

**2017**  
**FREEDOM**  
**FILMFEST**  
**PROGRAM BOOK**





## **ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE FREE & EQUAL**

*Article 1, Universal Declaration  
of Human Rights, proclaimed  
by the United Nations General  
Assembly in Paris on 10th  
December 1948 as a common  
standard of achievements for  
all peoples and all nations.*

### **FFF 2017 TRAVELLING FESTIVAL**

#### **SABAH**

*Date: 14th October*

*Venue: BENTARAKATA, Kota  
Kinabalu*

#### **SARAWAK**

*Date: 29th October*

*Venue: Lot 10 Hotel, Kuching,*

#### **PERAK**

*Date: 4th November*

*Venue: KemKuasa, Pantai Teluk  
Senangin, Manjung.*

#### **SINGAPORE**

*Date: 11th-12th November*

*Venue: The Projector*

#### **JOHOR**

*Date: 18th November*

*Venue: Lotta Cafe, Muar*

#### **JOHOR**

*Date: 19th November*

*Venue: Southern University  
College Skudai, Johor Bahru*

#### **PENANG**

*Date: 25th November*

*Venue: Butterworth*

#### **PENANG**

*Date: 26th November*

*Venue: Bangunan UAB,  
Georgetown*

*Photo credit (front & back cover):  
From the film "An Insignificant Man"*

# FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017

## The FreedomFilmFest (FFF)

The power of film is undeniable and the FFF creatively harnesses its power to facilitate ordinary people to exchange knowledge, information, analysis, and even to inspire them to become concerned and participate in making positive changes in their society. Since 2003, the FFF has been a crucial platform for social filmmakers, human rights activists and other concerned individuals to showcase their films and advocate their causes. The festival's year-round program includes film grants and film production; filmmaking and human rights perspective building workshops and talks; and nationwide film screenings and discussions in colleges, universities, and local communities.

## About the Organizer

FFF first started in 2003 as one of the program platforms of Pusat Komus, a Malaysian NGO which promotes and campaigns for human rights through the use of popular communications, creative media and participatory methodology. As of this year, the festival is being organized by Freedom Film Network (FFN), a new non-profit entity set up to promote and develop social filmmaking in Malaysia within the context of freedom of expression and human rights as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).



**PREFACE**



# PREFACE

*Anna Har,  
Festival Director  
Freedom Film Network*

Welcome to the 15th edition of the FreedomFilmFest 2017 - the film festival that celebrates brave people, brave films and brave audiences!

This year we are offering a record number of 40 films and also spicing up the festival with specially curated Freedom Talks, Workshops, a Virtual Reality (VR) Booth, a Human Rights Concert and even a Food Tasting Event.

We have also gone back to basics with our theme - "All human beings are free and equal". It's a concept which is seemingly so simple and natural but yet not substantively attained since being encapsulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948.

We continue to nourish the hope that through our films and activities, audiences would be able to deepen their grasp of the concept of "all rights for all" and what this truly means in our daily lives and realities. An example is to treat

our house helpers, cleaners or workers justly and humanly, the same way we expect ourselves to be treated by others. Or to believe that ordinary people regardless of gender, age, race or religion have rights and capabilities to stand as candidates in political elections and even become elected representative of the people. Or to stand with the indigenous peoples in asserting their rightful claims to land and life.

We would also like to highlight the power and potential of individuals and ordinary people in making significant positive changes, spreading awareness, and standing against all forms of violations of rights and dignity of peoples.

Some of the festival's films feature inspiring stories such as the one about a Michelin star chef who uses his ingenuity to feed the homeless, and a farmer who returns to a nuclear wasteland to save the animals that had been left behind.

Festival goers will also have the opportunity to explore empowering and new creative ways to share the message of human rights – through song and music composition, producing digital stories with the use of merely a hand phone, or learning the tricks of the trade in investigative journalism. And if you are passionate in doing your part to stop racism and discrimination, then you must participate in Pusat Komang's Bangsa Malaysia workshop!

Most film screenings will be followed by Q&A discussions with the filmmakers, either in person or over Skype. This is a rare opportunity to understand the issues and to learn some valuable tips and advice in social film making.

As always, the festival celebrates award winning films and filmmakers who truly go to great lengths to bring us unheard of stories from ground zero. For instance the multi-awarded film "Nowhere to Hide" by Zaradasht Ahmed which shows a side of the Iraqi war that goes unreported.

We also do not forget our brave and talented South East Asian (SEA) activist film makers whose films are being showcased at the festival.

Do take this golden opportunity to watch their films and meet them in person.

This year's festival will also present 4 Malaysian social films. Two of the films, "Selfie with the Prime Minister" and "The Hills and The Sea" are by this year's festival film grant winners. The other 2 films "Saving Malaysia" and "Diary for Prasana" are by 2 active members of the Freedom Film Network (FFN).

Finally we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have given tremendous support to a former colleague and festival team member, Lena Hendry who went through several years of court hearings and was finally unjustly convicted of screening a Human Rights film without approval from the Malaysian authorities' film censorship board.

Such unfortunate turn of events continue to remind us that amidst the fun and excitement of the FFF, there is also much scrutiny and many risks involved in organizing these events. But there are still many like us who continue to persevere in sharing with you films that matter, all in the name of freedom of expression and information.

**ORGANIZERS**

**ORGANIZED BY  
FREEDOM FILM NETWORK**

**IN COOPERATION WITH**

- Pusat Komnas
- Selangor State Government
- Penang State Government
- European Union

**SUPPORTED BY**

- Goethe Institut
- Movies that Matter
- Kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy in Malaysia
- Penang Institute
- MyDocs

**SCREENING PARTNERS**

- Function 8
- SUARAM Penang
- LUMA
- ENGAGE
- La Salle Center
- KUASA
- Panggau
- Bentarakata

**VENUE PARTNER**

- PJ Live Arts

**FESTIVAL TEAM**

- Festival Director: Anna Har
- Production & Program Consultant: Brenda Danker
- Festival Manager: Choo Huey Shin
- Advisors & Event Facilitators: Tan Jo Hann & Jerald Joseph
- Admin. & Finance Officer: Kayo Sunazawa
- PR & Publicity: Amy Wong, Debbie Loh
- Design: Mun Kao
- Technical Consultant: Goldwyn Mathews

**FILM PREVIEW & SELECTION COMMITTEE**

- Angela Rodrigues
- Ashleigh Lim
- Fadiyah Nadwa Fikri
- Indrani Kopal
- Dr. Mustafa K Anuar
- Philip Wong
- Seira Sacha
- Dr. Thomas Barker
- Tham Kar Yin

**TERMS &  
CONDITIONS**

- *To gain admission, one must be registered as a "Friend of the Festival".*
- *Only registered members are allowed to obtain passes for festival events.*
- *The organizer reserves the right to ask for further identification and to refuse entry to anyone for security and privacy reasons.*
- *Seating is on a first come, first serve basis.*
- *Unauthorized video, photo and audio recordings in all festival event locations are strictly prohibited.*

## VIRTUAL REALITY (VR) BOOTH

FreedomFilmFest together with Amnesty International Malaysia and SUARAM will showcase 6 Virtual Reality (VR) films that allow you to be in another person's shoes or literally experience something from a different perspective or point of view.

When we think of Virtual Reality (VR) technology, it is almost always associated with playing "first person shooter" video games. But this notion is quickly changing as the brilliant VR technology is fast becoming a popular tool for documentary filmmakers and human rights educators and activists to achieve a deeper level of engagement with their audience.

