

**22nd Kalpanirjhar International  
Short Fiction Film Festival  
21 to 25 April 2025**

**22<sup>ND</sup> KALPANIRJHAR INTERNATIONAL SHORT FICTION FILM FESTIVAL**  
**21 to 25 April 2025**

**Monday, 21 April 2025, 4.00 pm**

*We need to reboot*  
*Opening film*

**RE-ROUTING**

Dir – Kankana Chakraborty  
India, 2025, 35:00

The film centres on two individuals trapped in self-centred and claustrophobic lives. Their chance night-long encounter forces them to confront their inner struggles and opens up the possibility of 'Re-Routing' their own lives through empathy and redemption, even in the most challenging circumstances.



**THE PREMIERE**

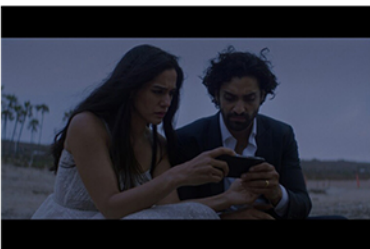
Dir – Toma Wazarow  
Bulgaria, 2024, 19:00

On the evening of the premiere of his new film, the director is curious to learn what the audience and critics think, when an unexpected guest suddenly turns up...

**FADING FRAMES**

Dir – Götz Raimund  
Austria, 2024, 23:00

A conversation between observer and observed turns into a question of integrity and beliefs.



**A NEWLYWED STORY**

Dir – Renu Razdan  
USA, 2024, 13:00

Naina celebrates her wedding anniversary attempting to restore a wedding-night-gone-wrong... chasing the "happily ever after" she was promised. Will Monty accept her need for social validation? Can they embrace a path forward, or will it be over...forever?

**Tuesday, 22 April 2025, 4.00 pm**

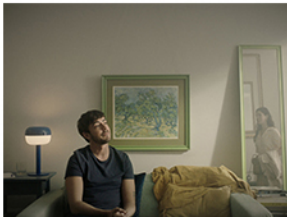
***Human Rights and Inclusivity***

**THE CANON (EL CANON)**

Dir – Martin Seeger

Chile, 2023, 19:00

Jean, a Haitian migrant in Chile, is admired everywhere he goes. His body represents all the classical values of the academy. However, in the anonymity of his existence, he is also a canon of marginality.



**WRITTEN BY IB (ECRITO POR IB)**

Dir – Ibon Hernando

Spain, 2024, 10:00

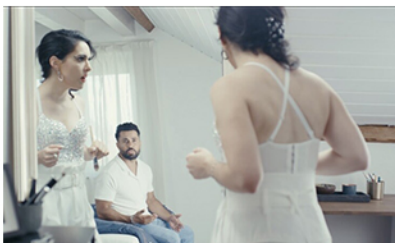
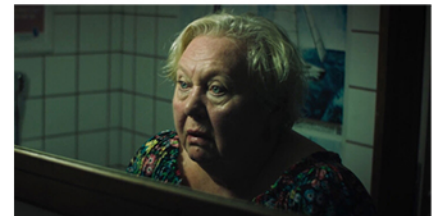
My name is Ibon and if you are watching this short film, it means that I have quit my job.

**THE ALLEY CATS (LES CHATS ERRANTS)**

Dir – Victor Sagrista

Belgium, 2024, 21:00

Altitude Cent Square, in Brussels. William (55) lies, claiming he is waiting for the tram; Béatrice (38) pretends that everything is fine; and Evdokya (75) tries to convince herself that she will make it. The three of them coexist in the solitude of the night, each facing in their own way the fear of revealing their vulnerability.



**THE RISE (L'ELEVATION)**

Dir – Arnould Christophe

Switzerland, 2024, 19:00

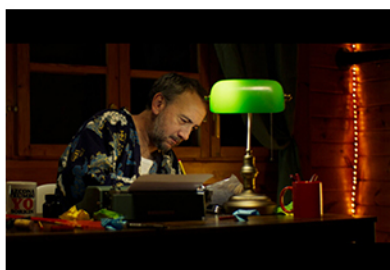
On a galactic sphere, Laura's soul makes a recording for her body. She is then transported to a young singer, Laura Scaglia, who is celebrating the success of her first album, only to see her career jeopardised by a compressed video posted online by her boyfriend. Determined to do everything in her power to save her career and her values as a committed woman, Laura finds herself confronted with the paradoxes...

