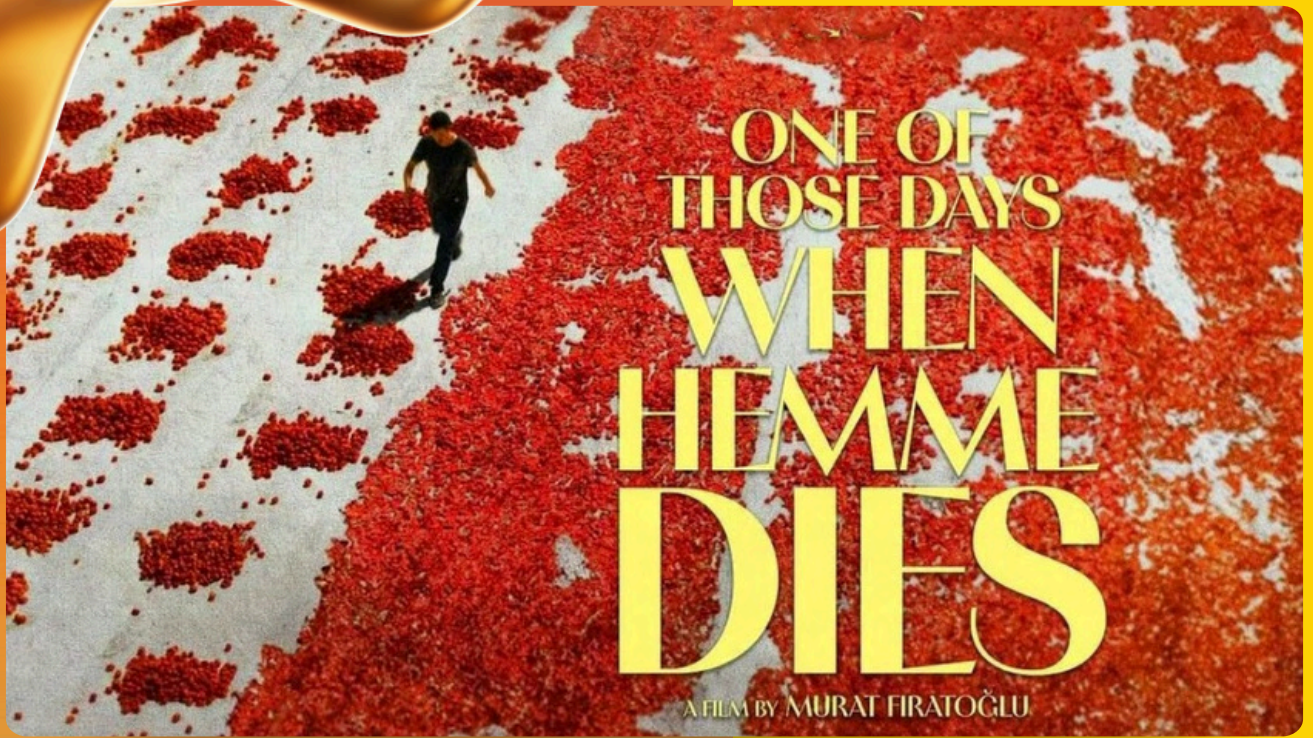
Norah is set in a small, remote Saudi Arabian village in the 1990s, a time when artistic expression was banned. The story follows Nader, a new schoolteacher and secret artist, who arrives in the village and meets Norah, a young woman who awakens his creative spirit. Despite the risks, they form a delicate connection, and Nader introduces Norah to the wider world beyond her restrictive community. Inspired by his encouragement, Norah realizes she must leave the village to find a place where she can freely express her artistic self.



Tawfik Al-Zaidi

About the Director

Tawfik Al-Zaidi is a Saudi director based in Riyadh, known for his influential role in Saudi Arabia's emerging cinema scene. He wrote, directed, and produced his debut feature film *Norah*. Alzaidi began his filmmaking career in 2006, directing short films. His first short, *The Fabricated Crime*, won Best Editing at the Jeddah Film Festival in 2007, and his film *The Silence* won the Gulf Short Film Award at the Muscat International Film Festival in 2009.



One Of Those Days When Hemme Dies

Turkey | 2024 | 83 mins | Turkish

Cast & Crew

Director	Murat Fıratoglu
Producer	Murat Fıratoglu
Cinematographer	Semih Yildiz
Editor	Eyyüp Zana Ekinci
Cast	Ali Barkın, Murat Fıratođlu, Fırat Bozan, Sefer Fıratođlu

Synopsis

Eyüp, a hardworking laborer in southeast Turkey, toils under the scorching sun during a tomato harvest, desperate to settle an impending debt. After a confrontation with his supervisor, he embarks on a desperate journey through the city, seeking a radical solution to his financial struggles.



Murat Fıratođlu

About the Director

Murat Fıratođlu born on September 7, 1983, in Siverek, Turkey, studied law at Dicle University. He is known for his short films, including Straw Dust (2007), The Edge of All Possibilities (2008), Albatros Dreams (2008), and The Photo of Kholoud Ahmed (2016), which was shortlisted for the Sabancı Foundation Short Film Platform. His debut feature film, One of These Days When Hemme Dies, marks his transition to feature filmmaking. Fıratođlu lives in Istanbul and works as a lawyer.



Opazovanje/Observing

Italy, Croatia, Slovenia | 2023 | 82 mins | Slovenian

Cast & Crew

Director	Janez Burger
Producer	Miha Cernec, Nina Robnik,
	Jozko Rutar
Cinematographer	Marko Brdar
Editor	Vladimir Gojun
Sound designer	Igor Popovski
Cast	Diana Kolenc, Jure Henigman, Natasa Keser

Synopsis

A young paramedic becomes entangled in a chilling mystery when she starts receiving disturbing videos on Facebook showing a brutal crime. As she investigates the origins of the videos, she is unsettled to discover that she might have unknowingly been involved in the incident. As the boundaries between victim and perpetrator blur, the paramedic struggles with her own memories and the truth about her role in the crime. The deeper she delves, the more disturbing the revelations become, forcing her to question her own actions and the nature of the crime she's connected to.



Janez Burger

About the Director

Janez Burger, born on March 21, 1965, in Kranj, Yugoslavia (now Slovenia), is a renowned director and writer. He is best known for his films *Idle Running* (1999), *Ivan* (2017), and *Silent Sonata* (2011). His first name, Janez, is the traditional Slovenian version of the Latin name Johannes (Ioannes), equivalent to John in English.



Poslednji heroj (Shooting Blanks)

Slovenia | 2023 | 85 mins | Slovenian , Greek, English

Cast & Crew

Director	Ziga Virc
Producer	Bostjan Virc
Cinematographer	Fabris Sulin
Editor	Vladimir Gojun
Cast	Jurji Drevensek, Eva Jesenovec, Jernej Kogovsek

Synopsis

When German supermarket chain decides to demolish a monument to a partisan hero to build a shopping mall, the hero's son France declares war on the Jerry enemy and stages a spectacular reception for its representative – who is Greek. In the midst of this game of partisans vs. the occupier, France's daughter Vida and her husband Toni are trying to conceive a baby when a shocking family secret is revealed. A black comedy about a family fighting an external enemy and ending up at war with itself.



Ziga Virc

About the Director

Ziga Virc is a Slovenian director and screenwriter, who graduated in Film and Television Directing from the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film, and Television (AGRFT) at the University of Ljubljana. He gained recognition with his internet trilogy Tine Strela and the short film Triest is Ours!, which stirred political controversy in Italy and earned multiple awards, including a Student Academy Award nomination. In 2012, Virc directed acclaimed documentaries such as Klic gora and Vojne igre. His 2012 trailer for Houston, We Have a Problem!, a film about the Yugoslav space program, went viral, leading to its world premiere at the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival.



Quiet Life

France, Sweden, Germany, Greece, Finland, Estonia |
99 mins | 2025 | Russian, Swedish, English

Cast & Crew

Director	Alexandros Avranas
Producer	Alejandro Arenas, Sylvie Pialat, Adeline Fontan Tessaur, Benoît Quainon
Cinematographer	Olympia Mytilinaïou
Editor	Dounia Sichov
Music	Tuomas Kantelenin
Cast	Chulpan Khamatova, Grigoriy Dobrygin, Naomi Lamp, Miroslava Pashutina

Synopsis

A refugee family in Sweden experiences profound trauma when their youngest daughter falls into a mysterious coma after their asylum application is denied. As they struggle to understand her condition and seek a cure, the parents face the added burden of their uncertain legal status. Their resilience is tested as they navigate the emotional and physical challenges of both the unexplained medical crisis and their difficult circumstances.



Alexandros Avranas

About the director

Alexandros Avranas (born 1977) is a prominent Greek film director known for his emotionally intense and thought-provoking films. His works, including *Miss Violence* (2013) and *Dark Crimes* (2016), have garnered widespread recognition. *Miss Violence* earned him international acclaim, winning the Silver Lion for Best Director at the Venice Film Festival. Avranas is praised for his ability to create powerful narratives that explore complex human experiences.



Samia /Samia: Little Dreamer

Italy, Germany, Belgium | 2024 | 102 mins | English, Somali

Cast and Crew

Director	Yasemin Samdereli, Deka Mohamed
Producer	Simone Catania, Christoph Fisser, Michele Fornasero, Dietmar Güntsche, David Herdies, Iman Ismail
Cinematographer	Florian Berutti
Editor	Mechthild Barth, Sebastian Bonde
Music	Rodrigo D'Erasmus
Cast	Ilham Mohamed Osman, Kaltuma Mohamed Abdi, Fathia Mohamed Absie

Synopsis

Samia (2024) tells the inspiring story of a young woman in Mogadishu, Somalia, who challenges societal norms by racing through the streets in a deeply traditional culture. In a society where women are expected to adhere to specific roles, Samia's passion for running becomes an act of defiance. Despite facing cultural resistance and personal struggles, she dreams of competing globally. Her determination leads to an opportunity to represent Somalia at the Olympic Games, showcasing her relentless pursuit of her goal.



Yasemin Samdereli

About the director

A graduate of the Munich Film and Television College, this filmmaker directed notable television films like *Alles Getürkt* and *Ich Chef du nix*, co-wrote the successful series *Turkish for Beginners*, and earned widespread acclaim with her debut feature *Almanya*. She also gained experience assisting on international productions with renowned directors such as Jackie Chan, Teddy Chan, and Stanley Tong. Her diverse filmography includes the 2024 feature *Samia* and the 2007 TV movies *Ich Chef du nix* and *Alles Getürkt!*.



Saturn Return/ Segundo premio

Spain, France | 2024 | 109 mins | Spanish, English

Cast & Crew

Director	Isaki Lacuesta, Pol Rodríguez
Producer	Cristóbal García
Cinematographer	Takuro Takeuchi
Editor	Javi Frutos
Music	Ylia
Cast	Daniel Ibáñez, Cristalino Stéphanie Magnin

Synopsis

This film follows an indie music band grappling with internal struggles while recording their third album, set to transform the music scene in Spain. The bassist leaves to find his identity outside of music, the guitarist descends into self-destruction, and the singer faces creative pressure from the record label. The story explores themes of friendship, creativity, and the challenges of the music industry.



Isaki Lacuesta



Pol Rodríguez

About the director

Isaki Lacuesta and **Pol Rodríguez** are acclaimed Spanish filmmakers known for their innovative storytelling and distinctive styles. Lacuesta, recognized for blending fiction and documentary, has won multiple awards, including the Golden Shell at the San Sebastián Film Festival. Rodríguez, an emerging talent, is celebrated for his visually compelling narratives and exploration of human emotions. Together, they create a unique synergy in *Saturn Return*, combining their strengths to tell a heartfelt story about creativity and personal struggles.



SCORCHED EARTH

Scorched Earth

Germany | 2024 | 101 mins | German

Cast & Crew

Director	Thomas Arslan
Producer	Florian Koerner von Gustorf, Michael Weber, Anton Kaise
Cinematography	Reinhold Vorschneider
Editor	Reinaldo Pinto Almeida
Music	Ola Fløttum
Cast	Misel Maticevic, Marie Leuenberger, Alexander Fehling, Tim Seyfi, Marie-Lou Sellem, Katrin Röver, Bilge Bingül

Synopsis

Trojan follows a seasoned criminal who returns to Berlin after 12 years to execute a high-stakes art heist targeting a priceless painting. As the meticulously planned operation unravels, betrayal and fractured alliances emerge. Pursued by a museum determined to recover the artwork and shadowed by a mysterious benefactor, Trojan faces escalating threats. The film explores themes of trust, morality, and human vulnerability, with a subplot centered on a Caspar David Friedrich painting. Balancing psychological depth and atmospheric suspense, Trojan captures the elegance of classic film noir.



