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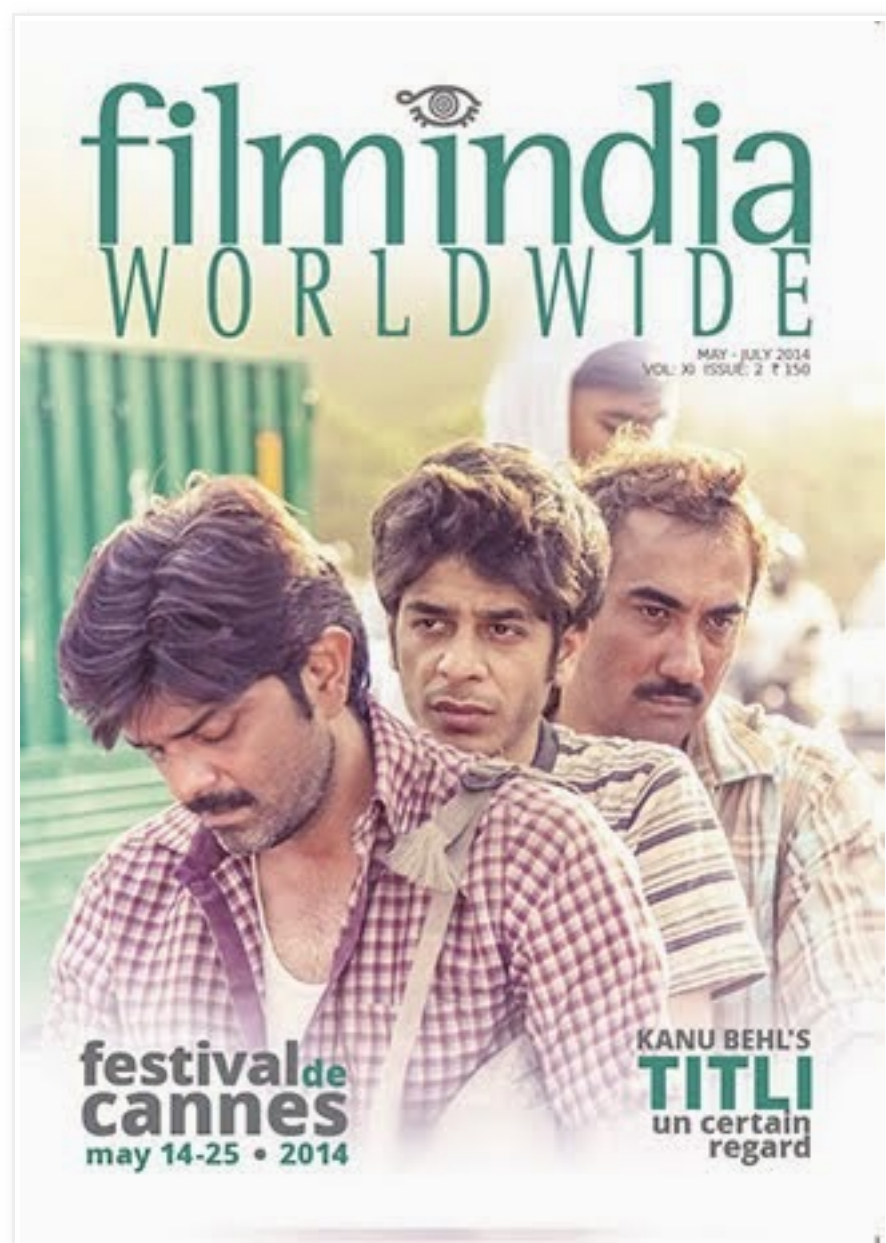
It's a growing refrain from film-makers. FIW links them to festivals, new markets and audiences. FIW is also a who's-where for the World interested in the Indian industry.

Good people Write in it. Debut work that's featured, big studio titles and art house cinema all report notice and benefit - so do those who direct, act in, shoot, cut and produce the films.

