

CHANDIGARH VATAVARAN 2006

Thursday 24 August 2006 (9:00 to 11:00)

Film Title: The Policing Langur, 30', Ajay and Vijay Bedi

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: 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: Cute Bunny, 3', Dhimant Vyas

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: 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: Victims of Garbage dump, 10' Plan India

Summary: Through Rabia, an eight year old girl from the Bhalaswar slum of Delhi, the story focuses on the cycle of poverty, illness and deprivation that mars a population that makes a living out of sorting garbage at Delhi's largest garbage dump. Barefoot the children who search for things they can sell like iron, glass, plastic, rubber, copper, packaged food face a lot of health hazard. They are often cut and bruised by sharp pieces of broken glass, or hospital waste. They eat the packaged food thrown away by homes and companies. Most of the people in this slum suffer from various kinds of illness from TB to gastroenteritis, skin diseases or cholera. Apart from this life on the garbage dump is dangerous for children since they are often run over by the trucks and get injured. It depicts the life of people in this garbage dump slum area.

Film Title: Chasing Butterflies, 24', Gurmeet Sapal

Summary: This film is meticulously shot and will be one that provides a high degree of captivating detail on the life of a butterfly in the western Himalayas. The synergistic balance between the flora and the butterflies' life cycle vividly shows how even the smaller members of the natural world have a hectic regime of survival in nature's most extravagant show. The film, 'Chasing Butterflies', is an introduction to the dazzling beauty of butterflies in the region of Doon valley at the foothills of Himalayas. Since the film's target viewers happen to be children, a conscious attempt has been made to explain scientific terms in an easy to access style. The language of the film is day-to-day spoken Hindi so that a large number of children in India could be approached. 'Chasing Butterflies' lays emphasis on making the complex details simpler in a narrative that's close to children's grasp. Film's format was conceived after having a discussion with a focus group that consisted of both the children and teachers at a school in north Delhi.

Director: Gurmeet Sapal has worked as a Director, Producer, Cameraperson & Reporter. He had directed the Award Winning film 'Chasing Butterflies' at "Vatavaran 2002" the First National Environment & Wildlife Film Festival. Worked as Mountain & Wildlife Photographer - Writer for a Travel Portal called 'yatraindia.com'. Has also worked as a Photographer for Wahindia Magazine. Has worked as a Producer of 'Namaste from London' for "Newswallahs Ltd., as a Reporter with Zee India Television for English News,

Editor for DD Sports Channel, & 'Sports Classic' & also worked as a Reporter / Assistant Producer in TV AM for Subah Savere of DD 1. Is the Winner of the Zee TV Award in Electronic Journalism.

Thursday 24 August 2006 (11:30 to 1:30)

Film Title: A Brush With Death, 16' Syed Fayaz

Summary: The common mongoose is a fairly widespread species and placed fairly low in the hierarchy of protected animals in India and is listed under schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act. It has always been considered a friend of the farmer. Though occasionally known to prey on poultry, it offsets such damage by hunting the farmer's enemies — rats, mice and snakes. The mongoose is not a creature of forests. It is found in the open lands, scrub forests and cultivated lands. It lives in the thickets, groves of trees and fields or in burrows in the ground. This film also documents illegal procurement and sale of mongoose hair on which thrives the paint brush-making industry. As a result of which the mongoose is brutally killed and is on the brink of being declared extinct. Yet it is placed fairly low in the hierarchy of protected animals in India being listed in the Schedule IV of the Wild Life Protection Act.

Director: Syed Fayaz has worked as a Freelancer from October 2000 till date. Had directed & produced a short film named 'A Ray of Hope' on children in Jammu & Kashmir for Rajiv Gandhi Foundation/UNICEF, New Delhi. He has earlier worked as a Reporter in Sahara India Television, New Delhi, provided Research for possible first ever single shot film 'As the River Flows, shot on Steady-cam JR. The film was screened in Mumbai International Video Festival. He also received British Chevening Scholarship – Broadcast Journalist in 2000.

Film Title: CNG, 1'

Summary: This cell animation treated with water colours is a spoof on CNG (Compressed Natural Gas). It starts with a happy-go-lucky character who is riding up and down the hills on his scooter. He enjoys the adventure of coming down the hill. Sometime later, while going up the hill, his scooter suddenly runs out of fuel. It is slowly slipping down! He gets worried but then suddenly an idea occurs to him. He concentrates very hard, gives a lot of pressure to himself ...and whoosh... he takes off! This is when we realize how CNG can help us to go faster and stay healthier.

