

EFIFD

24-26 November 2017



**Edinburgh Festival of Indian Films
& Documentaries**

a celebration of contemporary Indian cinema in Scotland



Welcome

National cinemas, the world over, primarily deal with two kinds of films – the mainstream and the arthouse – in one or two national languages. For us in India, there are these two, and some more distinct categories like the *masala* film, the Bollywood film, and the increasingly getting influential – the regional language film. These speak in over 20 different officially recognised languages and are made from 10 major filmmaking centres across the country.

So many stories, so many voices, so many narrative styles and so diverse narrators – Indian cinema is home to a cinematic diversity the size of Europe with its most recognised global avatar, Bollywood or popular Hindi cinema making only a quarter of the 1000 plus feature films that the cinema celebrating nation makes annually.

Our opening film, an epic historical war drama, *Satakarni – the Son of Gautami*, acknowledges the rapid emergence of India's southern film industry, also known as Kollywood, as its most ambitious language cinema, post the global success of *Baahubali 2: The Conclusion*, earlier this year.

In complete contrast is the closing film, *Nana – a tale about us*, an independent church-funded social satire made by a bunch of talented young film lovers. For the first time ever, a feature film from the small, Indian tribal state Nagaland will travel to an international platform. Horror, a favourite among films fans in the West, but still a nascent Indian cinema genre gets an imaginative, western-India specific treatment in our must watch Saturday Night Scottish Premiere, *Hide & Seek*. It tells a gripping never-before-seen tale with some serious scares, and yet makes you ponder on an important social issue. For lovers of issue-based cinema, looking for a layered take on gender issues beyond sensational headlines, *G – A Wanton Heart*, set in India's patriarchal north, reveals women in a radical new light and agency. Its heroines are no mere silent, suffering survivors, as the Western media often indulges to view the Indian subcontinent as, but thinking, breathing individuals, owning and exercising their right to life and choice through plausible survival strategies. These films are as true as truth in fiction can be. Because there is no agenda when a young boy from Kashmir wants to explore a memory around an unmarked grave, a tradition-proud lady raconteur from the North-East wants to document the gracefully aging in our fast changing times or a sensitive young man from Mumbai wants to start a conversation between two lonely, voyeuristic and neighbouring open windows. These rare vignettes, intimate anecdotes, personal diaries and imaginative documentation of timeless folklore in stop animation delight (*Tales of the Tribes*), make for some memorable short takes with big ambitions that enjoy global resonance because of their empathetic understanding and sharing of some unique local experiences.

Made by passionate, independent voices, with dedicated efforts at creating a signature vision, style and talent, the 13 films on show in EFIFD 2017 invite to you an ongoing dialogue between a restless and young, dynamic nation at 70, proudly seeking and sourcing its identity from the culture cord of a civilisation dating centuries into antiquity. And for those keen on being a part of celluloid history, come forth with friends and family for a first ever showcase in Scotland, of one of the finest epic musicals of all time, the Indian Cinema classic, *Mughal-e-Azam* (The Great Mughal, 1960).



Dr Piyush Roy

Festival Director, Edinburgh Festival of Indian Films & Documentaries

An Indian National Award-winning film critic, author, and columnist, Roy's writings on cinema have been published in *The Times of India (Crest)*, *The Indian Express*, *The Hindustan Times* and *The Asian Age*. He was Editor of *Stardust* and *StarWeek*, and a jury member on Power Brands Glam Bollywood Awards, 2017. He is a recipient of University of Edinburgh's Sir William Darling Memorial Prize (2014).

SCOTTISH PREMIERES **in competition**



Discovering India

**a showcase of new cinematic achievements
from directorial voices to watch out for**

EFIFD 2017

www.efifd.co.uk

OPENING FILM

Satakarni, the Son of Gautami (Gautamiputra Satakarni) KRISH JAGARLAMUDI



EFIFD 2017 opens with an opulent historical war drama set in 1st Century CE on the rise and consolidation of the first pan-Indian empire by a warrior king from the southern parts of the Indian sub-continent, Satakarni. This authentically researched epic biography depicts life and times under a 'unique' Indian dynasty of kings that took their identity from their mother. Satakarni's coronation as the Emperor of 33 Indian kingdoms was commemorated with the launch of a new calendar system still in vogue in parts of southern and western India.

