



Marathi Competition

Sangala

Bottom Water

2024 | 85 Minutes

Marathi

Colour, Black & White

India

Director: Raoba Gajmal

Producer: Raoba Gajmal

Cast: Anil Dabhade, Balu Batule, Jyoti Gangvane, Narayan Pawar, Dilip Wagh, Raoba Gajmal, Nitin Munde, Krushna Ganjave

Screenplay: Raoba Gajmal

Cinematographer: Anil Bade

Editor: Bharat Jadhav

Sound Designer: Prashant Kambale

Music Composer: Asit Sakpal

Costume Designer: Shudbam Paikrao

Production Designer: Rameshwar Deore

Production Company: Rangfauj Production

Synopsis:

Sangala is an inspiring story of the hardships of an elderly self-respecting farmer in the drought stricken region of Marathwada (Maharashtra).



Raoba Gajmal was born on 10 January, 1990, in rural Maharashtra. He has completed his education in performing arts from Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. He is a professional actor, writer and director. *Sangala* is his debut feature film.

Director's Biography:

Director's Selected Filmography:

2024 Sangala



Marathi Competition

Cineman

Cineman

2024 | 103 Minutes

Marathi

Colour

India

Director: Umesh Mohan Bagade

Producer: Sumit Patil, Umesh Mohan Bagade, Sarita Paste

Cast: Kishor Kadam, Prithviraj Chavan, Badi Siddharth, Richerd Klein, Ricky Wood

Screenplay: Umesh Mohan Bagade

Cinematographer: Abhishek Shete

Editor: Sourabh Prabhudesai

Sound Designer: Kshitij Yadav

Music Composer: Rushikesh Kulkarni

Costume Designer: Amruta Khandekar

Production Designer: Akash Zende

Production Company: Addventure Productions, Birdboy Entertainment

Festivals: Kolkata IFF 2024 | Ajanta Ellora IFF 2025 | Third Eye Asian FF 2025

Synopsis:

Anand, a voluntarily retired teacher, has initiated a movement to screen films for school children in remote villages. Recognizing the power of cinema as an educational tool, he continues to promote film literacy despite facing public opposition. For the past 10 years, Anand and his Children's Film Club have been running an innovative initiative to teach children through cinema. His work catches the attention of a young filmmaker named Omkar, who decides to document Anand's efforts. As Omkar films the process, Anand's struggle to bring quality cinema to children is revealed. During one screening in a remote village, the power goes out midway through the film, leaving the children to watch only half. It's here that Anand meets Ankur, a talkative, mischievous, and intelligent 9-year-old boy. While conversing with Anand, Ankur recounts the story of the incomplete film, which leads the narrative to take an unexpected turn. The journey, which began with Anand's love for cinema, eventually unfolds into an adventurous connection between two distant worlds, bridging the gap between cultures and stories from Hollywood to the village.



Director's Biography:

Umesh Mohan Bagade is an Indian filmmaker who focuses on concept writing and direction, with 7-8 years of experience in films, TVCs, short films, and documentaries. Fascinated by the art of storytelling through audiovisuals, he chose this path as his profession. His short film *Anahut* won the Filmfare Best Film Audience Choice Award in 2018, and *Chaukat* was selected for the Indian Panorama at the International Film Festival of India 2016, both screening at prestigious global festivals. Through his production house Addventure Productions, he has produced, directed, and written numerous TV commercials. His debut feature film, *Cineman*, represents a significant milestone in his career, showcasing his passion for innovative and impactful cinematic storytelling.

Director's Selected Filmography:

2024 *Cineman*
2018 *Anahut* (short)
2016 *Chaukat* (short)



Marathi Competition

Giran
Giran
 2024 | 97 Minutes
 Marathi
 Colour
 India

Director: Vijay Shrirang Khude
Producer: Vijay Shrirang Khude
Cast: Bhakti Dilip Ghogare, Ravindra Palkhe, Faizal Sayyad, Chhaya Aadat, Sadhana Kashid, Atul Sabale
Screenplay: Vijay Shrirang Khude
Cinematographer: Ansar Khan
Editor: Vijay Shrirang Khude
Sound Designer: Zamir Tamboli
Music Composer: Abhishek Kate
Costume Designer: Bhakti Ghogare
Production Designer: Faizal Sayyad
Production Company: Mohit Films Baramati

Synopsis:

In the Mang community, the day after a Giran (eclipse) concludes with a unique tradition. A newlywed girl bathes at sunrise, visits a prominent villager's house, and donates as part of a ritual. Villagers, in turn, give her stale food and clothes, believing that such donations transfer their crises to the Mang society, ensuring the village's well-being.

This practice is depicted in the story of Guna, an eight-year-old girl raised by her uncle after losing her parents. Married into the household of Babu Manga, her husband, Santaya, is an addict. Superstition dominates the village; illnesses are treated with rituals instead of medical care. Guna manages the household out of fear of her husband.

When her mother-in-law falls ill, Guna recalls her late mother's promise and resolves to end harmful customs. She secretly removes the ritual items from her home and discards them in water, symbolically breaking the cycle of superstition.