The VR booth will be open during the weekends on the 2nd, 3rd and 9th. September from 2-8 pm, on the 2nd. floor (*above the PJLA Theater*).

### Featured VR projects:

#### 1. 6x9: A Virtual Experience of Solitary Confinement

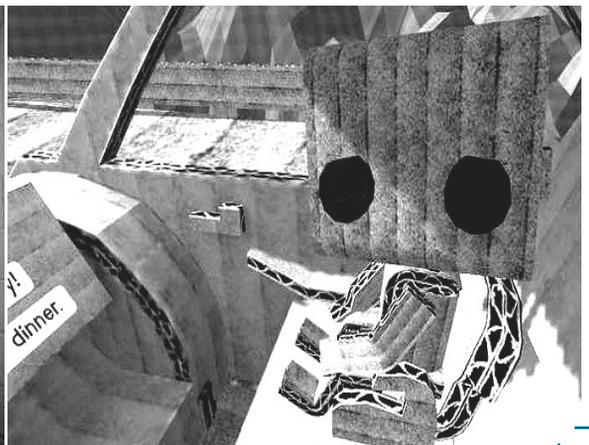
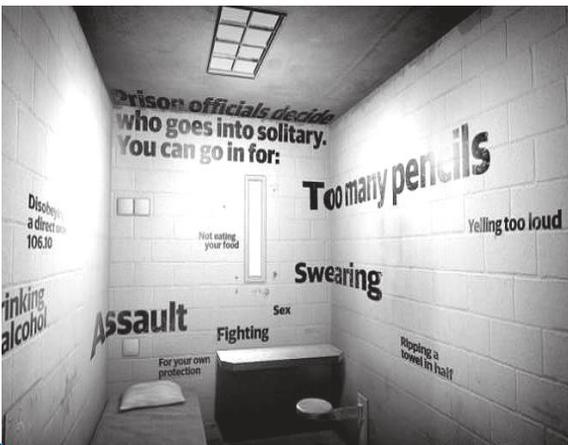
*By: Francesca Panetta, Lindsay Poulton, UK, 2016 (10 min.)*

*Experience total isolation for a few minutes and discover the depressing feelings associated with enforced solitude of prisoners, which has potential permanent psychological effects.*

#### 2. Cardboard Crash

*By: Vincent McCurley, Canada, 2015, (10 min.)*

*This animated documentary game addresses choices made by players who sometimes have to become authors of fate in this game when trying to resolve ethical and philosophical dilemma of who lives and who dies.*



**3. iAnimal**

*By: Toni Shephard, Sharon Nunez, USA, 2016 (11 min.)*

*This documentary is actually a secret virtual tour of a slaughterhouse. This strongly emotional experience draws attention to the ethical issues of consuming meat that is mass-produced.*



**4. Indefinite**

*By: Darren Emerson, UK, 2016, (14 min.)*

*The film takes us into the gloomy environment of Britain's detention centers to create a lyrical portrayal of these innocent prisoners and their stories. It allows us to see what this life is like and to hear the stories of some of them.*



**5. Notes On Blindness: Into Darkness**

*By: Arnaud Colinart, Amaury La Burthe, Peter Middleton, James Spinney, France, UK, 2016, (10 min.)*

*This interactive documentary present the internal feelings, expectations and experiences of John Hull who has lost his sight. Viewers can experience what he went through for themselves through the use of both expressive and seemingly unobtrusive sounds and audio effects.*



**6. The Displaced**

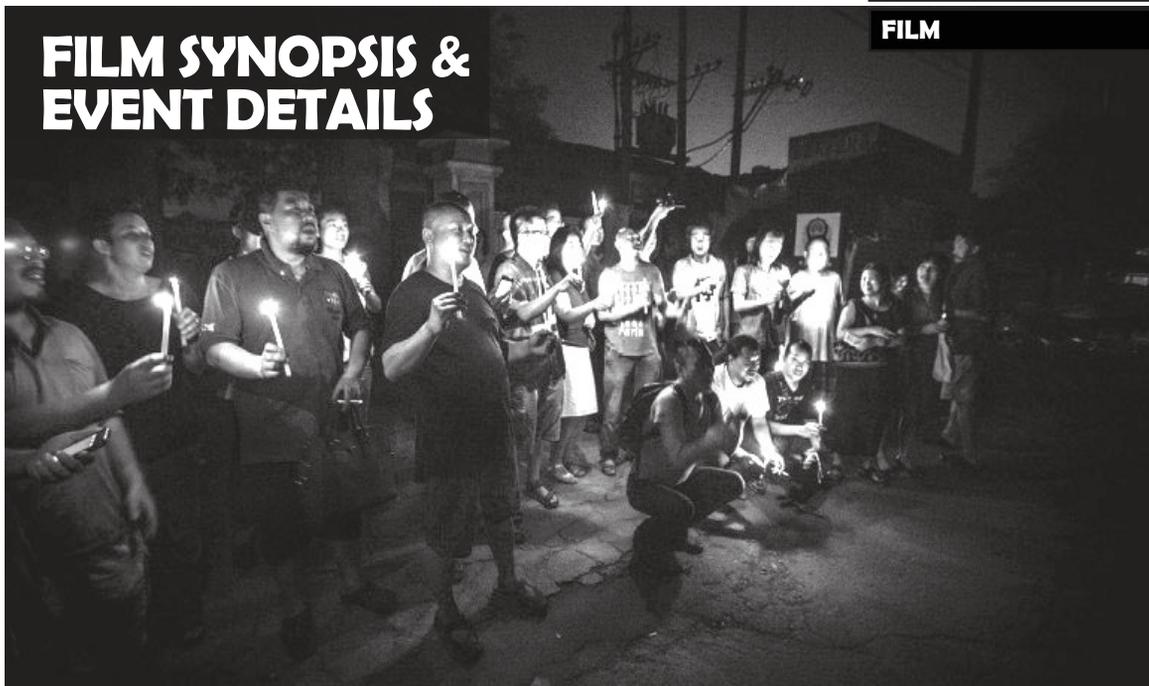
*By: Imraan Ismail, Ben C. Solomon, USA, 2016, (11 min.)*

*The film uses immersion and lets the viewer feel like one of the team members on a canoe trip in South Sudan, up onto the roofs of destroyed Ukrainian houses, and to a Portuguese field filled with working Syrian migrants. This authentic documentary presents a different view of refugees and the consequences of current wars.*



**FILM SYNOPSIS &  
EVENT DETAILS**

FILM

**A FILMLESS FESTIVAL**  
**Mei You Dian Ying De Dian Ying Jie**79 min  
2015

Overnight, the 11th annual Independent Film Festival in the capital city of China was banned. It ended before it ever began. We follow the rapid sequence of events from the cutting off of the building's water and electricity supply to the seizure of all festival property. What exactly threatens the organizers of cultural events in a country where artistic liberty is considered a crime? Will they succumb or will the screenings still take place? A look behind the scenes of the festival organization and the steps taken after it was cancelled is tensely recorded using authentic footages, mainly from the mobile phones of the organizers, film makers, activists and passers-by.



*Wang Wo, Director*  
CHINA

**SEPT 2 (SAT)  
12.30-1.30 PM**

**8 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

**FREEDOM TALK 1**

## **FILM FESTIVALS: RISKS & RESISTANCE**

Film festivals around the world constantly face the risk of being closed down or stopped when the authorities arbitrarily decide that their films are dangerous, inappropriate or sensitive to national security. This session will feature several experienced festival organizers from the Asia and Europe who will share about challenges they faced and how they were handled. We will also reflect on what is at stake if festivals are arbitrarily controlled or disallowed. The screening of “A Filmless Festival” and this Freedom Talk is organized in collaboration with DaHuang Pictures.