Thomas Arslan

About the Director

Thomas Arslan is a renowned German filmmaker and screenwriter, recognized as a key figure in the Berlin School, a movement known for its minimalist, contemplative storytelling. Born in 1962 in Braunschweig, Germany, Arslan studied at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (DFFB). His films, such as *Dealer* (1999), *In the Shadows* (2010), and *Gold* (2013), often explore personal identity amidst societal transformation, blending emotional depth with realistic portrayals. Arslan's work has earned international recognition and critical acclaim for its understated drama and vivid visual style.



Shahid

Germany | 2024 | 84 mins | Persian

Cast & Crew

Director	Narges Kalhor
Producer	Michael Kalb
Cinematographer	Felix Pflieger
Editor	Narges Kalhor, Frank J. Müller
Music	Roya Arab, Marja Burchard
Cast	Baharak Abdolifard, Nima Nazarinia, Saleh Rozati

Synopsis

Shahid is a thought-provoking film that explores justice, identity, and extremism, combining gritty realism with dark humor. It follows a young man navigating the complex world of radical ideologies, personal struggles, and societal pressures. The film balances sharp political commentary with an intimate character study, challenging viewers to question their beliefs. With a unique tone that mixes desperation and levity, Shahid offers a gripping narrative and a deeply human, unforgettable cinematic experience.



Narges Kalhor

About the Director

Narges Kalhor is an Iranian-German filmmaker known for her compelling storytelling and exploration of themes such as identity, freedom, and socio-political issues. Drawing from her dual cultural background, her work reflects a unique perspective. With acclaimed projects like Shahid (2024) and Sensitive Content (2023), Kalhor has established herself as a bold and impactful voice in cinema. Narges Kalhor is a filmmaker known for her distinct visual style and narrative depth in contemporary cinema. Her work explores themes of identity, freedom, and socio-political issues, earning her international recognition for its compelling storytelling.



WEBFILMLAND PRODUCTIONS, AARAMBH PRODUCTIONS & ANAHAT FILMS PRESENT

A WEBFILMLAND PRODUCTION

SOCH

A PERCEPTION

A RAVI GAUTAM FILM

Starring: ANJALI PATIL, MUKTI DAS, SILPI DUTTA, BASHIR YASIR BHAWANI, MUZAMIL BHAWANI, RITIKA SHARMA, GAURI WEBSTER, DAYAL PRASAD

Produced by - JENNIFER PENGEL, RAVINDER KUMAR, ANJALI PATIL, RAHUL SHARMA. Executive Producers - JENNIFER PENGEL & RAHUL SHARMA. Screenplay - RAVI GAUTAM & PEPINO PUSHPANI. Story - RAVI GAUTAM. Additional Dialogues - SHIVAM DHALL. Casting directors RAVI GAUTAM, VIDISHA PUROHIT, MUKTI DAS

Director of Photography - PEPINO PUSHPANI. First Assistant Director DIPESH ROHILLA. Editor - RAVI GAUTAM. PEPINO PUSHPANI, RAHUL JAISWAL. Background Music - DIPESH VARMA. Sound Design - SURYA KARN GUPTA. Dialogue Editor - SOHAM SANJAL. Visual Effects RAVI GAUTAM, PEPINO PUSHPANI. Visual Art Designer MUKUL SHARMA

Soch: A Perception

Germany | 2024 | 100 mins | Hindi

Cast & Crew

Director	Ravi Gautam
Producer	Ravi Gautham, Anjali Patil
Cinematographer	Gowtham Venkatesh
Editor	Gowtham Raj, Rahul Jaiswal, Pepino Pushpani
Music	Dipesh Varma
Cast	Anjali Patil, Mukti Ravi Das

Synopsis

In the peaceful village of Arkee, a shocking event shakes everyone—Shaila Awasthi, a respected social activist, goes missing. What seems like a simple case turns into a national issue, with media coverage and growing communal tensions. The village, once united by Shaila's work, starts to fall apart as suspicions rise and trust crumbles. Soch explores how people's views shape their actions, how fragile unity can be, and how fear and distrust can destroy a community. It leaves the audience with a powerful question: is the enemy really outside, or is it hidden within us?

About the director

Ravi Gautam is a director and a screenwriter. From his early youth, he enchanted audiences on the stages of the Himalayas with stories reminiscent of the magic of "One Thousand and One Nights." His journey led him over 6000 kilometers into the world of film production, where his knack for gripping narratives and unforgettable characters culminated in the feature film "Die Brücke" in 2018, with Ravi taking the helm as director. As the founder and CEO of the production company Webfilmland, he recently continued to leverage his talent in the films he wrote and produced, "Soch: A Perception" and "A Million Yard Stare," once again proving his extraordinary ability to create captivating stories.



Ravi Gautam



Stormskerry Maja/Myrskyluodon Maija

Finland | 2024 | 144 mins | English

Cast & Crew

Director	Tiina Lymi
Producer	Jukka Helle, Markus Selin, Hanna Virolainen
Cinematographer	Rauno Ronkainen
Editor	Joona Louhivuori
Music	Lauri Porra
Cast	Amanda Jansson, Linus Troedsson Jonna Järnefelt

Synopsis

When young peasant woman Maja (Amanda Jansson, *Midnight Sun*) is married off to humble fisherman Janne (Linus Troedsson), a man she barely knows, they move to the remote island of Stormskerry to begin their family life. Her new environment is not welcoming, with survival a relentless challenge, but Maja soon falls for the rugged beauty and for her new husband. Amidst the hardships of their isolated existence, Maja begins to become aware of a new era for women.

The couple have children and life is steady until the Crimean War lands on their doorstep and her journey becomes a test of resilience as she discovers a love that transcends the boundaries of life and death.

About the Director

Tiina Lymi, born on September 3, 1971, in Tampere, Finland, is a versatile actress, director, screenwriter, and author. She has made significant contributions to film, theater, and television, known for her compelling performances. In 2015, she directed her first short film, marking the beginning of her directorial career. Since then, Tiina has written and directed five feature films and one TV series, while also acting in a television series she created. Her diverse talents have had a notable impact on the Finnish entertainment industry.



Tiina Lymi



To a Land Unknown

Saudi Arabia | 2024 | 105 Mins | Arabic, English, Greek

Cast & Crew

Director	Mahdi Fleifel
Producer	Geoff Arbourne, Mahdi Fleifel
Cinematographer	Thodoris Mihopoulos
Editor	Halim Sabbah
Music	Nadah El Shazly
Cast	Angeliki Papoulia, Manal Awad, Mahmood Bakri, Aram Sabbagh, Mohammad Alsurafa,

Synopsis

After fleeing a camp in Lebanon, two Palestinian cousins, Chatila and Reda, find themselves stranded in Athens, trapped in an underground existence. Desperate to reach Germany, they save money for fake passports, but Reda loses it all to his drug addiction. In response, Chatila devises an extreme plan: posing as smugglers and taking hostages to escape. The film offers a compelling and nuanced exploration of the harsh realities faced by migrants.



Mahdi Fleifel

About the Director

Mahdi Fleifel is a Palestinian-Danish director who graduated from the National Film and Television School (NFTS) in the UK. His feature documentary *A World of Ours* premiered at TIFF in 2012 and won around thirty awards, including at Berlinale, CPH:DOX, Yamagata, and DOC:NYC. He participated in the Cinéfondation in 2013 and he directed several short films.



The Challenge/ Vyзов

Russia | 2023 | 164 mins | Russian

Cast & Crew

Director	Klim Shipenko
Producer	Konstantin Ernst, Eduard Iloyan Dmitriy Rogozin, Vitaliy Shlyappo, Sergey Titinkov, Aleksey Trotsyuk Denis Zhalinskiy
Cinematographer	Boris Litovchenko, Klim Shipenko
Editor	Tim Pavelko
Music	Sergey Cheremisinov, Nikolay Rostov
Cast	Yuliya Peresild, Milos Bikovic, Vladimir Mashkov

Synopsis

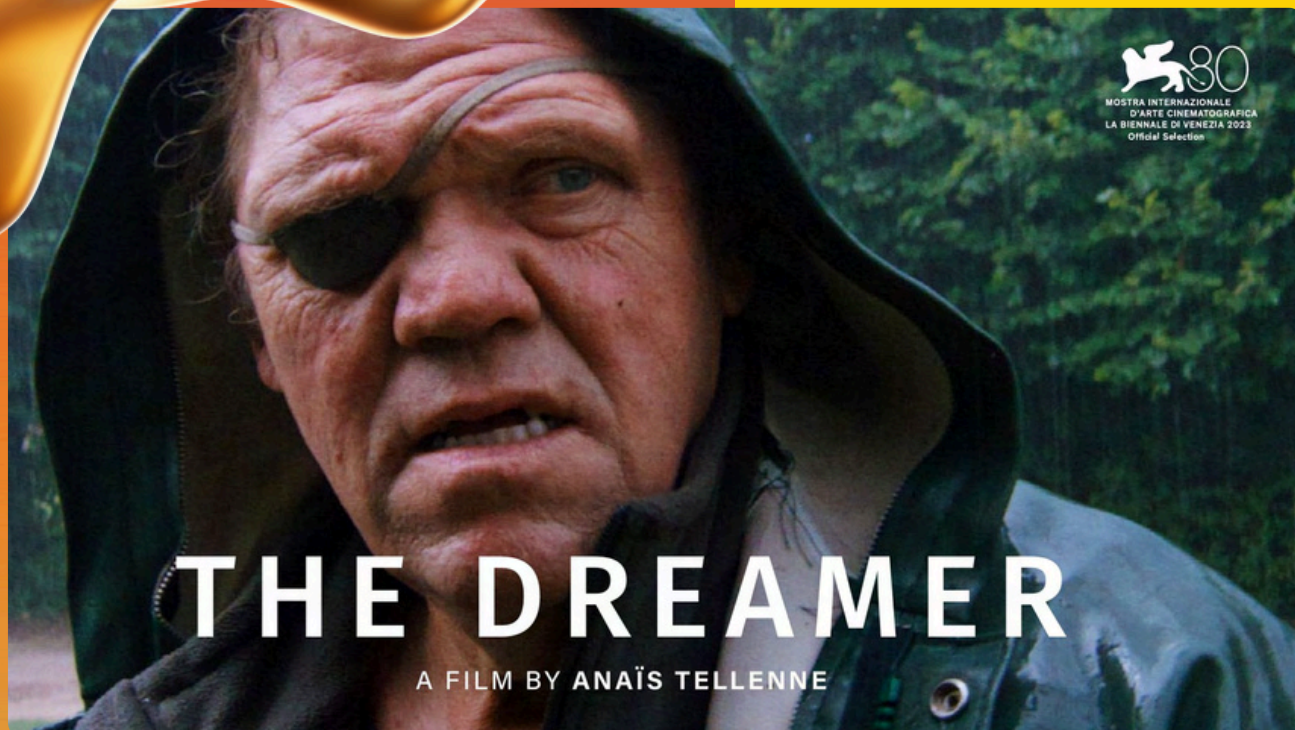
Cosmonaut Oleg Bogdanov is severely injured during an EVA at the International Space Station (ISS), and his chances of survival are slim. Female thoracic surgeon Eugenia Belyaeva is chosen to fly to space and attempt to save him. Though highly skilled, Eugenia struggles with personal challenges: she is a single mother to a teenage daughter, haunted by the death of her husband, and feels responsible for it. The surgery is highly risky, and performing it in space presents even greater complications, as what would be a medium-complexity procedure on Earth could easily turn into a disaster in the unique conditions of space.



**Klim
Shipenko**

About the Director

Klim Shipenko, born on June 16, 1983, is a prominent Russian filmmaker, screenwriter, producer, and actor. He gained international recognition for directing *The Challenge* (2023), the first film ever shot in space aboard the International Space Station. Shipenko is also known for *Son of a Rich* (2019), a successful comedy and one of the highest-grossing films in Russia. His work blends innovative storytelling with commercial appeal, establishing him as one of the leading filmmakers in contemporary Russian cinema.



The Dreamer

France | 2023 | 94 mins | French

Cast & Crew

Director	Anaïs Tellenne
Producer	Diane Jassem, Céline Chapdaniel
Cinematographer	Fanny Mazoyer
Editor	Héloïse Pelloquet
Music	Amaury Chabauty
Cast	Raphaël Thiéry, Mireille Pitot Emmanuelle Devos, Marie-Christine Orry

Synopsis

Raphaël, a one-eyed man nearing 60, serves as the caretaker of a deserted mansion, living with his mother in a small house on the estate. His daily routine revolves around mole hunting, bagpipe practice, and occasional trips in the postwoman's van. However, everything changes when Garance, the mansion's heiress, returns on a stormy night, altering the course of his life forever.



Anaïs Tellenne

About the Director

Anaïs Tellenne, is a French writer and director with a background in dance and acting. She began her filmmaking career with the short film *June 19* (2016), followed by *Le mal bleu* (Arte) in collaboration with Raphaël Thiéry. She directed *Modern Jazz* (France 2) and developed her debut feature *The Dreamer*, starring Emmanuelle Devos and Raphaël Thiéry. Anaïs co-wrote *L'Engloutie* with Louise Hémon and is set to direct *Les Indépendants*, a biopic about painter Mary Cassatt, in the U.S. in 2024.



