



*Department of Mass Communication, Assam  
University  
in collaboration with  
Women's College, Silchar  
&  
Beekshan Cine Commune  
organises*

*One Week International Workshop on  
Documentary & Short Film Appreciation  
(March 18-24, 2018)*

Documentary and Short Films, though completely divergent categories in their treatment of subject, making, aesthetic praxis, and historical traditions, are often discussed together. Arguably, this is because both the genres are continuously undergoing substantial and significant changes in the production and distribution processes.

With the advent of television, the practice of run-of-the-mill Documentary making had become an all-out invasive phenomenon. This had signalled serious challenges to the most important trait of documentary, i.e. depth in treatment of subject; while the problem of mass production in the genre had made it almost impossible to sift the good from the bad. Short Films, on the other hand, had suffered from market imposed limitations of getting restricted to experimentations or graduate films without any promise of a wider audience and was relegated to a minor medium for a long period.

As genres, Documentaries as well as Short Films are witnessing a silent revolution at the present moment. With the technological developments of the last few decades, that have made the craft of film making more and more accessible, and the emerging digital platforms that have provided the film makers with a fresh and ready set of audience, it may be safely claimed that these two genres are set to secure more dominating presences in the near future. This is already evident from the proliferation of Documentaries and Short Films across the Web, the popularity of the genres among Alternative Filmmakers, and the fact that both of these have become established modes worldwide with which new Filmmakers often establish their credence.

The access to new technology and the economy involved have contributed majorly to this boom. In truth, one nowadays, equipped with a mobile camera, great ideas, and a basic knowledge of film-making, can come up with a Documentary or a Short Film worthy of attention. A good mobile camera, or at the very least access to one, most of us do have. Ideas come nineteen to the dozen. What is mostly lacking is an understanding of the language and aesthetics of the concerned genre.

Thus, it is perhaps the right time to radically revisit these two categories, to understand and appreciate their divergent history and evolution, and to attempt for a better understanding of the developing aesthetics involved, along with their commonalities and differences.

The proposed One Week Workshop intends to acquaint the participants with the language and aesthetics of Documentaries and Short Films, within their respective trajectory of evolution. It is designed to promote comprehensive understanding of the natures of Documentaries and Short Films and provide insights into the distinct language and narrative complexities of these genres. It will also delve into recent developments and new trajectories like the 'video essay' and other experimental forms, television and web commercials, corporate films etc. under the broad umbrella of the New Media.

The participants will be introduced to the changing nature of the aesthetics of film production and its evolving relationship with digital arts. Documentaries, Short Film Classics, Fiction and Non-fiction, International as well as Indian will be used for critical analysis and study. The aesthetics and history of the genre, and its potential as a medium of art and communication will be integral parts of the programme.

**Who can participate:** Students / Scholars of Film, Visual Arts and Literature, Media Professionals, Film Society Organisers, Researchers, Teachers interested in introducing film study activities in educational institutions and serious Cinéphiles.

## Programme Schedule of One Week International Workshop on Documentary & Short Film Appreciation

### 18 March, 2018

- **Mr Eric Ollerenshaw Obe**, Director, London UK Films  
BBC and Channel 4 Documentaries and Short films Screening
- **Mr John Rowe**, Producer, London UK Films
- **Mr Shachin Karande**, Film Director, Mumbai
- **Mr Rajdeep Chowdhury**, Film Actor, London

### 18-20 March, 2018

- **Prof Anjali Monteiro**, Dean, School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, Author & Film Maker  
Evolution / Major Milestones in the History of Documentary / Documentary Genres / Planning for a Documentary
- **Prof Jayasankar K. P.**, Chairperson, Centre for Critical Media Praxis, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, Author & Film Maker

### 20-21 March, 2018

- **Prof Abhijit Roy**, Head, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata  
Major Milestones in the History of Short Films

### 22-24 March, 2018 (MIFF-2018@Assam University)

Screening of International Documentaries and Short Films & Discussion; Presentations by Participants from Ethiopia, Uganda, Lesotho, Palestine & Films Division, India

- **Ms Swati Pandey**, Director, Films Division
- **Ms Farah Khatun**, Editor, Films Division

Glimpses of Documentaries / Short Films of different countries & Award winning films from MIFF (Mumbai International Film Festival)-2018- (MIFF-2018@Assam University)

*Venue: Department of Mass Communication, Assam University, Silchar / Women's College, Silchar.*

**Registration and attendance in all sessions compulsory.**

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