## ADA FOR MAYOR

### Alcadessa

85 min  
2016

Spain was one of the countries hardest hit by the 2008 economic crisis. Barcelona-based civil activist Ada Colau tried to organize help for people who were unable to pay their mortgages and lost their homes. This sensitive film captures the rebirth of an invincible activist who becomes a woman who intends to honorably, with élan and good sense, take her civic platform into politics and become better at it. After her historic victory in July 2015, Ada led the Barcelona City Hall. The documentary traces the 10 months from the time she announced her candidacy, through difficult negotiations and media appearances, to the tense election and her first day in office. The film includes personal footages from the video diary in which Ada often does battle with herself.



*Pau Faus, Director,  
SPAIN*

**SEPT 2 (SAT)  
3.30-4.30 PM**

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**FREEDOM TALK 2**

## **WOMEN IN MALAYSIAN POLITICS**

Malaysian politics remain pretty much dominated by men on different sides of the political divide despite a progressive involvement of women in today's political arena. The cabinet consists of only 9% women, the Parliament only 11%, Barisan Nasional's (BN) Supreme Council only 5% and in Pakatan Harapan's Presidential Council only 8%.

What unique challenges do Malaysian women politicians face in this constraint arena? Is it actually a "Men's club" or has this changed or progressed over the years? Listen to what some of our women politicians have to say about being minority players in a male dominated field.

SEPT 2 (SAT)  
5-6.30 PM

MALAYSIAN FILM  
PREMIERE



## SELFIE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER

25 min  
2017

Ziaur Rahman, like any other millennials in Malaysia, loves to take selfie and is active on social media. However, he is no ordinary youth. He is a Rohingya refugee who grew up in a refugee camp and was trafficked seven times by human traffickers. In the quest for freedom of his people, he turns to activism. Despite having no rights as a refugee living in Malaysia, he finds an unlikely ally for his cause, the Prime Minister of Malaysia.



*Nor Arlene Tan (left), & Grace Cho (right),  
Directors, MALAYSIA & SOUTH KOREA*

**SEPT 2 (SAT)**  
**5-6.30 PM**

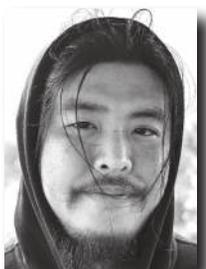
**12 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

**MALAYSIAN FILM  
PREMIERE**



*25 min*  
*2017*

## **THE HILLS & THE SEA**



**Andrew Ng**  
*Director, MALAYSIA*

Penang is at a point where it is about to experience an unprecedented shift of its urban facade due to the approval of multiple large scale development projects. This news of development promises a much desired face-lift and reinforcement of Penang's economic prowess. But it comes with a price that may only be apparent on hindsight. This story of the hills and the sea of Penang highlights the struggle of Mohd. Ishak, a coastal fisherman and Joleen Yap, a wildlife researcher on Dusky Leaf monkeys, to make their voices heard on Penang's ambitious development plans.



## AN INSIGNIFICANT MAN

96 min  
2016

Indian tax official Arvind Kejriwal decided to quit his job to become a political activist. He organized protests, tirelessly explained government practices to ordinary people at meetings and demonstrations, and proposed anti-corruption legislation. He ultimately started his own political party and ran in the New Delhi elections as a serious opponent of the two strongest government parties. Over 2 years, this man who feels ill at ease in front of the media became a professional politician. How is this opponent viewed by his political adversaries? By the media? Will he run an honest campaign? Or will his pure character drown in populist gestures? This documentary follows the difficulties behind the honest effort of a common man to change the lives of millions in the world's second most populous country.



*Khushboo Ranka (top),  
Vinay Shukla (below)  
Directors, INDIA*

**SEPT 3 (SUN)  
11 AM-1 PM**

**WORKSHOP 1**

**14 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

## **Multimedia Investigative Reporting in Mainstream Media**

**By: R.AGE**

This workshop will be facilitated by a group of dynamic young people who have dedicated their passion, time, and energies to tell stories that make a difference, hold people accountable, and give a voice to those who do not have one. This describes the R.AGE Team, who will share with us how they propose and craft their stories, work through the politics, get them approved and support them with actionable campaigns. Be part of this workshop to learn the tricks of the trade of an investigative journalist and hear first-hand stories based on their experiences.

**Film: Curse of Serawan, 2016 (14 min)**

**Director: Elroi Yee**

*An Indigenous Jahai Orang Asli tribe living deep in the rainforests of Belum Temenggor in Malaysia claims a mystery illness is killing their children. Three young journalists spend a week living with the tribe to investigate this phenomenon.*



## **Virtual Reality (VR)- Can Human Rights Be “Sexy”?**

By: Ondřej Moravec, Program Director of  
One World International Human Rights  
Documentary Film Festival

Virtual reality has become a phenomenon in recent few years. It is far different from the utopist vision of the big helmets which connect your brain to totally new worlds. But actually it is not that far fetched - 'sci-fi' is more or less here. Ondřej Moravec, the program director of One World Human Rights Documentary Film Festival in Prague will introduce their most recent VR projects on human rights and will share about current techniques and types of VR. He will also talk about some NGOs' strategies in using these new technologies to make heavy topics more interesting.

**SEPT 3 (SUN)  
2-4 PM**

**16 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

**FILM**



*95 min  
2016*

## **SUNDAY BEAUTY QUEEN**



*Baby Ruth Villarama  
Director, PHILIPPINES*

Beneath Hong Kong glittering facade, Filipinas working as domestic helpers work in relative anonymity, for ridiculously low wages and near slave working conditions. In a beauty pageant like no other in the world, five helpers give themselves makeovers for a day and gleefully reclaim their dignity.

## So You Wanna be a Singer Song Writer

By: Azmyl Yunor

Singing a song decently is hard enough. Writing the lyrics of the song and adding music to it is even harder. Combining all these tasks to make music expressing activism and human rights can be the hardest thing to do. This workshop will be led by Azmyl, a seasoned song writer and musician who will discuss different aspects of songwriting including creating and linking music and arts to activism and human rights. Musicians, film makers, documentary enthusiasts and NGO activists can become more in touch with music and explore ways to enhance their social ideas and messages.

**Film:** In the Shade of Fallen Chinnar, 2016 (16 min).

**Director:** Fazil NC, Shawn Sebastian

*This short documentary was shot in the Kashmir valley a few days before the current unrest began. It takes us into the lives of a group of young Kashmiri artists who are also university students. The film talks about the factors that inspire their art and how it takes the form of resistance in the conflict ridden valley.*



**SEPT 3 (SUN)**  
**4.30-6 PM**

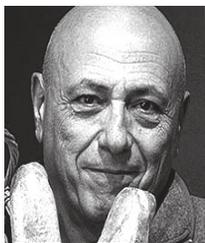
**18 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

**FILM**



**93 min**  
**2016**

## **THEATER OF LIFE**



*Peter Svatek,*  
*Director, CANADA*

World famous chef Massimo Bottura tastes the prepared menu. He gives final instructions and the beautiful auditorium of a former theater fills with hot plates. But the guests at the tables are not the traditional guests of his Michelin restaurant; they are homeless and refugees who sleep in shelters and on the streets of Milan. The ingredients used are just as untraditional, as Massimo uses foodstuff thrown out from the ongoing EXPO Milano. Every evening 40 chefs from around the world would take turns to let their special guests experience a world that they usually could not enter.

