

Sixth Kalpanirjhar International Short Fiction Film Festival
1 – 5 November 2008 at Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata

Short & Sweet – I, II & III

This is a selection of recent German animation films from the series *Short and Sweet* compiled by the **Goethe-Institut** and curated by **Robin Mallick** and **Carola Ferber**.

Drawing the Line

Dir: Hyekung Jung, Germany, 2006, colour, 6 min

A man is obsessed with the idea of drawing lines on all objects in his flat. Finally he begins to divide the objects according to the lines. After he has destroyed everything, his compulsion does not leave him any choice: he has to continue with the only thing that is left...

Awards: Filmbewertungsstelle Wiesbaden: "Short film of the month 2006"; Festival Internazionale del Cinema d'Arte Bergamo: "Mention of Jury"; Kasseler Dokumentarfilm- und Videofest 2006: Golden Herkules.

Der Kloane (The Runt)

Dir: Andreas Hykade, Germany, 2007, colour, 10 min

"Alright, I'll give you the runt. But you take care of it, and you kill it in one year," my uncle said.

Awards: Black Nights Film Festival Tallinn 2006, Grand Prix for Animation; AniFest Trebon, Czech Republic, 2007, Grand Prix for the best film; Kalamazoo Festival, USA, 2007, First Prize for independent works; International Trick Film Festival Annecy, France, 2007, FIPRESCI Award; Anima 2007, Cordoba, Argentina 2007, Grand Prix of the Jury; Rencontres du Cinema d'Animation de Wissembourg, France, 2007, Grand Prix; German Short Film 2007; Prize for best script, Festival of Animation Arts, St. Petersburg, 2007

Sonntag 1 (Sunday 1)

Dir: Jochen Kuhn, Germany, 2005, colour, 6 min

The first part of a series of Sunday excursions. In "Sonntag 1" we accompany the stroller through the city and discover astonishing things.

Award: International Trick Film Festival Stuttgart 2006

Fensterbilder (Window Images)

Dir: Bert Gottschalk, Germany, 2007, b/w, 6 min

Single images of 8-mm films are juxtaposed against facades of houses in a big city.

Awards: Best experimental animation film, Ottawa International Animation Film 2007; BMW Group Promotional Prize for editing, Montageforum Film + Köln 2007

Das Floss (The Raft)

Dir: Jan Thüring, Germany 2004, colour, 10 min

After a severe storm the sailors Marty and Ernest are floating on a raft somewhere in the ocean. Together they struggle to survive, but however when they catch a small fish it is revealed what real friendship is.

Awards: Premio Signor Rossi Award, Cartoonclub Rimini 2004, Italy Best Animation, Los Angeles International Short Film Festival, 2004 Base Film Festival, Best Animation, Barcelona, Spain Roshd Int. Film Festival Teheran, Iran, Golden Statue

Ego sum Alpha et Omega

Dir: Jan-Peter Meier, Germany, 2005, b/w, 7 min

Ego sum is thrown from nothing into a world, in which he steadfastly goes his way, robs himself of his own identity and becomes part of an alienated general public.

Awards: Filmbewertungsstelle Wiesbaden 2005, rated “highly commendable”; Festival der Nationen 2005, Ebensee Bear in Gold; International Trick Film Festival Stuttgart 2006, 1st Prize for the SWR-Audience Prize.

Cyber

Dir: Stefan Eling, Germany, 2007, colour, 5 min

Thanks to the transformation art of his living room setup, a man experiences trips at break-neck speed through virtual worlds till he finally disappears and one of the appearing opponents slips into his sandals.

Awards: Filmbewertungsstelle Wiesbaden 2007, rated “highly commendable” and film of the month

Tagebuch einer perfekten Liebe (Diary of a Perfect Love)

Dir: Sebastian Peterson, Germany, 2006, colour, 15 min

A young man, prototype of a loser, decides on his 29th birthday to change his life. He suddenly actually succeeds in everything. He quits his job, makes a career, meets the love of his life. Unfortunately, there is a catch.

Awards: 1st Prize, German Competition Short Film Week Regensburg/Germany; 1st Prize Experimental Award Short Film Festival Toronto 2001 Canada; Short Film of the Month June 2007, Alpinal 2007: Best Animation

The Ring of Fire

Dir: Andreas Hykade, Germany, 2000, b/w, 15 min

Two cowboys spend their days under the shadow of a rock, but venture into the dreamland in the nights to fulfil their desires. There they get carried away, meet dangerous and bewitching figures and finally get lost. When they leave the bazaar their life has changed for ever.