EFIFD recommends

Kollywood's next epic extravaganza after the *Baahubali* series

is helmed by emerging directorial talent from the Telegu film industry, Krish Jagarlamudi, acclaimed for his authentic cinematic spectacles with a humanist heart.

Screening: Friday 24th November 2017

Venue: [Grassmarket Community Project](#) Time: 6.00 PM

Price: £6.00 (£4.50 Concs)

Cert. 15

G - A Wanton Heart - Inspired by true incidents

(G Kutta Se, G कुत्ता सै)

RAHUL DAHIYA



‘Where a woman’s honour holds the key to life and death’

In a small village, not too far from Delhi, three lives explode around taboos of love and lust. Diksha, still just a girl, is caught unguarded on camera, besmirching the ‘honour’ of her parents. Kiran, in love with the wrong boy, becomes the target of another man’s lustful vengeance, ‘dishonouring’ her family. And Virender, a young man cruising the streets at will, enjoys all the acts society forbids women, protecting or destroying their ‘honour’ as he wills. Portraying realistic lust and ‘immoral’ sexual behaviour this film is a true reflection of the unspoken violence women suffer across the world.

EFIFD recommends

G Kutta Se is a courageous transgressive film that offers viewers a deeper understanding of the entrapment of women in honour based communities. Though set in a patriarchal conservative backdrop, it shows its female protagonists in a radical new light, exercising agency over their life, body and choice in a way that is rarely talked about. This is a unique opportunity to peep into its hidden reality.

Festivals & Awards:

- Chicago South Asian Film Festival
- 16th New York Indian Film Festival
- Social Impact Awards (Yes Foundation) India

Screening: Saturday 25th November 2017

Venue: Grassmarket Community Project

Time: 4.30 PM

Price: £6.00 (£4.50 Concs)

Cert. 18

Advisory: contains strong language and some scenes of violence

Hide & Seek (LapaChhapi) VISHAL FURIA



Marathi
w. English subtitles

120 Minutes

2017

DIRECTOR
Vishal Furia

CAST
Pooja Sawant
Usha Naik
Vikram Gaikwad

FICTION

SCOTTISH
PREMIERE

An old woman who tells scary fables, a haunted tape recorder through which a spirit speaks, little children who innocently say the most terrifying things – Vishal Furia's *LapaChhapi* has all the ingredients of a quintessential horror film and more. The film revolves around a couple who are forced by circumstances to stay in a small house in the middle of a large sugarcane field. Soon, the eight months pregnant wife discovers that there are forces in those fields who are after her unborn baby. What these forces are and whether she will be able to save her baby forms the crux of this edge-of-the-seat indie horror thriller.

EFIFD recommends

LapaChhapi is a game changer in Indian cinema's horror-film genre!

Festivals & Awards:

- Brooklyn Film Festival 2016 - (Winner - Spirit Award)
- Madrid International Filmmakers Festival 2016 - (Winner - Best Talented New Director, Nominated for Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Background Score, Best Editing)
- Horror Hotel Film Festival 2016 - Ohio, US (4TH Place Winner - Best Foreign Language Film)
- Cuenca International Film Festival 2017, Spain
- London Indian Film Festival 2017

Screening: Saturday 25th November 2017

Venue: [Grassmarket Community Project](#)

Time: 7.00 PM

Price: £6.00 (£4.50 Concs)

Cert. 18 Advisory: contains some scenes of violence

The Underdog (Kaccha Limbu) PRASAD OAK



Marathi
w. English subtitles

115 Minutes

2017

DIRECTOR
Prasad Oak

CAST
Sonali Kulkarni
Ravi Jadhav
Manmeet Pem

FICTION

**SCOTTISH
PREMIERE**

Based on a classic novel, *Runanubandha* by legendary Marathi novelist, Jaywant Dalvi, this is the story of a couple struggling with a mentally-challenged child. The film is set in the Mumbai of 1980s, when its original residents were pushed to the outer suburbs. While the father sinks into a perpetual night shift at work, the mother drifts towards another man. Meanwhile, their son is 16 years old and growing into his sexuality. Can this family keep from falling apart and come back together? At playgrounds in western India, a '*kaccha limbu*' is the underdog.