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Tuesday, May 21, 2013

## Cannes Short Film Corner

### Films made outside of India having an India connection

Devinder Paul Singh's **The Search**

Gauri Chadha's **Gawah**

Rajesh Naroth's **Flame**

Andy Mukherjee's **The Invention**

Kartik Singh's **Un Deux Trois Quatre**

Sonia Filinto's **Shifting Sands**

Vinod Bharathan's **Karma Currency**

Arpita Kumar's **Sita**

Tagore Almeida's **A God of Sinners**

Etienne Sievers' **Dilli Dreams**

Shuchi Talati's **Mae and Ash**

Shekhar Bassi's **Faux Depart**

Sushma Khadepaun-Parmar's **Clay**

Sameer Patel's **Long Walk Home**

Vick Krishna's **Table for Three**

Jai Rajani's **Awkard Turtle**

Gurmit Samra's **7 Reasons Why**

Hardeep Gian's **Rose, Mary and Time**

Irawati Athalye's **725**

Vikram Dhawan's **Foot in the Door**

Cyrus Saidi, Gautam Pinto's **Little Brother**

Marian Yeager's **The Good Samaritan**

Victoria Garza's **Stoned**

Salvatore D'Alia's **The Word Trader**

Aniruddha Chatterjee's **Sati**

Ashwin Nag's **Yaadon Ki Baraat**

Dolma Gunther's **Finding Manjushri**

### The Search

Canada, 2013, 7 mins, HD, English

Direction Devinder Paul Singh; camera Kes Tagney; script Anish Pallayal; cast Li Li, Melvin Downing

When John Woods' wife sends him a distress call from the library, he rushes there to find that no one is willing to help and that the library appears to be beyond the norms of human experience.

India-born Devinder Paul Singh moved to Canada in 2003 to pursue his MBA. His debut short *Take Out* was inspired by Canada's multi-culturalism. Singh, follower of Hitchcock, Kubrick and Wilde, wishes to tell stories that are emotionally satisfying and intellectually stimulating. He says, "Being in Cannes in 2011 impacted me a lot. I hope that my film being at the Short Film Corner will attract more audiences and I will learn from its feedback."



- ▶ September 1 - September 8 (4)
- ▶ August 25 - September 1 (1)
- ▶ August 18 - August 25 (1)
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- ▶ August 4 - August 11 (4)
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- ▶ June 2 - June 9 (1)
- ▶ May 26 - June 2 (1)
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- ▶ May 12 - May 19 (5)
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## Gawah

India, 2012, 22 mins, HD Hindi

Direction, script Gauri Chadha; camera Dullep Regmi, Sudip Sengupta; editor Tushar Shivan; music Adil Prashant; cast Palak Bharat Chawla, Jayesh Dhakan, Shalini Agarwal

**Gawah** takes the viewer into the grieving minds of victims who went through the 1947 India-Pakistan Partition, the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks of 26/11 and the 2011 serial blast film won the Best Documentary Film Award at 2013 Bhopal International Film Festival.

Delhi-born (1986) Gauri Chadha moved to Dubai with her photographer father. She graduated from the University of Miami in Film and Theatre Studies and then enrolled at London's Met Film School at Ealing Studios. She has worked for Bollywood and Hollywood, Chadha has worked for films such as Mission Impossible-Ghost Protocol, G. Month and David. She has six short films, a short feature film and a documentary to her credit. She says, "It is an honour for my film and myself to be present at Cannes. With such an international platform at your disposal, I am very excited for this experience. I feel very proud to represent India at such a prestigious festival."



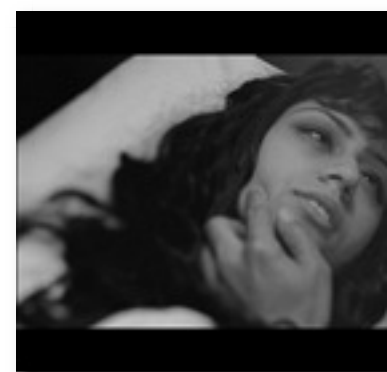
## Flame

USA, 15 mins, HD, English

Direction, screenplay, music Rajesh Naroth; editors Rajesh Naroth, Ashay Javdekar; camera Unni Raveendranath; cast Deeghra Sahni, Tanish Chandraprakash, Priya Pillai, Sonu Bains, Neethu Abhilash

Two former lovers, Soni and Rameez have a chance meeting with each other after separating several years earlier. Soni is a divorcee and Rameez, a family man. The narrative cuts between two periods as the former couple struggles to rekindle an old flame.

Rajesh Naroth, independent filmmaker based in San Francisco, despite no training in filmmaking or music, has made several shorts, music videos and composed music for other films. Flame marks his debut in mainstream cinema. He is currently working on a feature film named 7.5 Saturn. He says, "It is a great start for the film to be present at Cannes International Film Festival. I am honoured and nervous. I hope that this gives us an opportunity to bring Flame to a much wider audience."