THE GIRL WITH THE NEEDLE

MAGNUS VON HORN

The Girl with the Needle / Pigen med nalen

Denmark, Poland, Sweden | 2025 | 123 mins | Danish

Cast & Crew

Director	Magnus von Horn
Producer	Malene Blenkov, Mariusz Wlodarski
Cinematographer	Michal Dymek
Editor	Agnieszka Glińska
Music	Frederikke Hoffmeier
Cast	Vic Carmen Sonne, Trine Dyrholm, Besir Zeciri

Synopsis

As World War I ends, Karoline struggles with homelessness and an unplanned pregnancy in Denmark after being abandoned by her boss. A chance meeting with Dagmar provides her with support and solidarity, helping Karoline regain control of her life and embrace independence. The story highlights a woman's fight against patriarchy and exploitation in the post-war period.



Magnus von Horn

About the Director

Magnus von Horn, born December 21, 1983, in Gothenburg, Sweden, is a renowned director and screenwriter known for his unique storytelling. He studied at the Polish National Film, Television, and Theatre School, earning a Master's degree in film studies. Magnus has directed several acclaimed short films that delve into complex themes and character dynamics, demonstrating a deep understanding of human emotions and societal issues. His impactful work has solidified his reputation as a significant figure in contemporary cinema.

The Old Bachelor

a film by OKTAY BARAHENI



The Old Bachelor (Pir Pesar)

Iran | 2024 | 192 mins | Persian

Cast & Crew

Director	Oktay Baraheni
Producer	Babak Hamidian, Hanif Soroori
Cinematographer	Adib Sobhani
Editor	Reza Shahbazi
Cast	Hajir Sam Ahmadi, Mahsa Bagheri, Hamed Behdad

Synopsis

In a struggling Iran, two middle-aged brothers live under the oppressive rule of their abusive father, whose violent temper and chauvinism have driven away his second wife. The father now targets his eldest son, while the younger brother secretly fantasizes about killing him. When the father rents out the flat above to a young woman, with plans to marry her, her growing attraction to the older son begins to unravel the already fractured family, pushing them to the brink of collapse.



Oktay Baraheni

About the director

Oktay Baraheni is an Iranian film director and writer, a graduate of York University in Toronto, Canada, with a degree in Cinema. His successful career includes several feature films, short films, and the documentary *Khatab Be Parvaneha*, which explores the life of the renowned Iranian poet Reza Baraheni and his father. His debut feature film, *The Pole Khaab*, was showcased in the new film section of the Fajr Film Festival in 2015 and had its public release in 2016. Baraheni also has a background in journalism.



The Seed of the Sacred Fig (Dane - ye anjir-e ma'abed)

France, Germany | 168 mins | 2024 | Persian

Cast & Crew

Director	Mohammad Rasoulof
Producer	Mohammad Rasoulof, Rozita Hendijanian, Amin Sadraei, Mani Tilgner Jean-Christophe Simon
Cinematographer	Pooyan Aghababaei
Editor	Andrew Bird
Music	Karzan Mahmood
Cast	Mahsa Rostami, Setareh Maleki, Niousha Akhshi

Synopsis

The Judge follows Iman, a devout lawyer appointed as an investigating judge in Tehran amidst political protests. As he is pressured to sign death sentences without reviewing evidence, he becomes consumed by paranoia, distrust, and a strained family life. Tensions rise when his gun goes missing, leading to a violent confrontation and a family trial. The film ends with a tragic chase, leaving Iman's fate uncertain as Tehran's streets erupt in protest.



Mohammad Rasoulof

About the director

Mohammad Rasoulof is an Iranian filmmaker in exile in Europe, renowned for his award-winning films, including *The Twilight* (2002), *Iron Island* (2005), *Goodbye* (2011), *Manuscripts Don't Burn* (2013), *A Man of Integrity* (2017), and *There Is No Evil* (2020), which won the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival. His latest film, *The Seed of the Sacred Fig*, was selected for the main competition at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.



THE SHAMELESS

The Shameless

Switzerland, Bulgaria, France, Taiwan, and India | 114 mins | 2024 | Hindi

Cast & Crew

Director	Konstantin Bojanov
Producer	Frédéric Corvez, Mohaan Nadaan, Maéva Savinien
Cinematographer	Gabriel Lobos
Editor	Tom Hsin-Ming Lin
Music	Petar Dundakov
Cast	Anasuya Sengupta, Omara, Auroshikha Dey

Synopsis

In the dead of night, Nadira escapes a Delhi brothel after fatally stabbing a policeman. On the run, she hides in a Northern Indian community of sex workers, adopting the Hindu name Renuka. There, she meets Devika, a young girl trapped by religious tradition in a life of prostitution. As their bond grows into a forbidden romance, Devika defies her controlling mother and the oppressive system, joining Renuka on a dangerous journey to escape the law and seek freedom, navigating a brutal and violent world along the way.



Konstantin Bojanov

About the Director

Konstantin Bojanov is an award-winning Bulgarian-American filmmaker, screenwriter, and visual artist. After studying fine arts in Sofia and London, he founded KB Projects in New York and later focused on filmmaking. His debut feature *Avé* (2011) won over 20 international awards, and his follow-up *Light Thereafter* (2017) premiered at Rotterdam. His latest noir thriller, *The Shameless* (2024), received acclaim at Cannes, with Anasuya Sengupta winning Best Performer. Bojanov's films, including the upcoming *Gambit*, have been showcased at over 100 festivals globally, and his visual art has been exhibited in various galleries and museums.

THE SUBSTANCE



The Substance

France, United States, United Kingdom | 141 mins |
2024 | English

Cast & Crew

Director	Coralie Fargeat
Producer	Coralie Fargeat, Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner
Cinematographer	Benjamin Kračun
Editor	Jérôme Eltabet
Music	Raffertie
Cast	Demi Moore, Margaret Qualley, Dennis Quaid

Synopsis

On her 50th birthday, faded Hollywood star Elisabeth Sparkle is fired from her TV show and discovers a black-market serum, "The Substance," that creates a younger version of herself. As Elisabeth and her new alter ego, Sue, switch bodies weekly, their relationship deteriorates, leading to jealousy, betrayal, and horrific consequences. When Sue's reckless disregard for the schedule causes both women to deteriorate, a grotesque mutation forms, culminating in a deadly, chaotic live broadcast. Elisabeth's decaying original face ultimately melts away, symbolizing the cost of vanity and fame.

About the director

Coralie Fargeat is a French filmmaker who gained recognition with her 2017 debut feature *Revenge*, a revenge thriller about a young woman assaulted and left for dead, which earned her several awards at independent film festivals. Her second feature, *The Substance* (2024), a satirical body horror film starring Demi Moore, won the Cannes Film Festival Award for Best Screenplay.



Coralie Fargeat



The Undertaker (Sapparer)

Thailand | 2023 | 125 mins | Thai

Cast & Crew

Director	Thiti Srinual
Producer	Sachuch Boonkosum Supanut Namwong, Surasak Pongsorn
Cinematographer	Krittidech Grajangsri
Editor	Chutipong Rakhorm, Thiti Srinual
Cast	Chatchai Chinsi, Nuttawut Sanyabut Thanadon Buarabat, Nek Naruepol, Phuwanet Seechomphu

Synopsis

In 2022, the village of Non Khun in Sisaket is thrown into turmoil after Baikhao, a pregnant woman, takes her own life, leaving her ghost to haunt the locals. Siang, her ex-boyfriend and a former monk, leaves the monkhood to confront her spirit. Joed, a recent law graduate, becomes the village undertaker after his father falls ill, despite his fear of ghosts. Together, Joed and Siang seek out Joed's father, Sak, who holds the secret to an astral travel ritual that they hope will help them uncover the truth behind Baikhao's restless spirit.



Thiti Srinual

About the Director

Thiti Srinual is a Thai director recognized for his work in both film and television, including *The Undertaker* (2023), *Thibaan the Series: Doctor Plawan* (2022), and *Thibaan × BNK48* (2020). Known for his distinctive style and storytelling, Srinual's films often delve into human emotions, relationships, and social issues, blending realism with depth.



The Village Next to Paradise

France, Austria, Somalia | 2024 | 132 mins | Somali

Cast & Crew

Director	Mo Harawe
Producer	Nicole Gerhards, Sabine Moser, Oliver Neumann, Mo Harawe, Jean-Christophe
Cinematographer	Mostafa El Kashef
Editor	Joana Scrinzi
Cast	Axmen Cali Faarax, Canab Axmed Ibraahin, Ahmed Mohamoud Salleban

Synopsis

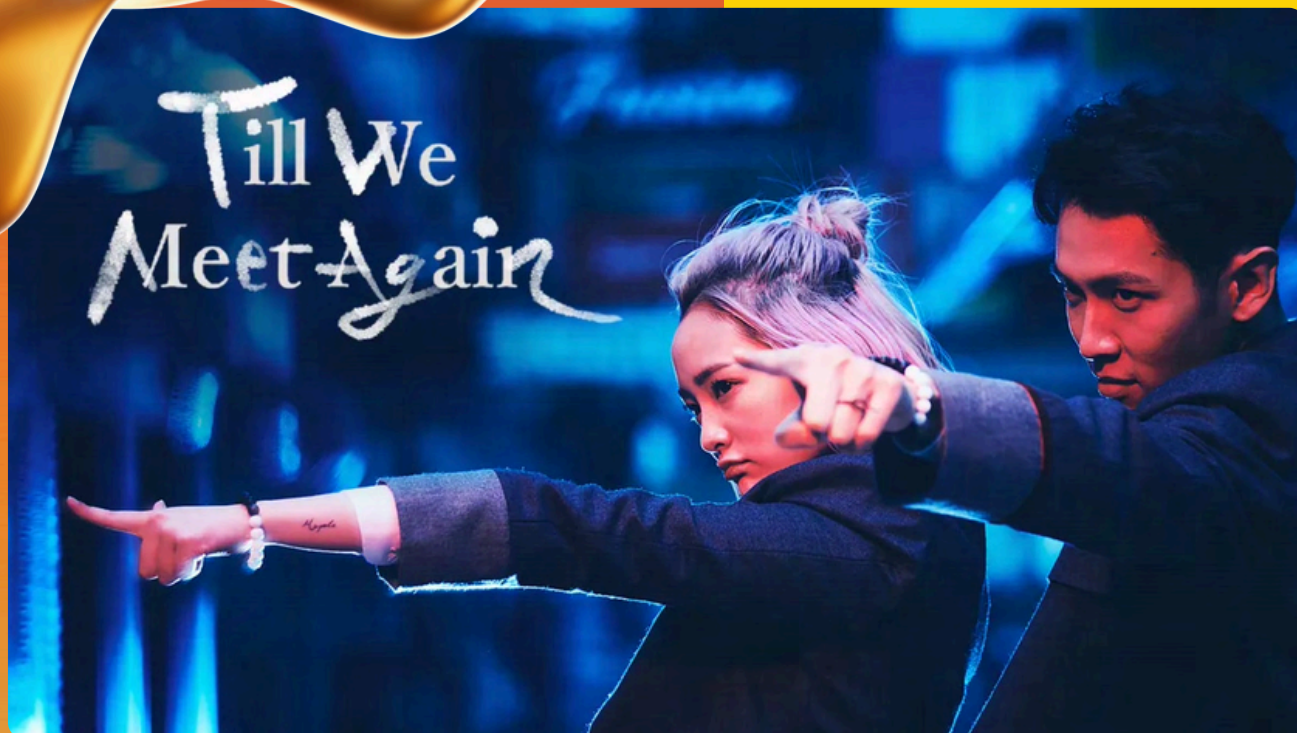
A newly formed family navigates challenges while pursuing their individual goals and dealing with the complexities of modern life, relying on love, trust, and resilience to overcome obstacles.



Mo Harawe

About the Director

Mo Harawe is a Somali/Austrian writer and director from Mogadishu, currently studying at Kunsthochschule Kassel. His debut feature film, *The Village Next to Paradise*, follows his successful short films, including *Life on the Horn*, which received a Special Mention at Locarno, and *Will My Parents Come to See Me*, which won multiple awards, including the Grand Prix at Clermont-Ferrand and Best Short Film at the 2023 German LOLA and Austrian Film Awards.



Till We Meet Again

Taiwan | 2021 | 128 mins | Mandarin

Cast & Crew

Director	Giddens Ko
Producer	Molly Fang, Paul D. Kim
Cinematographer	Yi-Hsien Chou
Editor	Ming-Sheng Kao, Ching-Chiao Wang
Music	Chih-Chien Hou
Cast	Kai Ko, Gingle Wang, Vivian Sung

Synopsis

After being struck by lightning, Ah Lun arrives in the underworld with no memories and chooses to become a Yue Lao, a God of Love, alongside the spirited Pinky. Together, they return to the living world to matchmake and accumulate virtues. As Ah Lun regains his memories, he reunites with his past love, Xiaomi. However, their bond faces challenges when her red thread burns away, and they must confront the vengeful spirit of Ghost Head. Through Ah Lun's gratitude, Ghost Head's humanity is restored, saving Xiaomi. Ultimately, Ah Lun reincarnates, while Pinky hopes for a future reunion.