## **FROM WASTE TO PLATE**

Malaysians love food, but they also waste a lot of it- 3,000 tons of still edible food end up in the trash cans each day. And yet there are many who cannot afford and do not have access to a decent meal each day. This session will feature several ordinary Malaysians with exceptionally big hearts who use their initiatives, skills, and hard work to make use of food waste and scraps, and convert them into decent meals for less fortunate members in Malaysian society. The screening of "Theater of Life" and this Freedom Talk is organized in collaboration with the Canadian Embassy in Malaysia.

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SEPT 3 (SUN)  
8-10 PM

CONCERT

# HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERT

## SONGS OF FREEDOM



*Celebrate this exciting and powerful night of songs, music and dance together with dynamic artists, Shh...Diam, Monsoon Market featuring Alena Murang, Sons of the Soil, Skits, and Azmyl Yunor and Orkes Padu.*

## **Change The World – Films & Their Impact Strategies**

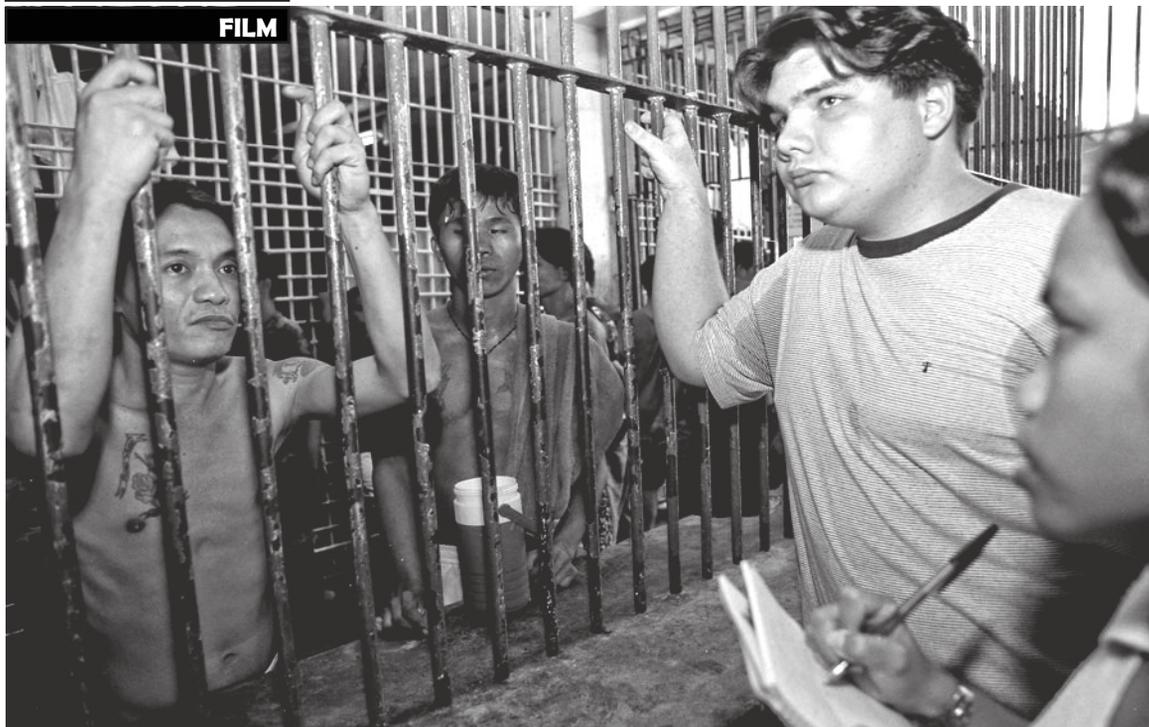
By: Ondřej Moravec

A lot of filmmakers and production companies have started to use the magical word “impact” in the official papers and film descriptions. A lot of documentaries do not only try to attract the audience by their strong stories but also to inspire them to change the reality. Ondřej Moravec, the program director of One World Human Rights Documentary Film Festival in Prague, will present a few case studies on successful films with impact campaigns, and some possible impact strategies of human rights film festivals. This Workshop is organized in collaboration with MyDocs (Malaysian Documentary Association).

**SEPT 4 (MON)  
8-9.30 PM**

**22 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

**FILM**



*95 min  
2011*

## **GIVE UP TOMORROW**

As a tropical storm beats down on the Philippine island of Cebu, two sisters leave work and never make it home. 'Give Up Tomorrow' exposes a Kafkaesque extravaganza populated by flamboyantly corrupt public officials, cops on the take, and a frenzied legal and media circus. It is also an intimate family drama focused on the near mythic struggle of two angry and sorrowful mothers who have dedicated for more than a decade to execute or save one young man, Paco Larrañaga.



*Michael Collins (left), Marty Syjuco (right), Directors, USA & PHILIPPINES*

## DEATH PENALTY- HUMAN RIGHTS OR HUMAN WRONG

Human beings are not infallible. Neither is our criminal justice system. When mistakes are made, there are no more second chances for those in death row. Their families and loved ones are also devastated and become victims of this unforgiving system and the death penalty. Facing the front line and in close encounters with this situation are human rights lawyers who defend prisoners on the death row. Hear their stories, conflicts and feelings while defending human beings who have been condemned to die. The screening of "Give Up Tomorrow" and this Freedom Talk is organized in collaboration with Amnesty International Malaysia and SUARAM.

**SEPT 5 (TUES)  
2-5 PM**

**WORKSHOP 5**

**24 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

## **Digital Story Telling For Seniors**

**By: Adrian Lai, Chan Seong Foong  
and Victor Chin**

**New technology gives new opportunities! This workshop aims to encourage life-long learning and empower seniors to use digital technology to share their stories and take control of their living environment.**

## **Sharing Stories- Indigenous Digital Storytelling**

By: Rusalina Idrus & Brenda Danker

This workshop will showcase eleven digital stories crafted by eleven Temuan Orang Asli youth participants from Kampung Tekir and Kampung Sebir, Labu, Negeri Sembilan. Through this digital platform, the indigenous youth, ranging from 13 to 23 years of age shared their experiences, aspirations, and challenges in their school life. They wrote, narrated, and illustrated the short films in this series. Join us as we reflect on their stories and discuss the state of Orang Asli education rights in Malaysia.

**SEPT 5 (TUES)**  
**8-9.30 PM**

**FILM**



78 min  
 2015

## **PLEASE REMEMBER ME** **WO ZHI REN SHI NI**

Former school principal 88-year-old Lou has had Alzheimer for the last 10 years. She now recognizes almost no one except her husband Feng. They are happy together, practice tai chi every morning, visit the Peking opera and read poetry to one another. When Feng fell sick, they decided to move into a retirement home as their only son lives in Australia and visits sporadically. The transition from hectic city to a rural rest home takes a heavy toll on both of them. The Director's subjects are actually her own great uncle and aunt whom she followed for three years. She witnessed their unbreakable bond and remarkable history of their love. As an old Chinese saying goes, "Hold his hand to grow old together." This film encapsulates these words perfectly.