## The Invention

UK, 2013, 13 mins, HD, English

Direction, script Andy Mukherjee; camera Mark Polazewski; producer Tushar Sapkal; cast Matheus Guimaraes, Carl Leroy

Brad, a jobless alcoholic, is also a closet homosexual. A chance encounter with Kevin, a research student, makes him face his inner desires. But the question remains on how to overcome his longings.

London-based Andy Mukherjee was raised in Nagpur, India. He has been making films since 2002. He attended a short film course in London's Academy of Radio Film and TV. He has produced/directed many short films that have screened across UK. He is currently working on a feature film. He says, "Cannes is probably the most revered film festival in the world and it is a great opportunity for giving a platform to not only established artistes but also newcomers like me."



Posted by Uma da Cunha at 4:34 AM No comments:

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Thursday, February 28, 2013

## FROM AFAR – FIW Vol X Issue 1 (February-April 2013)

### Jadoo

(Magic)  
Amit Gupta  
United Kingdom

**Jadoo**, a British film set in Leicester, has a world premiere private screening at 2013 Berlinale. Amit Gupta has written/directed the film (his debut film Resistance garnered him the Writers Guild's Best First Film Award nomination). **Jadoo** tells the story of two brothers, Raja and Jagi, both wonderful chefs, who fall out and tear the fabled family recipe book in half. One brother gets the starters and the other gets the main courses. Setting up rival restaurants on opposite sides of the road, they spend the next ten years trying to outdo each other. Each one can cook only half of the perfect Indian meal, which drives them mad. The daughter of one of the brothers, a successful London lawyer, is getting married. She goes to Leicester to try and reconcile her father and uncle so that they are one family again, and besides, their combined talent can come together to serve the perfect feast at her wedding, food here a metaphor for family. The DOP is Roger Pratt (**Inkheart**, **The Karate Kid**), the music score is by Stephen Warbeck (**Shakespeare in Love**, **Billy Elliot**). The film stars Amara Karan (**Darjeeling Limited**), Harish Patel (**Run Fatboy Run**), Kulvinder Ghir (**Bend It Like Beckham**), and Madhur Jaffrey (**One Day, Parades End**), with celebrity chef/actress, Madhur Jaffrey. **Jadoo** is produced by Richard Faber (Resistance) Isabelle Georgeaux (**Resistance**) and Nikki Parrott (**The Market: a Tale of Trade**).



## **Sandcastle** Shomshuklla

Well-known theatre personality, writer and poet, Shomshuklla, is ready with her first feature film, Sandcastle. The 82-minute film is in Hinglish (a mix of Hindi and English). It follows Sheila, a home-maker, an aspiring writer and a loving mother. From an outsider's perspective, she appears to have an enviable life: a successful husband in the corporate world, a lovely home, a place in elite upper middle-class society, an adorable daughter and a supportive family by her side. Her brother keeps urging her to be less docile and stand up for herself. She evolves as a writer encouraged by her publisher Kaushik. It is only then that she discovers that her married life has flaws. She develops an alter personality, one she would like to be as against the one she is. She seeks to rebuild her life, in the way sand castles are created on a beach. "The women of today are the women of the 60s and even the 90s. My film shows them in a new light - the women of changing India".  
credits: direction, story, script, production and art design, Shomshuklla. Cinematography, Ritam Banerjee. Music, Ankur Mukherjee. Editing, Shashi Kumar. The cast includes Shahana Chatterjee, Malvika Jethwani and Uditvanu Das. The film is produced by Bhaskar Das. Shomshuklla, raised in Kolkata, started her career as a pop singer and cut nine albums, followed by a stint as a columnist with Asian Age and the online, kolkata.com. She has published poems, both in Bengali and English. She staged nine plays, one of which travelled to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She now lives in Mumbai with her husband and son. Among her other interests are painting and the reflective verses of Rumi.