The film highlights the struggles of the Mang community, emphasizing the need to preserve culture while rejecting superstitions.



Director's Biography:

Vijay Shrirang Khude was born in Niravagaj, a village in Baramati taluka, Pune district, Maharashtra. He completed his schooling up to class 10 in his village. His interest in storytelling began in school, directing a play, *Sasu Varchad Jawai*, which reached the district competition while he was in class 4. In 2008, he co-directed the film *Koyta*. In 2017, his short film *Freedom* won awards for Best Short Film, Best Actress, and Best Actor at festivals in Kolhapur, Phaltan, Pune, and Aurangabad. He followed this with the short film *Black Game*, which also won multiple awards. He later directed a web movie, *Walit*, now available on YouTube. In 2023, he wrote a story based on his childhood and decided to produce and direct *Giran* independently.

Director's Selected Filmography:

2024 *Giran*
 2021 *Black Game* (short)
 2017 *Freedom* (short)
 2008 *Koyta* (short)



Marathi Competition

Magic

Magic

2024 | 135 Minutes

Marathi

Colour

India

Director: Ravindra Vijaya Karmarkar

Producer: Raju Satyam

Cast: Jitendra Joshi, Jui Bhagwat,

Siddheerupa Karmarkar

Screenplay: Yogesh Vinayak Joshi, Abbashek

Deshmuk, Ravindra Vijaya Karmarkar

Cinematographer: Kedar Vishwanath Phadke

Editor: Dinesh Pujari, Nainesh Dingankar

Sound Designer: Rahul Gurung

Music Composer: Devendra Bhome

Costume Designer: Santosh Shridhar

Gawade

Production Designer: Mahesh Gurnath

Kudalkar

Production Company: Tutri Ventures

Synopsis:

Magic is the story of Arun Raut, a high-ranking encounter specialist wracked with the immense guilt of mistakenly killing an innocent man during a bust in Mumbai. Seeking to escape his inner turmoil, Arun takes a post in a small village to create a new life with his pregnant wife, Seema. However, this peaceful life is rattled when Arun meets Riddhi- the daughter of the man that he had killed. She claims to be in the village to start fresh with her twin sister and appears unaware of Arun's identity. Arun drowns in his paranoia, convinced that Riddhi seeks revenge for her father's death. As Riddhi becomes close to Arun's family he's left battling between hiding the truth from his wife and uncovering Riddhi's true intentions. Arun's mental anguish spirals out of control, plunging him into dark, gritty depths that compel him to act in ways that betray his true nature. Through this harrowing journey, Arun finds redemption and closure striving to make amends for his past actions.



Director's
Biography:

Ravindra Vijaya Karmarkar has worked as a television Director for the past 15 years, especially known for his award-winning work for 'Best Director' on the popular Marathi show *Aai Kuthe Kay Karte* which is the remake of the legendary Bengali series *Sreemoyee*. He was also an associate director on *Rege* and *Thackrey* which were both commercially well received and critically acclaimed Marathi feature films in the theatrical runs.

Director's Selected Filmography:

2024 Magic



Marathi Competition

Nirjali
Nirjali
 2024 | 118 Minutes
 Marathi
 Colour
 India

Director: Swati Sadashiv Kadu
Producer: Sandeep Balasaheb Lokhande
Cast: Dattu More, Swati Kadu, Hemant Pharande, Hanumant Shinde
Screenplay: Swati Sadashiv Kadu
Cinematographer: Ajay Bhalerao, Rahul Zende
Editor: Saumitra Dharasurkar, Titiksha
Sound Designer: Vikrant Pawar
Music Composer: Niranjan, Sagar
Costume Designer: Swati Sadashiv Kadu, Shreedevi Jinjrute
Production Designer: Akash Ashok Shinde
Production Company: Chitrawari Productions

Synopsis:

The film portrays the undocumented lives of the Pardhi community, a marginalized tribe in Maharashtra labeled as "born criminals" during the colonial era. Despite 75 years of Indian independence, their socio-economic conditions remain unchanged. The Pardhi are a nomadic tribe deprived of land, housing, education, and stable professions, often linked to theft and robbery.

The story follows a teenage girl determined to become a teacher despite facing personal, familial, social, and cultural challenges. Her journey highlights the systemic barriers faced by the Pardhi community. The film delves into issues such as their struggle to prove Indian citizenship, lack of education, and societal neglect.

It also examines broader societal dynamics, including caste discrimination in schools, exploitation of farm laborers by landlords, and the politics of dominance in rural settings. Through these layers, the film critiques the indifference of governance toward marginalized groups while presenting a chain of events that offer hope for transformation within the Pardhi community.



Swati Sadashiv Kadu was born into a farm labourer family and completed her education while working as a labourer. She pursued studies in journalism and has been involved in reading and writing for many years, publishing two anthologies of poetry during her college years.

Director's Biography:

After observing the challenges faced by the Pardhi community, she spent three years studying their issues at the ground level. This research led her to create her first film, *Nirjali*, which explores the living conditions and questions surrounding their lives.