*Qing Zhao*  
 Director, CHINA

## **CARING FOR OUR SENIORS-WHAT IS THE PLAN?**

Every family has to struggle with the age old subject of caring for our seniors and the elderly. In fast-paced societies like Malaysia, caring for seniors is a serious concern especially among caregivers, both the family members and the professional service providers. Is senior care a private affair or something that needs to be tackled on an institutional or governmental level? What is the plan to move forward and what are the best practices of senior care that should be considered by our country seriously? Hear what several important stake holders have to say on this crucial matter.

**SEPT 6 (WED)**  
**11 AM-1 PM**

**FILM**

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**94 min**  
**2016**

## **SEED: THE UNTOLD STORY**



*Taggart Siegel, (top)*  
*Jon Betz (below)*  
*Directors, USA*

Just behind the Arctic Circle on the island of Spitsbergen stands a concrete structure that resembles a bomb shelter. It contains thousands of plant seeds from around the world, which are guarded there against a possible global crisis. Several similar seed banks are scattered worldwide. Each seed concentrates within itself and carries the past life cycles of nature and humans, while also being a seed of the future. Farmers and other activists are trying to save the last remnants of local varieties of vegetables in a world of genetically modified farming. Against the multinational food giants their struggle seems like a cry in the darkness. But perhaps one day soon the fate of humankind will depend on these banks.

## #6054 Bangsa Malaysia

By: Pusat KOMAS

Malaysia's popular slogan "Malaysia, Truly Asia" is known worldwide and best exemplifies the spirit of unity in diversity. After 60 years of Independence and 54 years of the formation of Malaysia, is the country really free of racism and discrimination? Is the concept and spirit of "Bangsa Malaysia" (Malaysian Race) alive and thriving in our multiracial and religious society? This workshop will explore these questions and also share how we can all avoid being part of the problem but become part of the solution. Learn more about our uniquely diverse society and how we can make this work towards a more harmonious existence for all Malaysians.

**SEPT 6 (WED)**  
**2-3.30 PM**

**FILM**



73 min  
 2016

## **ABANDONED LAND**

### **La Terre Abandonee**

Some of the consequences of the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in 2011 could have been prevented. As it transpired, the greatest tragedy for the 150,000 people who were affected was not only the radiation leak, but also the heavy-handed course of the evacuation of the damaged area. However, some baulked at the move. This nostalgic film follows the courageous settlers and hard choices of others who are supposed to return to the Zone. Young people are afraid, the elderly have no choice: in Japanese culture severing ties with one's native soil and home is more lethal than a disease of the body. The intimate scenes leave one to contemplate, in the slow passage of time, how a post-apocalyptic city can be brought back to life.



*Gilles Laurent*  
 Director, BELGIUM

## NUCLEAR IN MALAYSIA

Scientists and human rights activists are constantly locked in debates on the use of nuclear energy to supplement our energy needs. Despite strong arguments against nuclear, especially after lessons learnt from the Fukushima incident in Japan, Malaysia is said to be ready to build its very own nuclear power plant by 2030. The question of energy first, or safety first, remains as a strong concern for both pro and anti-nuclear supporters. Discuss with knowledgeable speakers on this critical subject that concerns all Malaysians and their future generations.

SEPT 6 (WED)  
5-7 PM

FILM

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90 min  
2016

## SHADOW WORLD

This film is based on Andrew Feinstein's globally acclaimed book, "The Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms Trade". It reveals insights about the international trade in weapons including the complicity of governments and intelligence agencies, and investigative and prosecutorial bodies. It also talks about weapons manufacturers, dealers and agents who foster corruption, determine economic and foreign policies, undermine democracy and create widespread suffering. The film posits alternative perspectives through the experience of a peace activist and war correspondent, as well as through the provocative stories of Eduardo Galeano. But ultimately the film reveals how the 'shadow world' is dangerously taking over.



*Johan Grimmonprez*  
Director, BELGIUM

FILM



## NOWHERE TO HIDE

85 min  
2016

When the US Army withdrew from Iraq in 2011, it left a country in decay after years of fighting and sectarian violence. Male nurse Nori Sharif lives in Jalawla, one of the most dangerous areas of central Iraq. The film maker gives him a small camera. Over the next five years he uses this camera (and often only a mobile phone) to record the stories of people who have survived the war. As a sensitive observer he reveals the helplessness of families afflicted by death or mutilation, but also their will to live, while violence rages unabated around them. He thus becomes part of a war in which even a neighbor can be an enemy from whom there is nowhere to hide.



Zaradasht Ahmed  
Director, IRAQ

**SEPT 7 (THURS)  
11 AM-1 PM**

**WORKSHOP 8**

**34 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

## **Freedom of Expression and Documentary Filmmaking**

**By: Corrine Egeraat and Petr Lom**

**Don't hurt anyone, work with love and respect, and tell a beautiful eternal story.**

**PetrLom and Corinne van Egeraat have more than fifteen years of experience making films dedicated to freedom of expression. They will discuss strategies and tools for effective and creative storytelling in countries where freedom of speech is fragile, or not guaranteed. They will use their previous work from Egypt, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Cameroon and Myanmar as case studies, with particular focus on their latest film: Burma Storybook. This workshop is in collaboration with MYDOCS (Malaysian Documentary Association)**



## NEGLECTED

### Abai

30 min  
2017

The Indigenous orang asli population which consists of 18 tribes makes up of only about 0.5% of the 30 million total Population of Malaysia. The culture and life of the orang asli are strongly tied to the land and its environment. Act 134 was introduced by the British colonizers during the colonial era to supposedly protect the orang asli from the communist threat then. But in fact the Act took away their rights to the land and gave the authorities more power over its control. The film highlights several land cases in different parts of Malaysia; the struggle of JKOASM, an orang asli community network, to defend their ancestral lands; and their relentless efforts to advocate cases to different government bodies and the National Human Rights Commission.



*Shafie Dris,*  
*Director, MALAYSIA*

SEPT 7 (THURS)  
2.30-4 PM

36 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017

FILM



23 min  
2017

## THE BIG TREE



*Th'blay Paw*  
Director, THAILAND

A big fallen tree was cut into pieces. Old planks for repairing a house were confiscated. Poetic songs were sung by a Karen woman. An elder from the North prayed for an elder from the West. The Karen people of Bangkloi went to the administrative court to hear the verdict in the case of the national park authorities having burnt down their houses and ricefields, and forcing them out of their ancestors' land.



## THE HOPE OF HONEY HUNTER

**Asa Pencari Madu**

6 min  
2016

This short film is about the situation of the Dayak Ma'anyan indigenous people in East Barito District, Central Kalimantan province, Indonesia. Since the coal mining company entered their village, they had lost their beautiful nature as well as their main source of livelihood and local wisdom - honey hunting. Mider, a community member bravely shares about their plight and the difficulty in finding the FUSI trees, a source of honey. This film also aims to generate global support for the Ma'anyan community in Gunung Karasik and shows that indigenous peoples are not alone in their struggles.



*Pinarsita Juliana*  
Director, INDONESIA

**SEPT 7 (THURS)**  
**2.30-4 PM**

**38 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

**FILM**



**30 min**  
**2016**

## **THE RIGHT TO LEARN**

**Pagbarug tu Pagtuon**



*Arnel Barbarona*  
**Director, PHILIPPINES**

This is the story of around 400 Manobo Lumads, students and community teachers from Talaingod, Davao del Norte who have evacuated to UCCP Haran in Davao. The story follows Ricky, a Lumad parateacher who throughout the militarization in the countryside remains unmoved amidst threats of harassment to burn down their Lumad organized school.