## **Alex Hindustani**

Raja Bundela  
India

This Hindi film takes the unusual stance of seeing two sides of the enemy. The film's byline is 'The Englishman who rebelled against the British Empire'. The year is 1925. James Anderson is posted in Central India as the political agent to His Majesty's government. When his ailing wife dies in England, his only child, Alex Anderson, comes to India. Pyarelal Suman, personal assistant to Anderson, is entrusted with the task of introducing Alex to his alien surrounds and also keep him safe from insurgents. On one such foray, Alex meets the daughter of a prominent freedom fighter and develops a liking for her. This causes dissension among the locals and Alex is kidnapped. On his release, Alex makes it clear which side he is on. Alex Anderson becomes the India patriot, Alex Hindustani. Produced by Omkam Films, the film's DOP is Rajesh Joshi. Its music is by Uttam Singh. The distinguished cast includes Tom Alter, Om Puri, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Yashpal Sharma and Sushmita Mukherjee. Making his acting debut in the lead role is young James Alter, the son of the accomplished Tom Alter.



## **One Track Heart: The Story of Krishna Das**

Jeremy Frindel  
USA

Showcasing in the Santa Barbara International Film Festival's Cinesonic section, this film tells the story of Jeffrey Kagel, who in 1970, gave up all he had in suburban Long Island and travelled to the foothills of the Himalayas, where he studied under Neem Karoli Baba. He later emerged as Krishna Das, the world-renowned chant master and spiritual leader, helping to bring what he had learned to the West. The film follows his journey to India and back, witnessing his struggles with depression and drug abuse, to his eventual emergence as Krishna Das. Brooklyn-based Jeremy Frindel earned a BA in Film Scoring from the Berklee College of Music in 2001. He has worked as an editor and sound editor on films such as Junebug, Some Kind of Monster, and Bernard & Doris. One Track Heart: The Story Of Krishna Das is his first feature film. With a music score by Devadas, this is the inspiring story of how one man's heart-expanding journey continues to transform lives.



## **Blood Brother** - Documentary

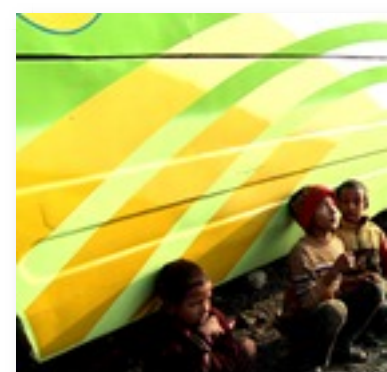
Steve Hoover  
India, USA

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize as well as the Audience Award in the documentary section of the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, this 92-minute documentary is directed and edited by Steve Hoover and co-written by him alongside Phinehas Hodges and Tyson VanSkiver. It follows Rocky Braat who went to India as a disillusioned American tourist. When he met a group of children with HIV/AIDS, he decided to stay on in India. He never could have imagined the obstacles he would face. Or the love he would find. Rocky Braat plays himself and Steve Hoover is the narrator. John Pope is the cinematographer. The original music is by Danny Bracken, A J Hochhalter, Keith Kenniff, Joseph Minadeo. The sound effects editor is Ken McGill. The film is produced by Danny Yourd.



**Bibek**  
Purab Kohli  
India, Nepal

This 38-minute short film shot in Nepal is the tale of a feisty street-kid, Bibek, living in Kathmandu, who scams all and sundry to survive and pay for his addiction to cheap inhalants and local alcohol. After conning a few tourists of their money, he works as a ticket taker on a night bus to return to his hometown, Pokhara. Once there, he sees some Buddhist monks accepting alms. Realizing that they have money, he senses a target. He gets the bright idea to start renting a bicycle by the hour to a novice monk. During their cycling sessions, Bibek begins to confront his own identity as a khatay (a derogatory word for street kid). He talks of his drug-addicted brother, his own drug use and his hopele time with the novice monk leaves a lasting impression on Bibek. The cast, from Nepal, includes the lead Bibek Tamang, Bhawan Thapa (both then age 11) and Krishna Lama. The DOP is Pooja Sharma. The music by Rahul Pais and Sally is editor. Producer Pamela Sciantarelli has also written the screenplay. The post-production handled by Prime Focus. Director/producer Purab Kohli has made his name in India as an actor with his latest date being Abhishek Kapoor's **Rock On!!** Purab has starred in nearly 20 films and hosted television shows. He looks forward to making feature films.