“I sank into a burning ring of fire. I sank deeper, deeper, deeper and the flames rose higher. And it burns, burns, burns, the ring of fire, the ring of fire.”

Awards: Grand Prix, Animation Film Festival Ottawa 2000; Prize for the best animation film, Filmfestival Sitges 2000; City of Melbourne Award, Film Festival Melbourne 2000; Francoise Ode Award, Short Film Festival Hamburg 2000; Prize for the best animation film, Avanca Film Festival 2000; Special prize of the Jury, Castelli Animati Festival 2000; Prize for the best animation film, Black Nights Film Festival Tallinn 2001; 2nd Prize for animation, Filmfest Dresden 2000.

_grau (_grey)

Dir: Robert Seidel, Germany, 2004, colour, 10 min

“_grau” fans memory fragments of a car accident and lets these seconds-fragments aesthetically pass by the observer; more sculptural than filmic memory units provide a very personal glance at the last few seconds of a life.

Awards: 2004 KunstFilmBiennale Köln: Honorary Award; 2005 Ottawa International Animation Festival: 1st Prize experimental animation film; 2005 Creative Futures (London, UK): Creative Review Magazine | Kategorie Animation; 2005 Filmfest Braunschweig: Best Film Combination Film/ Music; 2005 Fluxus Belo Horizonte: Best Film/ Audience Prize

Weiss (White)

Dir: Florian Grolig, Germany, 2006, b/w, 5 min

Deep in “white” monotony prevails. According to one definition, space is the lack of hindering contact. Complete standstill however, is death.

Mr Schwartz, Mr Hazen & Mr Horlocker

Dir: Stefan Müller, Germany, 2005, colour, 7 min

Due to disturbance of peace in an apartment house the provincial-minded Mr Schwartz calls the police. They first cannot find anything till a chain of unfortunate coincidences leads to a major chaos.

Awards: 2006: 1st Audience Prize in der section Animation: GoEast Wiesbaden; 2006: 2nd Prize of the Cinéfondation: IFF Cannes; 2006: Grand Prix for the best student film: International Animation Festival Ottawa; 2006: KlangMusikPreis: Filmfest Dresden; 2006: Winner of the Wiesbaden-Special-Short Film-Competition: Exground Filmfest Wiesbaden

Quercus

Dir: Vuk Jevremovic, Germany, 2004, b/w + colour, 12 min

A 2000-year-old oak tree narrates the story of its life

Awards: Filmbewertungsstelle Wiesbaden 2005: rated “highly commendable”

Drei Grazien (The Three Graces)

Dir: Hanna Nordholt, Fritz Steingrobe, Germany, 2006, b/w, 15 min

Starting with the sound track of the first ever recorded human voice, the three Faraday sisters optics, acoustics and writing visit different workshops of the 20th century in which humans couple themselves with machines in order to discover new circuits as artist-engineers.

Awards: Nominated for the German Short Film Prize 2006; Filmbewertungsstelle Wiesbaden 2006: rated “highly commendable”

Unser Mann in Niwana (Our Man in Nirvana)

Dir: Jan Koester, Germany, 2005, colour, 11 min

John, a famous Rock star dies in an accident during a concert and wakes up again in Nirvana. There he has to give in to his desires and deeds... and experiences many strange things.

Awards: Filmfest Dresden 2006: Golden Rider for animation film;
Berlinale 2006: Silver Bear

Award-winners from the USA

These award-winners from the USA have been specially selected for this Festival and made available by the **American Center in Kolkata**.

City

Dir: Topas Adizes, USA, 2006, colour, 8 min

An Iraqi cabdriver in New York has a candid conversation with a Wall Street passenger about Muslims and the post 9/11 world.

Awards: Aspen Shortsfest (2007): Jury Award: Best Short

Pop Foul

Dir: Moon Molson, USA, 2006, colour, 20 min

A boy sees his father attacked by a local thug on the way home from a Little League game and agrees to help hide the incident from his mother.

Awards: 33 awards, including American Black Film Festival (2006): Short Film Award; Washington DC Independent Film Festival (2006): Grand Jury Award; Student Academy Awards, USA (2006): Bronze Medal; Palm Springs International Short Film Festival (2007): Panavision Grand Jury Award; Boston Independent Film Festival (2007): Grand Jury Prize: Best Short; Berlin Black International Cinema Festival (2008): Festival Prize: Best Film/Video by a Black Filmmaker, Birmingham Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival (2007): Best Short Film

I Hate Musicals

Dir: Stewart Schill, USA, 2007, colour, 19 min

A guy who hates musicals is cursed to sing them.

