

Program Schedule

Bhutan CMSVATAVARAN Film festival & Forum on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Action
 In collaboration with
Norbuling Rigter College, Paro, Bhutan
November 07, 2022

SLOT	Auditorium	Executive Centre
09.30 hrs 10.00 hrs	Registration	
10.00 hrs 10:30 hrs	Inauguration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felicitation of Guests • Welcome Speech by NRC Representative • Setting up the context by Sabyesachi Bharti, DD, CMS VATAVARAN • Guest of honour address • Keynote address by Canadian High Commissioner/representative • Inaugural film screening: • Vote of Thanks 	
10:30 hrs 11:00 hrs	Tea Break	
11:00 hrs 13.00 pm	FILM SCREENING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kokota-The Islet of Hope: 00:29:02/ English, Swahili/ Craig Norris/ Canada • The Climate Challenge: 00:23:15/ English/Rakesh Rao/ India • THE PYTHON CODE: 00:28:45/German and English/ Andreas Ewels /Germany • Tibetan Harvest: 00:23:00/ English/ Jasraj Padhye /India 	Impact Filmmaking Masterclass By Rakesh Rao (Documenting Science and Environment Issues - Pole to Pole)
13:00 hrs 14:00 hrs	Lunch Break	
14:00 hrs 16:30 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy (un) Holy River: 00:59:52/ Hindi & English/ Jake Norton, Pete McBride / USA • Operation Sumatran Rhino: 00:44:00/ English/ Chris Annadorai /Singapore <p style="text-align: center;">VALEDICTORY FUNCTION</p>	



Film Screenings, Norbuling Righter College, Paro November 7

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Kokota-The Islet of Hope | ENGLISH | 00:29:02 | Craig Norris

AWARDED: Awarded in International Climate Change: Adaptation & Mitigation

SYNOPSIS: Kokota – The Islet of Hope explores climate change adaptation projects taking place on a tiny chain of islands off the east coast of Africa. This short introduces viewers to people that are on the front lines of climate change and tells the story of how these unlikely heroes have managed to innovatively adapt to a warming climate. This film promises to leave audiences inspired and motivated to bring climate change adaptation action back home to their own communities.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Craig Norris is an award winning documentary Filmmaker, Photographer and Founder of Video Band Productions. His projects primarily focus on issues that relate to the environment, conservation and climate change.



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The Climate Challenge | English | 00:23:15 | Rakesh Rao

AWARDED: Award in Indian - Best Film on Climate Change: Adaptation & Mitigation

SYNOPSIS: We are on the brink of a Climate Crisis. There is empirical evidence of changing climate across the planet. The worst affected regions facing the brunt of climate change are the Cryospheric regions of the world (Arctic, Antarctic and the Himalayas) and the Oceans. The Arctic sea ice cover has declined over 30 percent in the recent years and the region is also noticing rapid thawing of permafrost. The oceans are becoming acidic. Scientists are now using the latest technology and braving some of the harshest conditions on this planet only to investigate these effects of changing climate. The film takes you on a journey documenting these scientists conducting research in the Arctic, Himalayas and the Southern Ocean and experiencing some lifethreatening situations to get the scientific data.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: A Photographer/ Filmmaker and a science enthusiast specialises in documenting scientific expeditions and research activities. His recent film “ The Climate Challenge” won the Best Science Film award at the International Science Film Festival of India.

He has spent 14 months over a span of 3 years in the icy continent of Antarctica to document the construction of the third Indian Scientific Station ‘BHARATI’ at Larsemann hill, Antarctica. He also developed a documentary film following the Indian scientist researching on the high altitude glaciers in the Himalayas region. He was also part of the NASA Spaceward Bound India Expedition to high altitudes regions in Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir. His work has been published in a book “90 Degrees South” and several of his photographs have been a part of international photo exhibitions.



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THE PYTHON CODE | German | 00:28:45 | Andreas Ewels

AWARDED: Awarded in International Wildlife Conservation (Upto 40 Min)

SYNOPSIS: The Python is a fascinating animal. But the fashion industry is hunting for these beautiful snakes. Its skin is coveted for luxury goods of all kinds. Hundreds of thousands of snakes are killed annually in Asia and shipped to the fashion industry in Europe, America, Japan and China.