**Gawah**  
(Witness)  
Gauri Chadha  
Dubai, India

This 22-minute documentary is on the psychological trauma of victims of the horrific events of the 1947 India-Pakistan Partition, the 26/11 terrorist attack in 2008, and the July 13 serial blasts in Mumbai in 2011. It captures the agony of the distraught minds of these sufferers. Do these memories ever fade away or is one entrapped in the devastating times? Gauri says, "On a cold Thanksgiving dinner in London, my attention was glued to the news flash of friends and family, concerned about their loved ones in Mumbai. 26/11 had taken over an entire city. A severe curiosity came from within me to feel connected to these victims. When all the news coverage went away, absolutely nothing! The aim was to bring these voices on a global platform across cultures." Chadha believes that the medium of film is the most powerful for creating change. She says, "It transcends through all borders, cultures and barriers." Gauri Chadha studied at the Met Film School at Ealing Studios in London, breaking its record of the highest applicant accepted. Shuffling between Hollywood and Bollywood projects such as **Mission Impossible** (2011) and **Gandhi of the Month** (2012), she now has six short films, a short feature and a documentary in her repertoire.



**Outlawed in Pakistan**  
Habiba Nosheen and Hilke Schellmann  
Pakistan, USA

From the sub-continent, this film (2012, HD Cam, 39 mins) screens at the Short Film program of the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. It is also one among the eight films selected for support from JustFilms, the Ford Foundation's social justice film fund launched in 2011. JustFilms is providing major support to eight independent films selected for competition that will premiere at Sundance this year. Outlawed in Pakistan revolves around a 17-year old Pakistani girl, Kainat Soomro, who is fighting a case against four men from her village who allegedly gang-raped her. She has to face a deeply flawed criminal-justice system in Pakistan. Spanning over five years, the story is told through the perspective of Kainat and the men accused of her rape. Habiba Nosheen and Hilke Schellmann have also handled the camera, sound and production. The editing is by Hemal Trivedi. Habiba Nosheen is a New York-based multimedia journalist and Schellmann is a video journalist for The Wall Street Journal.



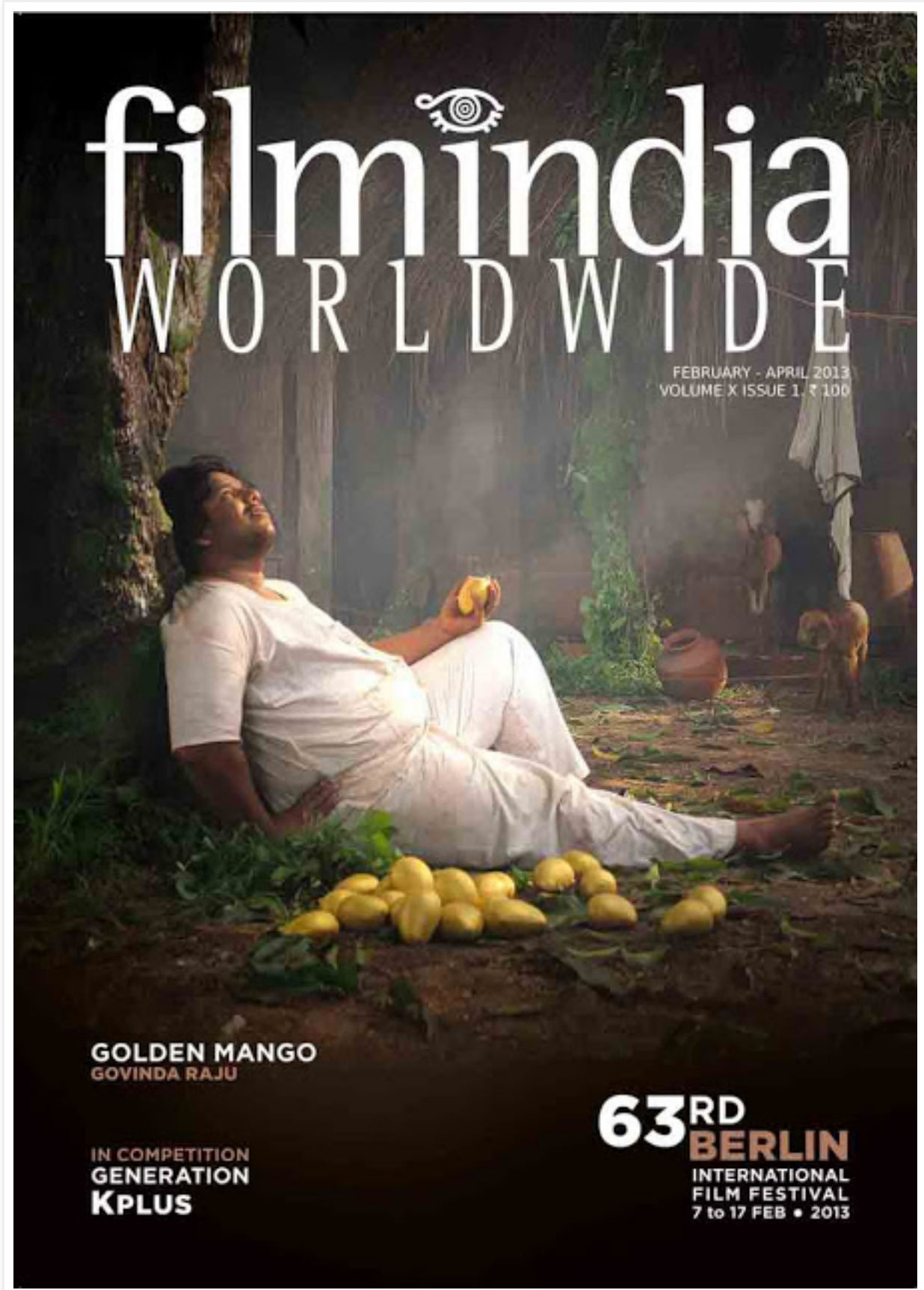
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Monday, February 4, 2013