Awards: Palm Springs International Short Film Festival (2007): Audience Award: Live Action; Park City Film Music Festival (2007): Gold Medal for Excellence

Quincy & Althea

Dir: Doug Lenox, USA, 2007, colour, 10 min

While the rest of New Orleans rebuilds, a bickering married couple searches for a divorce amidst the wreckage spawned by Hurricane Katrina.

Awards: 5 awards including Memphis International Film Festival (2007): Best Short Film; Magnolia Independent Film Festival (2007): Best Comedy First Run Festival (2007): Craft Award for Best Editing

4960

Dir: Wing-Yee Wu, USA, 2007, colour, 14 min

Aida and Josef try to communicate past the distance from point A to point B. An exposed space, clearly visible to snipers, prevents them from doing so.

Award: Slamdance Film Festival (2008): Jury Special Award

Deface

Dir: John Arlotto, USA, 2007, colour, 19 min

When you can't speak freely, rebellion is an art.

When a North Korean man is pushed to the edge by his daughter's senseless death, he risks his life to challenge the oppressive government, making his voice heard through an extreme and unusual action.

Awards: 9 awards, including Austin Film Festival (2007): Best Narrative Short Film; Birmingham Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival (2007): Audience Choice Award: Best Short Film; Hermosa Short Film Festival (2007): Festival Prize: Best Director; Palm Springs International Short Film Festival (2007): 2nd place: Best live action over 15 minutes

GenNext – I, II & III

As films by students of Film Schools in India and Europe are increasingly getting more and more recognition and acclaim at international film festivals, we decided to showcase a selection of such films in three parts under this category.

Absolution

Dir: Markus Sehr, Germany, 2007, colour, 15 min
ifs internationale filmschule köln

Thomas calls a Christian helpline and confesses to the counsellor Susanne that he has killed his wife, who was suffering from cancer. Yet she does not suspect the true intentions behind Thomas' call.

Bruder, Bruder (Brother, Brother)

Dir: Lars Kreyssig, Germany, 2007, colour, 11 min
Kunshochschule für Medien (KHM)

What starts off as harmless fun between 13-year-old Josh and his 9-year-old brother Alex soon turns into a power struggle in which Alex is eventually forced to fight for his life.

Solidarity

Dir: Mohammed Shakeel, India, 2007, colour, 10 min

Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata

A man shuffles between a group of thieves and policemen not knowing where he belongs. His confusion is synonymous to ours regarding 'good' and 'evil'. This film is an adaptation of Italo Calvino's short story 'SOLIDARITY'.

Echos of Silence

Dir: Reema Bohra, India, 2007, colour, 24 min

Film and Television Institute of India, Pune

About life and relationship... It's beauty and complexities... Loneliness and misunderstanding everyone carries their own world. After Akash's death Jahnabi becomes very lonely. There is no one in this huge house with whom she can share her thought... feelings... She always wanted to keep Pori by her side but it is Pori's future, which made Jahnabi strong enough to send Pori to a boarding school. Pori wants to live with her mother. She feels suffocated... She knows a truth but how to tell her Mom... that her father loved another woman... When Shantanu comes to meet Jahnabi, her whole world scattered in a second Pori, who is the centre of her tiny world, is Shantanu's daughter...

Dunkelrot (Dark Red)

Dir: Frauke Thielecke, Germany, 2007, colour, 11 min 50 sec

Hamburg Media School/Filmwerkstatt

Hannah and Erich, a couple in their early sixties, could live a happy and comfortable life – had Hannah not been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Erich, however, has come to terms with this situation...until one day an unexpected revelation puts his life to the test.

Das Mädchen mit den gelben Strümpfen (The Girl with the Yellow Stockings)

Dir: Grzegorz Muskala, Germany, 2008, colour, 6 min

Deutsche Film und Fernsehakademie Berlin

A young couple is spending the day in bed. He asks her if she wants to marry him. At first she says no...

Three of us

Dir: Umesh Kulkarni, India, 2007, colour, 14 min

Film and Television Institute of India, Pune

Forty-year old Yogendra is confined to his metal cot as he is severely disabled. His ageing parents love him to eternity but are afraid of what would happen to him after they are gone. Together they play the game of existence in a single room where they live. Three of us are the touching tale of the indomitable spirit of the Thakar family who play themselves in this beautiful film.

Awards: Grand Prix Grim Stand Norwegian Film Festival, Best Documentary; Trophy Curtas Vila Do Conde Film Festival, Portugal.