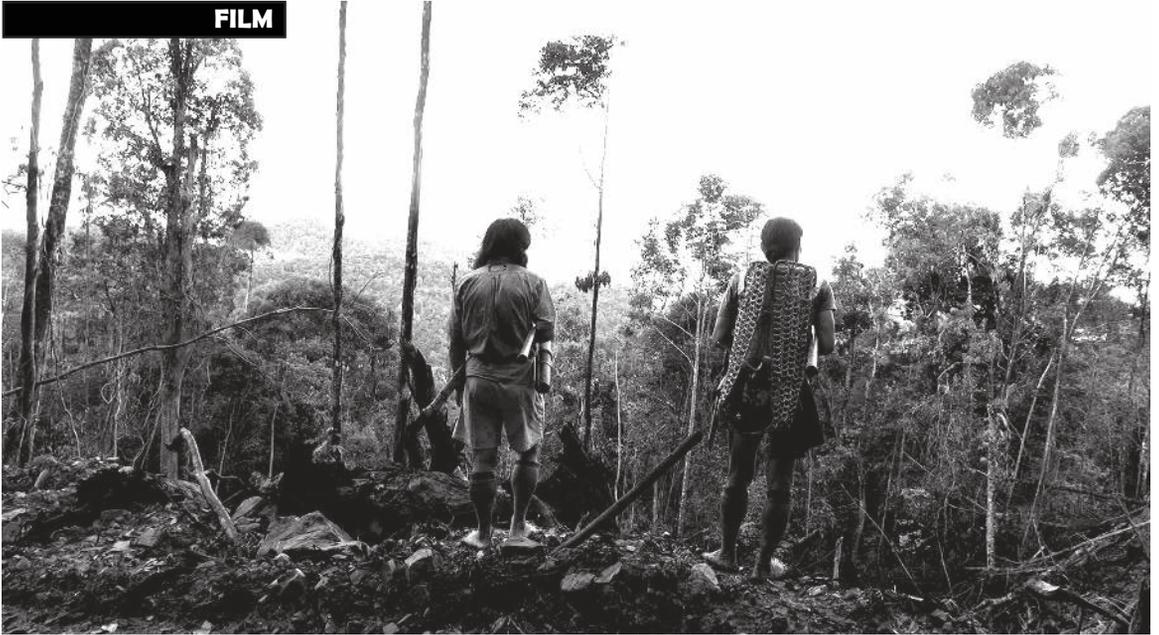
## **SOUTHEAST ASIAN LAND RIGHTS -GROUND WARS & COURT BATTLES**

“Land is life, without land there will be no life” is a popular slogan and dictum of many different indigenous peoples in the SEA region. But history records sad tales of indigenous peoples defending and battling for their ancestral and customary lands for hundreds of years. Today this tragic trend continues to plague indigenous communities across the region. In this session land rights activists from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines will share stories, exchange experiences, identify and recognize similarities and differences, and most importantly express common concerns for their land struggles across the SEA region.

**SEPT 7 (THURS)**  
**5-7 PM**

**FILM**

**40 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**



*82 min*  
*2017*

## **DAWAI DAWAI**



*Caroline Parietti (left) & Cyprien Ponson (right), Directors, FRANCE & SWITZERLAND*

In Sarawak, “the ones who live upstream” are the first to be affected by deforestation. The Penans, once a nomadic community, are caught today in the eye of the storm: how to go on living when the landscape, which brought meaning to existence, disappears, and with it the language, the customs and the spirits? The film, lead by the songs of those who have refused to give in, tells about the intimate interweaving of an older bittersweet way of life and the struggle which rages in the shadows of the big trees. It draws the lines of resistance for those caught in this deadly fight.

SEPT 7 (THURS)  
8-10 PM

FILM



## THE OPPOSITION

76 min  
2016

Joe Moses believes that as long as he is alive, his duty is to help people. For years he has been fighting for his community in Paga Hill, at the outer edge of Papua New Guinea's capital. An Australian developer is trying to forcibly evict them with the aim of replacing the locals' modest dwellings with a luxurious hotel resort and harbor. The displacement has no legal foundation, but it seems that no one is interested in the native community's rights, not even the local politicians. This investigative documentary about defenceless inhabitants fighting for their homes is filled with suspense and unexpected twists.



Hollie Fifer, Director,  
AUSTRALIA

**SEPT 8 (FRI)**  
**11 AM-12.30 PM**

**FILM**



70 min  
 2016

## **CUTS** **Potongan**



*Chairun Nissa,*  
*Director, INDONESIA*

Indonesian law stipulates that all films have to go through censorship before any public screening in the country. The director and producer of “Blind Pig Who Wants To Fly”, 2008, submitted their film to the Censorship Board. After a long-winded and corrupt bureaucratic process, the Censorship Board’s final verdict for the film was “Rejected with (Notes for) Revisions”. The filmmakers requested a hearing with the Censorship Board committee which was eventually unsuccessful in producing a clearer understanding of the Censorship Board’s reasons for rejection. This film tells their story.



## SITTWE

18 min  
2017

Sittwe is a short documentary about two teenagers affected by conflict in Burma's Rakhine state; a Buddhist boy and a Muslim girl who were displaced by communal violence in 2012. Interviews filmed over two years explore their ideas about education and the possibility of reconciliation. The film is intended as an offering for peace building. Produced in partnership with Smile Education and Development Foundation, Yangon.



*Jeanne Marie Hallacy,  
Director, USA/THAILAND*

**SEPT 8 (FRI)**  
**2.30-3.30 PM**

**FILM**



*18 min*  
 2017

## **LIFE AS WE KNOW IT**



*Ngwe Ngwe Khine (Mim)*  
 Director, MYANMAR

The Maramagi are a Buddhist ethnic group who came to Myanmar's Rakhine State from Bangladesh almost two centuries ago. In this portrait of a Maramagi couple, the filmmaker who comes from Rakhine herself, touches on some of the challenges facing this little-known people as well as the sectarian tensions that exist in this conflicted State.

SEPT 8 (FRI)  
3.30-5 PM

FILM



## RED CLOTHES

63 min  
2016

Red Clothes is a sordid story of the profound indifference of the global fashion-revolution in Cambodia happening at the cost of individual rights and humanity in the country. The continuous exodus of young people from the countryside looking for better economic life in the city provides a cheap workforce staffing the garment-industry. The film critically explores the journey of the family of a young man who fought this impending tragedy and became a victim of a brutal crackdown on peaceful civil disobedience.



Lida Chan  
Director, CAMBODIA

**SEPT 8 (FRI)**  
**5.30-7 PM**

**46 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

**FILM**



**76 min**  
**2016**

## **NOKAS**

Marriage has been a practice of human beings regardless of time and age. No crisis or wars can stop people from getting married. Nokas is a 27 year old young man from East Nusa Tenggara who is very much keen on marrying his beloved Ci, a pretty young woman who works in a chicken farm. It is not so simple to marry in East Nusa Tenggara. Men are obliged to offer a significant dowry to the bride's family. The sum of the dowry is often an immense burden for the groom-to-be. There are times when this tradition has also reduced the meaning of marriage into a business transaction. Through an observational approach, this film follows Nokas's struggle to get the dowry so he can finally be married to the love of his life.



