

CHENNAI CMS VATAVARAN 2006

Environment & Wildlife Traveling Film Festival

5-7 October 2006

Venue: Screenings: Kalaivanar Arangam, Wallajah Road, Chennai

Workshop: C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, 1, Eldams Road, Alwarpet, Chennai

Film Title: Point Calimere- Little Kingdom by the Cost, 25 Minutes, English, Shekar Dattatri

Summary: Point Calimere is a unique sanctuary by the sea in Tamil Nadu, famous for its herds of blackbuck and flocks of flamingos. It is also known for its feral ponies, and an 18 sq.km. patch of dry evergreen forest full of medicinal plants. In 2002 the swamps around Point Calimere were declared a Ramsar Site, a designation given to wetlands of international significance. Over a hundred species of migratory water birds visit these swamps in winter, but over the years their populations have been declining. Point Calimere – Little Kingdom by the Coast offers a glimpse into this remarkable ecosystem and the problems that confront it.

Director(s) Biography: Shekar Dattatri has been making wildlife and conservation films for over 20 years. His films have been aired on major channels worldwide and have received national and international acclaim. He has also contributed to several international productions as a wildlife cameraman. During the last few years he has worked closely with several conservation groups in the country to highlight pressing environmental problems through short video films. He was on the final Jury of Wildscreen, UK in 2004. Shekar was awarded the Rolex Award for Enterprise for his work in conservation filmmaking the same year.

Film Title: Indian Leopards – The Killing Fields, 53 Minutes, English, Praveen Singh, 2003

Summary: In a beauty pageant of the animal world, the leopard would find a spot right at the top. Its fiendish cunning is the stuff of legend. Feared and admired, the leopard leaves no one untouched. But a lack of knowledge about the life of this elusive cat adds to the threat of its survival. And many more people are regularly killed by leopards than by tigers.

This film presents a family who lost a child, a scientist trying to understand the leopard and conservationists trying to balance between the need to conserve wildlife and the need to protect people.

Director(s) Biography: Praveen Singh has been working in wildlife related television programming. He had studied MFA in Science and Natural History Filmmaking at Montana State University. He was the reporter of Panda Award winning series, 'Living on The Edge' and worked as a production co-ordinator for the reality wildlife series called, 'Wild Things'. This is his first independent documentary. It was a finalist in two categories at IWFF, Missoula, 2004. Praveen won a 'Student Emmy' - the first prize in documentary category in the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Foundation College TV Awards, USA. The film was a finalist at the Wild South Festival, New Zealand, 2005 in Best Newcomer category.

Film Title: Kanha – Protecting a Paradise, 18 Minutes, English, Shekar Dattatri, 2004

Summary: Kanha National Park, in Madhya Pradesh, is one of the most well known Project Tiger reserves in India. It is a veritable wildlife paradise, visited by about 50,000 people every year. The reserve's star attractions are its tigers, and visitors are rarely disappointed in their quest to see one of these magnificent big cats in the wild. But what does it take to protect Kanha's tigers and other wildlife? In a country of one billion people and innumerable pressures, how does a reserve like Kanha manage to thrive?

Director(s) Biography: Shekar Dattatri has been making wildlife and conservation films for over 20 years. His films have been aired on major channels worldwide and have received national and international acclaim. He has also contributed to several international productions as a wildlife cameraman. During the last few years he has worked closely with several conservation groups in the country to highlight pressing environmental problems through short video films. He was on the final Jury of Wildscreen, UK in 2004. Shekar was awarded the Rolex Award for Enterprise for his work in conservation filmmaking the same year.

Film Title: Do Your Bit, 30", Non-verbal, Anand Thakur, 2004

Summary: A man is shaving in the bathroom with the wash basin tap running and his seven year old son is watching a documentary on the television. The film shows slum children, craving for water and pumping a hand pump in vain... There is no water for them. The child hears the water running. He realizes that there is some connection and closes the tap. He goes back to the TV room and to his surprise, finds water now flowing from the village hand pump. The glee and happiness on the children's face in the film brings a smile to his face as well.