Rakhe Hari Banche Ravi (And God saved Ravi)

Dir: Korok Murmu, India, 2008, colour, 10 min
Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata

Ravi and Chabi has taken some money from the local Don, which they fail to return in time. Don kills Chabi and proposes one condition to Ravi to save his life.

Our Wonderful Nature

Dir: Tomer Eshed, Germany, 2008, colour animation, 5 min 10 sec
Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen “Konrad Wolf”

Two male water shrews fight over a female.

Stations

Dir: Emmanuel Palo, India, 2008, colour, 20 min
Film and Television Institute of India, Pune

It is a story of dysfunctional relationships, of characters who are emotionally detached and unable to fit with the world around them. It concerns about feelings of existential malaise and urban alienation, of immigrant reality of isolation and assimilation, of characters letting loose and moving on to a new setting and to a new life.

It is about the stations in life that people go through – birth and death, rites of passage, relationships, marriage and infidelities, dislocation and migration and homecoming.

Antim Adhyaya (The Last Act)

Dir: Tangella Madhavi, India, 2007, colour, 10 min
Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata

Maya is directing a film based on an incident that took place in her childhood. In the process of shooting and playing the lead role, Maya gathers the courage to tell her father that he was wrong.

Maya

Dir: Mohammed Shakeel, India, 2008, colour, 8 min
Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata

Based on Italo Calvino’s short story ‘The man who shouted Theresa’ this short film is about a salesman who shouts ‘MAYA’ in front of a building at night. Nobody responds yet he keeps shouting and soon he is joined by a postman and some goons. For a while they keep shouting together but when no one comes out of the building, they give up and leave on their own ways. This story is a metaphor for the meaningless endeavour called life.

Maya

Dir: Abhra Aich, India, 2007, colour, 3 min 39 sec
Kolkata Film and Television Institute

It is always a lonely afternoon for Maya, though she is often visited by a less known friend. The conflict comes when she tries to reveal his identity. Does her friend really exist or being created from her solitude; a soul trying to escape seclusion!

Les temps qui changent (The Times that are changing)

Dir: Thomas Oswald, Germany, 2007, colour, 5 min

Hochschule für bildende Künste Hamburg

Two friends on the balcony of a high-rise speaking about their old ideals, thus realizing their position in today's society.

Doppelzimmer (Double Room)

Dir: Erim Giresunlu, Germany, 2007, colour, 13 min

Konsthochschule für Median Köln

Mr Höfner is forced to share a hotel room with Manfred. It is late and all other hotels in town are fully booked. Their night together isn't going to be a quiet one.

When This Man Dies

Dir: Arun Sukumar, India, 2007, colour, 22 min

Film and Television Institute of India, Pune

The monotony of an office worker's life is disrupted when he receives a letter offering him money when a particular person dies.

As these letters and the promised money is delivered to him regularly, his other fixed daily patters start to alter, as does his life style.

Udedh Bun (Un-ravel)

Dir: Siddhartha Sinha, India, 2007, colour, 20 min

Film and Television Institute of India, Pune

I want to escape from this world, which asks for Duties, unavoidable confrontations and above all the reality itself. I want to fly ... through the mist... between the clouds... And vanish finally at the end of the horizon.

Awards: Silver Bear at the 58th Berlin International Film Festival 2008

Dhin Tak Dha

Dir: Shraddha Pasi, India, 2008, colour, 22 min

Film and Television Institute of India, Pune

GOPAL a garage mechanic accidentally meets a group of artists who perform in different villages. He is fascinated by this new life, but sooner he realizes that life is not easy for these artists. In his own way he tries to help them through their crisis. But this helps turns into a mistake. CHIEF the head of the group doesn't forgive him for this. Feeling guilty he leaves the group and returns to his garage only to meet them again 'accidentally'.

L.H.O

Dir: Jan Zabel, Kristof Kannegiesser, Germany, 2007, colour, 3 min 21 sec

Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen "Konrad Wolf", Potsdam-Babelsberg

Texas, November 1963: an employee in a school book directory . A rifle. An accident makes history .

Video 3000

Dir: Joerg Edelmann, Joern Grosshans, Jochen Haussecker, Marc Schleiss, Germany , 2006, colour animation, 5 min
Hochschule der Medien, Stuttgart

Rolf is very happy about his brand new "Video 3000" VCR. But while starting up he recognizes that the remote control is not working properly . Instead of controlling the VCR, the remote control affects the real world. While playing with the available buttons "Play", "Pause", "Fast Forward", "Fast Rewind", Rolf discovers another button he disregarded so far.