EFIFD recommends

Brilliantly shot in black & white, the film's selective use of colour

by cameraman Amalendu Choudhary represents the forgotten hopes and dreams of its characters. Prasad Oak, a veteran actor of 100 Marathi films, plays and television makes his directorial debut with *Kaccha Limbu*.

Screening: Sunday 26th November 2017

Venue: [Grassmarket Community Project](#)

Time: 4.30 PM

Price: £6.00 (£4.50 Concs)

Cert. 15

CLOSING FILM

Nana – A Tale of Us TIAKUMZUK AIER



Nana is the little daughter of a local goon, who is hired by a minister during election time to force voters in his constituency to vote his way by bribe or coercion. Elections are profitable times for irregularly employed village men, who survive on its windfall income baits. Set in the Himalayan tribal state of Nagaland, a region rarely seen on cinema, *Nana* offers a never-before-seen inside-out perspective on governance challenges in India's scenic hill states of the North-East. Yet, unlike most films in the genre, this Church-funded production articulates its concerns through plausible drama with a subtly infused correctional 'religious' message that bad karma does eventually catch up.

EFIFD recommends

A significant 'political film' with a warm local heart, *Nana*, fuses the subtle and minimalist satire-laced style of new Iranian cinema, with the intimate-eye-for-family-details of classic storytellers like Ozu. It marks the ascendancy of a new directorial voice worth watching out for, in its three-film-old director, Tia Aier.

Screening: Sunday 26th November 2017

Venue: [Grassmarket Community Project](#) **Time:** 7.00 PM

Price: £6.00 (£4.50 Concs)

Cert. 12

JURY



Marian A. Aréchaga
Director, Edinburgh Spanish Film Festival

Marian is a Senior Teaching Fellow in the Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies department of the University of Edinburgh. She has organised a variety of cultural activities, workshops and conferences to promote Spanish Culture in Scotland. For several years she has directed the annual Spanish play, featuring staff and students of the university. She launched the Edinburgh Spanish Film Festival in 2014, curating films and offering an educational programme for schools around Scotland. The third edition of the festival expanded to Glasgow, and the fourth edition this year, included Glasgow and Stirling.



Bashabi Fraser
Director of the Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies

Bashabi is an academic, a poet, children's writer, translator, critic and editor and has had several writing commissions and residencies. She has been widely published and anthologised. Her publications in 2017 include *The Homing Bird*, *Scottish Orientalism and the Bengal Renaissance: the Continuum of Ideas*, *Thali Katori: An Anthology of Scottish & South Asian Poetry*. Some of her acclaimed poetry compilations include *Letters to my Mother and Other Mothers*, *Ragas & Reels*, *From the Ganga to the Tay* (an epic poem) and *Tartan & Turban*. Bashabi is a Professor of English and Creative Writing at Edinburgh Napier University. She also has been a Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Dundee University and Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. She was awarded the Outstanding Woman of Scotland by Saltire Society (2015), and the Word Masala Foundation Award for Excellence in Poetry (2017).



Diane Henderson
Deputy Artistic Director, Edinburgh International Film Festival

A graduate of photography from Edinburgh's Napier University, Diane first became involved in cinema exhibition in the 1980s through various front-of-house and marketing roles at Filmhouse, one of the UK's foremost independent Art-house cinema venues and home to the Edinburgh International Film Festival. In 1992, she curated Edinburgh College of Art's year-round exhibition programme worked with a wide range of artists from the UK and beyond. Next, she was the General Manager of Edinburgh's Cameo Cinema (2000-2004), before another stint at buying and selling European documentaries as part of CinemaNet Europe. She has been the deputy artistic director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival since 2006. Diane is a voting member of Bafta UK and has served on the juries of various international film festivals.



