

**FESTIVAL CATALOGUE**

**DAY 1** | **19TH JAN**  
**2024**

# PARTNERS



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# ABOUT ANIMELA

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**AniMela** is India's first international Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and XR (AVGC-XR) Festival. Launched in early 2023 in partnership with the prestigious **Annecy International Animation Film Festival** and **Government of India**. The festival is an initiative by **Aniverse & Visual Arts Foundation (AVAF)**, a non-profit organisation with a mission to promote Art & Technology in India.

The Festival's primary objective is to empower Indian emerging artists, developers, animators, storytellers, producers and filmmakers by providing a platform with mentorship, education, film screenings, experiential zones, networking and access to world markets. Over the years, AniMela hopes to create the same impact for the Indian AVGC XR Industry that Annecy Festival has done for France.

In its first edition, AniMela's programme has been meticulously curated to reflect its identity of diversity and inclusivity. We are screening 100+ films, 40% of which have been helmed by women directors sourced from 20+ countries. Besides this, 25 knowledge sessions are being conducted by leading names. In tandem, the AniMela-IMC Pitch Workshop is the first Annecy's MIFA Campus in India. It is the first step in providing Indian artists a potential pathway to the world stage.

With many firsts in 2024, we are confident to get better in the years to come.

# MEET THE TEAM



KIREET KHURANA



ARCHANA TRASY



ANNE DOSHI



ANITA KARNIK



NEHA JAIN



TEHZEEB KHURANA

## DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

It started serendipitously some 18 months ago. We call it serendipitous because this tireless attempt to fill the gaping void and build India's first International Animation, VFX, Gaming, Comics and XR Festival – AniMela – would have not been possible had one of the six founding members with their uncannily complimentary skills been absent. Thus, the idea to build a global narrative around our AVGC-XR industry with 'Create In India' was born.

Our vision of what AniMela can achieve for India's emerging talent in the years to come is huge. Our objective is to get Indian animators, game developers, artists and creators to tell their stories to the world.

To all the key industry stakeholders, leaders, studios and artists who have endorsed us and rallied around us, we remain utterly grateful to you for your support. We could not have envisioned this and made it happen without you. And we hope that your presence at the first edition of AniMela Festival bears witness to that.

To all the attendees of AniMela 2024, come and enjoy the best of what India's burgeoning AVGC-XR industry has to offer, and we hope to see you again next year!

# FESTIVAL TEAM

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**Kireet Khurana** - Festival Director

**Archana Trasy** - Event Director

**Neha Jain** - Executive Director

**Anne Doshi** - Artistic Director

**Anita Karnik** - Corporate Alliances

**Tehzeeb Khurana** - Education Director

**Aakanksha Jadhav** - Program Manager

**Pranita Balar** - Project Manager

**Pratush Lala** - Project Manager & IT Head

**Navya Narayanan** - Production Assistant

**Soham Dey** - Program Assistant

**Saili Shirwalkar** - Design Assistant

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Film Director, Illustrator  
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India

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CEO, Assemblage Entertainment, Producer  
India