Director(s) Biography: Anand Thakur an MBA, came across an article on a contest to create Public Service Messages for Water Conservation. Keen to test his creative skills, he teamed up with classmate Meenal and developed the idea and submitted it for the contest where it won the first prize. Making the PSM and watching it on TV was great fun but the effort to contribute to the betterment of society was even more satisfying.

Film Title: A Second Hand Life, 26 Minutes, Hindi and English with English subtitles, Nutan Manmohan, 2004

Summary: This investigative film brings to light the grim, murkier side of information technology. Tonnes of electronic waste from obsolete computers and televisions are being exported to poor countries like India from the Western world. More than 1.38 million obsolete PCs have been dumped in India in the last five years.

Asif, the film's central character, is a worker in the e-waste recycling business. His life reveals how this huge global e-waste business is engulfing us and shows how dangerous are the working conditions in these recycling ghettos. We see how blue chip MNC's sell e-waste as second hand computers to Indian traders and how unscrupulous agents import dangerous waste under the guise of 'charitable donations'. We get a peep into the sweat shops where thousands of labourers, including children, burn, smash and tear apart electronic waste to scavenge for heavy metals such as copper and iron, precious metal such as gold and platinum. The methods of disposal are rudimentary. It results in heavy metal poison affecting the entire food-chain.

Director(s) Biography: Nutan Manmohan began as an investigative journalist with TV Today in 1987. She scripted and directed several programmes for television, which includes a children's serial 'Zara Hat Ke'.

She was the Vice President, News & Current Affairs, Star TV from 1996 to 2000 and was associated with more several Current Affairs programs. She was the India Bureau Chief for Focus Asia, Star World. She is now a freelance journalist producing content for Discovery, National Geographic Channel, FOX News and the International Herald Tribune Television etc.

Her film 'The last Flight' won the Oriental Bird Conservation's - Wild Wing Award (UK).

Film Title: The Policing Langur, 30 Minutes, English, Ajay & Vijay Bedi, 2004

Summary: In India, monkeys freely wander through cities, towns and villages. But in India's capital, Delhi, a considerable population of destructive macaque monkeys plagues the city threatening people, raiding houses, schools, offices, hospitals and even airports. Paradoxically the only remedy that has been found in dealing with the monkey menace is to engage the services of bigger, powerful langur- "Policing Langur". This film captures the colorful vista of man-monkey relationship in India that stretches from mythology to the modern and makes for a captivating tale of veneration, tolerance and co-existence.

Director(s) Biography: Ajay and Vijay Bedi after graduation in Commerce did a Diploma course in Camera, Lighting and Computer Aided Movie making. They also attended the short Wildlife/ Environment TV Programme Production Course at Media Works, Bristol.

Their works include a film on Wild Asses 'Rider of the Storm and First Out of Africa' - about the Ongis Tribals of the Andaman Islands, 'Do's and Don'ts' for visitors to a National Park.

Presently they are working on Red Panda film project successfully capturing wild Red Panda and its courtship rituals for the first time. 'The Policing Langur'. Won the "The Panda Award", in the New Comers Category at Wildscreen Film Festival 2004.

Film Title: River Taming Mantras, 30 Minutes, Hindi & English, Sanjay Barnela & Vasant Saberwal. 2004

Summary: Large parts of Eastern India are subject to annual flooding. Over the last 50 years, Government has built 14,000 kilometers of embankments in an attempt to tame the rivers of eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Orissa. Despite this, loss due to flooding and area now vulnerable to flooding have only increased. Presently, 16 per cent of Bihar is permanently waterlogged, a direct consequence of embankments.

River Taming Mantras explores the technical, economic and political rationales that underlie the adoption of such flood control measures. The film argues that taming these rivers are unlikely to succeed as they have enormous power due to their silt load. While vast sums spent on building and maintenance of embankments provides endless opportunities for siphoning of funds. Flood relief seems to be a cow everyone wants to milk. Ultimately, it is the poor people who suffer -migrating to other states, towns and cities in search of food and shelter.

Director(s) Biography: Sanjay Barnela and Vasant Saberwal are founder members of a Delhi-based production team Moving Images. They have made documentaries on a diverse range of issues including pastoralists of the Himalayas, Women in Panchayati Raj, Politics of Water, Wildlife Conservation and Environmental Degradation apart from filming a few high altitude-climbing expeditions in the Himalayas. Sanjay trained in Film and Video at CENDIT (Centre for Development of Instructional Technology), New Delhi while Vasant did his Doctorate in Environment Science at Yale. They have combined their professional skills successfully to produce films informed by high quality research.