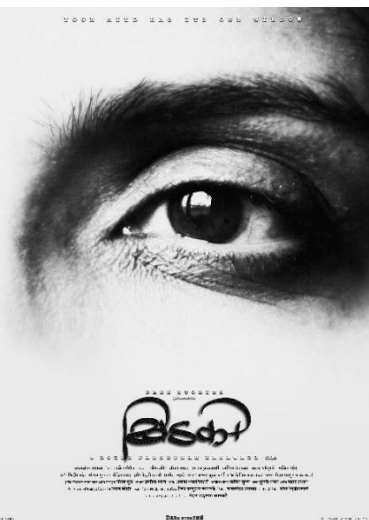
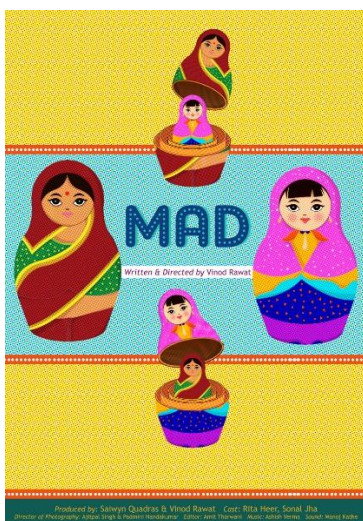
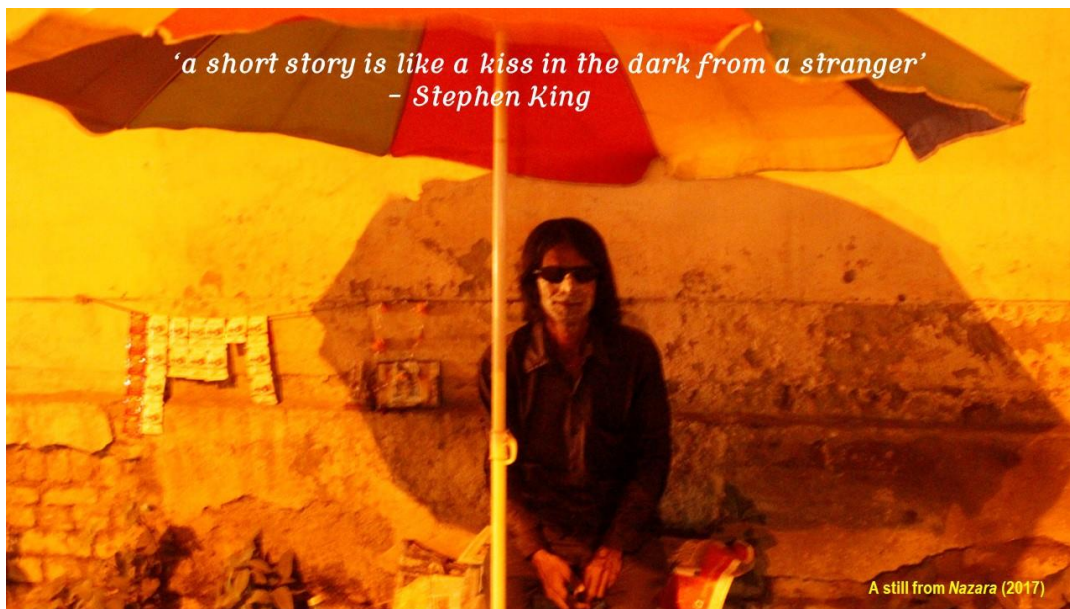
Anna Montazam
Trustee, Edinburgh Iranian Festival & Curator, Iranian Film Season

Anna is a trustee and management team member of the Edinburgh Iranian Festival, which has been held biennially since 2009. She has been involved in generating programs and cultural events promoting Iranian art and new talent, including art exhibitions and film festivals. She curated the Iranian Film Season this year, and led the panel discussion about the life and work of Abbas Kiarostami for the opening night film. She is an avid fan of all things cinema, enjoys writing and charitable work, and by day is a biologist at the University of Edinburgh.