Wunderlich Privat

Dir: Aline Chukwuedo, Germany, 2006, colour, 9 min
Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin

Mr Wunderlich is on the dole and has a secret passion: wearing women's underwear. One day when the welfare police knock on his door, his passion becomes his doom.

Hara valele Indradhanushy (The Lost Rainbow)

Dir: Dhiraj Meshram, India, 2007, colour, 22 min
Film and Television Institute of India, Pune

Sameer, a young man of twenty eight, is taking his new bride to the ancestral temple to seek the blessings of the family deity as per (family) tradition. He is accompanied by his elder brother, his brother's wife and their little son Pratham. As he drives towards the village today, after a gap of nearly twenty years, he remembers the last time he and his elder brother, Nitin spent their summer holidays with their grandmother in this village.

It was the only year he shared his holidays with his brother. That year, an indelible scar had been etched onto his memory . A guilt that has been nibbling at his conscience... ever since.

And today , as he and his wife seek the deity's blessings, will he also seek his own salvation...

Award: Silver Conch at MIFF 2008

All Human Beings are Born Free and Equal...

This series on the theme of human rights has been put together by the "**Remembrance, Responsibility and Future Foundation**" and the **Goethe-Institut** and includes award winners from the Second International Short Film Competition with entries from several countries. Out of a total of 26 films compiled by the **Goethe-Institut** in this series, we are showing a selection of 11 films in this Festival.

Living on the Landing

Dir: Sabine Zimmer, Sandra Budesheim, Germany 2nd prize, 2007, colour, 15 min 26 sec

For twelve years, Monika, a woman who would "officially" be considered homeless, has been living on the top landing of a Berlin residential building. This is where she sleeps, spends her time and has furnished a little home for herself. To her, the

landing is a place that provides security, a place she has chosen for herself and a place she knows inside out – in a nutshell, a proper home.

The Healer

Dir: Katre Haav, Estonia, 2nd prize, 2007, colour animation, 3 min 28 sec

A man arrives in a town which is just as broken as its inhabitants. He helps the people and heals them. Eventually, however, the man can no longer bear the people's pain; it literally breaks him. Finally a woman appears and saves him: what goes around, comes around.

Gevald

Dir: Netalie Braun, Israel 2nd prize, 2007, colour, 17 min 31 sec

The film shows the current situation of the gay community in Jerusalem. Faced with the ultra-orthodox community's hostility and with only moderate support from the city council, the gay community attempts to assert its position within conservative Jerusalem society.

A Double Life

Dir: Aik Karapetian, Latvia 2nd prize, 2007, colour, 15 min

To what extent do social affiliation and financial wealth influence our lives? Aren't all human beings equal in respect of what they feel, sense and experience? How would your life change if you'd drawn a different lot.

Noroutine

Dir: Jurate Samulionyte, Lithuania 1st prize, 2007, 14 min

To break free from the constraints of society, to accept yourself and others as they are, to resist routines and norms, to think differently ... the white ribbon leads Henrikas to a place where routine and his being different are no longer important.

No Visa

Dir: Bartosz Paduch, Poland 3rd prize, 2007, colour, 16 min 28 sec

At a remote border checkpoint, the day is coming to a close. Suddenly, a cart arrives and the carter hops off and opens the barrier. The border patrol officers Edmund and Romek are forced to act quickly; after all, they have witnessed an illegal border crossing. But after their meeting with the mysterious arrival, Edmund and Romek will have to cross other barriers: the barriers in their minds.

Lisa

Dir: Andrey Stempkovsky, Russia 1st prize, 2007, colour, 13 min 52 sec

A young girl arranges a date by e-mail. She sends a young man a picture of herself. The photograph depicts a pretty profile. Lisa goes to the agreed meeting place and sees the young man from afar, but she doesn't allow herself to be recognised. She doesn't dare reveal the disfigured half of her face.

The Multiplication Table

Dir: Elena Demidova, Russia 3rd prize, 2007, colour, 16 min

An eight-year-old girl and a nine-year-old boy live in a remote village. Their way to school is long and must often be negotiated on foot. At school they experience a completely different world – the children read nice books and sing fun songs. It is loud and cheerful, but then the two children have to embark on the long journey home.

Rain

Dir: Marina Vroda, Ukraine 3rd prize, 2007, colour, 13 min

An old married couple lives on a remote farm. The story of their life together is told by the landscape, the street, the house, the farm, the old man's hat, the lunch bag and the washing on the line in the rain.

