

FEATURE JURY

CENTRAL PANEL

Chairperson

A graduate of the FTII, writer-director **Saeed Akhtar Mirza** has directed cult films of the New Indian Cinema like *Arvind Desai Ki Ajeeb Dastaan*, *Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyon Ata Hai*, *Mohan Joshi Hazir Ho!*, *Salim Langde Pe Mat Ro* and *Naseem*, which won two National Film Awards. He is the director of the popular TV serials *Nukkad* (1986) and *Intezaar* (1988), along with various documentary films on social welfare and cultural activism. He is also a trustee of ANHAD, a Delhi-based NGO working for communal harmony. He is also the author of two books.

Theatre artist, art director, and director of films like *Garam Hawa*, *Bara*, *Ijodu*, among others, **M.S. Sathyu**'s first work was as independent art director for Chetan Anand's *Haqueeqat*. He was actively involved in theatre and worked as designer and director with theatre troupes such as Hindustan Theatre, Habib Tanvir's Okhla Theatre, Kannadi Bharati, IPTA Mumbai and others. His multitasking was evident in film-making as well where he worked as art director, cameraman, screenwriter, producer and director. His filmography includes 15 documentaries and 9 feature films.

Born in Assam, **Manju Borah** is a well-known National and International awards-winning filmmaker. Her films explore the region's culture and its impact. These include *Baibhab* (1999), *Any Ek Yatra* (2001), *Aakashitaraar Kathare* (2002), *Laaz* (2004), *Joymati the Saviour* (2006), *Aai Kot Nai* (2008) and *Ko: Yad* (a film in the Mising language). She has been awarded the Women of Excellence Award by FICCI for her outstanding contribution to the field of Film & Entrepreneurship in the year 2009 and the Satyajit Ray Memorial Award given by the Asian Film Foundation for the year 2012.

Born in 1952, **Chitraarth Puran Singh** joined the FTII in 1972 after graduating in economics from St. Stephen's College. He assisted Lekh Tandon on a couple of films. His feature *Chann Pardesee* won the National Award as Best Punjabi film. Another National Award, for Best Film on National Integration, came his way for *Shaheed Uddham Singh*. Over the years, he has been writing and directing for both films and television in different genres of comedy, social, crime and historical.

Nirad Mohapatra is a trained film director from the FTII, Pune. His debut film *Maya Miriga* won the National Award for the Second Best National Feature Film (1984). It featured in the Critics Week section of Cannes and won Best Third World Film award at Mannheim. He has made several documentaries and is a well-known film teacher and writer. He lives in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Thankar Bachan began his career as cinematographer in 1990 and has so far worked in more than 40 feature films in a number of Indian languages. He has also written the screenplay for and

directed 7 films. He is a major name in modern Tamil literature with a number of short stories and novels to his credit which have been the subject of research at postgraduate level and have been prescribed by universities for course work.

Arunoday Sharma studied sound recording at the FTII, Pune, between 1969 and 1972. He has been credited in nearly thirty feature films as audiographer. He has also worked in documentaries, in both technical as well as creative disciplines of writing and direction. He has produced and directed five educational documentaries and worked as an audiographer and sound mixer in thousands of television episodes. Presently, he is sound designer for the iconic television shows *CID* and *Hum Ne Li Hai...Shapath*.

Khalid Mohamed began his career at the *Times of India*, Mumbai, as a reporter, and was with the paper for 27 years, as film critic, media editor and then editor of *Filmfare*. He has written the stories and screenplays of the films *Mammo*, *Sardari Begum* and *Zubeida*. He scripted and directed the films *Fiza*, *Tehzeeb* and *Silsilay*. He has authored the books *To Be or Not To Be Bachchan*, *Where Art Thou: M.F. Hussain*, *Two Mothers* and *Faction*.

Utpalendu Chakraborty graduated in Modern History from Calcutta University in 1967, participated in the student's movement in Calcutta, and worked with tribals of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. In 1971 he started to write under the pseudonym 'Swarna Mitra'. He is a painter, singer and a composer too. His feature film *Chokh* (1982) got a Silver Peacock at the 9th International Film Festival of India in 1983 and the Silver Lotus as Best Director the 30th National Festival of India.