**CHICKEN**

Dir – Anna Benner

Germany, 2023, 08:00

What do we burn when our world is already on fire? A woman running from a terrible relationship finds herself eye to eye with a chicken. They share a moment, a cigarette, and a desire to burn down everything around them to soothe their respective wounds.



**SHIT (MIERDA)**

Dir – David Fernández Pastor

Spain, 2024, 16:00

A struggling screenwriter locks himself in a cabin in the woods with a mission: to write the best screenplay in the history of cinema. But loneliness and frustration are not good traveling companions, and the night is long and dark.



### MY HEART BACKWARD (MON COEUR EN ARRIÈRE)

Dir – Sarah Gouret

Belgium, 2023, 17:00

Anastasia, 27 years old, decides to forge a meeting with Jef, 54 years old. Together, they will experience the suspended and intense moment that only the first meeting between a father and his daughter can provoke.



### DAYS AND NIGHTS (RONCAMOR)

Dir – Emese Sperlagh

Spain, 2024, 10:00

Life passes quickly between day and night, and amidst a lot of snoring. Happy endings depend on when you put the end of the story.

**Wednesday, 23 April 2025, 4.00 pm**

### Competition Section

#### THAT PERFECT DAY

Dir – Anup Abraham Parackal

India, 2024, 24:00

10-year-old Michael in Kolkata is anxious about his birthday. He dreams of giving his classmates fancy chocolates. But aware that his father, a modest driver, cannot afford it, Michael hatches a plan to raise the money himself.



### MY FATHER IS AFRAID OF WATER (PAPA KO PANI SE DAR LAGTA HAI)

Dir – Prateek Rajendra Srivastava

India, 2023, 28:00

While his older brother tends to their hospitalized mother, Prateek opts to remain at home, caring for their father with Alzheimer's. However, he soon finds his patience and determination tested as he navigates the daily challenges of caregiving.

#### FLIGHT

Dir – Laksh Banthia

India, 2024, 23:00

Jaya has seen better days. She is diabetic, has high blood pressure, and lives alone. Nor is her job as a schoolteacher fulfilling. Now, she lives only for her son, Adi, who has moved to another city for work, and is about to visit home. This is the story of her desire to meet her son, and what happens when that desire meets an unexpected obstacle.



### **BALLAD OF THE MOUNTAIN**

Dir – Tarun Jain

India, 2024, 17:00

This is a story about an outcast who wants to become an astronaut. The film is set in the hills of North India and highlights the focus one must have to break away from age-old barriers to get closer to one's dreams of achieving the unthinkable. It talks about the importance of education to the marginalised.



### **BASHA**

Dir – Asmita Pal

India, 2024, 22:00

A little girl lives through the tumults of the day her mother left her.

### **DOSOR (THE SOLEMATE)**

Dir – Kaushik Sengupta

India, 2024, 30:00

A retired teacher living alone, takes in a young woman brought by his former student, as a paying guest. He develops a fatherly bond with her. However, he soon observes her unusual behaviour – talking to herself and appearing restless. He consults a psychiatrist, but she refuses to undergo treatment. One morning she reveals that she was inspired by Rabindranath Tagore's *Gora* and believes the character guides her to serve the country.



### **SONGS OF THE MIST**

Dir – Ravi Kumar

India, 2024, 22:00

Suresh, a rural folk dancer, cross-dresses for his performances but is conflicted when his wife becomes displeased with his plans to perform in their conservative village. Meanwhile, his son eagerly awaits his father's dance.

**Thursday, 24 April 2025, 4.00 pm**

### ***France Meets Kalpanirjhar: A selection of French shorts***

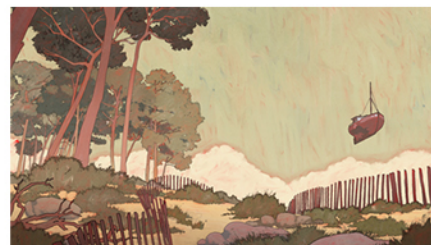
(Courtesy Alliance Française du Bengale & IF Cinéma)

#### **A FRIENDSHIP**

Dir – Arthur Catteau

France, 2023, 03:00

After many years of absence, a woman declares her friendship to her boat. Their reunion brings the feelings of the past to life.