**Manuel Alberto Maia**  
**Director, INDONESIA/  
TIMOR LESTE**



## BURMA STORYBOOK

81 min  
2017

Poetry is the most popular art form in Myanmar and has helped the Burmese people survive the dictatorship. The film's main character is 70 year-old poet Maung Aung Pwint, who spent many years behind bars for his writing and activism. His family was devastated by his imprisonment and the two-decade long political exile of his son to Finland. The yearning for the long awaited return home of his son forms the backbone of the film. Maung Aung Pwint's story is accompanied by a chorus of poems by the most famous poets in Myanmar today who all raised critical voices to the country's transformation. In this brave new world of transformation and persistent injustice, the old poet, Maung Aung Pwint and his family become symbols of resilience and grace, an answer to the poet's question: "how can our hearts be healed?"



*Petr Lom, Director,  
THE NETHERLANDS*

**SEPT 9 (SAT)**  
**11 AM-12.30 PM**

**FILM**

**48 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**



*7 min*  
*2017*

## **NOT COVERED**



*Ezat Wagdi,*  
*Director, YEMEN*

When the camera becomes a passion, a curse and at the same time a tool for disclosing the antimonies between Yemen and the rest of the world. Frás Shamsan, a story of tragedy and pain caused by a camera.



## THE FIRST OFFERING

**Mudhal Padayal**

23 min  
2016

A social drama inspired by true events that reveal the lives of rural Malaysian Indians. The film revolves around the family of an alcoholic who survives daily as a waste picker. How their lives are changed within a year due to his alcoholic situation is the crux of the rest of the story.



*Mathankumaran  
Madawan, Director,  
MALAYSIA*

**SEPT 9 (SAT)**  
**11 AM-12.30 PM**

**50 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

**FILM**



*20 min*  
*2015*

## **EVICTED! (YEAR 1)**



*Ryan Anderson*  
*Director, USA*

**EVICTED! (Year 1)** is the first year result of a multi-year short film project. It follows four neighbors in Penang who are evicted as the town gentrifies. Why are they being evicted and what are their expectations of the future? Mr. Teh could lose the Sky Hotel, that his grandfather started; Vayshu the transvestite sex worker would not know where to go; 91-year-old Mr. Ong would suffer an emotional loss (not a financial one) if he lost his chemical retail store; and Mrs. Lian who operates a one-lady newspaper recycling business would have to be dependent on her husband again. The director continues to follow the subjects and aims to complete the project in 2020.



## JOURNEY TO RAYA PADI

### Ke Raya Padi

25 min  
2017

It has been years since Ewok last set foot in the Temiar village he once called home. The highland communities there made national headlines when they built several blockades to stop deforestation. This is a recollection of a journey from a Semai village to a Temiar harvest ceremony in the highlands of Gua Musang. Jassmin, the filmmaker and a couple of friends meet Ewok at his Semai abode and tag along with him to join the Temiar celebration meant for close family and friends. This film shares about Ewok, the Semais and the Temiars they meet along the way.



*Ewok Perai (left) & Nik Jassmin Hew (right), Directors, MALAYSIA*

**SEPT 9 (SAT)**  
**12.30-2 PM**

**52 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

**FILM**



*12 min*  
*2015*

## **SAVING SUNGEI**



*Shintaro Tay*  
*Director, SINGAPORE*

One person's junk is another person's treasure. In Singapore, Mr. Koh campaigns against the imminent closure of Sungei 'Thieves' Market, which will leave its elderly vendors destitute.



## ON THE WAY OF BLOSSOM

Hua Er Hua Er Ji Shi Kai

32 min  
2017

In order to live with her girlfriend Kai Li, Ah Tang left Malaysia for Taiwan. As gay/same-sex marriage hasn't been legalized, Ah Tang has no other choice but to stay on with a student visa and become a 35-year-old college freshman. How would their families react and what would they think of this unusual relationship arrangement?



Wong Kai Hui,  
Director, MALAYSIA

**SEPT 9 (SAT)**  
**12.30-2 PM**

**54 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

**FILM**



*29 min*  
*2016*

## **IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT** **Sa Kalagitnaan Ng Gabi**



*Bryan Kristoffer  
J. Brazil, Director,  
PHILIPPINES*

In July 2016, the newly elected President of the Republic of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte made a pronouncement that he will eradicate the perennial drug problems in the country by launching a massive war on drugs campaign that will last six months. The campaign resulted in many surrendering voluntarily but it also resulted in the emergence of vigilante-style killings which victimized thousands of people. The rampant human rights violations and abuses are viewed as some of the most terrifying and harrowing episodes in the history of the country.



## ANAK MALAYSIA

9 min  
2016

A story about a primary school student facing cognitive dissonance of his own identity, reflecting the multi ethnic cultural background of Malaysian society.



*Khor Zhen Yee,  
Director, MALAYSIA*

SEPT 9 (SAT)  
2.30-4 PM

56 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017

FILM



## THE CRESCENT IN DRAGON VILLAGE

### Bulan Sabit di Kampung Naga

19 min  
2015



*Marjito Iskandar Tri  
Gunawan, Director,  
INDONESIA*

The film is about the Chinatown of Lasem with its traces of multiculturalism which have become very important for buildings of Indonesian culture. Lasem brings together various ethnic groups and religions namely the Javanese, Chinese, Arabs, Islam, and Christianity, Catholicism and Confucianism respectively. The “Pesantren Kauman Lasem” was first established in 2005 by its founder and caretaker Gus Zaim who explains that the emblem of Chinese identity in the buildings is a form of acculturation between Javanese, Chinese, and Arabs which has existed for a long time. This is an important point for dialogue between different parties, and as a way to reduce potential conflicts and violence between religious communities due to the rise of radicalism.



# VILLAGE RENAMING

## Kampung Kita

23 min  
2015

When the names of communities and places in Southern Thailand were changed from Malay language into Thai by the Thai officials, the local people felt alienated from the places they had been bound to since ancestral times. Consequently they made efforts to reclaim the meaningful Malay names.



*Mahamasabree Jehloh (left) & Kwankaew Ketphol (right) Directors, THAILAND*

**SEPT 9 (SAT)  
4-5.30 PM**

**58 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017**

**FILM**



*55 min*  
*2016*

## **DIGITAL LEADER**

*Adrian V. Eagle,*  
*Director, ITALY*

This film is the first documentary made about the charismatic, controversial and authoritarian Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the “Digital Leader” who has promised to turn the Asian giant into a third world economic power within 2030. But Modi also belongs to RSS, the paramilitary organization that wants to change India into a fundamentalist Hindu state. He started the so-called Indian digital revolution of the smart phones during the 2014’s political elections and was voted into power by 170 million votes. This film shows to the world the persecution of dissidents, journalists, religious leaders and intellectuals in India. It unveils the fear that India, hypnotized by the dream of economic development may lose its multicultural background and label as the “largest democracy in the world”, and become a Hindu fundamentalist state.

SEPT 9 (SAT)  
6-7 PM

MALAYSIAN FILM  
PREMIERE



## DIARY FOR PRASANA

Diari Untuk Prasana

30 min  
2017

The film takes a glimpse into the life of Indra Gandhi, a Hindu mother whose husband had converted into Islam and taken away her daughter, Prasana when she was only 11 months old. Indra has not seen her child for the last 7 years. Does Islam deny her right to embrace her own child? Imagine the hardships that Prasana's brother and sister had to go through after their father had left them and converted them into Islam without their knowledge? Would Prasana one day be interested to watch the movie diary of her family whom she has not met?