Director: Debanjan Nandy, says about himself: " I was brought up in the small town of Tatanagar in Jamshedpur. Since my childhood animation and films fascinated me. I loved watching movies, and after completing my schooling I came to NID to realize my dream. Being in my final year of animation film design, I must say that it is quite an experience to see and make a movie at the same time. Coming from a science background, I have an inherent sense of logical deduction and I enjoy analyzing and understanding a film, and the intricacies of it, especially the expression of emotion in a film".

Film Title: Spunky Monkey, 38' Draco Films

Summary: This is the story of two young bonnet macaques learning to cope with new situations. At the temple where they lived every festival was a feast. But now it is the lean season with no generous worshippers and the troop ventures into the nearby city in search of food. Suddenly faced with antagonism wherever they go, the young monkeys learn to beware of dogs, electric cables, and traffic. While the adults remain alert to every possible threat, the young ones find strange new city games. The Monkeys have quite naturally acquired human traits by living among us. This film documents the behaviour and adaptability of one of India's most charming primates—the bonnet macaque. From an educational and conservation standpoint, this film will enable people to see how some wild animals can and do adapt to changing environment, even an urban situation.

Director: Romulus Earl Whitaker has studied Wildlife Management from University of Wyoming in USA and further completed his Bachelors in Wildlife Management from Pacific Western University. He also has received many awards for his commitment for saving the wildlife. He has directed many documentaries like Hunter-Gatherers in the Space Age, Periyar, Banking on Crocodiles, Snakebite, A Cooperative for Snake Catchers., etc.

Film Title: Magic of life, 6' Gautam Pandey

Summary: Compassion and love are the main themes of the film. The marvelous and magical world of creation and the intricate threads that bind all living beings are the few things it touches upon, with the intention to teach, a simple lesson in life. This film is meant for the younger generation.

Film Title: A Second Hand Life, 26' Nutan Manmohan

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: 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).

Thursday 24 August 2006 (6:30 to 8:30pm)

Film Title: River Taming Mantras, 30' Sanjay Barnela and Vasant Saberwal

Summary: Large parts of Eastern India are subject to annual flooding. Over the last 50 years the 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 massive expenditure, losses due to flooding and the area that is now vulnerable to flooding has increased. 16 per cent of Bihar is now permanently waterlogged, a direct consequence of the construction of embankments.

River Taming Mantras explores the technological, economic and political rationale that underlies the adoption of such flood control measures. The film argues that because these rivers carry an enormous silt load, they have enormous power. Attempts to control these rivers are unlikely to succeed. On the other hand, the vast sums spent on the building and maintenance of these embankments provides endless opportunities for the siphoning of funds. Flood relief is a milk cow no one wants to see go dry. Ultimately, it is the poor people who suffer -migrating to other states, towns and cities in search of food and shelter.

Director: 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 du Cinema de Paris 2004. It also won the award for Best Editing at Miami International Short Film Festival 2004.

Film Title: Seasons of Sun, 20' Himanshu Malhotra

Summary: This short film traces the avian diversity of the Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur in India using the cycle of seasons which determine life in the Park. The Film starts with coming of the monsoons and introduces the viewer to the dramatic changes in the landscape. It also introduces the viewer to the history of the Park, its creation and its dependency on water from a dam. Visually the film explores the nesting cycles of various species like Egrets, Open Bill Storks, Painted Storks, Herons etc. The film also introduces the other faunal diversity of the Park like Pythons, Sambhar, Cheetal, Jackals, and Lizards. The Film then goes on to show the arrival of winters and the migratory species which visit the Park like the Bar headed and the Grey lag geese, the Common Cranes, various species of Ducks etc. It also gives the history of the Park as an ornithological site for experiments and talks about the Siberian Crane project.

Director: Himanshu Malhotra a Masters in Mass Communication from Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi. Over the years he has emerged as a film maker and cameraperson with expertise in environment and wildlife. His film on animal rights 'Are we so insensitive to life?' has earned him the Rishab Award. He also produced 'Heads and Tails' a series which investigated the various social and religious practices which subjected animals to cruelty. 'Siberian Crane Project in Bharatpur', 'Prakriti Ek Parichye' are some of his directed and filmed documentaries.