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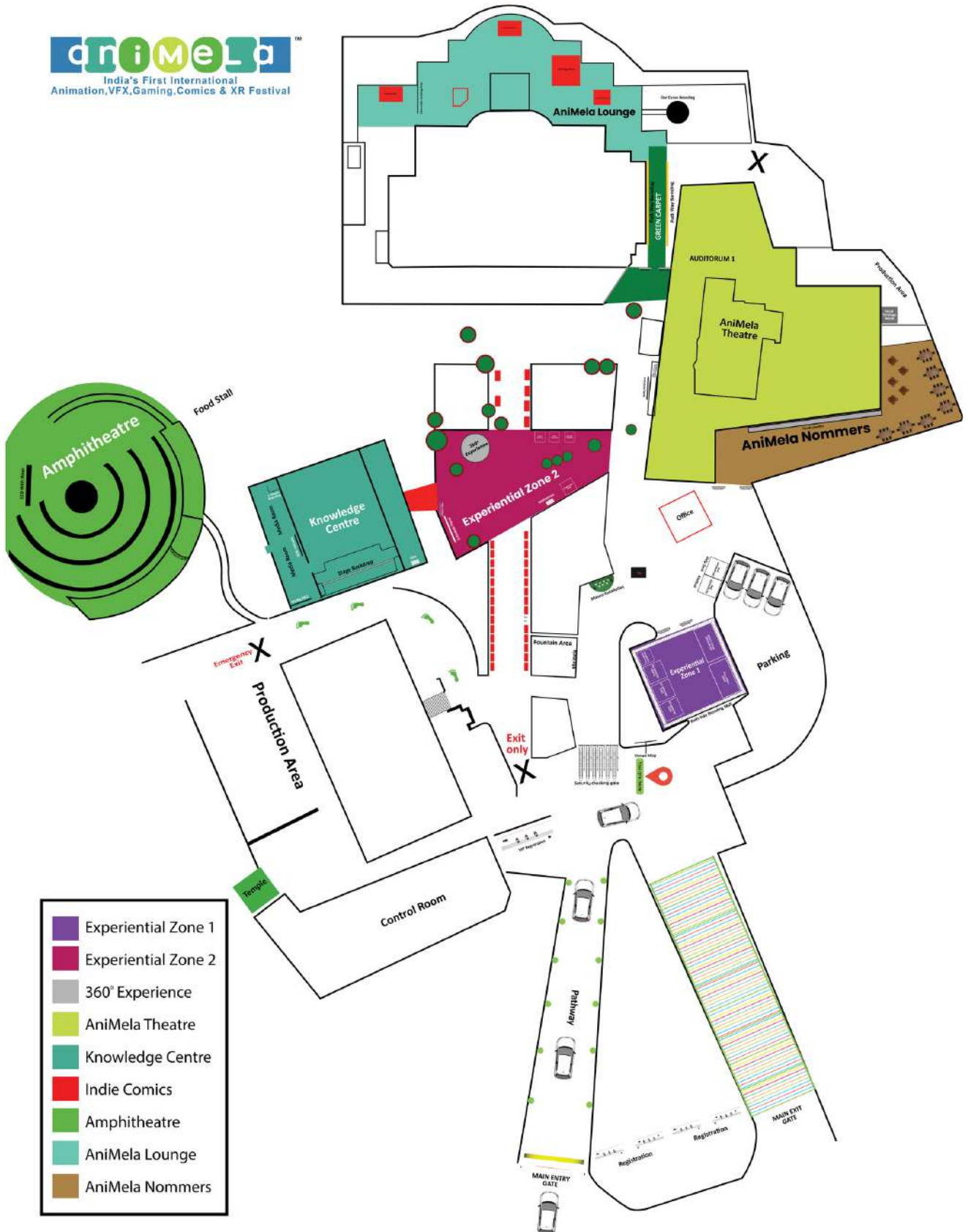
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# VENUE

NFDC FILMS DIVISION, PEDDER ROAD, MUMBAI





# DAY SCHEDULE

KEY:	Film	Filmmaker will be present	Knowledge Session
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## DAY 1

19TH JAN 2024

VENUE:  
ANIMELA  
THEATRE

Time	Event
10:30 am - 12:15 pm	Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman Dir: Pierre Földes
12:30 pm - 2:45 pm	India Collection: Shorts Programme
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	Lucky Dog: World Premiere Dir: Ujwal Nair
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Slide Dir: Bill Plympton
5:45 pm - 7:15 pm	Sultana's Dream Dir: Isabel Herguera
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	The Peasants Dir: DK Welchman & Hugh Welchman
9:45 pm - 11:30 pm	Unicorn Wars Dir: Alberto Vázquez

# DAY SCHEDULE

KEY:	Film	Filmmaker will be present	Knowledge Session
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## DAY 1

19TH JAN 2024

**VENUE:  
KNOWLEDGE  
CENTRE**

Time	Event
10.30 am - 12.00 pm	<b>Dreaming Utopia: Making of <i>Sultana's Dream</i></b> Speakers: Upamanyu Bhattacharyya, Isabel Herguera, Gianmarco Serra & Diego Herguera Moderator: Sekhar Mukherjee
12.30 pm - 1:30 pm	<b>Inside Star Wars: Visions - <i>Crafting The Bandits of Golak</i> with 88 Pictures</b> with Milind D. Shinde
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Mastering the Magic: A Deep Dive into the VFX of <i>RRR</i> and <i>Baahubali</i></b> with Shobu Yarlagadda and Srinivas Mohan
4:00 pm - 4:45pm	<b>Sketch to Screen: Animation Masterclass with</b> Reza Riahi
5:00 pm - 5:45 pm	<b>Script to Screen: Animation Writing</b> Masterclass with Johanna Goldschmidt
6:15 pm - 7:45 pm	<b>AniMela-MIFA Pitch</b>
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Best of Anney: Shorts Programme (in the presence of the Anney Team)</b>

# DAY SCHEDULE

KEY:	Film	Filmmaker will be present	Knowledge Session
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## DAY 1

19TH JAN 2024

VENUE:  
AMPHITHEATRE

Time	Event
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Jugalbandi: A Deep Dive into Character Design with Datsi School's Michael Joseph & Venky
12.30 pm - 1.30pm	Showrunner's Workshop: Creating a TV Series in 30 Minutes with Ted Sieger
2.30 pm - 4:00 pm	Passion-Education-Employment: An Ask-Me-Anything Session Speakers: Preeti Vyas, Ninad Chhaya, Virendra Patil   Moderator: Nina Sabnani
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Publishing Panels: Kickstarting your Comics Career Speakers: Anand RK, Abhijeet Kini Bharath Murthy   Moderator: Vivek Nag
6.15pm - 7.15 pm	Embracing AI: Job Security in the GenAI Era with NVIDIA's Sasikumar R and Sunil Patel
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	International Collection: Shorts Programme