Santoor legend and music composer **Pandit Bhajan Sopori** is an institution in himself. Hailed as the 'Saint of the Santoor' and the King of Strings', he represents the fabled Sufiana Gharana of Kashmir. He has composed music for more than 5000 songs which include films, commercials, documentaries, serials, operas, chorals, etc. Pandit Sopori has received numerous awards, decorations, titles and honour including the prestigious Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

C.V. Reddy is a producer and director of Telugu, Tamil and Kannada films. He is also a writer. Reddy received the Nandi Award for his debut film *Badili*. He has been on various government committees as chairman and member. He has also been a member of the Indian Panorama Jury for 2011 and Oscar Nomination Committee for 2013.

EASTERN PANEL

Chairperson

Theatre artist, art director, and director of films like *Garam Hawa*, *Bara*, *Ijjudu*, among others, **M.S. Sathyu**'s first work was as independent art director for Chetan Anand's *Haqeeqat*. He was actively involved in theatre and worked as designer and director with theatre troupes such as Hindustan Theatre, Habib Tanvir's Okhla Theatre, Kannadi Bharati, IPTA Mumbai and others. His multitasking was evident in film-making as well where he worked as art director, cameraman, screenwriter, producer and director. His filmography includes 15 documentaries and 9 feature films.

Meena Debbarma, lead actor of Tripura's two most acclaimed films, *Mathia* and *Yarwng*, as well as producer and actor of many telefilms made in Kokborok, Bengali and Hindi, has played a pivotal role in linking the fledgling film industry in the state to the numerous problems and issues faced by its citizens. A recipient of numerous awards for her achievement as a woman in the field of art and social activism, Debbarma is a crusader for social justice and development. She has served on the National Film Awards jury twice.

Ranjit Das is a state and national award-winning editor-director. His films including *All Alone If Need Be*, *Sanskar (The Offspring)*, *Return of the Dead Bird* have been screened at various national and international film festivals. He has served on national and state juries for feature films and documentaries. He is credited with 30 films including feature, short, documentary and teleserials. He has also edited journals for Guwahati Film Festival and Polish Film Festival.

Sreelekha Mukherji obtained a diploma in Rabindrasangeet from Geetobani in 1971. Her credits as an actor include *Parashuramer Kuthar*, *Shilpi*, *Chiroshokha He*, *Laaj*, *Dwitiyo Pakkho*, *Elaa-r Chaar Adhyay* among others. She has worked with National Award-winning film-makers like Nabyendu Chatterjee, Manju Borah, Raja Sen and Ashoke Viswanathan. She has directed a couple of documentary films and directed the background music for several plays, feature films and telefilms.

An alumni of the FTII, **Bina Paul** has been working as a film editor for the last twenty years. She has worked with many leading film-makers in India and has won several state and National Awards for editing. Some of the films she has edited are *Amma Ariyan*, *Agnisakshi: Janmadinam*, *Mitr*, *My Friend* and *Dance Like a Man*. She has worked as senior editor at C-DIT (Center for the Development of Imaging Technology) for ten years. Along with editing, Bina has also been the artistic director of the International Film Festival of Kerala for the last ten years. She has also been involved with teaching at various institutes and is a regular guest faculty at the FTII.

NORTHERN PANEL

Chairperson

Born in Assam, **Manju Borah** is a well-known and award-winning film-maker. Her films explore the region's culture and its impact. These include *Baibhab* (1999), *Anya Ek Yatra* (2001), *Aakashitoraar Kathare* (2002), *Laaz* (2004), *Joymati the Saviour* (2006), *Aai Kot Nai* (2008) and *Ko: Yad* (a film in the Mising language). She has been awarded the Women of Excellence Award by FICCI for her outstanding contribution to the field of Film & Entrepreneurship in the year 2009 and the Satyajit Ray Memorial Award given by the Asian Film Foundation for the year 2012.