Their films have been screened at various national and international film festivals and have won several awards. 'Hunting Down Water' won the award for Best Documentary at Festival du film de Strasbourg 2004, and was awarded Best Direction at the Festival Cinema de Paris 2004. It also won the award for Best Editing at Miami International Short Film Festival 2004.

Film Title: Panna - Jewel of Central India, 15 Minutes, English, Shekar Dattatri, 2003

Summary: Set in the central Vindhyan plateau, the 543 sq. km. Panna Tiger Reserve in northern Madhya Pradesh has some of the finest scenery in an Indian National Park. Imposing plateaus and deep gorges lend a stark beauty to this rugged landscape, which also has the magnificent Ken River running through it.

For most visitors to Panna, the tiger is its main attraction. But the park is also home to a wide variety of other wildlife, including leopard, sloth bear, sambhar, chital, chousingha and chinkara . Over 200 species of birds have been recorded.

Director(s) Biography :Shekar Dattatri has been making wildlife and conservation films for over 20 years. His films have been aired on major channels worldwide and have received national and international acclaim. He has also contributed to several international productions as a wildlife cameraman. During the last few years he has worked closely with several conservation groups in the country to highlight pressing environmental problems through short video films. He was on the final Jury of Wildscreen, UK in 2004. Shekar was awarded the Rolex Award for Enterprise for his work in conservation filmmaking the same year.

Film Title: The Way to Dusty Death, 28 Minutes, English & Hindi, Syed Fayaz, 2004

Summary: Gujarat has played host to a thriving agate (Akik) industry for centuries, and for decades, to a killer disease Silicosis. Agate grinding and polishing, largely a hereditary profession has exclusively been functioning in Kambath and nearby villages of Gujarat. During the grinding of big stones to smaller pieces, which are then used for decorative items or ornaments, the workers are exposed to dangerous amounts of dust containing free silica, which is known to produce the lung disease, silicosis.

As early as in 1980 Industrial Toxicological Research Center of Lucknow carried out a survey which revealed that many people engaged in the agate (Akik) industry were suffering from this deadly disease. It was estimated that more than 30,000 people involved in the business directly or indirectly were suffering from this lethal disease, which unfortunately is incurable. This year alone it has claimed more than 16 lives and continues to go unreported.

Silicosis is the commonest and one of the most serious occupational disease. It is irreversible fibrosis of the lungs caused by inhalation of free silica dust. Initially, workers with silicosis may not show any symptoms. However, as silicosis progresses, even breathing becomes difficult and other symptoms such as coughing etc starts taking a toll. It does not stop here, this causes complications that results in fever, weight loss, and night sweats.

Director(s) Biography: Syed Fayaz is a British Chevening Scholar, equipped with a master level programme in Broadcast Journalism from Thomson Foundation, the training also included an attachment with BBC- Wales. He has worked with several news organisations and has been associated with various levels of production to make documentary films both for international channels like Channel 4, BBC, Discovery Europe and domestic channels.

Film Title: Development Flow from the Barrel of Gun, 54 Minutes, Hindi & English, Biju Topoo & Meghnath

Summary: This is a film on the human right violations of the indigenous people in India. The film documents the State violence on the people affected by development projects in the country.

Director(s) Biography: Biju Topoo has made six documentary films on issues concerning indigenous peoples.

Meghnath is an activist in the indigenous people's movement against destructive development. He is a founding member of Akhra, an organization that works with indigenous youth.

Film Title: Cute Bunny, 3 Minutes, Non-Verbal, Vishal Furia, 2002

Summary: The film is about basic civic sense and responsibility. It sends this message in such a simple way that even a child will get it. The character is Cute Bunny who eats a banana and throws the peel to the road even if he sees a litter bin. But Cute Bunny himself falls down after stepping into it. Cute Bunny realises the mistake and corrects it by putting the peel into the litter bin.