INDIA @ 70

little films with a big heart

EFIFD celebrates the commemoration of 2017 as the 'UK-India Year of Culture' with a showcase of short films and documentaries by emerging filmmakers, who share some intimate encounters with their 'India of today'. These celluloid vignettes, presented as people diaries conjure a unique palette of tales from fast growing, busy Metros to the quietly transforming forests of Central India, memoirs of a tearful autumn in Kashmir to portraits of the 'winter of life' in a village called Kohima.



***WINNERS IN THIS CATEGORY WILL BE SELECTED THROUGH AUDIENCE VOTING**

Long Shorts (fiction)

Screening: Saturday 25th Nov. 2017

Venue: [Grassmarket Community Project](#)

Time: 1.30 PM

Price: £5.00 (£3.00 Concs)

Tales of the Tribes

TARA DOUGLAS English, 35 min, 2017



EFIFD recommends

Vibrant and colourful with some imaginative interpretations of nature and its inmates, the film's 'grandma tales' like story book format will be a treat for both the kids and the children in you!

Cert. PG

Three brothers – man, tiger and spirit – were born from the union between sky and earth, but they could not live together; a hunter stumbles upon paradise and he cannot hunt anymore... These, and three more stop-motion animated films adapted from folk tales of the tribes of Central and North-Eastern India are presented by British anthropologist and ethnologist Verrier Elwin (1902-1964), who lived and loved with the tribes of India. The stories were selected by participants in five Tribal Animation Workshops in Nagaland (2009), Sikkim (2010), Manipur (2012), Ahmadabad for the Gond film (2012) and Arunachal Pradesh (2013).

The Waves (Dheu)

PRADIPTA BHATTACHARYA Bengali with English sub., 30 min, 2017



EFIFD recommends

A striking short film about life in a 'lush yet lonely' landscape, it makes one wonder – 'if we, busy connected beings, will ever survive such a life scape'.

Cert. 12

Adapted from a Bengali short story, Ichchhe (The Wish), The Waves depict the various stages from youth to old age, in the solitary life of a couple making funeral biers off a river island. Juxtaposing the inviting vistas of virgin nature with the limited aspirations of life in the margins, this breathtakingly photographed film uses Baul ballads and devotional songs to weave an unforgettable classic-style ode to love and loss.

Festivals (2016-17):

Kolkata International Short Film Festival, Mumbai International Film Festival,

Kerala International Short and Documentary Film Festival, Delhi Short Film Festival

The Window (Khidkee)

ROHAN PARASHURAM KANAWARE Marathi/English w. English sub., 40 min, Cert. 12, 2017



A housewife, Madhu (55) and a screenplay writer, Ashween (29) live across the road from each other, and get glimpses of one another's lives from their living room windows. Little do they know that their minds have their own windows...

EFIFD recommends

Exploring themes of urban isolation and voyeurism, this little gem in black and white about two window voyeurs, evokes a strong parallelism with the role of social media in current times.

MAD

VINOD RAWAT Hindi with English sub., 22 min, Cert .12, 2017



During the monsoon season, a widow from a small Indian town, Patna, travels to Mumbai on the anniversary of her husband's death, to take part in customary Hindu prayers which are held in the mourning period. However, the daughter arrives late and their journey begins, pauses, stops and starts again. The distance shrinks, the roles exchange, as both mother and daughter end up commemorating much more...

EFIFD recommends

MAD explores the themes of identity, womanhood and migration in contemporary India through the choices and decisions taken by both mother and daughter.

Festivals (2017):

Large Short Films Mumbai Film Festival 2017, FILMSShort Online Film Festival London

Desi Diaries (non-fiction)

by Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh

Screening: Sunday 26th Nov. 2017

Venue: Grassmarket Community Project

Time: 1.30 PM

Price: £5.00 (£3.00 Concs)

Cert. 15



Rone
Sophy Lasuh
Zhavame w. English sub., 11.22 min 2017

Rone chooses to be a preserver of indigenous knowledge. She has seen time move fast in her tiny Chakhesang Naga village (in North-East India), barely leaving behind any semblance of the life she knew. She is 79. Because her Naga history is transmitted orally, it is particularly vulnerable to rapid change, especially when young people absorb values and cultures alien to their ancestors. This imaginatively shot, observational short, captures Rone effortlessly practicing a village tradition that may not survive the weight of Christian influence.