Director's Selected Filmography:

2024 Nirjali



Marathi Competition

Raavsaahab

The Tiger

2024 | 138 Minutes

Marathi

Colour

India

Director: Nikhil Mahajan

Producer: Nikhil Mahajan, Swapnil Bhangale, Akshay Bardapurkar, Prasanna Ajarekar, Josh Studios

Cast: Jitendra Joshi, Mukta Barve, Mohit Takalkar, Sonalee Kulkarni, Priyadarshan Jadhav, Sagar Deshmukh, Mrunmayee Deshpande, Rashmi Agdekar, Sahyadri Malegaonkar, Snehalata Tagde, Shubham Ugale

Screenplay: Nikhil Mahajan, Prajakt Deshmukh, Shripad Deshpande, Jeejivisha Kale

Cinematographer: Amey Vasant Chavan

Editor: Hrishikesh Petwe

Sound Designer: Baylon Fonseca

Music Composer: Amitraj

Costume Designer: Sachin Lovalekar

Production Designer: Amit Waghchaure

Production Company: Blue Drop Films, Planet Marathi, Anashwar Media and Entertainment, Josh Studio

Festivals: IFF India 2024

Synopsis:

In the heart of the deep forest, a timeless battle brews between greed and preservation, capitalism and conservation. Brave officers face off against a cunning mafia in a struggle that transcends mere human conflict. But as the jungle's very soul hangs in the balance, will they stand united to protect the delicate harmony between humanity and wildlife? *The Tiger (Raavsaahab)* tells the story of the man-animal conflict between tribals and the tiger from the perspectives of various uniformed and non-uniformed civilians - all fighting against a system built seamlessly to ensure that the environment will always suffer. It is also a revenge film where multiple protagonists fight for justice for a tribal girl and in the process end up uncovering a much bigger, much more sinister truth.



Director's
Biography:

Nikhil Mahajan is a National Award Winning Filmmaker based in Mumbai, India. He is a graduate in film from The IFS Sydney. Nikhil is a writer, producer and director. *Pune 52* (2012) is his debut. *Godavari* (2021), is his latest directorial venture that opened at Vancouver IFF before travelling to NZIFF. It also won two awards at the International Film Festival India, Goa making it the first Marathi film in history to win two awards at a major International Film Festival. *Godavari* also earned Nikhil the coveted Suvama Kamal for Best Direction at the National Film Awards in 2022.

Director's Selected Filmography:

2021 Godavari

2015 Baji

2013 Pune 52



Marathi Competition

Snow Flower

Snow Flower

2024 | 112 Minutes

Marathi

Colour

India, Russia

Director: Gajendra Ahire

Producer: Rekha Bhagat, Deepak Kumar

Cast: Chhaya Kadam, Vaibhav Mangle, Sarfaraz Alam, Manwa Devendra Bhagwat, Adamchuk Oksana Nikolaevna

Screenplay: Gajendra Ahire

Cinematographer: Krishna Kumar Soren

Editor: Anant Kamath

Sound Designer: Sagar Sathe

Music Composer: Gajendra Ahire, Prachi Rege

Costume Designer: Deepti Devendra

Production Designer: Deepti Devendra

Production Company: Seven Feathers Studio

Festivals: IFF India 2024

Synopsis:

In the beautiful village of Kokan, India, Bablya resides with his parents Digya and Nanda. Despite their pleas, Bablya is determined to join a Dashavtaar theater group traveling to Russia, convinced it offers a better life. This choice strains his relationship with Digya. In Russia, Bablya builds a life, falling in love with an Indian-Russian woman. They have a beautiful daughter and work at a pub until tragedy strikes—an altercation leads to their untimely deaths, leaving their daughter, Pari, orphaned. Upon hearing the news, Digya and Nanda rush to Russia, discovering Pari in a foster home. Hindered by regulations, they fight to bring Pari back to Kokan, India. Amidst memories of Bablya's happy home, they arrange his last rites with the help of Chandu, Bablya's friend. Permission granted, they bond with Pari, but their attempts to integrate her into Kokan fail. The school principal advises that Pari belongs where she can flourish. Despite resistance, Nanda realizes Pari's rightful place is in Russia, where she ultimately returns her, acknowledging that Pari can only thrive where she truly belongs.



Director's Biography:

Gajendra Vitthal Ahire is an Indian Marathi film maker. He has 65 movies on his name and has contributed as Director, Story, Screenplay, Dialogues, Lyrics and as a Music composer. He is noted for his work in Marathi Cinema including a *Not only Mrs Raut* (2003), biopic *Vasudev Balwant Phadke* (2007), *Anumati* (2013), *Postcard* (2013), *The Silence* (2015), *Pimpal* (2017) and has won numerous awards in India and globally including Indian Panorama at IFFI, Goa and National Award. He has won (Rajat Kamal) Silver Lotus award and achieved international breakthrough when he directed *Not only Mrs Raut*.

Director's Selected Filmography:

2024 Signature
2017 Pimpal
2015 The Silence
2013 Anumati
2006 Shevri
2003 Not Only Mrs Raut