Giddens Ko

About the Director

Giddens Ko is a renowned Taiwanese director, screenwriter, and author, best known for his successful debut film *You Are the Apple of My Eye* (2011), a romantic comedy that became a box office hit in Taiwan. Known for blending humor, emotion, and cultural themes, Ko has directed several notable films, including *Till We Meet Again* (2021). His works often explore themes of love, relationships, and the complexities of human emotions, showcasing his distinctive storytelling style.

TOXIC

A FILM BY SAULE BLIUVAITE



Toxic (Alkiplėsa)

Lithuania | 2024 | 99 mins | Lithuania, English

Cast & Crew

Director	Saule Bliuvaite
Producer	Akis Bado, Giedre Burokaite
Cinematographer	Vytautas Katkus
Editor	Igne Narbutaite
Music	Gediminas Jakubka
Cast	Vesta Matulyte, Ieva Rupeikaite, Egle Gabrenaite

Synopsis

13-year-old Maria, abandoned by her mother, is sent to live with her grandmother in a bleak industrial town. After a violent street clash, she meets Kristina, a girl her age aspiring to become a fashion model. Eager to get closer to Kristina, Maria joins a mysterious modeling school where girls are preparing for a major casting event. As she navigates the intense, cult-like atmosphere of the school and her complex relationship with Kristina, Maria embarks on a journey of self-discovery, struggling to understand her own identity.



Saulė Bliuvaite

About the director

Saulė Bliuvaite, born in 1994, is a Lithuanian director and screenwriter. She gained international recognition with her feature film debut *Toxic* (2024), which won the Golden Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival. The drama tells the story of two 13-year-old girls trying to escape their bleak Lithuanian hometown by pushing their bodies to the limit in a modeling school. The screenplay is based on Bliuvaite's own teenage experiences.

TRACTOR



Tractor

France | 2024 | 147 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Ramesh Yanthra
Producer	Jayanthan. V
Cinematographer	Gautham Muthusamy
Sound Designer	Rajesh Saseendran

Synopsis

A self-sufficient tribal village farmer's peaceful life is disrupted by recent social changes and private-sector scams. When a financial investment company lures the innocent farmer with a gift from a lucky draw to promote their upcoming project in the village, he falls into their trap. The tractor, his lifeline and symbol of resilience, is seized due to mounting debts, leaving him devastated. As he fights to reclaim both his tractor and his dignity, the story highlights the farmer's struggle against deception, the impact of greed on rural lives, and his unyielding spirit to protect what he holds dear.



**Ramesh
Yanthra**

About the director

He is a visual artist and filmmaker. He got a national research grant from Lalikala Academy in 1995. Later he completed his Master's in Fine Arts and then started his career as an Assistant art director in the Tamil film industry and then became an Art Director for a few films. His first documentary "Gudiyam Caves" was selected at Short Film Corner at Cannes Film Festival in 2015. So far, he has directed three documentaries and one short biopic film. Currently, he is working on a feature film and two documentaries.

Luciana Grasso
Inés Estévez

vera and the pleasure of others



Vera And The Pleasure of Others

Argentina | 2024 | 103 Mins | Spanish

Cast & Crew

Director	Federico Actis, Romina Tamburello
Producer	Santiago King
Cinematographer	Lucas Pérez
Editor	Danalí Riquelme
Sound Designer	Santiago Zecca
Cast	Ofelia Castillo, Inés Estévez, Luciana Grasso

Synopsis

17-year-old Vera divides her days between volleyball, school, and a secret hobby: she rents out an empty apartment to teenagers looking for a place to indulge in intimate activity. She steals the keys from her distracted mother, who manages different properties and organises everything. The teenagers come and go, using the apartment for a few uninterrupted hours. While they are occupied, she listens from behind a closed door, experiencing her own sexual desires. .



**Romina
Tamburello**



**Federico
Actis**

About the director

Romina Tamburello is a director and screenwriter recognized for her plays *Black Eyed Women* and *Jet Lag*, as well as the short film *Rage*, which was featured at Cannes. She also directed the documentary series *Catalina, the Woman with the Flag* and created *The Devil's Widow*, for which she serves as the showrunner.

Federico Actis is a director and producer at Pez Cine, recognized for the short film *The Cable Cars* and the documentary *The Architecture of Crime*. He is currently developing the feature film *The Men of the Plain*.



Vzornik/ Role Model

Slovenia, Serbia, Czech Republic, Italy | 2023 | 98 mins | Slovenian

Cast & Crew

Director	Nejc Gazvoda
Producer	Ales Pavlin, Andrej Stritof
Cinematographer	Jan Suster
Editor	Andrej Avanzo
Music	Janja Loncar
Cast	Mojca Funkl, France Mandic, Jure Henigman, Marina Redzepovic, Vesna Pernarcic, Klara Kuk

Synopsis

Maja (45), a psychologist, and her 14-year-old son Jan live in a small town after Maja's recent divorce. Jan, struggling with loneliness, bullying, and the aftermath of his parents' separation, forms an unlikely friendship with Jakob, a troubled student recovering from a suicide attempt. Jakob, part of a gang that bullies Jan, forces him to abandon his "sunshine" nickname in order to survive. Meanwhile, Maja, burdened by personal pressures and a competitive new colleague, Neja, begins drinking again, deepening her sense of loss and struggle.



**Nejc
Gazvoda**

About the Director

Nejc Gazvoda is a renowned writer and filmmaker from Slovenia. He gained recognition early, publishing a short fiction collection, *Nothing Escapes the Squirrels*, which won prestigious awards like *Fabula 2006* and *Golden Bird 2005*. Gazvoda has authored three novels, all shortlisted for the *Kresnik Award*, Slovenia's highest honor for best novel. He directed the award-winning student films *Burgundy Red* (2007) and *Caretaker* (2008). His feature debut, *A Trip*, premiered at the *Sarajevo Film Festival* in 2011 and was showcased at major festivals like *Cannes*, *Warsaw*, and *Filmfest Hamburg*. He is currently working on his second feature, *Dual*.



Waves

Czech Republic, Slovakia | 2024 | 131 mins | Czech

Cast & Crew

Director	Jiří Mádľ
Producer	Monika Kristlová, Vlasta Kristl
Cinematographer	Martin Žiaran
Editor	Filip Malásek
Music	Simon Goff
Cast	Vojtěch Vodochodský, Vojtěch Kotek, Tatiana Pauhofová,

Synopsis

Set during the Prague Spring and the subsequent Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, the film follows the international news office at Czechoslovak Radio. The narrative centers on a group of talented individuals who, amidst political upheaval, grapple with the moral dilemma of whether to sacrifice their personal safety to uphold the truth. The film explores themes of political freedom, personal integrity, and the power of media during times of crisis.

About the director

He is a Czech actor, director, and screenwriter. He gained prominence for his role in the 2008 film *Night Owls* (*Přežit svůj život*), which earned him the Best Actor award at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Mádľ has appeared in numerous films such as *The Country Teacher* (*Učitel tance*) and *The Fox* (*Liška*). His notable work includes his debut film *Raising a Bar* (*Mocní a bezmocní*), which explores political and social themes. He is also known for his satirical works, including a 2010 parody of Sarah Silverman's election commercial. Mádľ has received critical acclaim for his contributions to Czech cinema and his unique voice in both acting and directing.



Jiří Mádľ



Who do I belong to/ Mé el Aïn

Tunisia, Qatar, United States, France | 2024 | 120 mins | Arabic

Cast & Crew

Director	Meryam Joobeur
Producer	Sarra Ben Hassen, Annick Blanc, Nadim Cheikhrouha, Maria Gracia, Meryam Joobeur
Cinematographer	Vincent Gonneville
Editor	Meryam Joobeur Maxime Mathis
Music	Peter Venne
Cast	Salha Nasraoui, Mohamed Grayaa, Malek Mechergui

Synopsis

Aicha, living in Tunisia's isolated north with her husband and youngest son, is haunted by the absence of her two eldest sons, Mehdi and Amine, who left for war. When Mehdi unexpectedly returns with a mysterious pregnant wife, an ominous darkness begins to unravel their village. Torn between her deep maternal love and a pressing need for answers, Aicha confronts the dangers threatening her family and community.



Meryam Joobeur

About the director

Meryam Joobeur is an Academy Award-nominated Tunisian-American director based in Montréal, Canada. Her acclaimed short films include *Gods, Weeds and Revolutions* (2012) and *Born in the Maelstrom* (2017), both of which screened at numerous festivals. Her Oscar-nominated short, *Brotherhood* (2018), won 75 international awards and was shown at over 150 festivals. Co-owner of the Tunisia-based production company *Instinct Bleu* with Sarra Ben Hassen, Meryam's debut feature, *Who Do I Belong To*, continues her legacy of transformative storytelling.



Winter Crossing/Le tete froide

France | 2024 | 92 mins | French

Cast & Crew

Director	Stéphane Marchetti
Producer	Bertrand Gore
Cinematographer	Sébastien Goepfert
Editor	Damien Maestraggi
Music	Adrien Casalis
Cast	Florence Loiret Caille, Saibo Balde, Jonathan Couzinie, Aurélia Petit, Marie Narbonne, Philippe Frecon

Synopsis

In the dead of winter in the snow-covered Alps, 45-year-old Marie struggles to make ends meet by smuggling cartons of cigarettes between France and Italy with the help of her lover, Alex, a border police officer. However, her life takes a dangerous turn when she meets Souleymane, a young refugee determined to reunite with his little sister. As Marie becomes involved in his desperate mission, she finds herself caught in a perilous spiral that threatens everything she holds dear.



Stéphane Marchetti

About the Director

Stéphane Marchetti is a director and screenwriter whose documentaries have been featured in numerous festivals globally, earning multiple awards. His film Rafah, One Year in the Gaza Strip, co-directed with Alexis Monchovet, won the FIPA D'OR in 2007 and the Albert Londres Prize in 2008. Marchetti is also co-director of the Aire Libre/Albert Londres graphic novel collection, launching in 2024 with Editions Dupuis. His first fiction feature, Winter Crossing, was developed during a FEMIS screenwriting workshop in 2019 and later selected for the 2021 Emergence Cinema Residency.

22nd
Chennai International
Film Festival

Country
FOCUS





Hook

Iran | 2023 | 93 mins | Persian

Cast & Crew

Director	Hossein Rigi
Producer	Ali Ashtianipur
Cast	Hasan Alipoor, Mohsen Ashtianipur, Mohammad Salim Barahouei

Synopsis

Two Baloch brothers, passionate athletes, are determined to achieve their dreams in the world of sports. Driven by a shared vision of success, they face numerous challenges, both personal and societal, as they strive to overcome obstacles and push beyond their limits. Together, they embark on a journey of perseverance and hope, supporting each other as they work to make a lasting impact in their respective sports.



Hossein Rigi

About the Director

Hossein Rigi, born in 1978 in Baluchestan, Iran, is a pioneering filmmaker and the first Baluch director in Iranian cinema. He began his career in 1995, studying filmmaking at the Iranian Youth Cinema Society. Rigi has since created numerous documentaries, short films, and feature films, many of which have been showcased at domestic and international film festivals. His film *Lipar* was featured at the 39th Fajr International Film Festival in 2021, marking a significant milestone in his career.



Captain/Kapitan

Iran | 2023 | 89 mins | Persian

Cast & Crew

Director	Mohammad Hamzei
Producer	Saber Emami
Cinematographer	Amin Jafari
Editor	Omid Mirzaei
Sound designer	Hossein Mashali
Music	Habib Khazaeifar
Cast	Mandana Asri, Pejman Bazeghi, Mahbod Bivar

Synopsis

The story follows 11-year-old Isa, a boy with an unshakable belief that he will one day play for the Iran national football team. Despite battling cancer and enduring tough treatments in a hospital ward, Isa's confidence and determination remain strong. His dream of becoming a football star keeps his spirit alive, even as he faces the harsh realities of his illness.

About the Director

Born on September 21, 1980, this Iranian director has become a notable figure in Iranian cinema. He has directed several short films, showcasing his unique vision and storytelling style. His works, including *Morteza* (2019) and *Azar* (2017), gained significant recognition and were well-received by both audiences and critics. Through these films, he has demonstrated a strong ability to explore complex human emotions and societal issues, earning him a reputation as one of the emerging talents in contemporary Iranian cinema. His films are celebrated for their depth, originality, and compelling narratives.