Gypsy Millionaires (Daslakhiya)

RISHIKA NAMDEV

Hindi w. English sub., 30min, 2017



Fences are often built to create boundaries, to determine ownership and to create partition. One of such fence has been built in the Kanha National Park of India, where a primitive tribe has been deprived of their basic forest rights. Daslakhiya reveals the aftermath of the eviction of the Baiga Tribe from their forest for a developmental project.

Tears of the Autumn (Hardouk Oush)

WASAF JEELANI

Kashmiri w. English sub.,
15min, 2017

An old father has lost his son to the socio-political turmoil in Kashmir. After years of search for his disappeared son, he finally comes to know of his whereabouts – an unmarked grave. He wants to share his grief, but no one is interested in an oft repeated story of sadness ...except a Chinar tree, where his son used to play as a kid.



A Perspective (Nazara)

GAGANDEEP SINGH

Hindi w. English sub., 22min 2017



Nazara is a brave explorative film about transgressing the conventional. The presence of a bizarre man sitting by the side of a busy road in central Delhi has different effects on people according to their own prejudices and to how they choose to interact.

EFIFD recommends

The beautifully shot Nazara will appeal to those interested in themes exploring social alienation.



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

At a glance

VENUE: Grassmarket Community Project
86 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh EH1 2QA

Friday 24 Nov.	6.00pm £6 (£4.50 conc.)	Satakarni, the Son of Gautami (Gautamiputra Satakarni) 135 min cert. 15 Post screening public Q&A with director
Saturday 25 Nov.	1.30pm Long Shorts (fiction) £5 (£3 conc.)	Tales of the tribes 35 min cert. PG The Waves (Dheu) 30 min cert. 12 The Window (Khidkee) 40 min cert. 12 MAD 22min cert. 12
	4.30pm £6 (£4.50 conc.)	G- A Wantom Heart (G Kutta Se) 103 min. cert. 18 Contains strong language and scenes of violence
	7.00pm £6 (£4.50 conc.)	Hide and Seek (LapaChhapi) 120 min cert. 18 Contains scenes of violence
Sunday 26 Nov.	1.00pm £7 (£5 conc.)	The Great Mughal (Mughal-e-Azam, 1960) 184 min cert. PG
	1.30pm Desi Stories (non-fiction) £5 (£3 conc.)	Rone 11 min cert. 15 Gypsy Millionaires (Daslakhiya) 30 min cert. 15 Tears of Autumn (Hardouk Oush) 15 min cert. 15 A Perspective (Nazara) 22 min cert. 15
	4.30pm £6 (£4.50 conc.)	The Underdog (Kaccha Limbu) 115 min cert. 15
	7pm £6 (£4.50 conc.)	Nana – a tale of us 100 min cert. 12 Post screening public Q&A with director

Audience Awards

Put your critical shoes on while attending the short films and documentary premieres because your votes will decide the winners

For booking & other details visit www.efifd.co.uk



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Tiakumjuk Aier



Tara Douglas



Krish Jagarlamudi



Prasad Oak



Wasaf Zeelani



Rahul Dahiya



**Gagandeep
Singh**



Rishika Namdev



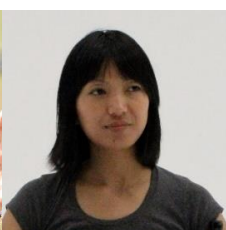
**Pradipta
Bhattacharya**



Vinod Rawat



Vishal Furia



Sophy Lasuh



Rohan P Kanawade

Team EFIFD 2017



Subhranil



Saoni



Pankaj

SUNDAY MATINEE CLASSIC REVIVAL

First Time in Scotland – Screening of the Digitally Restored Colour Version of
K. Asif's Mughal-E-Azam (The Great Mughal, 1960; Urdu/Hindi w. English
Subtitles, 184 min) – the grandest epic drama from the Golden Age of Bollywood.
Sunday 26th Nov. 2017

Venue: **Grassmarket Community Project** Time: 1.00 PM Price: £7.00 (£5.00 Conc) Cert. PG