A German-South African scientist now has an idea to control especially the illegal snake trade. An extremely exciting documentary, filmed under difficult conditions, which also documents the lives of the catchers and shows the illegal trade routes. A closer look at the snake skin industry - as it has never been shown.



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Tibetan Harvest | English | 00:23:00 | Jasraj Padhye

NOMINATED: Nominated in Indian - Water Conservation

SYNOPSIS: The largest Tibetan Refugee community in the world inhabited is located at Doeguling, 50 km from Hubli, in the Mundgod panchayat, Karnataka. Doeguling is a challenging place to stay for Tibetans with its hot and arid climate and scarcity of water. According to a report by the NITI Aayog, Karnataka is the second state after Rajasthan where water levels are depleting at an alarming scale.

To tackle the water crisis, Tenzin Thakpo, Chairman of the RDTs water committee successfully implemented rainwater harvesting projects in the Tibetan refugee camp which recharged their bore wells. Realizing that neighbouring Indian villages are also facing the same water crisis, Tenzin, then, reaches out to the parched Indian villages and offered to help recharge their bore wells using the same technique. This initiative by the Tibetan community is not only staged to benefit over 3,000 village households but also has strengthened ties between the two communities.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Jasraj Padhye is an award-winning filmmaker from Mumbai, India. After completing his MBA in Marketing from the University of Mumbai, he pursued short courses at the Film and Television Institute of India and Whistling Woods International where he studied videography and screenwriting respectively. Jasraj completed his Masters in Fine Arts in Film and Media Art at Emerson College, Boston in 2018. Jasraj has written, directed and produced over 15 short films. His short films have been played at prestigious film festivals and have grabbed multiple awards including the Audience award in Beijing and the National Award in the USA.



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Holy (un) Holy River | English | 00:59:52 | Jake Norton, Pete McBride

NOMINATED: Nominated in International - Conservation 4 Water

SYNOPSIS: Although once celebrated for its purity, The Ganges now carries contaminants from its glacial headwaters, where freshly fallen snow contains zinc from industrial emissions. Downriver, the river is dammed 16 times (with another 14 dams under construction) to provide hydroelectric power. Water is diverted for agriculture and other uses, and the 500 million people in the Ganges basin further pollute the river with household trash, industrial waste, raw sewage and the remains of the dead. Still, the Hindu faithful seek to cleanse away their sins by bathing in the holy water. As the title suggests, Holy (un)Holy River examines the paradox of a sacred river treated so profanely that its existence as a river, as opposed to an open sewer, is in question.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Native Coloradan Pete McBride has spent two decades studying the world with a camera. A self-taught photographer, filmmaker, writer, and public speaker, he has traveled on assignment to over 75 countries for the National Geographic Society, Smithsonian, Outside, Esquire, Microsoft, The Nature Conservancy and many more.

Jake Norton is a world-renowned climber, photographer, filmmaker, philanthropist, and inspirational speaker. Based in Evergreen, Colorado, Jake's worldwide adventures have taken him to the summit of Mount Everest (three times) and on expeditions on all seven continents.



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Operation Sumatran Rhino | English | 00:44:00 | Chris Annadorai

NOMINATED: Nominated in International - Wildlife Conservation

SYNOPSIS: This wildlife conservation documentary showcases the Borneo Rhino Alliance (BORA) in their do or die mission to save Malaysia's critically endangered Sumatran rhino - there are less than 100 of them remaining in the world, with just a few left in Malaysia. Operation Sumatran Rhino documents BORA's incredible quest to find all remaining Sumatran rhinos in the rainforests of Sabah and breed them before it's too late – a critical operation that's charged with emotion, danger, tragedy and hope

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: I am a television producer and director, who for the last 12 years has created engaging factual content for international broadcasters such as National Geographic Channel, Discovery Channel, History Channel (AETN), ESPN, Al Jazeera and others.