Director(s) Biography: Dhimant Vyas, director of Cute Bunny is the head of Developments (Animation) Toonz Animation India. He is a Diploma holder in Communication Design with specialization in Animation film Design from National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. He has a Diploma in Applied Arts from Kala Kendra College of Fine Arts, Gujarat. More than 10 outstanding TV commercials to his credit, Dhimant has won many awards. Cute Bunny won him Gold Award for Children short film in the Kalamazoo Animation Film Festival, 2003 and Award for best Animated film for children in the Zevs Animation Film Festival-Bimini, Latvia 2003. His other major awards include Pro-Max Award for MTV Spot 'HORROR' and Gold Award for BIONA-Y-SNORE, Regional Advertising Award, Bangalore.

Film Title: The Last Flight, 24 Minutes, English, Nutan Manmohan, 2004

Summary: Vultures are dying. Almost 95 per cent of their population has been wiped out in the last ten years. For four years, the film covered every investigation, travelling to all parts of India, following the trail of the mystery deaths. The culprit was finally nailed. It was Diclofenac a veterinary drug. Diclofenac enters the vulture body as it consumes the carcass and causes death by kidney failure. This was a case of a species being wiped out by a pharmaceutical drug.

The film starkly showed that vulture decline threatened the very existence of the rural farmer and made a strong case to phase out the drug.

Director(s) Biography: Nutan Manmohan began as an investigative journalist with TV Today in 1987. She scripted and directed several programmes for television, which includes a children's serial 'Zara Hat Ke'.

She was the Vice President, News & Current Affairs, Star TV from 1996 to 2000 and was associated with more several Current Affairs programs. She was the India Bureau Chief for Focus Asia, Star World. She is now a freelance journalist producing content for Discovery, National Geographic Channel, FOX News and the International Herald Tribune Television etc.

'The last Flight' won the Oriental Bird Conservation's - Wild Wing Award (UK).

Film Title: Shadows, 3 Minutes, Non-verbal, Vishal Furia, 2002

Summary: "Shadows" is a film that stresses on the consequences of destruction of nature and tries to put through that our existence is wholly dependent on the existence of nature and wildlife. The film puts its point in a very subtle way, using a plot of shadows created in a game of shadow play. The film was shot and edited in four days.

Director(s) Biography: Vishal Furia is a computer graphics and visual effects artist doing broadcast design for the last three years. Currently working with Zee Network, Vishal has also worked with CNBC-TV18. He has a keen interest in film-making and has also directed a documentary named "Prayaas" based on the Nashik Central jail. "Shadows" was his first film and was made as the final project film as a student for his certificate course in Visual Effects.

Film Title: Hitler, 25 Seconds, Non-verbal, Rani Jayaraj, 2005

Summary: Hitler killed several innocent people in gas chambers. Today lots of vehicles are polluting environment by expelling toxic gases. This PSM concentrates on the issue, saying that everyone responsible for pollution is as guilty as Hitler. To get compared with cruelty of Hitler will definitely hurt people and make them think.

Director(s) Biography: Rani Jeyaraj after a course in Journalism and a career as a model, which included representing at the Miss World contest in 1996, Rani decided to pursue a career as a filmmaker. She began her career in 1998 with the adman Prahlad Kakkar. After working with him for a year Rani joined the London International Film School. Rani returned to join Ramesh Deo Productions as an Assistant Director. Later she worked with an advertising agency, Saatchi and Saatchi. After grasping the workings of an agency she joined Trends Ad-film makers as a Director.

Film Title: Irony, 50 Seconds, Non-verbal, R sathya Narayanan, 2004

Summary: The movie starts with a view of the forest with birds chirping and slowly goes into felling trees. And as the felling gains momentum, the ambience sounds turns to more industrial. The machinery used for sawing trees and other processes is just indicative. The last part of animation reveals the irony in saving trees. The music at the last part puts the audience in a sober mood. Though a simple and direct theme, the movie justifies the need to look out for alternate ways in awareness generation, particularly in environmental aspects.

Director(s) Biography: R Sathya Narayanan started his career as Graphic Designer and Trainer in an institute, teaching animation and designing for students. He is a creative head by profession and had done formal courses and training in multimedia and filmmaking.