Mohammad Hamzei



Fragrant (Atr Alood)

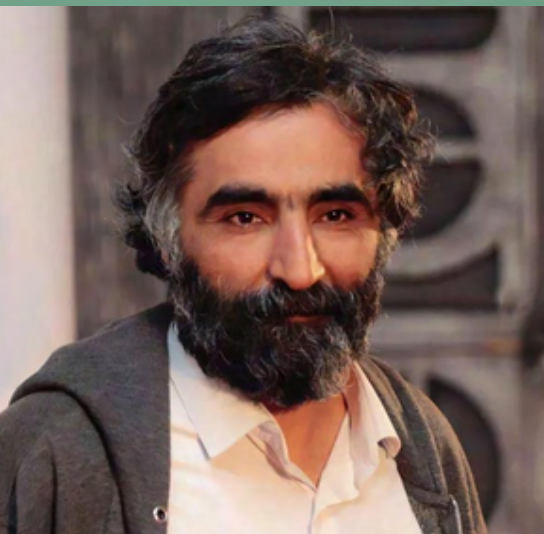
Iran | 2024 | 110 mins | Persian

Cast & Crew

Director	Hadi Moghadamdoost
Producer	Babak Khajehpasha
Cinematographer	Rouzbeh Raiga
Music	Masoud Sekhavat Doust
Cast	Mostafa Zamani, Hoda Zeinolabedin

Synopsis

A conflicted and uncertain individual confronts the complexities of his existence and the weight of his responsibilities. Struggling with inner turmoil, he navigates the tension between personal desires and life's expectations, leading him to question his choices, purpose, and sense of identity.



**Hadi
Moghadamdoost**

About the Director

Hadi Moghadamdoost, is a renowned Iranian writer and director, recognized for his compelling storytelling and unique directorial vision. He is best known for films such as *Flaming* (2018), *The Sealed Secret* (2013), and *The Meeting* (2011). His work often explores deep emotional and social themes, highlighting the complexities of human relationships and the nuances of Iranian society. Moghadamdoost has established himself as a respected figure in contemporary cinema.



22nd
Chennai International
Film Festival

***INDIAN
PANORAMA***





Aadujeevitham (The Goat Life)

India | 2024 | 173 mins | Malayalam

Cast & Crew

Director	Blessy
Producer	S. Prabhakar
Cinematographer	Sunil K.S. , K.U. Mohanan
Editor	A. Sreekar Prasad
Sound Designer	Vijay Kumar , Resul Pookutty
Music	A.R. Rahman
Cast	Prithviraj Sukumaran, Amala Paul, K.R. Gokul, Jimmy Jean-Louis

Synopsis

An Indian man travels to Saudi Arabia seeking work, only to be forced into unpaid labor as a goat herder in a remote desert. Stranded in isolation, he faces the brutal realities of survival, far from his dreams of a better life. Determined to escape his captors, he uses courage and ingenuity to navigate the harsh landscape. His journey becomes a powerful tale of resilience, hope, and the unbreakable human spirit, as he risks everything for freedom. The story explores survival against all odds and the relentless pursuit of dignity.



Blessy

About the director

Blessy is an Indian film director and screenwriter known for his work in Malayalam cinema. He has won a National Film Award and six Kerala State Film Awards for his feature films Kaazhcha (2004), Thanmathra (2005), and Pranayam (2011). His documentary 100 Years of Chrysostom (2018), recognized by the Guinness World Records as the longest documentary, runs for 48 hours and 10 minutes. Renowned for his poignant storytelling and exploration of human emotions, Blessy is celebrated as one of the finest auteurs in Indian cinema.



Amar Boss

India | 2024 | 139 mins | Bengali

Cast & Crew

Director	Nandita Roy , Shiboprosad Mukherjee
Producer	Windows Production House
Cinematographer	Indranath Marick
Editor	Moloy Laha
Cast	Rakhee Gulzar, Srabanti Chatterjee, Suraseni Maitra, Shruti Das, and Gourab Chatterjee

Synopsis:

Aamar Boss is about a 40-year-old man, Animesh, who runs a publishing house. He is estranged from his wife, who is busy pursuing her career in Mumbai. His mother, Shubhra Goswami, a retired head nurse, has recently undergone a major heart operation and is recuperating at home. Bored, Shubhra decides to accompany her son to his office and work as an intern there, much to her son's dissatisfaction, a decision that will irreversibly change the dynamics of the company and the lives of its employees.



**Shiboprosad
Mukherjee**



Nandita Roy

About the director

Nandita Roy, born on April 3, 1955, made her directorial debut with *lcche* (2011) alongside Shiboprosad. Her experience includes working with many renowned directors.

Shiboprosad Mukherjee, also a writer and actor, frequently collaborates with Nandita. Together, they have directed several notable films such as *lcche*, *Praktan*, *Bela Seshe*, *Muktodhara*, *Accident*, *Alik Sukh*, *Ramdhanu*, *Haami*, *Konntho*, and *Gotro*.



A.R.M

India | 2024 | 148 mins | Malayalam

Cast & Crew

Director	Jithin Lal
Producer	Listin Stephen, Zachariah Thomas
Cinematographer	Jomon T. John
Editor	Shameer Muhammed
Sound Designer	Sachin Sudhakaran
Music	Dhibu Ninan Thomas
Cast	Tovino Thomas, Aishwarya Rajesh, Krithi Shetty, Basil Joseph

Synopsis

Ajayante Randam Moshanam (ARM) is a story spanning three generations in Northern Kerala, centered around a valuable treasure. Kunji Kelu, a warrior in 1900, is granted a deity made from a meteorite after defeating thugs. Maniyan, a clever thief in 1950, is accused of stealing the deity, and his actions impact his descendants. Ajayan, Maniyan's grandson in 1990, is wrongly suspected of crimes in the village and must fight caste discrimination to clear his name and live with dignity. Directed by Jithin Lal, the film stars Tovino Thomas in the lead roles of Kunji Kelu, Maniyan, and Ajayan.



Jithin Lal

About the director

Jithin Lal is an Indian filmmaker primarily known for his work in the Malayalam movie industry. His latest directorial project, Ajayante Randam Moshanam, highlights his unique storytelling style and cinematic expertise. With a growing body of work, Jithin continues to establish himself as a prominent figure in contemporary Malayalam cinema, gaining recognition with each new project.



Big Ben

India | 2024 | 128 mins | Malayalam

Cast & Crew

Director	Bino Augustine
Producer	Prajay Kamat
Cinematographer	Sajad Kaakku
Editor	Rino Jacob
Sound Designer	Arun Prasad, Vysakh Sobhan
Cast	Anu Mohan, Aditi Ravi, Vinay Forrt

Synopsis

Lovely and Jean Antony, a happily married couple living in different countries, face a major disruption when Jean visits Lovely in London. The couple, along with their young daughter, gets entangled in a legal conflict due to their lack of understanding of London's legal system. Jean, a police officer from Kerala, and Lovely, a nurse in London, navigate these challenges and ultimately overcome the crisis, reuniting as a stronger, resilient family.



Bino Augustine

About the director

Bino Augustine is an Indian film director primarily known for his work in the Malayalam movie industry. He is best recognized for his recent film *Big Ben* (2024), which has received attention for its engaging narrative and strong execution. As a director, Bino continues to explore new cinematic territories, establishing himself as a promising and influential figure in Malayalam cinema.



Sony LIV Exclusive

BRAMAYUGAM

The Age of Madness

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY RAHUL SADASIVAN



Bramayugam

India | 2024 | 139 mins | Malayalam

Cast & Crew

Director	Rahul Sadasivan
Producer	Chakravarthy Ramachandra,
Cinematographer	S. Sashikanth
Editor	Shehnad Jalal
Sound Designer	Shafique Mohamed Ali
Music	Jayadevan Chakkadath
Cast	Christo Xavier
	Mammooty, Arjun Ashokan,
	Sidharth Bharathan

Synopsis:

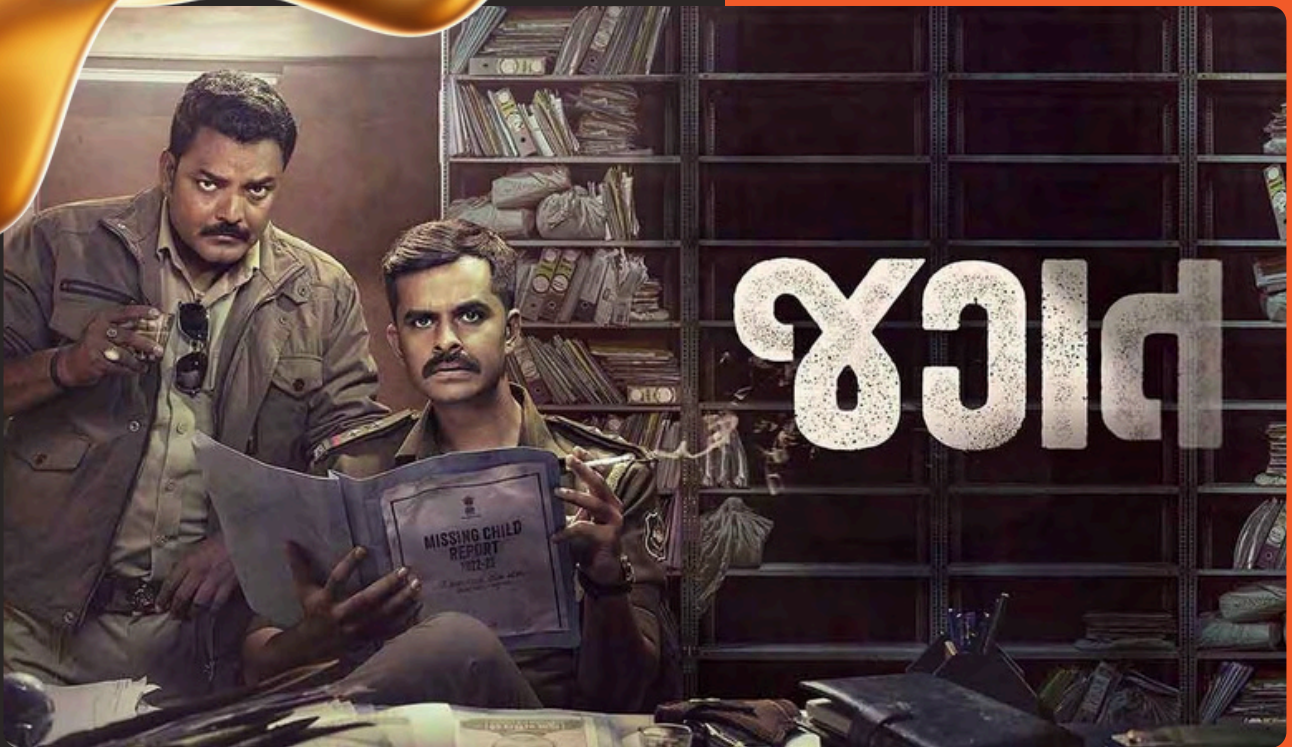
Thevan, a gifted folk singer from the marginalized Paanan caste, escapes slavery in search of freedom. During his journey, he discovers an ancient mansion filled with secrets and a haunting presence. This encounter changes his life and unveils hidden truths about the mansion's mysterious past. As Thevan's path intertwines with the supernatural, he becomes a key figure in challenging age-old traditions and reshaping his destiny.



Rahul Sadasivan

About the director

Rahul Sadasivan is an Indian filmmaker and screenwriter known for his work in Malayalam cinema, particularly in the horror genre. He made his directorial debut with *Red Rain* (2013), a science fiction film based on the red rain phenomenon in Kerala. His 2024 film *Bramayugam*, a big-budget period horror, was both critically acclaimed and a box-office success. Sadasivan is recognized for blending genre elements with social commentary, and his distinctive visual style and complex narratives have earned him significant recognition in the Malayalam film industry. His work continues to push boundaries in storytelling and filmmaking.



Jagat (The World)

India | 2024 | 141 mins | Gujarati

Cast & Crew

Director	Harshil Dipakkumar Bhatt
Producer	Nilay Virendrakumar Chotai, Dipen Patel, Krishnadev Kishor Yagnik
Cinematographer	Pratik Parmar
Editor	Shivam Bhatt
Sound Designer	Subash Sahoo
Cast	Yash Soni, Chetan Daiya, Riddhi Yadav

Synopsis

A 12-year-old boy disappears on his way to school, and police sub-inspector Jagat Pandya becomes suspicious of the situation. As he investigates further, he must exercise patience. A small detail eventually uncovers a dark truth.



**Harshil
Dipakkumar
Bhatt**

About the director

Harshil Bhatt (1996, India) is a film director based in Ahmedabad. His debut Gujarati feature film, *The World (Jagat)*, was released on May 3, 2024, starring Yash Soni, Chetan Daiya, and Riddhi Yadav. Harshil began his career assisting veteran theatre artist Nimesh Desai and later made five short films, one of which won Best Film at the Annual Youth Citizenship Festival 2011-12. He worked as an assistant director on *Chhello Divas* and in the script team for *Shu Thayu*. Harshil also co-directed the short film *#TimesUp* and made 15 brand films. He has written and directed two stageplays, *Patli Pin Ka Charger* and *Swamy's Sound Studio*.