Virendra Saini, director-cinematographer, graduated from the FTII with a diploma in cinematography in 1976. He has been connected with the New Cinema Movement in India, working with several major directors including Mani Kaul, Saeed Mirza, Sai Paranjpye, Kundan Shah, Vidhu Vinod Chopra and Bhimsain. In 1990 he won the National award for Best Cinematography for *Salim Langde Pe Mat Ro*. His first feature film *Kabhi Pass Kabhi Fail* won the National Award for Best Children's Film. Currently, he is serving as Dean, Films at the FTII.

G.S. Bhaskar holds a postgraduate diploma from the FTII. Starting with Sir Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi*, he trained further under A.K. Bir. Winner of the Karnataka State Award for Best Cinematography twice, he has worked with some of the finest film-makers of the country such as M.S. Sathyu, Sai Paranjpye, Girish Karnad, B.V. Karanth, Girish Kasaravalli and T.S. Nagabharana. He is visiting faculty at some of the major film schools of the country such as FTII, SRFTI and L.V. Prasad Academy.

Bhanu Bharti is best known for his bold innovations and creativity in Indian theatre. He has engaged with conventional modes, the freedom of folk idioms, highly stylized Noh and Kabuki theatre and the utterly liberated tribal Bheel 'Gavari' style of his native Rajasthan. Such eclectic influences have informed his seminal directorial output like *Pashu Gayatri*, *Amar Beej*, *Kaal Katha*, *Taambe ke Keere*, *Hamlet*, *Chandrama Singh urf Chamku* and *Katha Kahi Ek Jale Hue Ped Ne*. He has been honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in the field of theatre.

Sona Jain is an award-winning film writer, director and producer. Her debut film, *For Real*, won six international awards, was official selection in the Indian Panorama at the International Film Festival of India and released commercially worldwide. *Vasarma's Lovers*, an award-winning student short film written and directed by her was distributed worldwide by Universal Studios, Hypnotic Inc and British Shorts. She holds a master's in Fine Arts in Film from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts and a bachelor's in Economics from St. Stephens College.

WESTERN PANEL

Chairperson

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An independent film curator, festival consultant, journalist and film critic, **Meenakshi Shedde** is India / South Asia Consultant to the Berlin and Dubai International Film Festivals, based in Mumbai. Winner of India's National Award for Best Film Critic, she has been on the jury of 20 international film festivals. She has directed a film, *Looking for Amitabh*, and has 30 years' experience in journalism, and freelances for *Variety*, *Screen International*, *Cahiers du Cinema*, *Times of India* and *Mid-day*.

Rajat Dholakia learnt Western music, staff notation and arrangement of music from Pandit Ramprasad Sharma and arranging film musical scores for songs and background music from Shayamrao Kamble. He started editing soundtracks for documentaries while working with five-time National Award winner editor Renu Saluja and sound engineer Padmanabhan. As sound designer, music director, background score director he has worked with film-makers like Arun Khopker, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Mani Kaul, Ketan Mehta. He has composed the music for more than 5000 ad films and public services films.

Rajen Borah is an Assamese film producer. *Aai Kot Nai*, produced by him, won the Nargis Dutt Award Best Feature film on National Integration at the 56th National Film Award for the year 2008.

Tejaswini Pandit is a Marathi film and television actress. She started her career by playing a negative role in *Aga Bai Arrecha*. With films like *Vavtal* and *Mee Sindhutai Sapka* and appearances in a number of films, plays, television shows, she has established herself as one of Marathi industry's leading actresses. She won the Best Actor Female in MIFTA 2011, London, Best Actress Award at the Spain International Film Festival 2011 and was nominated for Best Performance by an Actress at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards in 2010.

SOUTHERN PANEL I

Chairperson

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Unni Vijayan majored in philosophy. Following a short stint as a purchase manager in a plastic moulding company, he quit his job and joined as an apprentice to an editor in Mumbai while preparing to get admission at the FTII. After passing out from the institute, he edited numerous documentaries, television series and feature films. His first feature as director *Lessons in Forgetting* has travelled across the globe at various festivals and won the National Award for Best English Feature Film in 2012.