Film Title: The Source of Life for Sale, 58' K P Sasi

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: 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 festiv

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Film Title: Victims of Garbage Dump, 10' Plan India

Summary: Through Rabia, an eight year old girl from the Bhalaswar slum of Delhi, the story focuses on the cycle of poverty, illness and deprivation that mars a population that makes a living out of sorting garbage at Delhi's largest garbage dump. Barefoot the children who search for things they can sell like iron, glass, plastic, rubber, copper, packaged food face a lot of health hazard. They are often cut and bruised by sharp pieces of broken glass, or hospital waste. They eat the packaged food thrown away by homes and companies. Most of the people in this slum suffer from various kinds of illness from TB to gastroenteritis, skin diseases or cholera. Apart from this life on the garbage dump is dangerous for children since they are often run over by the trucks and get injured. It depicts the life of people in this garbage dump slum area.

Film Title: Shadows, 3', Vishal Furia

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: 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: Troubled Waters, 16' Mitali Dutt Kakkar

Summary: The film tells the story of the coral reefs of the Lakshadweep islands. It explains how this vital ecosystem came into being and traces the growth and diversity of the reef and the factors that contribute to its health and well-being. The film also shows how close this ancient ecosystem came to being totally destroyed in 1998 and the reasons for this devastation. The film ends with the current state of the reef, how it is regenerating, its importance to the world and the paramount need to protect it. The main thrust of the film is to show how all of nature is inter-connected and inter-dependent. Man is a vital part of the natural world and any destruction of the environment or any other living species will have serious consequences for all of us, perhaps threatening our very existence. The film enjoins all people to live in a manner that will help to conserve and safeguard the world's natural resources for the future of mankind.

Director: Mitali Dutt Kakkar is the founder of Reef Watch an NGO dedicated to Marine Conservation. She has done a Diploma in Mass Communication and CMAS 2 Scuba Diving Instructor. Her experience in filmmaking ranges from working as a Production Assistant with Genesis Film Production Pvt. Ltd to conducting education awareness, training and research in the field of marine conservation. She has been associated with making environment films for quite sometimes now.

Film Title: Rainwater Harvesting, 1', Nandita Das and Saumya Sen

Summary: This public service advertisement is to promote rainwater harvesting as the lesson from the past, which provides us the solution for the future. The spot revolves around the concept of catching rain in a neighbourhood, creating a cascading effect.

Director: Saumya Sen was Creative Director at Ogilvy & Mather, New Delhi, one of India's largest advertising agency, and a member of the worldwide WPP Group. Apart from winning acclaim at numerous Indian Advertising Award Shows, Saumya has to his credit two Silvers at the Asia Ad Fest, and finalist status at the One Show Awards in New York. The New York Festivals and the Clio Awards. His work on the Pulse Polio programme remains his favourite and most awarded. Saumya has recently set up an organization called LEAPFROG – a platform for creative artistes and communication professionals.

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Friday, 25 August 2006 (11:30 to 1:30)

Film Title: Birds Through My Window, 18' Rudransh Mathur

Summary: The month of May- the time just before the monsoons break in, is the month of nesting and a month in which all the birds suddenly came to life, for me. Making this film during my summer vacations opened my eyes to a whole new world of feathery creatures and I realized that just by being a little more observant and attentive to our surroundings, we can have so much company and fun. It was a thrilling experience to find that ours was not the only home in this compound. The film documents this experience of finding such homes, which were near my house, many of which I could see right through my window. My brother and I, we built many birds' trays and installed them all around our house. We put food on it every day and observed each and every bird that came and sat on it. We found many nests, and we also found out how difficult life is in the wild, how every thing is inter related- the birds, the animals and the seasons. There is a delicate web of life and we human beings should not disturb it.

Director: Rudransh Mathur was in Std.VIII student at Sanjeevan Vidyalaya, Panchgani when he participated his film in Vatavaran 2003 Film Festival . Being a computer buff, he is particularly interested in the technology end of film making. This new found passion has also made him a keen observer of his environment.

Film Title: A Hunters Tale, 6' Abhisheik Sing

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.