He is attached to a voluntary organisation 'Ramanujam Foundation for Agriculture & Human Potential Development', Chennai, as a volunteer. He has experience in teaching and creating awareness in environmental aspects to various target groups in Tamilnadu for over a period of five years.

Film Title: Experiment with Truth, 6 Minutes, Hindi & English, Amish Srivastava, 2002

Summary: The film focuses on pollution that forces us to confront ourselves and shakes our complacency. It mirrors life through a ruthless experiment conducted on an 18 month old child. But is the experiment so contrived? Is it really an experiment at all? The questions remain long after the last frame has dissolved into nothingness. What remains is the truth. Just as the director intended.

Director(s) Biography: Amish Srivastava, a television journalist who has done news journalism, television programming, documentaries and fiction during his nine years in the media. He has reported from the thick of Gulf war II, being the first Indian journalist to report from Turkey, Iraq and Kuwait.

Film Title: Fistful of Steel, 29 Minutes, Hindi & English, Leena Rani Narzary, Nidhi Bal Singh and Sabir Haque, 2005

Summary: The film aims to study the new developments that are being planned in the Eastern Yamuna River bed. It also documents the displacement of the peasants who are pushed to the fringes in the name of development.

The film centers around Yamuna River, the various ecological imbalances due to such construction on the riverbank. Five power stations, massive structures like Akshardham temple, Delhi Secretariat and all other legal but illegal constructions of the river bank, opens up a Pandora box of troubles casting a shadow of disbelief on Delhi.

This is an eye opener for every resident of Delhi, raising lots of questions regarding development.

Director(s) Biography: Sabir Haque has a M.A degree in Mass Communication from AJK MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia. Sabir has co-directed and edited many short films and documentaries and his works include 'Conflict in Crimson', 'As simple as that', 'Rhythms of Change', 'Sunday Market', 'Signatures of Silent Death', etc.

Nidhi Bal Singh does puppet show direction and directing documentaries. Her other works include, 'Colors of Tranquility', 'Rhythms of Change', 'Water for Peace', etc.

Leena Rani Nazary films include 'Colors of Tranquility', 'Rhythms of Change', 'Water for Peace', etc. Co-Scripted, Co-Directed Audio-Visual Production "Graffiti" on different kinds of graffiti and "Ouch" based on a poem by Ogden Nash.

Film Title: Leaving No Trace – Cyclist in the City, 15 Minutes, Hindi & English, Prayas and Manjushree Abhinav

Summary: We should all switch to riding bicycle this is the mantra of the film.

Seen through the eyes of the septuagenarian Gandhian Dasharath Shah, the film emphasizes the advantage of using cycles to commute with in the city instead of the pollution-spewing motor vehicles. Making a fashion statement, both college student and officer going in cities are gradually waking up to the beauty of this "2-wheeler" ride. Bicycling is the most healthy and safe mode of transport, provided the road rules are adhered to and is also being adopted by the army at AFMC, Pune.

Director(s) Biography: Prayas Abhinav is an artist, writer and activist working from Mumbai. His practice is strongly interdisciplinary – attempting to blend art, film, technology, drawing, poetry fluidly for fuller and more complete experiences. He dreams of establishing an open, sustainable and independent platform to reach his audience and interact with it. A lot of his works are accessible on his site [<http://www.prayas.in>]

Manjushree Abhinav is an alumina of Film and Television Institute of India, Pune with specialisation in Film Editing. She has made documentaries for various NGOs, like Oxfam and Utthan. She has taught in National Institute of Design (NID) and FTII as a faculty of the Film and Television discipline.

Film Title: Mindless Mining – The Tragedy of Kudremukh, 12 Minutes, English, Shekar Dattatri, 2003

Summary: In the Western Ghats of Karnataka, right in the heart of the Kudremukh National Park, a huge iron ore mining operation has been destroying the hills for over twenty years. Every year heavy monsoon rains wash the loose soil on the mined slopes into the Bhadra River, leading to erosion and siltation on a massive scale. Floods caused by this siltation and erosion leave a thick sludge of iron ore on the fields of farmers cultivating along the banks of the Bhadra, greatly reducing the fertility of the soil. While the hills have been stripped bare, a 100 metre deep valley has been filled to the brim with the tailings left over from iron ore extraction. This disastrous mining project is one of the worst examples of the rape of India's wild areas.