Kesari Harvoo is a National Award-winning film-maker and scriptwriter. His debut feature film *Bhoomigeetha* won a National Award for the Best Film on Environment, Conservation & Preservation and a number of other awards. He ran a motivational film campaign in the Gundia river basin and has made 5 documentary films on rural water supply scenario in Karnataka under DANIDA-assisted GOK Project JALANIDHI. He has also served on the jury for the National Awards in 2007-08.

Priya Krishnaswamy graduated in film editing from the FTII in 1987. Her editing credits include *Om Dar-b-Dar*, *Percy*, *Bombay Boys* and *Bhopal Express*. In 1998, she began to make documentary films. In 2003, her documentary, *The Eye of the Fish: The Kalaris of Kerala*, received the National Award for Best Arts/Cultural film. In 2012, her debut feature film, *Gangoobai*, premiered in the New Faces in Indian Cinema section at the MAMI Film Festival in Mumbai and has since been screened at various international festivals.

Arun Bose is head of department, sound, at L.V. Prasad Film & TV Academy. He also heads Prasad Group's Audio Division. He holds the distinction of introducing stereophonic mixing systems for 70mm productions in India. As sound mixer and engineer for over 400 films, he has won several awards for excellence in sound recording, including the Nandi Award for *Mayuri* from the Government of Andhra Pradesh; for *Yodha* from the Government of Kerala; for *Ponthan Mada* in 1993; and the Sri Lanka State film award for *Sihina Desayen* in 1997.

SOUTHERN PANEL II

Chairperson

Thankar Bachan began his career as cinematographer in 1990 and has so far worked in more than 40 feature films in a number of Indian languages. He has also written the screenplay for and directed 7 films. He is a major name in modern Tamil literature with a number of short stories and novels to his credit which have been the subject of research at postgraduate level and have been prescribed by universities for course work.

N. Manu Chakravarthy is an associate professor and head of the department of English at the N.M.K.R.V. College for Women. A teacher with over 30 years of experience, he won the Best Film Critic Award for 2010 at the 58th National Film Awards. He is also a published author with a number of books and articles to his credit. He has served as a jury at the National Film Awards and at the MIFF.

Lingadevaru B.S. started off as a pharmacist before becoming one of the established producers and directors of the Kannada television and film industry. He won the state and National Award for his film *Kaada Beladingalu* and national recognition for his film *Mouni*. He is actively involved in promoting artistic cinema by organizing film festivals in rural areas and conducting seminars on film appreciation.

Tripura-based **Joseph Pulinthanath** uses the medium of cinema to tell rural stories of the region. Working in a language that has yet to decide on its script, Kokborok, and in a state that has no film-making tradition worth mentioning, Pulinthanath has used cinema to highlight the unique position of Tripura's indigenous communities. His works include the feature films *Mathia* (The Bangle, 2004) and *Yarwng* (Roots, 2008). *Mathia* was the first film from Tripura to enter the Indian Panorama and *Yarwng*, the first and only film from Tripura till date to win a National Award.

Screenwriter, director and producer, **Chandra Siddharth** produced the Telugu film *Nirantaram* in 1995, which was selected for the prestigious Cairo and Locarno film festivals. He directed the English feature film *The Inscrutable Americans* (2000) based on Anurag Mathur's best-selling novel of the same name. It was selected for numerous international film festivals like Kerala, Milano, New York, London and Atlanta among others. Almost all his films in Telugu have bagged state-level awards. He has served the 57th National Film Awards jury as well.

NON-FEATURE JURY

Chairperson

Ashoke Viswanathan is a three-time National Award-winning film-maker and an international award winner. He has been the Chairman of the National Film Awards Jury during 2007-2008 as also a member of the governing body of SRFTI (2014). His films include *Sunya Theke Suru*, *Kichhu Sanglap Kichhu Pralap*, *Swapner Sandhaney*, *Anyra Swapna*, *Byatikrami*, *Andhakarer Shabdo*, *Sesh Sanghat* and *Gumshuda*. He is a writer with several articles on film and theatre to his credit; his latest publication is a comprehensive book on 100 years of Bengali cinema, entitled *Bengal in the Century of Cinema and Beyond*. He is a Charles Wallace scholar, having represented India at the Cambridge seminar on Modern British Fiction (1997).