Film Title: Experiment With Truth, 6' Amish Srivastav

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: 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: The Policing Langur, 30', Ajay and Vijay Bedi

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.

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Film Title: Do Your Bit 25 sec, Anand Thakur

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: 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: Oozy Ozone, 10' TVE, UNEP

Summary: Ozzy Ozone is an animated film for raising awareness about ozone layer protection. This video takes a voyage of discovery to find out exactly who and what is attacking the ozone layer and how children can play an important role in making a difference.

Director: The film is produced by Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) and United Nation Environment Programme.

Friday, 25 August 2006 (3:00 to 5:30)

Film Title: Hunting Down Water, 32' Sanjay Barnela and Vasant Sabrwal

Summary: "These things look good only on television....things about economy and saving water and all that" say Nidhi and Madhur looking fresh after a rollicking rain dance party. Or take the case of Somabhai Patel of Memna village in Gujarat who owns 14 borewells on his agricultural land, "The water used to be at 100 feet below the ground just a few years ago, now it has gone down to 500 feet". Quotes that reinforce the fact that the present water crisis is largely a crisis of our own making. It is not about failing monsoons or the fact that parts of India are naturally dry. water is diverted from the rural countryside to meet the unending needs of India's urban population - not just for drinking, but also, to wash cars, fill swimming pools, to water amusement parks or simply to flush. The Municipal Commissioner of Mumbai reveals startling facts to bear this out. The facts are mind boggling!

Director: Sanjay Barnela and Vasant Sabrwal 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 du Cinema de Paris 2004. It also won the award for Best Editing at Miami International Short Film Festival 2004.

Film Title: A Second Hand Life, 26' Nutan Manmohan

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Film Title: A Shivalik Monsoon 25' 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: Yamuna, 27' Nandan Saxena

Summary: Yamuna, revered once as a mother goddess, has now been reduced to a sewer. The culture that knew how to co-exist with 'Nature' has been swamped by a consumerist culture where Nature is subservient to Man. The film focuses on the present state of the Yamuna and the cleanup initiated by the Yamuna Action Plan. The film is an attempt to profile the river, especially the most polluted stretch at Delhi. The causes of the pollution figure in the course of the narrative, as do the solutions. It is also an attempt at showing us the mirror for we all add to the pollution load by acts of omission and commission.

Director: Nandan Saxena has done Diploma in Journalism from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Delhi. He is into Direction, Camera, Editing (NLE) & Scripting. He has directed and produced several documentary films.

Film Title: When Atlas Shrugged Again by 20', Suparna Chhadda,,

Summary: A documentary made from the heart than the mind, depicting the wrath of nature, not withstanding the lines of control, in the ongoing conflict ridden state of Kashmir. Seven months after the quake hit the valley, A site visit to Uri (The worst hit area on the Indian side of the LOC) reveals the on going relief process, need of the hour and the future of the victims there. The documentary also tries to weave in the sentiment of the common man to live in harmony and to keep alive the spirit of Kashmiriyat that still exists in their hearts. Its a hope and a prayer that we may learn our lessons soon, so that Atlas may not have to shrug again one more time to shake us down to ground reality.

Director: The director Suparna Chadda , a discerning individual has been associated with various avenues of the media industry and is currently working with a private FM Radio station.

Friday, 25 August 2006 (6:30 to 8:30)

Film Title: Elephant God or Destroyer, 30' Krishnendu Bose

Summary: The film brings the 'big' conflict to the small screen and juxtaposes it with the reverence of elephant as God. On a cold winter night the villagers wait for the elephant herd to strike the paddy fields. 300 people die every year – trampled by these giants and the villagers get meager support with conventional arms to combat them - fire, crackers and beating of empty cooking oil tins. The film is also an exposition of the elephant habitat and behaviour, shot with special wildlife lenses and sitting through in hides.

Director: Krishnendu Bose worked for OBM Advertising Agency in Delhi for a short while and in 1988 went independent, making documentaries on conservation and development politics. He was invited by Environmental Investigative Agency, UK to attend the Elephant conference at Johannesburg in 1997 to present his film on Asian elephants. In 2004, Krishnendu was invited as a community film expert to participate in a workshop with youth in Togo, West Africa.

Film Title: The Last Flight, 24' Nutan Manmohan

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: 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: Indian Leopards –The Killing Fields, 53' Praveen Singh

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: 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.