You Should have the Body

Dir: Michael Masarof, USA 1st prize, 2007, colour, 15 min 24 sec

Rahim Elahi lives the American dream. He owns a neat house and has a beautiful wife, who is expecting a baby. One day, Homeland Security officers appear on his doorstep and threaten to destroy this happy state of affairs. The family members are accused of being Muslim terrorists.

God Looks Like Me

Dir: Osato Dixon, USA 2nd prize, 2007, colour, 13 min

“God Looks Like Me” describes a day in the life of two children. We observe how they experience beauty and brutality.

Acclaimed shorts from France

This selection of acclaimed shorts has been procured from France specifically for this Festival by the **Alliance Francaise du Bengale**.

Les volets (The Shutters)

Dir: Lyèce Boukhitine, France, 2005, colour, 11 min

The shutters of a house in the distance are closed. Jeanne is asked to get them opened.

Du soleil en hiver (Sun In Winter)

Dir: Samuel Collardey, France, 2005, colour, 17 min

Michel is a farmer in the Franche-Comté. He spends the peaceful winter months spending time with his apprentice Francis. A strong friendship will bring them together.

Award: Special Price of the Jury Clermont-Ferrand 2006

Carlitopolis

Dir: Luis Nieto, France, 2005, colour animation, 4 min

A show in which Luis Nieto plays with his mouse Carlito leads us to reflect on the truth of images.

Award: Special Mention of the Jury Clermont-Ferrand 2006

Chambre 616 (Room 616)

Dir : Frédéric Pelle, France, 2005, colour, 22 min

The immediate consequences of Monsieur Cossé's attempt to commit suicide on the neighbourhood.

Les petits hommes vieux (Men from Outer Space)

Dir : Yann Chayia, France, 2004, colour, 13 min

Imagine, a short moment, that you are a young person, minority, in a world of old people. Worse again, imagine that the current situation is reversed in a few minutes. You awake one night and everything was reversed. Old people seized the power, they are more numerous, stronger and more malignant than you ...

La conductrice (The driver woman)

Dir: Carl Lionnet, France, 2004, colour, 10 min

A young woman tells us about her job as a driver, so little known...

Jeanne, à petits pas ... (Jeanne, Step by Step ...)

Dir : Négari Djavadi, France, 2005, colour, 15 min

Summer slowly draws to an end. Jeanne, in her sixties, stands abandoned by the roadside with her suitcase. As she has no place to go, she wanders through countryside that holidaymakers are leaving behind until she arrives at a deserted camping ground. A white caravan stands in the middle of it. The caravan belongs to Émile and Louis, two brothers in their seventies, who have begun to feel boredom setting in. Two men, a woman, and the autumn slowly creeping closer...

La pelote de laine (The Ball of Wool)

Dir: Fatma Zohra Zamoum, France, 2005, color, 14 min

In the early 1970s, Mohamed brings over Fatiha and their two children to live with him in a French suburb. Mohamed continues to work and keeps to his routine closing the door with his key. His wife and two children find themselves prisoners in their own house. Fatiha invents original ways to communicate with the outside world.

Le Bon numéro (The Right Number)

Dir: Aurélie Charbonnier, France, 2005, colour animation, 4 min

A young lonely woman is looking for her soul match in a public garden. Her mobile in her hand she receives a strange text.

Marcel !

Dir : Jean Achache, France, 2004, colour, 9 min

While looking at Marcel Duchamp's ready-mades at the Georges Pompidou Center in Paris, Zack and Seb realize that the bottle holder gathering dust in their parents' cellar is a spitting

image of a piece by the great artist. They then try to sell the object to a gallery, learning a lesson about art and stirring up a bit of a ruckus in the process.

Rosa

Dir: Blandine Lenoir, France, 2005, colour, 23 min

"Rosa, darling, it's not your fault. But you can see for yourself, neither of us has much work. So, we're going to find a wonderful lady to look after you. Everything will be fine, you'll see."

Independent Entries

It is encouraging that a large number of independent films are being made nowadays in India. In this section we have selected some of these entries received from different parts of India, along with two independent entries from Europe.

È Finita La Commedia

Dir: Jean-Julien Collette & Olivier Tollet, Belgium, 2007, b/w, 13 min

A parked car in a residential neighbourhood. A father and his son slowly set up a discussion. Love, sex, mother and death. An atypical connivance, a fusal relationship. Time goes by, tone rises and some questions stay in abeyance: what are they waiting for? And above all... what are they about to accomplish?