Jigarthanda DoubleX

India | 2023 | 172 mins | Tamil

Cast & Crew

Director	Karthik Subbaraj
Producer	Kaarthekeyen Santhanam, S Kathiresan, Alankar Pandian
Cinematographer	S. Tirru
Editor	Shafique Mohamed Ali
Sound Designer	Kunal Rajan
Music	Santhosh Narayanan
Cast	Raghava Lawrence, S.J. Suryah, Nimisha Sajayan, Naveen Chandra

Synopsis

Set in 1970s Tamil Nadu, *Jigarthanda DoubleX* follows an aspiring police officer wrongfully framed for multiple murders. To clear his name, he goes undercover as Ray Dasan, a filmmaker aiming to create an Oscar-worthy gangster biopic. He infiltrates the gang of eccentric gangster Allius Caesar, whose dream of becoming a film "hero" lets Ray into his criminal world. However, Ray, terrified of blood, struggles with his mission. After discovering that Caesar is behind the murders, Ray manipulates events, leading Caesar into a deadly confrontation with a force greater than himself. The film explores the intersection of crime, cinema, and politics.



Karthik Subbaraj

About the director

Karthik Subbaraj is an Indian film director, producer, and screenwriter, primarily known for his work in Tamil cinema. He made his directorial debut with *Pizza*, starring Vijay Sethupathi, which was both critically acclaimed and commercially successful. The film's success led to remakes in Hindi, Bengali, and Kannada, broadening its impact beyond Tamil cinema. This achievement allowed Karthik to bring his vision for *Jigarthanda* to life, a film that received widespread praise for its storytelling, direction, and performances.

കിഷ്കിന്ധാ കാണ്ടം

A tale of three wise monkeys



Kishkindha Kaandam

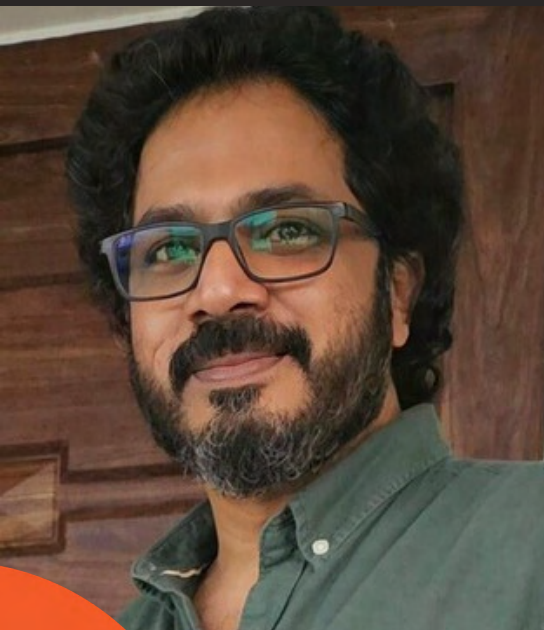
India | 2024 | 133 mins | Malayalam

Cast & Crew

Director	Dinjith Ayyathan
Producer	Joby George Thadathil
Cinematographer	Bahul Ramesh
Editor	Sooraj E.S.
Sound Designer	Renju Raj Mathew
Music	Mujeeb Majeed
Cast	Asif Ali, Aparna Balamurali, Vijayaraghavan

Synopsis

Ajayan and Aparna set out to uncover the truth behind a series of mysterious events: the strange monkeys in the forest, a missing revolver, Appupilla's illness, an old Naxalite connection, and Chachu's disappearance. However, they are determined to keep Appupilla's memory ailment and their suspicions a secret from everyone outside the family. As they navigate the tangled web of secrets, they must race against time to uncover the truth before it's too late.



**Dinjith
Ayyathan**

About the director

Dinjith Ayyathan is an Indian filmmaker who made his directorial debut with the Malayalam film *OP.160/18 Kakshi Ammini Pilla* (2019), starring Asif Ali, which received widespread praise. With over 14 years of experience in the animation industry, he has also made significant contributions as a VFX director for films like *1983*, *Action Hero Biju*, *Monkey Pen*, and *Double Barrel*.



Level Cross

India | 2024 | 116 mins | Malayalam

Cast & Crew

Director	Arfaz Ayub
Producer	Ramesh P Pillai
Cinematographer	Appu Prabhakar
Editor	Deepu Joseph
Sound Designer	Jayadevan Chakkadath
Music	Vishal Chandrashekhar
Cast	Asif Ali, Amala Paul, Sharafudheen

Synopsis

The film follows the unlikely meeting of a modern, attractive woman and a rebellious man from two vastly different worlds. Despite their cultural, mental, and physical differences, they discover unexpected common ground in their emotions and humanity. As they navigate each other's lives, a third man introduces a conflicting perspective, changing the narrative. Set in a timeless, imaginary world, the story explores themes of truth, lies, trust, betrayal, and the past's influence on the present. A tale of survival, the film delves into complex human emotions, conflicting viewpoints, and subtle metaphors that enrich its layered narrative.



Arfaz Ayub

About the director

Arfaz Ayub has over 10 years of experience as an Associate Director and First AD in films. "Level Cross" is his first independent feature film. He has worked across various Indian film industries, including Bollywood, Malayalam, and Telugu.



My Hero

India | 2024 | 126 mins | English, Kannada

Cast & Crew

Director	Avinash Vijaykumar
Producer	Avinash Vijaykumar
Cinematographer	Forrest Chiras, Venus Murthy
Editor	R. Muthuraj
Music	Gagan Baderiya
Cast	Ankita Amar, Dattanna Niranjan Deshpande

Synopsis:

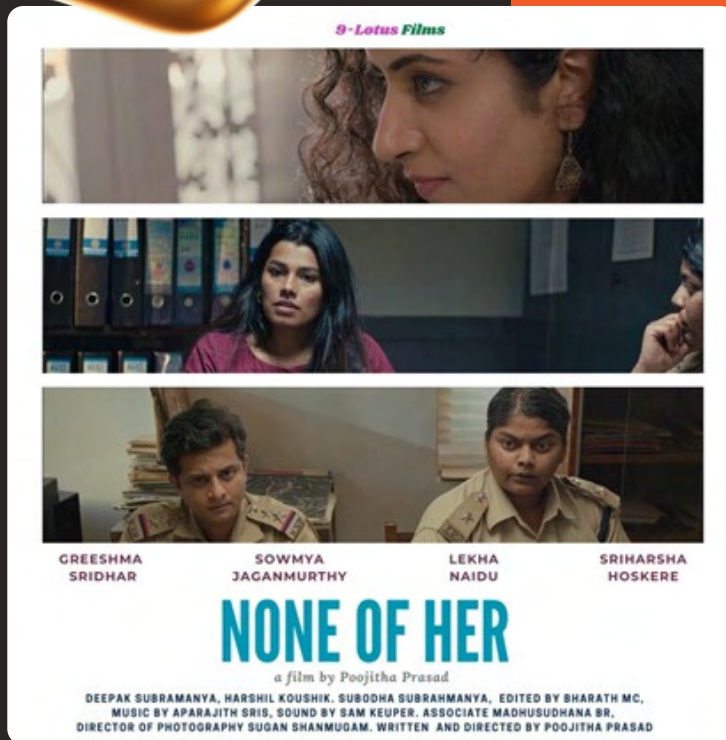
In the town of Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh, a young boy from a backward community works as a tour guide, hiding his painful past. Exiled from his village in Karnataka for violating caste traditions, he lives in isolation. An elderly foreigner, grieving his grandson's death, travels to India seeking spiritual peace. He meets the boy and is moved by his story. The foreigner helps the boy return to his village, confronting deep-rooted caste discrimination. Through heartfelt dialogue, the foreigner persuades the community to accept the boy, leading to healing and closure for both, marking a journey of redemption and compassion.



**Avinash
Vijaykumar**

About the director

Avinash Vijaykumar, born on August 4, 1989, in Bengaluru, developed a passion for cinema after his mother produced a film during his teenage years. He was actively involved in theatre with the Spandana group, performing in cities like Mumbai and Delhi. In 2015, he earned a diploma in acting from Actor Prepares, Mumbai. Despite entrepreneurial ventures, Avinash remained focused on filmmaking, continually refining his craft. In 2022, he completed a diploma in filmmaking at the San Francisco Film School, furthering his expertise to pursue his dreams in the film industry.



None of Her

India | 2024 | 136 mins | Kannada

Cast & Crew

Director	Poojitha Prasad
Producer	Poojitha Prasad
Cinematographer	Sugan Shanmugam
Editor	Bharath Chandrashekar
Sound Designer	Sam Keuper
Music	Aparajith Sris
Cast	Sowmya Jaganmurthy, Sriharsha Hoskere, Lekha Naidu

Synopsis

The death of a city techie brings attention to two women, Bhavana and Deepa, both of whom have connections to the victim, Akash. API Naveen and IPS Stuti investigate their lives to uncover a clear motive, discovering deep personal conflicts. The film is a crime drama that explores the social narrative of how women navigate the rigid frameworks imposed by society, leading them to take actions fueled by female rage. .



Poojitha Prasad

About the director

Poojitha Prasad is a filmmaker and author who published her first work at the age of fourteen. She has directed several short films, including Laali, Date Night, and Haircut. As a feminist, Poojitha creates films aimed at sparking dialogue about women's struggles and exploring solutions to these challenges.

অঙ্ক কি কঠিন



Onko Ki Kothin

India | 2024 | 117 mins | Bengali

Cast & Crew

Director	Saurav Palodhi
Producer	DCM Film And Entertainment
Cinematographer	Ankit Senguta
Editor	Pranay Dasgupta Riddhiman,
Cast	Tapamoy, Gitashree, Parno Mittra, Prosun Shom, Shankar Debnath, Ushashi Chakraborty, Sanjita, Dipanwita, Krishnendu, Buddhadeb

Synopsis:

In a slum in the city, three children-Babin, Dolly, and Tyre- dream big. Babin wants to be a doctor, Dolly a nurse, and Tyre an engineer. Despite their harsh realities and their parents' struggles, they build a makeshift hospital from scraps. When Babin's father falls seriously ill, they embark on a quest to find an oxygen cylinder, facing various challenges and unlikely allies along the way-Shah Rukh and Kajol, whose own story of love and defiance intersects with the children's mission. Through a series of events, including an encounter with the cylinder company, the children's determination shines. With the help of their community, including their estranged parents, they manage to save Babin's father and gain the attention of a doctor who promises to support their education. The story ends with hope, questioning whether these three kids will achieve their dreams against all odds.



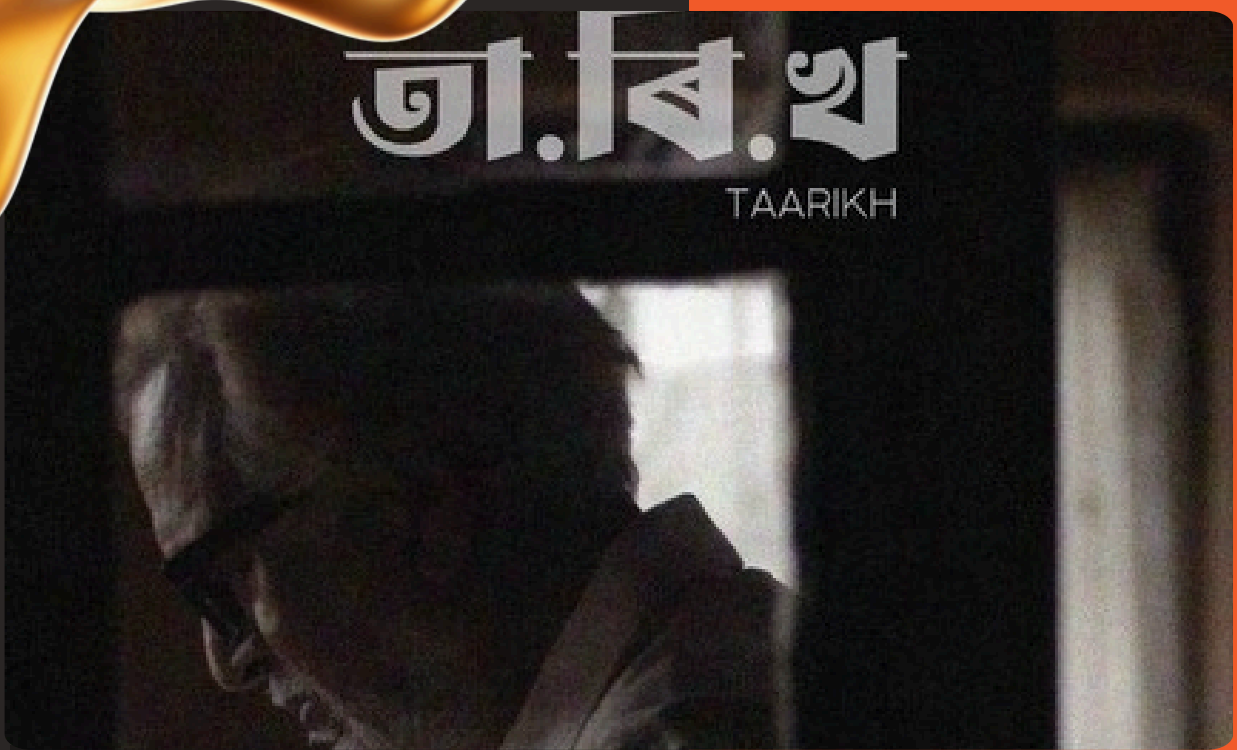
**Saurav
Palodhi**

About the director

Saurav Palodhi, a prominent writer-director from Bengal, is known for Kholam Kuchi and Colkatay Columbus. A former stand-up comedian, his theatre work Ghoom Nei won a META award.