Director(s) Biography: Shekar Dattatri has been making wildlife and conservation films for over 20 years. His films have been aired on major channels worldwide and have received national and international acclaim. He has also contributed to several international productions as a wildlife cameraman. During the last few years he has worked closely with several conservation groups in the country to highlight pressing environmental problems through short video films. He was on the final Jury of Wildscreen, UK in 2004. Shekar was awarded the Rolex Award for Enterprise for his work in conservation filmmaking the same year

Film Title: Invocations to the Mountain Goddess, 64 Minutes, English, Christopher Rego, 2004

Summary: The Niti valley in the Garhwal Himalayas has been declared a protected area by the Government of India for conserving its natural biodiversity. This was disastrous for the pastoral Bhotiya community who live in the far flung mountain settlements scattered throughout the reserve. Deprived by new laws of access to the alpine pastures where their flocks once grazed, this proud tribe of shepherds has been forced to sell off the livestock wealth that formed the bedrock of their traditional way of life. Ironically, the Bhotiyas are not opposed to the conservation ethic itself - in fact, it was from these very villages that began the famous 'Chipko' movement, in which women "hugged" trees to stop timber felling by Government contractors.

Director(s) Biography: Christopher Rego a post graduate from Mumbai University did a course in direction from the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune. His professional work spans a wide spectrum of television series, both in fiction and diverse genres of non-fiction, as well as documentaries on social and environmental issues, educational and training films, corporate promotional films and advertising commercials. His films have been shown at several national and international film festivals.

Film Title: The Source of Life for Sale, 58 Minutes, English, K P Sasi, 2004

Summary: A documentary on the impact of privatization of water bodies in India and the subsequent struggles of the local people against the sale of rivers in Periyar, Malampuzha, Attappadi, Sheonath, Kelo, Ganga Canal and the River Linking Project and the protest of the local people against the impact of Coca-Cola production in Plachimada, Shivganga and Mehdiganj.

Director(s) Biography: K P Sasi started working as a cartoonist while being a student in JNU during the late seventies. He started experimenting with films on 8mm during the early eighties. His documentaries include 'A Valley Refuses to Die', 'We Who Make History' 'Living in Fear', 'In the Name of Medicine' and 'Voices from a Disaster' . His feature films include 'Ilayum Mullum' , on the social and psychological violence on women in Kerala, 'Ek Alag Mausam' and 'Shhh...Silence Please', a silent comedy film on development. His films have been screened and awarded at several national and international film festivals.

Film Title: Shivalik Monsoon, 25 Minutes, English, Rupin Dang

Summary: A first-time-ever close look into the life of the Paradise Flycatcher, certainly the most beautiful and widely, distributed bird of the Indian subcontinent. Sandwiched between two strong personalities -that of the brash, young and attitudinally-impressive Himalaya and the dusty-summery plains of northern India the film tries to pullout the old mountain range of the Shivaliks from its retirement in geography and geology text-books!

The Paradise Flycatchers have been filmed in the Shivaliks for the first time in intimate detail, along with all the other exciting denizens of their sylvan sub-Himalayan world, including the rare Pied Hornbill, the cliff dwelling Goral and the Orange-headed Ground Thrush.

Director: Rupin Dang is a wildlife lens-person, image archivist, filmmaker, commentator and observer of the natural world. He spends his time between Delhi where he works and in Uttaranchal during the summer and monsoon, and in Madhya Pradesh and Bhutan at all times of the year. He documents the birds, flowers and wild animals and places of India, and with the team at Wilderness Films India, have put together a large collection of stills photographs and over 3000 hours of HD and standard definition video content on the wild spaces of south Asia.

Film Title: A Hunter's Tale, 6' Abhishek Singh

Summary: An arrogant Hunter disturbs the peace in jungle by poaching animals at will. From the meek snail to the mighty elephant - all creatures are troubled by him. Upon realizing his mistakes, he seeks forgiveness and makes amends to restore joy and harmony back into the Nature.

The visual treatment of this film incorporates elements from classical Indian miniature art to achieve a lively yet traditional look.