One Life of Shyamaprasad Sil

Dir: Sanjeet Chowdhury, India, 2008, colour, 4 min 41 sec

Sanjeet Chowdhury's video film offers vignettes of urban and family life, served with wit and irony. He engages with ideas of urban isolation and alienation within the confines of a commodified society as well as with the myths and realities of contemporary urban India and gives his audience an insight into the searching relationship between the artist and his choice of media. He documents the urban space and provides the solace of the familiar as well as the guilty pleasure of voyeurism. His subtle works take his audience to an illusory space beyond the image where time appears blurred and the linked metaphors suggest mystery in the familiar and mundane.

Shanu Taxi

Dir: Basant Nath, India, 2006, colour, 15 min

Sixty thousand taxis run on the streets of Mumbai. Each one has a story. Shanu has been driving a taxi in Mumbai for three years without moving up or making any money. He doesn't want much – just enough to be able to take his old Abu Jaan on the Haj one day. Late one night a passenger leaves an expensive mobile phone behind in his taxi. When Shanu returns it, he gets the phone as a reward. He could either sell it off or he could start using it. Perhaps, after three years of toil on the city's lonely streets, this is his chance to do better for himself and his family. Shanu Taxi is Shanu's little story, about his dreams, his taxi and his city at night.

You Got It

Dir: Shankar S, India, 2008, colour animation, 6 min 38 sec

Done in traditional 2D animation and packed with fun and wit, this is a tit for tat story. A naughty boy is up to his pranks every day ...he rushes at the cat, runs after the mouse, making life hell for them. And to top it all he makes it a point to juggle and throw away the eggs of a hapless duck who can do nothing but lament the end of her unborn ducklings. But one day the duck meets the mouse and together they are determined to teach the boy a lesson. The mouse puts his wit to use and comes up with an idea. He uses the same mousetrap with which the boy had trapped him and puts it in the duck's nest. And what happens is exactly what the duck and the mouse wanted it to be. They laugh and shake their hands in joy for the rogue has been rightly punished.

Being Positive

Dir: Tirthankar Guha Thakurta, India, 2007, colour, 5 min

Akash is a 24 year old man, a still photographer by profession. He spends his days snapping photographs, and the nights by developing the negatives into prints. To his utter surprise, he was diagnosed to be HIV positive when a doctor advised him to test for HIV, for some health problems. It shattered his dreams and aspirations painting his world blue. However, he met a lady, who was diagnosed to be HIV positive years back, and has been living a perfectly harmonious life since then. From her, Akash gets the inspiration to live, his negative shades turn positive once again, and he realizes that, what might have seemed to be a dead end, might actually be a new turn for a brighter beginning.

Recycle Mind

Dir: Manoj Maurya, India, 2007, colour, 25 min

A rolling stone gathers no moss; a typical situation with certain people who have not been rightly and timely oriented in life. A person who starts shuttling his profession for his sheer fancy and glamour, most of the times, is a failure in life. This is the underlying message of the film. The central character of the film is *Kabadiwala*, who has been invariably juggling with varied professions. People seldom realize that they would be a MISFIT if the area of practice were not pertaining to their qualifications and expertise. In a very satirical vein, the film brings to the fore various social issues like mass un-employment, career diversification, aftermath of prostitution and many more.

Our Friends the Ogres

Dir: Shankar S, India, 2008, colour animation, 8 min

Based on K G Subramanyam's *Our Friends the Ogres*, this film uses cut-out animation to bring to light the multiple layers of the artist's apparently simple story. It goes back in time when Ogres were ordinary human beings except that they ate nuts and bolts, stones and trees. Therefore they breathed out smoke. They trampled nature in their desire to resemble human-beings. This traumatized people who took the help of various corporations. The ogres were trivial bets for them as these corporations had virtually shaped human history before. They stapled and captured the ogres. And as the ogres raised a racket it was time for the Systems inc. to tackle the disaster. They knew how to turn problems into profits. They put the ogres to all the uses the modern humankind is familiar with. The ogres were turned to factories emitting steam, ironically the very reason for which the people needed to establish control over them. The only difference was that this time the project was about money and people had no problems with it. They had been able to tackle the ogres and put them to proper use. Our friends the ogres therefore still live among us.

Ghughuti Basuti (A Twinkle Behind a Closed Eye)

Dir: Geetika Juyal, India, 2007, colour, 17 min

A gifted child with immense potentials meets his fate that seems plotted all against him. A story inspired from the real situation of a kid in the hills of Uttaranchal, using the real people play the characters. The film reveals in the journey of this child in the short time as he undergoes the most difficult emotional period and runs away, finding the hope lost. His inherent nature makes him come back, not just for himself but for the others around, and then discover wonders around him. Life doesn't hold promises but some like Arun discover them in the dust. The film celebrates the spirit of children to go on.