### **FLESH OUT**

Dir – Armin Assadipour

France, 2023, 17:00

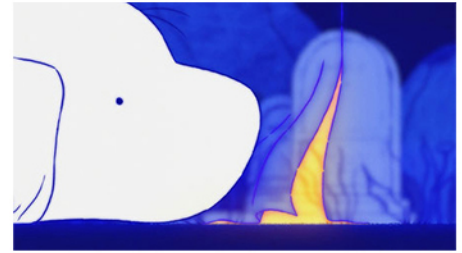
Venance, an overweight teenager, faces remarks and teasing about his weight, in his neighbourhood and even in his own family. His body reacts to become an outlet for his pain.



### MY FRIEND THE DOG

Dir – Violetta Cortes  
France, 2023, 03:00

One night, a dog visits the grave of his beloved master. During a macabre dance under the stars, he brings him back to him.



### LIFE IN CANADA

Dir – Frédéric Rosset  
France, 2023, 23:00

Sarah goes to her parents' birthday weekend, accompanied by ten-year-old Hermione, the daughter of her partner, whose absence soon raises questions.

### SHELTER

Dir –Julie Daravan Chea  
France, 2023, 03:00

At a summer camp, two friends are caught by surprise in a thunderstorm. To overcome their fear, they invent a world with their hands.



### SUMMER 96

Dir – Mathilde Bédouet  
France, 2023, 12:00

A young boy is spending his summer outing with his family and friends on an island. The rising tide traps them on the island overnight. As the night unfolds, the boy faces the discomfort of growing up and adolescence.

### THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Dir – Valentine Cadic  
France, 2022, 25:0

Blandine spends her holidays alone at a small campsite close to the mountains. She quickly finds herself submerged by the noise, the crowd, and the rain, that she was trying to escape from. By the lake, she meets Helio, a young local journalist.



### FAIRPLAY

Dir – Zoel Aeschbacher  
France, 2022, 17:00

A teenager in search of recognition, a worker ready to do anything to hit the jackpot, a senior executive at the end of his career who wants to prove to himself that he is still alive. Three characters who are losing speed on the competition highway.

### THE SLIP-UP

Dir – Aurelien Laplace  
France, 2025, 15:00

Paul Sérédát, a member of parliament campaigning for his re-election, hears on the radio that he has majorly goofed up with a public statement. He panics and wonders what could he have said to unleash such a media storm? He rushes to his computer to discover the cause of the scandal...



### BUBBLEMAN SUPERSTAR MISSION EL COBRA

Dir – Alban Gily  
France, 2024, 14:00

Mexico - U.S. border. The wall is complete. Bubbleman, a flippant secret agent from Zeroland, goes there. His very special mission: tear down the wall and repair the future. But things do not quite go as planned...

**Friday, 25 April 2025, 4.00 pm**

**Kalpanirjhar Retro: A surprise nostalgic package and Awards Ceremony**

**5.00 pm – Closing film**

### DISTANCES

Dir – Ashoke Viswanathan  
India, 2025, 30:00

At a Malaysian film festival, two dignitaries get attracted to each other, but duty calls. As their time together fades, they cherish fleeting moments, knowing that their romance is destined to end soon.



### Jury Members (Competition Section)



Sarmistha Maiti is an independent filmmaker-writer-editor and alumnus of SRFTI. She is a two-time National Award Winning filmmaker who works as a duo with Rajdeep Paul. She has made award winning fiction and non-fiction films. Her debut feature film 'Kalkokkho' (House of Time) won the Rajat Kamal at 69th National Film Award 2023 for Best Bengali Feature Film after having World Premiere in Busan International Film Festival and Indian Premiere in Indian Panorama, IFFI. Her second feature film 'Mon Potongo' (Mind flies) won the Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for the Best Film, Bengali Panorama at Kolkata International Film Festival 2023. Her first National Award was for the documentary 'At the Crossroads Nondon Bagchi Life and Living'.

Rajdeep Paul is two time National Award Winning filmmaker who works as a duo with Sarmistha Maiti. An alumnus of Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, he has made award winning documentary, short and feature films. His debut feature film 'Kalkokkho' (House of Time) won the Rajat Kamal at 69th National Film Award 2023 for Best Bengali Feature Film after having World Premiere in Busan International Film Festival and Indian Premiere in Indian Panorama, IFFI. His second feature film Mon Potongo (Mind flies) won the Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for the Best Film, Bengali Panorama at Kolkata International Film Festival 2023. His first National Award was for the documentary 'At the Crossroads Nondon Bagchi Life and Living'.



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