তা.বি.খ

TAARIKH



Taarikh

India | 2024 | 88 mins | Assamese

Cast & Crew

Director	Himjyoti Talukdar
Producer	Arundhati Sarmah Baruah, Muktismaan Hazarika
Cinematography	Annirudha Barua
Editor	Uddipta Kumar Bhattacharyya
Sound Designer	Debajit Gayan
Music	Tarali Sarma
Cast	Boloram Das, Swagata Bharali, Kula kuldip Saharia

Synopsis

Durlov Dutta a 70-year-old man, lives in solitude after a traumatic event in 2008 shattered his mental state, leaving him stuck in the past while the world moved on. His loved ones were taken from him, and he remains trapped in his grief. Anuran Hazarika, a determined journalist, vows to help Durlov overcome his anguish. Through his efforts, he seeks to dissolve the shadows haunting Durlov and bring color back to his life.



**Himjyoti
Talukdar**

About the director

Himjyoti Talukdar is an independent filmmaker and scriptwriter from Assam who has made notable contributions to the Indian film industry. His directorial debut, *Calendar* (2018), received widespread acclaim for its heartfelt storytelling and direction. Talukdar also co-produced and co-wrote the Assamese film *Marksheet*, showcasing his versatility. He has two exciting upcoming projects: *Taarikh*, set for release in 2024, and a film adaptation of a novel by renowned Assamese author Dr. Bhabendra Nath Saikia, expected in 2025.



Vishesham

India | 2024 | 136 mins | Malayalam

Cast & Crew

Director	Sooraj Tom
Producer	Ani Sooraj
Cinematographer	Sagar Ayyappan
Editor	Malavika V.N.
Sound Designer	Arun Rama Varma
Music	Anand Madhusoodana
Cast	Anand Madhusoodanan, Chinnu Chandni Nair

Synopsis

Vishesham is a humorous film that explores the modern world of fertility treatments, set against the backdrop of the densely populated city of Cochin. The city, filled with advertisements for fertility clinics, serves as the setting for this story, reflecting the contemporary issues surrounding fertility and treatment in today's society.



Sooraj Tom

About the director

Sooraj Tom, an accomplished director known for his exceptional storytelling in films like Pa.Va, Ente Mezuthiri Athazhangal, and Krishnankutty Pani Thudangi, brings his unique vision to Vishesham. With his keen eye for detail and cinematic mastery, he creates a relatable, heartwarming family entertainer, filled with vibrant moments that resonate with the audience's everyday lives.



12th fail

India | 2023 | 147 mins | Hindi

Cast & Crew

Director	Vidhu Vinod Chopra
Producer	Vidhu Vinod Chopra
Cinematographer	Rangarajan Ramabadrán
Editor	Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Jaskunwar Kohli
Sound Designer	Manav Shrotriya
Music	Shantanu Moitra
Cast	Vikrant Massey, Medha Shankr, Anant Joshi, Anshuman Pushkar

Synopsis

In the movie, Manoj Kumar Sharma, decides to restart his academic journey to pursue his dream of cracking the UPSC exam. Leaving behind his village, he enters a highly competitive world alongside millions of aspirants. Through numerous challenges and personal growth, Manoj learns the true meaning of perseverance, sacrifice, and success, demonstrating that it's never too late to chase one's dreams.



Vidhu Vinod Chopra

About the director

Vidhu Vinod Chopra, born on September 5, 1952, in Srinagar, is a renowned filmmaker and producer. A graduate of FTII, he won a National Award for his short film "Murder at Monkey Hill" (1976) and earned an Academy Award nomination for An Encounter with Faces (1978). Known for directing films like Sazaye Maut, Khamosh, and Mission Kashmir, he later produced blockbusters such as Munna Bhai M.B.S. (2003), Lage Raho Munna Bhai (2006), 3 Idiots (2009), and PK (2014). He made his Hollywood debut with Broken Horses (2015) and the founder of Vinod Chopra Films.



35 Chinna Katha Kaadu

India | 2024 | 145 mins | Telugu

Cast & Crew

Director	Nanda Kishore Emani
Producer	Siddharth Rallapalli, Srujan Yarabolu
Cinematographer	Niketh Bommi
Editor	T.C.Prasanna
Sound Recordist	Mah Esh
Music	Vivek Sagar
Cast	Nivetha Thomas, Gautami, Priyadarshi Pulikonda, Bhagyaraj

Synopsis

Set in the picturesque town of Tirupathi, 35-Chinna Katha Kaadu follows Saraswathi (Nivetha Thomas), a middle-class woman whose life is turned upside down when her son, Arun (Arundev Pothula), struggles with mathematics. His strict teacher, Chanakya Varma (Priyadarshi), is harsh on him, which drives Saraswathi to take action and help Arun improve. The film delves into Saraswathi's efforts and explores Arun's thoughts, raising questions about his true feelings and whether his mother can successfully help him overcome his struggles.



Nanda Kishore Emani

About the director

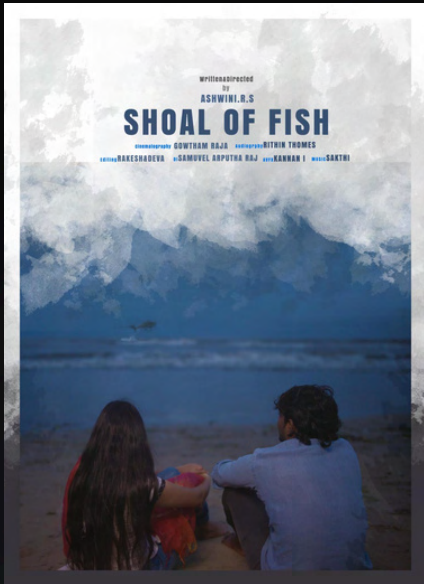
Nanda Kishore Emani is a passionate filmmaker and writer known for his work on Stand Up Rahul (dialogue writing) and as a writer and Chief AD on Netflix's Pitta Kathalu. His short films, such as Savvadi and Chiranjeevi, have won awards and been showcased at prestigious festivals. Emani's stories have been published in magazines like Vipula and Visaalandra. His journey as a storyteller is driven by a deep appreciation for cinema, with a focus on crafting meaningful narratives that explore complex human emotions and social issues, blending creativity with social consciousness.

22nd Chennai International Film Festival

TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT M.G.R. FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE
STUDENT SHORT FILMS

SHORT
FILMS
SCREENING





SHOAL OF FISH



Director: **ASHWINI RS**

Synopsis

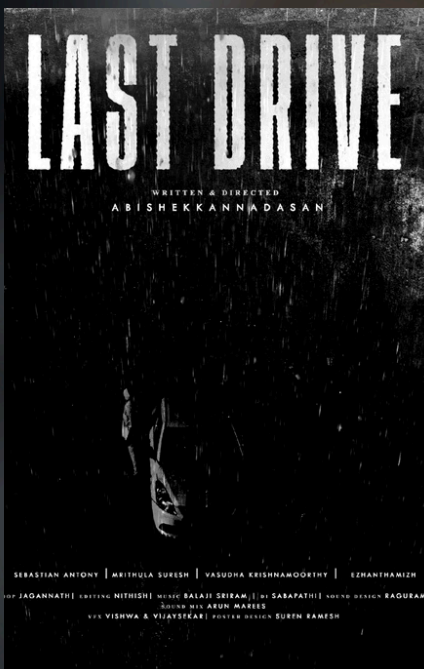
The story revolves around a man who lives in a fishing community but despises fish. Despite his aversion, fish are present in his home daily, and while his family eats it regularly, he refuses to do so. The fish even invade his dreams, causing him significant distress. He attempts to escape this fish-filled life, but the situation forces him to continue living with it, unable to escape the presence of fish. Eventually, he marries a woman who claims to also hate fish, leading to a happy life where they enjoy other foods together. However, his happiness is shattered when he discovers that his wife, contrary to what she told him, secretly loves fish and has been eating it with his family all along. The second half of the story unfolds from this revelation.

OTHER CREW DETAILS:

DOP- GOWTHAM R
 Editor RAKESH N
 SOUND DESIGN- RITHIN THOMADS CV
 EDITING - RAKESH N
 ART DIRECTION- BALAJI
 COLOURIST- SAMUVEL ARPUTHA RAJ
 ANIMATION- KANNAN

Director biography:

Ashwini RS is an aspiring writer, director. She recently graduated from the Tamilnadu Government MGR Film and Television Institute, Chennai with specialization in Direction and Screenplay writing. She is currently working on an independent feature film.



LAST DRIVE



Director: **ABISHEK KANNADASAN**

Synopsis

Thyagu, a 32-year-old cab driver from a Chennai slum, has carried deep guilt for 20 years after witnessing his pregnant mother die during a traumatic childhood incident. His friends locked him and his mother in their house as a prank, and when his mother went into sudden labor, no help arrived in time. This event caused Thyagu to develop phonophobia, a fear of loud noises. Despite this, he worked hard and cleared a government exam, with his joining date set for the next day. On the eve of his new job, his son accidentally accepts a trip request, which Thyagu decides to take as his "last drive." During the ride, the car breaks down, and the pregnant passenger goes into labor. Her screams trigger Thyagu's phonophobia, causing him to panic. The story follows his battle to overcome his fear and help the woman, ensuring she doesn't suffer the same fate as his mother.

Director biography:

Abishek, hailing from Chennai, studied at the Tamil Nadu Government M.G.R Film and Television Institute, specializing in the Direction department. Initially aspiring to become an actor, he found that there were no acting courses available. His father suggested he pursue direction, so he could act in his own films, a suggestion Abishek embraced. As he progressed through his college journey, his focus shifted from acting to direction. The moment he first said "Action" became a defining moment in his life. Now, Abishek is the director and writer of his debut short film, Last Drive, which he created with professional equipment and a skilled team. This film marks the culmination of his journey into filmmaking.

OTHER CREW DETAILS:

JAGANNATH RAJARAM
 Cinematographer
 NITHISH . S EDITOR
 SABAPATHY DI
 VISHWA ANIMATION & VFX
 BALAJI SRIRAM MUSIC
 RAGURAM SOUND DESIGNER
 RAJ KUMAR LYRICIST



PAMELA



Director: ARJUN VIJAYAN

Synopsis

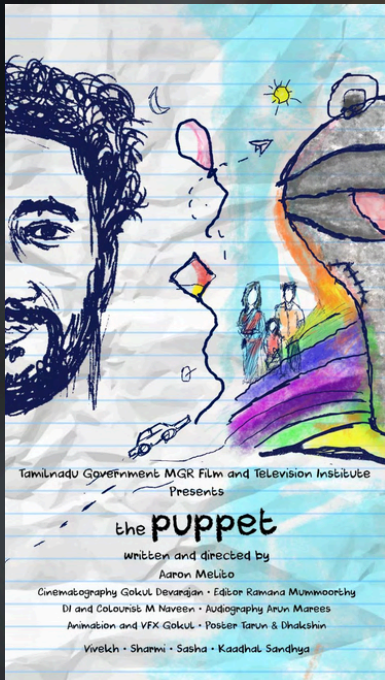
On Christmas night, Pamela, struggling with a disturbed life, awakens to an endless loop of medicine and wine. She notices a ring and sees a doppelgänger outside her window, which sends her into a panic. She rushes out without her room key, only to be chased by the doppelgänger through dark streets. Pamela finds a filthy restroom, where she suffers from fear and stomach issues. In her desperation, she retrieves her ring from a toilet. Flashbacks reveal Pamela filming Marope dancing joyfully, but when Lopez arrives, tensions escalate into violence. In the chaos, Pamela accidentally kills Marope, then witnesses her own doppelgänger through the window.