Norhayati Kaprawi,  
Director, MALAYSIA

SEPT 9 (SAT)  
8-10 PM

60 | FREEDOMFILMFEST 2017

## AWARDS PRESENTATION, CLOSING CEREMONY & FILM SCREENING



*This will be followed by the screening of the film "SAVING MALAYSIA"*



30 min  
2017

## SAVING MALAYSIA

Malaysia is in crisis. Its ruling regime Barisan Nasional (BN) has been implicated in a worldwide corruption scandal and Malaysians are being squeezed by higher living costs. A political coalition, Pakatan Harapan (PH) which has emerged, wants to 'Save Malaysia' from that regime and urges Malaysians to vote for it in the 14th general election. This film explores whether this coalition can actually work and can they be trusted to replace the current regime?



*Sheridan Mahavera  
Shakir, Director, MALAYSIA*

## JUDGES Film Grants Selection Panel



**DREW AMBROSE** is a senior producer for Al Jazeera's Asian current affairs program "101 East". Based in Malaysia, he has reported from over 25 countries. The 32 year old has produced documentaries and news reports for Australia's two public broadcasters- often as a foreign correspondent. His work has won the New York Festival Gold Medal, Asian Human Rights Press Award, United Nations Media Peace Prize and a Global Media Award amongst other journalism prizes in Australia.



**ERIC PAULSEN** started his legal practice in a leading criminal and public interest law firm in Malaysia and also worked at Suara Rakyat Malaysia (Suaram), a civil and political rights advocacy organization. Over the last decade, he worked with UN organizations in Cambodia, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar and also co-founded Lawyers for Liberty (LFL), a human rights lawyers' organization in 2011. He was its Adviser until 2014 when he became the Executive Director. He has been charged under Malaysia's Sedition Act for criticizing JAKIM, (The Malaysian Islamic Development Department) of allegedly promoting extremism through its Friday sermons.



**VIMALA SUNDRAM** has 14 years of working in the Administrative and Diplomatic Service giving her a good grasp of the public sector and skills to ensure targeted and successful government programs. In 1986 Vimala worked as a public relations consultant in Ogilvy and Mather Public Relations firm and later as the General Manager of another public relations agency. In 1992, she founded Capital Corporate Communications, a PR and communications consultancy firm serving a select client group. Vimala has a BA Hons. Degree (English and Economics) from the University of Malaya and an MSc in Social Planning for Developing Countries from the London School of Economics.

## JUDGES

**Best International Film**

**MARCUS VETTER** (born 1967) graduated in Economics (1991) and Media Theory and Practice (1994). Since 1994 he has been working as a TV editor, producer and director at ARD/SWR in Baden-Baden and Stuttgart. His films have received attention at national and international film festivals and won numerous prizes, among which are 3 Adolf Grimme Awards - the German Oscar and the German Academy Award. Among his portfolio of films and documentations are "The Tunnel" (1999, 90 min.), "My father the Turk" (2006, 90 min), "Heart of Jenin" (2008, 90 min), "Hunger" (2009, 90 min), "Cinema Jenin" (2011, 90 min), "The Court" (2012, 90 min), The Promise (2016, 131 min.) and The Forecaster (2014, 94 min.).



**AL JAFREE MD YUSOP** began his career as a scriptwriter. He wrote the film "Paloh" for director Adman Salleh and the stage musical "P. Ramlee, The Musical" for Enfiniti Production. His directing career started with "Senandung Malam", a telemovie which he co-directed with Dain Said. He then directed "Melur vs Rajawali" and "Kembara Nak Dara", both telemovies for RTM. He directed his first feature film "Mencari Rahmat" in 2017.



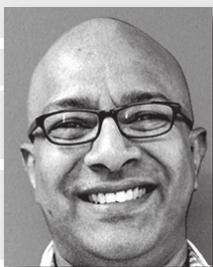
**NANDITA SOLOMON** has worked on award-winning feature films, documentaries and video art installations that have screened in Malaysia and abroad, including "Near Intervisible Lines", which was invited to the Sydney Biennale 2006, and "Karaoke" (2009) which debuted at the Cannes' Directors Fortnight. Her first feature "Bunohan" (2011) which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival was pre-sold to Universal Pictures and was Malaysia's 2nd. ever official submission to the Oscars. Her latest film, "Interchange" (2016), premiered at the Locarno International Film Festival's Piazza Grande and was screened at numerous festivals including Toronto, BFI London, Singapore, Jogja NAFF, Goa, Sitges and Bucheon.

**Best South East Asia Film**

**SHARMIN PARAMESWARAN** heads the Video on Demand Business in Astro Malaysia. She keeps abreast with content from digital and broadcast platforms in movies and TV series to today's short formats. Sharmin believes that content makers today have good opportunities to tell their stories. She is also an independent curator in the Malaysian art visual scene and has collaborated with AWAM to stage "The Good Malaysian Woman: Ethnicity, Religion, Politics" which highlighted how female stereotypes affect women's sense of self, community and nationality. Other collaborations include the acclaimed Obscura Photo Festival on the exhibition Person (a) and her most recent, Collective Individuals, with Urbanscapes 2017.



**ONDŘEJ MORAVEC** is the program director of One World Film Festival, based in Prague, which is the biggest human rights documentary film festival in the world. He graduated at Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU) where he studied screenwriting. He also graduated at the Charles University in Prague, where he studied media and journalism. He worked as a reporter in the cultural room of the Czech Television for 4 years and was also the program director of the film festival Čačikano which was about Romani culture. He was also then working as a documentary filmmaker.



**SHARAAD KUTTAN** is a presenter and producer on BFM89.9's morning show, the Klang Valley's premier English language talk radio station. He has been a working journalist and educator for the last two decades in Malaysia after getting an MA in Sociology from the National University of Singapore. In 2006 he was awarded the Nippon Foundation's Asian Public Intellectual fellowship. He co-edited "Looking at Culture", a collection of essays on cultural politics in Singapore, and contributed a chapter to "Elections and Democracy in Malaysia" (2005) published by the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Press. He has an interest in art and is a member of the Singapore branch of the International Association of Art Critics.

## JUDGES

## Best Short Film



**SHUFIYAN SHUKUR (SHUF)** was the senior producer at Malaysiakini.tv which he joined in November 2006, and helmed it right up to 2013 when Malaysiakini.tv was replaced with Kinitv.com. He then undertook a less stressful role producing features and documentaries until April 2014. He is now on a break from media work and has been flying camera 'drones' in corporate video work and for leisure.



**NALINI ELUMALAI** is a grassroots and human rights activist. She is currently the program officer of "Article 19", an advocacy NGO in Malaysia. She also served as a campaign coordinator and later the Executive Director of Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM) for several years. Nalini is also active in grassroots struggles of the rural poor, plantation workers and indigenous people. Since 2006, she has been an active volunteer in the Oppressed People Network, a community-based organization, fighting for safe housing, land rights and workers' rights.



**ANDREW KHOO** has been in Malaysian legal practice in for more than 22 years. He has been an elected member of Bar Council Malaysia since March 2009 and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Human Rights Committee. He has acted as watching brief counsel for the Malaysian Bar, the Malaysian Human Rights Commission, the Christian Federation of Malaysia and the Bible Society of Malaysia before the Malaysian High Court, Court of Appeal and Federal Court in a range of human rights-related issues. Andrew has authored the Law and the Judiciary chapter of SUARAM's Annual Report on Civil and Political Rights in Malaysia from 2007-2014 and 2016, and his articles have been published in New Straits Times, The Sun, Malaysiakini, Nut Graph, Micah Mandate, Wall Street Journal, and on the Malaysian Bar website and journal. He has been watching TV and movies for as long as he can remember.

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