

NFDC India Announces Final Selection for Screenwriters' Lab 2017

Mumbai, May 2017 : NFDC India is pleased to announce the eight projects selected for its 11th Edition of Screenwriters' Lab.

The Screenwriters' Lab is part of NFDC Labs' ongoing initiative to develop original voices and stories from India. The selected participants will work with mentors in an intensive 5-month programme to explore their stories in one-on-one as well as group sessions. Aimed at domestic as well as international markets, the projects will be pitched to producers and investors in a specially designed session during Film Bazaar 2017.

This year, the writers will be mentored by Yann Apperry – novelist, screenwriter and script consultant and Urmi Juvekar – screenwriter and script consultant.

The 2017 selection is an interesting mix of stories in different genres and languages:

1. **Captain Gopinath** (Hindi) – Abhijit Agrawal

Abhijit is an independent filmmaker who has assisted on various feature films, television commercials, corporate videos and television series. He has made two short films “Sirf Khuli Khidki” and “Topiwala Room” and has won a Mofilm Cannes Lions Award for an online ad film competition for Getty Images.

2. **The Displaced** (Tamil) – Vijay Jayapal

An independent filmmaker from Chennai, Vijay's debut feature “Revelations” (Film Bazaar Recommends 2016) premiered at Busan International Film Festival and was also screened at Göteborg, MAMI Mumbai, SAIFF New York film festivals, among others. He has made three other short films – “The Surreal” (2014), “Meelpaarvai (Retrospect)” and “Matrimony” – which have also travelled to various festivals.

3. **The Funeral** (Malayalam) – Christo Tomy

Christo Tomy is an independent filmmaker from Kerala and an alumnus of Film Direction and Screenplay Writing from Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata. Christo has won National Awards for Best Direction and Best Debut Film in the Non-Feature sections of the 63rd and the 61st National Film Awards respectively. His short films and documentaries have travelled to various international film festivals.

4. **Grey** (Hindi) – Prashant Vanjani

After working in the advertising industry as a senior planner, Prashant made a shift to filmmaking at Prague Film School, after which he worked as an assistant director and video editor. He also wrote, produced, directed, and edited a short film based on a story by Jorge Luis Borges which screened at a various national and international film festivals.

5. **Kiss Me Cassata** (Hindi) - Ashutosh Pathak

With an MA degree in Animation, Ashutosh has worked as a freelance illustrator, animator and film-maker for the past 10 years. He has made several short films which reflect the issue of restricted human existence in the confines of a society.

6. **Mishi** (Marathi) - Batul Mukhtiar

An alumnus of Film Direction at Film & Television Institute of India, Batul has worked on international documentary projects, mostly for the BBC and Channel 4, UK for 15 years as an associate producer and fixer. Her docu-feature ‘150 SECONDS AGO’, travelled to many international festivals including Yamagata and Cine Du Reel. Her children's feature ‘Lilkee’ (2007) continues to be shown in classrooms and children's festivals across the country. Her film ‘Kaphal-Wild Berries’ (2013) won the National Award for Best Children's Film 2014 and the Golden Elephant for Best Director at the International Children's Film Festival of India 2013.

7. **Nandu** (Hindi) – Shilpi Singh

Shilpi started out as a Production Assistant on a documentary film and moved on to earn a merit scholarship for an MA degree in film from American University, Washington DC. Selected as one of the talents of Berlinale Talent Campus – India edition, Shilpi has assisted independent documentary filmmakers, written and directed independent shorts and worked in Creative and Development department.

8. **Temple in the Village** (Maithili) - Parth Saurabh

Parth Saurabh was born and brought up in Darbhanga, Bihar. After finishing his B. Tech. from IIT Kanpur, he earned a diploma in Direction from Whistling Woods International. He has also shot a short documentary in Xinjiang, China about the Architecture of the Toyuk Valley, a 1000 years old village housing The Thousand Buddha Caves.

MENTORS

SCREENWRITERS' LAB

2017



Urmi Juvekar

Urmi Juvekar was actively involved in theatre since her early years. She then moved on to working in a television production house to make non-fiction programmes while writing her first feature film, *Darmiyaan*, which released in 1998. Since then, she has written seven films including *Oye Lucky, Lucky Oye* and *I AM* – both winners of the National Award for Best Film – and has made three documentaries, of which *Shillong Chamber Choir* and *the Little Home School* was shown in IDFA, Amsterdam in 2008. After working as a creative producer with the critically acclaimed and commercially successful film, *Love, Sex Aur Dhokha*, Urmi adapted the famous Greek novel *Z* by Vassilis Vassilikos for her next film, *Shanghai*. Her latest film is *Detective Byomkesh Bakshi*. An alumnus of the Binger Film Lab, Urmi has also been involved with NFDC since 2011 as a consultant for Film Bazaar and script labs.



Yann Apperry

Yann Apperry is a Franco-American writer and recipient of the prestigious French literary awards, the Prix Médicis for his novel *Diabolus in Musica* (2000) and the Prix Goncourt des Lycéens, for *Farrago* (2003).

Apperry's screenwriting credits include *24 mesures* (2007) and *Yves Saint Laurent* (2014), directed by Jalil Lespert and recently, *Altération*, a 3D short film selected for Tribeca Film Festival, directed by Jérôme Blomet. He is currently writing *Amorostasia*, a romantic sci-fi comedy-drama for the French production company les Armateurs. Apperry also writes for the stage, both as a playwright and librettist, and his plays have been performed at the Théâtre National de Chaillot, Odéon-Théâtre de l'Europe, Théâtre du Gymnase (Marseille). His musical works include the books and lyrics for the orchestral jazz show *Calvinologie* (an homage to Italo Calvino), composed by Massimo Nunzi, *All Around*, music by Régis Huby, and *Le Dernier Livre de la Jungle* (The Last Jungle Book), music by Massimo Nunzi, produced for national radio (France Culture).

Apperry was an artist-in-residence at the French Academy in Rome (Villa Médicis), the Villa Kujoyama (Kyoto), the Randell Writer's Cottage (Wellington, New Zealand).