OTHER CREW DETAILS:

CINEMATOGRAPHER: PRAKADEESH
 DI and COLOURIST : SAMUVEL
 ARPUTHARAJ
 EDITOR: JAGAN JV
 AUDIOGRAPHY: SHAHEEN MUHAMMED
 AVFX ARTIST : ANWAR CHRISTOPHER
 DAVID
 PRODUCER : TAMILNADU GOVERNMENT
 M.G.R. FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE

Director biography:

Arjun Vijayan is an emerging film director who completed his studies at the prestigious MGR Film Institute. With a deep passion for storytelling and cinema, he honed his craft during his academic journey. Arjun expressed his cinematic vision through his final project, showcasing his creative potential. His debut film, Pamela, marks the beginning of his professional career, reflecting his aspirations and artistic style. With a strong foundation in filmmaking, Arjun is poised to make a significant impact on the film industry.



PUPPET



Director: Aaron Melito

Synopsis

Kathir and Nandita are on the brink of separation, but their daughter Anamika asks her father to make a promise: to return with a puppet and play with her before they part ways. Kathir keeps his promise, leading to the creation of a sentient puppet that takes over his right hand. This puppet leads Kathir into a series of misadventures, while also helping him reflect on his role as a father and husband. Realizing his mistakes, Kathir decides to fight for his family, rather than against them, for the first time in his life.

Director Biography

Aaron Melito is a graduate of the Tamil Nadu Government MGR Film and Television Institute. From a young age, he was fascinated by creation and originality. Initially attending MCC until the 10th grade, he later moved to APL Global to focus on writing and music. Eager to further explore filmmaking, Aaron joined the Film Institute, where he honed his skills. For his final project, he created the short film The Puppet, reflecting his dedication to learning and perfecting his craft in film.

OTHER CREW DETAILS:

Direction and Screenplay by Aaron Melito
 DI and Colour by M Naveen
 Cinematography by Gokul Devarajan
 Audiography by Arun Marees
 Edited by Ramana Mummooorthy
 Animation and VFX by GokulE



KAYAMA



Director: MRK

Synopsis

Parthiban is having a phone conversation with his sister-in-law, which angers his son, Pradeep. After a heated argument, Pradeep leaves for his office. On his way back, he takes a book from an elderly person. Once home, Pradeep begins reading the book, while Parthiban reads his own. The book somehow transports Pradeep into Parthiban's thoughts, revealing disturbing memories. He discovers that Parthiban misbehaved with his sister-in-law and, in a moment of crisis, failed to prevent his wife from committing suicide. Shocked by these revelations, Pradeep is left in a state of disbelief.

OTHER CREW DETAILS:

- CINEMATOGRAPHY - DHYANESH SHANDRAN
- EDITING - RANJITH SAKTHIVEL
- MUSIC - PRAVEKHA RAVICHANDRAN AKR
- AUDIOGRAPHY - CMT SELVAM
- COLOUR GRADING - NAVEEN.M
- VFX TEAM -
- MUTHAIYA RUKKESH
- GUNASEKAR(3D)
- SURENDHAR (3D)
- ANWAR
- SUREN RAMESH

Director Biography

M. Rajkumar (MRK) is a film director recognized for his thought-provoking short films Kayamai and Ethirmarai, as well as his documentary En Palliyum Gandhiyum. He is currently working on his feature film debut.



KALAVU



Director: JAYAKUMAR MURUGESAN

Synopsis

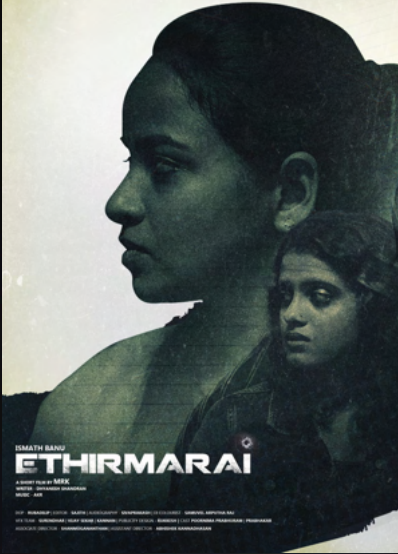
Ponni, a young woman from a poor background, lives with her late husband's grandfather. As the never-ending monsoon halts agricultural work, she loses her only means of livelihood. Struggling to feed the elderly man and make ends meet, Ponni faces overwhelming challenges. Despite her strong will and moral principles, she is pushed to her limits. With dreams that seem like premonitions, Ponni faces a dire night, unsure if she will survive to see the sunrise. Her resilience is tested as she navigates this difficult moment in her life.

OTHER CREW DETAILS:

- SCREENPLAY SABAPATHI TAMILSELVAN
- STORY AADHAVAN DEETCHANYA
- CINEMATOGRAPHY JESAN WILFRED CYRIL
- MUSIC AND SOUND MIX BALAJI SRIRAM
- EDIT SURYA ANNAMALAI
- AUDIOGRAPHY BALAJI SRIRAM
- DIGITAL INTERMEDIATE SABAPATHI TAMILSELVAN
- ANIMATION AND VFX YUKESH
- SOUND DESIGN SAHIL KANDHASAMY
- DIALOGUES SAMUVEL ARPUTHARAJ
- SABAPATHI TAMILSELVAN

Director Biography

Jayakumar Murugesan is a film director known for his thought-provoking short film Kalavu. He aspires to become one of the leading directors in Tamil cinema



ETHIRMARAI



Director: MRK

Synopsis

Vendhan, a progressive writer and award winner, completes a story and sends for someone to collect it. He calls his daughter to discuss something important. She brings a friend and confesses her love for her. This revelation deeply upsets Vendhan, causing him to react negatively. His anger escalates as his daughter quotes a line from his own book. In a fit of rage, he tragically kills both his daughter and her friend, before taking his own life.

OTHER CREW DETAILS:

CINEMATOGRAPHY RUBADILIP

EDITING SAJITH

MUSIC AKR

AUDIOGRAPHY SIVAPRAKASH

COLOR GRADING SAMUVEL ARPUTHA RAJ

VFX SUPERVISOR SURENDHAR.J

Director Biography

Director Bio - M. Rajkumar (MRK) is a film director recognized for his thought-provoking short films Kayamai and Ethirmarai, as well as his documentary En Palliyum Gandhikum. He is currently working on his feature film debut.

22nd
Chennai International
Film Festival



INDO CINE APPRECIATION FOUNDATION (ICAF)

E' Block, IInd Floor, No.4 Gemini Parsn Apartment,

Behind Palmgrove Hotel, Cathedral Garden Road, Chennai – 600006

Mob:+91 88257 83110,

E-Mail: secretary@icaf.in, office@icaf.in, Websites: www.icaf.in www.chennaifilmfest.com

Patrons

Shri R. Sarath Kumar, Mrs. Suhashini Manirathnam

Office Bearers

President

Mr. Sivan Kannan

Vice President

Mr. Anand Rengaswamy

General Secretary

Mr. AVM. K. Shanmugam

Joint Secretary

Mr. Suresh Menon

Treasurer

Mr. S. Prakash

Executive Members

Mr. Budget M Loganathan

Mr. K.B. Kumar

Ms. G. Abhinaya

22nd Chennai International Film Festival

Chairman

Mr. Sivan Kannan

Vice Chairman

Mr. Anand Rengaswamy

Festival Director

Mr. AVM. K. Shanmugam

Programmer

Mr. Srinivasa Santhanam

Festival Coordinators:

Ms. G. Abhinaya

Mr. S. Prakash

TN State Government Liaison

Mr. Ram Saravanan

HEADS OF COMMITTEE/UNITS

Programming

Mr. Srinivasa Santhanam, Mr. Murali

Scheduling

Mr. Pradeep

Media and Publicity

Mr. Nikil Murgan

Masterclasses & Master Talks

Mr. Sunder DFT , Ms. Rekhs & Mr. Chandran.

Finance Unit

Ms. Sreelatha

Accreditation and Delegate Registrations

Mr. S. Prakash, Mr. Harish Dev

Mr. Murali, Mr K.B. Kumar

Print Unit & Technical Committee

Mr. Pradeep

Deepak Christopher

Shyam R. Raghavendran

S. Raja

S.Bharathwaj

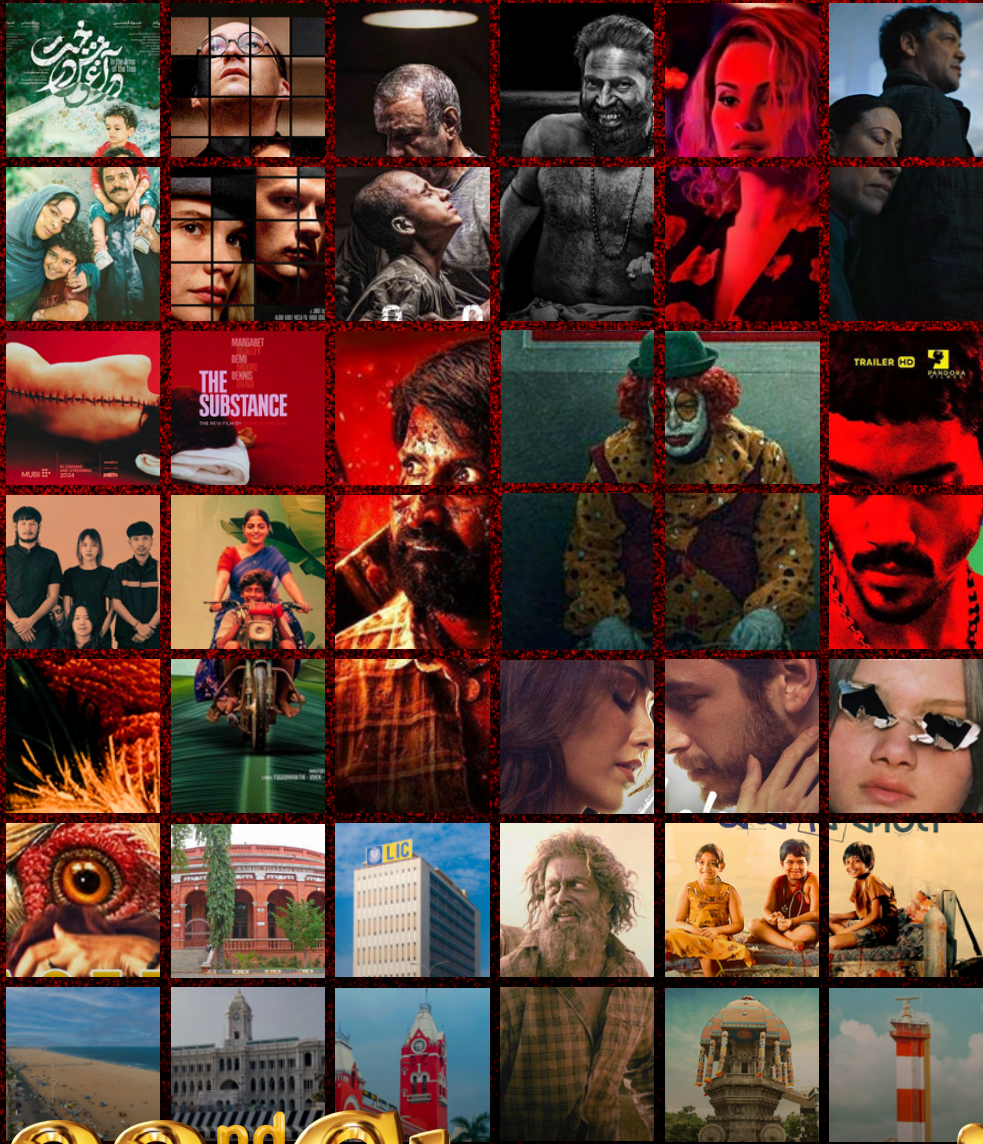
Bharani Karthik M (Intern)

Puranjai S (Intern)

Website management

Mr. John Livingston & Mr. Hyad Basha

Transport, Hospitality & Protocol Unit	Mr. Murali
Red Carpet Screening	Mr Sivan Kannan Mr Anand Rengaswamy
Preview Committee Members	Mr Srinivasa Santhanam Mr Murali Dr Prem Nivas Ms Kavibharathi Mr Siddharth Moulik
Communication and Consulate Relations	Ms Madhusree J
Theatres In Charge	Mr. K.B. Kumar (PVR Sathyam) Mr. Suresh Menon (PVR Inox City Centre)
Volunteer Programme	Mr. Murali
Anchor	Umair Ibn Lateef
Festival Book Editor	Dr. G.C. Premnivas <u>Editorial Team</u> Avichi College of Arts & Science Sumaiya Farheen A N Bharani Karthik M Ashifa Sulthana Begam Oviya M Ethiraj College for Women Rashida Sabura M Haritha G G Jenifer Bincy John J Kuraloviya S G Kaavya M K Krithika H Mahima Singha Lakshanika SA
Festival Book Design	Mr. Hyad Basha
Student Volunteers	Avichi College of Arts & Science Ethiraj College for Women Hindustan College of Arts & Science



22nd Chennai
INTERNATIONAL
FILM
Festival

(12th -19th December 2024)