A writer, director and producer based in Kolkata, **Bishnu Dev Halder** is a National Award-winning film-maker and an alumnus of SRFTI. Bishnu's films, which include *Bagher Bachcha*, *Pratyabartan*, *I Was Born in Delhi* and *The Diary of a Refugee*, have won acclaim and awards at various international film festivals including National Film Award for Best Non-feature Film on Social Issues, nomination at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), and as Opening Film of the Indian Panorama at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

S. Manjunathan is an architect turned film-maker who specialized in direction from the L.V. Prasad Film & TV Academy, Chennai. His short film *Kal* was screened at the Indian Panorama IFFI 2010, Goa, and ISFFK 2011, Kerala and at Cannes 2011 (Non Competitive Section), apart from various national and international film festivals and got him many awards and recognitions. He is currently working as a co-director in Tamil films and keeps himself busy by writing scripts and filming independent short films and music videos.

A political science graduate and a postgraduate in journalism, **Umesh Aggarwal** started working with the Indian television industry in 1985. Umesh is the recipient of the National Award for his film *The Whistle Blowers* (Best Investigative Film 2007). *Underground Inferno*, his film for the National Geographic Channel, won the Best Short Film Award at the Eco Film Festival, Greece, and Best Environment Film Award at the Short Film Festival, Goa, and Silver Trophy at the IDPA Award. His TV show *Kiran: Joy of Giving* has won a number of awards.

Reena Mohan is an award-winning independent documentary film-maker and editor who has worked out of Dubai, India, Kathmandu and London. She graduated from the FTII in 1982 with a specialization in editing. Since then she has edited several features, television serials and over 50 documentaries. She produced and directed her first award-winning documentary *Kamlabai* in 1991 and has, till now, scripted and directed more than 10 documentaries. Most of these have travelled to various international film festivals. She is currently the Managing Trustee of the India Chapter of the International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT).

Sandeep Marwah is the director of Asian Academy of Film & Television & Asian School of Media Studies. He is the founder of Noida Film City. He has been associated with the production of more than 4,500 TV programmes, 100 feature films and 5000 training films from his world-renowned Marwah Studios. He has so far trained 12,000 media persons hailing from 94 countries of the world. He has produced 2000 short films which is highest in the world. He has won a number of national and international awards for his contribution to media education.

Ramesh Asher is a freelance film-maker with a preference for short films and documentaries with a rural background. This preference emerged from his stint with the Indian Space Research Organisation on its satellite television project where he was associated with scores of programmes of scientific and educational nature. Many of his films have won national and international awards, the most notable being *A Command for Chhoti* which won the National Award for the Best Short Fiction Film as well as the Swarna Kamal for Best Direction in the non-feature category. Challenging himself to become a writer, with little success, he lives in Jaipur.

Writing on Cinema JURY

Chairperson

Sharad Dutt has been synonymous with the electronic and television media for over four decades. His masterpiece *The Melody Makers: A Musical Journey* (26 Episodes) brought the maestros of Hindi film music under one roof. Winner of two National Awards, he has produced memorable documentaries on the Indian Civil Services, armed forces, poets and film personalities. An avid writer, he has penned books on Anil Biswas, K.L. Saigal and others. He is also member of the visiting faculty for the FTII and prestigious universities.

Ganesh Anantharaman works with Wipro Technologies Limited in Bangalore. He is the author of *Bollywood Melodies: A History of the Hindi Film Song* that won the National Award for Best Book on Indian Cinema in 2008. Ganesh also volunteers as a music therapist at Sampurna Music Therapy Centre for Children with Autism in Bangalore. He is currently also the President of ISABS (2014-16).

Balaji Vittal is the co-author of the President's Swarn Kamal Award-winning book *R.D. Burman: The Man, The Music* at the 59th National Film Awards. He contributes regularly to the *Hindu's* Metroplus and Young World in topics spanning sports, films, fashion, events, trends and lifestyle. He is currently co-authoring two more books on Hindi cinema. Balaji is a banker by profession.