Director: Abhishek Singh Born in 1982 in Gwalior, Abhishek Singh joined the Graduate Diploma Program in Animation Film Design at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad in 2000. He has an abiding interest in Comics, Mythology, Cinema, Music and Painting. He enjoys exploring possibilities in evolving a distinct Indian visual language. A Hunter's Tale is his first animation film., 6 Minutes, Non-verbal, Abhishek Singh

Film Title: Why Not?, 4 Minutes, English, Anitha Balachandran, 2003

Summary: A group of children begin to notice that their bus-stop is not quite what it used to be..., In fact they decide their whole city needs some cleaning up, and decide to do something about it!

“Why Not?” is an educational film communicating basic concepts in conservation in a 3 1/2 minute film for 4 to 7 year old urban children. It is intended for use in schools to initiate dialogue on urban environmental problems & appropriate solutions. The film combines cel animation, hand-painted backgrounds and digitally coloured characters.

Director: Anitha Balachandran studied animation at the National Institute of Design and graduated in 2003. She enjoys making films for younger audiences. Her student film *Pudavai* (Saree), was screened at several international film festivals; it was awarded a Special Distinction at the World Festival of Animation Films, Zagreb, Croatia, 2002 and a Jury's Special Award for Design at INSEA, Trivandrum, 2001. More recently, Anitha worked on films for 'Eternal Gandhi', a multi-media exhibition on Gandhi housed permanently at Gandhi Smriti, New Delhi. Anitha lives and works in Delhi.

Film Title: Walk on the Wild Side, 24 Minutes, English, Syed Fayaz

Summary: This film highlights the catastrophic decline of our natural heritage due to poaching, and urges people to do the one thing that every common citizen can do to preserve the country's rich natural treasure: stop buying wildlife and inform people about the vastness of India's biodiversity.

Syed Fayaz is a British Chevening Scholar, equipped with a master level programme in Broadcast Journalism from Thomson Foundation, the training also included an attachment with BBC- Wales. He has worked with several news organisations and has been associated with various levels of production to make documentary films both for international channels like Channel 4, BBC, Discovery Europe and domestic channels.

Film Title: A Silent Killer, 23 Minutes, English, Dhananjoy Mandal, 2003

Summary: Water is synonymous to life. As far as drinking water is concerned, ground water is a major source in many Indian states. The ground water drawn through tube-wells in 75 Blocks of eight Districts in West Bengal shows arsenic levels well above, the permissible limits. Out of the total eighty million population of the State, about twenty eight million are facing arsenic poisoning through drinking water. Till today, no antidote or cure has been found for arsenic. Arsenic free drinking water is the only preventive and feasible solution. As a long-term measure, treated surface water supply schemes are the only solution.

Director: Dhananjoy Mandal is a self-taught film maker who has worked with eminent film makers like Mrinal Sen and Goutam Ghose. He has 24 films to his credit. His films have been screened in numbers of national and international film festivals. 'Flavour of Craft', 'Bikalpa Shakti', 'For a Drop of Water', 'Sagar Towards Sunergy' etc are some of his important films.

Film Title: Leopards of Bollywood, 47 Minutes, English, Animitra Chakravarti, 2005

Summary: Leopards of Bollywood tells the frightening story of leopards that have struck terror in the suburbs of Mumbai, India's commercial and film hub, popularly known as Bollywood. Around the sets lurks a silent stalker. Coming to work can sometimes mean death. Who will be the next victim? Unfolding in the shadow of Bollywood is a fascinating real life plot. Leopards of Bollywood follow Prakash Thosre, a senior forest officer and a leopard specialist, who has been called in to the Film City of Mumbai to solve a nasty man-animal conflict. Leopards residing in the adjoining Sanjay Gandhi National Park have struck fear in the minds of the film crew and locals. There have been 44 attacks on humans.

Director: Animitra Chakravarti graduated from the Film and Television Institute of India and has been involved in editing, directing and producing television and films for 11 years. The first film he worked on "A Little War" won him the National Award. Animitra has also been an editor of various travelogue series like 'The Great Escape', 'The Real India Travel Show' and the environment series 'Living on the Edge'.