Ayla, the Tsunami Girl

Dir: Wilma Ligthart, Netherlands, 2005, colour, 15 min

Sometimes Ayla still has nightmares. In December 2004 she and her family spent their Christmas holidays in Sri Lanka. From their hotel, they could see how the sea suddenly came higher and higher. An enormous wave, a tsunami, flooded the land. Ayla was lucky and was rescued from the floods. Now that she is back home, she feels alright and paints a lot. She still needs to come to terms with this experience, and it is going to take quite some time before she can play unconcernedly along the North Sea beach.

Filmfest Dresden 2008 at Kalpanirjhar

In this section we present six awarded films from Europe that were featured at the Filmfest Dresden 2008, selected by **Robin Mallick**, Director of Filmfest Dresden

apple & ei

Dir: Ahmet Tas, Turkey/Germany, 2007, colour, 6 min

In Berlin four times a week, eight hours a day, Turkish immigrants sing for an "apple & ei".

La Parabólica (The Parabolic Dish)

Dir: Xavi Sala, Spain 2007, colour, 12 min

During the broadcast of the Pope's visit to Spain, Vicente's television breaks down. Desperate, he decides to make a homemade parabolic dish, but he wonders if it is worth it.

Award: ARTE Short Film Award Filmfest Dresden 2008

Liebeskrank (Lovesick)

Dir: Spela Cadez, Germany, 2007, colour animation, 10 min

Pain from the heart, never drying tears and turned around heads are difficult but not impossible to treat.

Award: Promotional Film Award of the Saxon Minister of Art 2008

Uova (Eggs)

Dir: Alessandro Celli, Italy, 2007, colour, 5 min

A bicycle, groceries from a supermarket and a rush home. A morning like all the others.

Robin

Dir: Hanno Olderdissen, Germany, 2007, col, 20 min

When Sabine falls pregnant again, her eight-year old son Robin is temporarily sent to a home as everything proves to be too much for her. After his return, the situation has not improved in the slightest. Robin is desperately looking for a solution.

Award: First Steps Award 2008

Lavatory-Lovestory

Dir: Konstantin Bronzit, Russia, 2007, colour animation, 10 min

How love always arrives unexpectedly. The workplace is one such place for unforeseen eve

Capalbio 2008 at Kalpanirjhar – a selection

The ShortFilmFest in Capalbio/Italy was the inspiration behind starting the Kalpanirjhar International Short Fiction Film Festival in the year 2003. Since then there has been a regular tie-up and Capalbio Cinema International has been regularly making a selection of films from the latest edition of their Festival available for Kalpanirjhar.

Reise zum Wald (Journey to the Forest)

Dir: Jörn Staege, Germany, 2008, colour, 7 min

A poetic exploration of a German myth: the forest.

Alene Menn Sammen (Lonely Together)

Dir: Trond Fausa Aurvag, Norway, 2006, colour, 14 min

A boy loses and retrieves love, in the meantime he realises what's really missing in his life.

Award: Best Direction – International Competition 2008 Capalbio

Smáfuglar (Two Birds)

Dir: Rúnar Rúnarsson, Iceland, 2008, colour, 15 min

Two teenagers succeed in finding some remained innocence with each other.

Award: Nisida Award, Young People's Award 2008, Capalbio

Il cuore all'improvviso (Miranda's Journey)

Dir: Catherine McGilvray, Italy, 2008, color, 13 min

Award: Public Award 2008, Capalbio

El estado del miedo (The State of Fear)

Dir: Federico Arzeno, Francisco Alcaro, Argentina, 2007, colour, 11 min

El Chairó is an adolescent who worked his whole life as a farm labourer for El Vasco, a powerful landowner of the Argentinian Pampa. They are together crossing some cows through a lagoon when El Chairó disobeys El Vasco's orders.

Award: Tuscany Film Commission Award

La Deuxième Vie du Sucrier (The Second Life of the Sugar Bowl)

Dir: Didier Canaux, France, 2007, colour, 12 min

We follow an old bum in an urban setting while he picks up objects that we believe are useless. But appearances are deceptive... This grumpy old man reveals himself to be a magician. He invents a world of sound in order to illuminate the night of a little girl.

Award: Best Film – International Competition 2008, Capalbio