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#### **FROM THE EDITOR**

The 63rd International Film Festival of Berlin held shortly after Rotterdam's 42nd edition both set a high bar for the quality of films that emerge worldwide at the start of the New Year. The two fortuitously cover a wide range of genres and styles, from art house, to the academic, to big-budget films and the red carpet parade.

This issue of **Film India Worldwide** highlights the many roles that India plays at the 2013 Berlinale. It features selections from the festival, including Abhishek Kapoor's **Kai Po Che** on today's youth and their aspirations, presented by leading producer UTV, and from the UK, Kim Longinotto's stirring documentary **Salma**, set in South India. The International New Cinema showcases two exceptional documentaries, Sourav Sarangi's **CHAR...the No-Man's Island** and Mustafa and Deepti Kakkar's **Powerless**. Deepa Dhanraj's **Kya Hua Is Sheher Ko?** screened at the festival when it was made, returns this year in its digitalised version in Archives Live. Generation Kplus takes Gagan's student exercise **Golden Mango** in competition. Importantly, the Talent Campus selects five fresh cinematic talents from India to provide them with the highest forms of mentorship. Finally, the India Pavilion managed to become a hub for India-centric aficionados.

2013 Rotterdam selects four outstanding films made over the past year along with two striking documentaries. Cinemart takes four promising Indian producers, selected at the NFDC Film Bazaar, for expert guidance in production and marketing.

This issue also covers a collection of new films from and about India, just ready or or nearing completion. I write on Indian cinema. Critic Saibal Chatterjee comments on the trends in the Hindi marketplace and Peter Bussian talks of his fruitful journey at Film Bazaar and other markets.

The year rolls out its carpet for new Indian cinema.

**Uma da Cunha**

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This Berlin Special issue contain the following segments, some of which cover the latest news, ready or in the pipeline or films in different genres.

**India at the 63rd International Film Festival of Berlin**

**India at the 42nd Rotterdam International Film Festival**

**India at Recent Fests**

**Bollywood: The Ranbir Kapoor effect** by Saibal Chatterjee

**Festival Touchstone**

Goutam Ghose's **Shoonyo Awnko**

Sudhir Mishra's **Inkaar**

Kamalwesar Mukherjee's **Meghe Dhaka Tara**

Rajeev Patil's **72 miles Ek Pravas**

**Debut**

Rajiv B Menon's **One Raised to the Power of Five**

Raghu Jeganathan's **500 & 5** Manoj Kana's **Chayilyam**

Sandipan Roy's **Ekla Akash**

Shital Morjaria's **All I Want Is Everything**

**Film Bazaar and other co-production Markets** by Peter Bussian

**Language Landscape**

Bejoy Nambiar's **David**

Bidyut Chakravarty's **Dwaar-Voyage Out**

Devashish Makhija's **Oonga**

Anwar Rasheed's **Ustad Hotel**

Mukesh B Jadhav's **Kachru Maazha Baap**

Sanjeev Sivan's **Venal Odungathe**

**Big Pic**

Vishal Bhardwaj's **Matru Ki Bijlee Ka Mandola**

Kamal Haasan's **Vishwaroopam**

**From Afar**

Amit Gupta's **Jadoo**

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Steve Hoover's **Blood Brother**

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Gauri Chadha's **Gawah**

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**Cinema Read**

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