19th Jan, 10:30am - 12:15 pm,  
AniMela Theatre

**BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING WOMAN** by *Pierre Földes*  
*SAULES AVEUGLES, FEMME ENDORMIE* | France, Canada, Netherlands,  
Luxembourg | 2022 | 100 mins | French

#### **Festival Appearances/ Awards**

*Anncy International Animated Film Festival 2022 - Jury Distinction Best Feature Film (Winner)*

*São Paulo International Film Festival 2022 - New Director's Competition (nominee) Lumiere Awards 2024 -Best Animated Film (nominee)*

*Cairo International Film Festival 2022 - Golden Pyramid Award (nominee)*

A giant talking frog and an elusive cat help a listless bank employee, his traumatized wife, and a lonely accountant seek meaning in their lives and possibly save Tokyo from catastrophe. Based on stories by acclaimed Japanese author Haruki Murakami, this feature debut by composer Pierre Földes won the Jury Special Mention award at the renowned Anncy Animation Film Festival and the Grand Prize at the Anima Festival in Brussels.



**Pierre Földes** is a composer, painter, and filmmaker. Born to Hungarian-British parents and raised in Paris, he studied piano and composition at the École Normale de Musique de Paris and the Sorbonne. He has composed for video games, commercials, TV series, and films. *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman* is his first feature as animator, director and screenwriter.

19th Jan, 4:00pm- 5:30pm,  
AniMela Theatre



## **SLIDE** by Bill Plympton

**USA | 2023 | 79 mins. | English**

### **Festival Appearances/ Awards**

*Annecy International Animated Film Festival 2023 - Contrechamp Award for Best Film (nominee)*

*Warsaw International Film Festival 2023 - Free Spirit Award (nominee)*

*Animayo International Film Festival of Animation 2023*

A mythical cowboy appears in a corrupt 1940's logging town and, with the help of his slide guitar and a giant Hellbug, battles the evil Mayor and his equally evil twin to clean up the town of Sourdough Creek. Hand-drawn completely by Plympton alone in his signature sketchy style, 'Slide' is a vibrant, outrageous, and endlessly entertaining musical/comedy/western; an ode to Plympton's Oregon upbringing and subsequent obsession with all things country western.



Considered the King of Indie Animation, **Bill Plympton** began his career creating cartoons for publications such as New York Times, and National Lampoon. His most notable works include the Oscar nominated shorts *Your Face* and *Guard Dog* and the Cannes winner *Push Comes to Shove*. *Slide* is his 9th animated feature.



## **SULTANA'S DREAM** by Isabel Herguera

*Spain, Germany, India | 2023 | 84 mins. | Bengali, Spanish, Basque, Hindi, English, Italian*

### **Festival Appearances/ Awards**

*Hamburg Film Festival 2023 - Hamburg Producers Award (Winner)*

*San Sebastián International Film Festival 2023 - Euskal Gidoigileen Elkartea Award (Winner)*

*Art Cinema Award 2023 - Best Feature (2023)*

*Goya Awards 2024 - Best Animation Film (nominee)*

*São Paulo International Film Festival 2023 - Best Fiction (nominee)*

Inés, a Spanish artist living in India, stumbles upon Sultana's Dream; a science fiction story written by Begum Rokeya in 1905. It describes Ladyland, a utopia where women rule the country, while men live in seclusion and are responsible for household chores. Fascinated by the story, Inés embarks on a journey across the country to search for the one place where women can live in peace. Using a variety of hand-made styles, including mehendi, watercolour and shadow theatre cut-outs, Isabel Herguera's critically acclaimed debut feature is also the Opening Film of AniMela 2024.



**Isabel Herguera** discovered animation thanks to a friend who showed her how to work a Bolex camera and gave her his animation equipment. Since then, her films have won over fifty international awards, including a Goya Award nomination in 2006. She also actively teaches at institutes around the world.



19th Jan, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm,  
AniMela Theatre

**THE PEASANTS** by DK Welchman & Hugh Welchman  
*Poland, Serbia, Lithuania* | 2023 | 115 mins. | Polish

**Festival Appearances/ Awards**

*Annecy Int'l Animation Film Festival 2023 - Contrechamp Award for Best Film (nominee)*

*Warsaw International Film Festival 2023 - Free Spirit Award (nominee)*

*Woodstock Film Festival 2023*

Jagna is a young woman determined to forge her path in a late 19th-century Polish village - a hotbed of gossip and ongoing feuds, held together, rich and poor, by adherence to colourful traditions and deep-rooted patriarchy. Adapted from the Nobel Prize-winning novel of the same name, this magnum opus of the *Loving Vincent* directors uses the same painted animation technique as their previous work, and takes you on a journey of the struggle to break free.



**DK Welchman** - a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, awarded the Minister of Culture scholarship for special achievements in painting and graphics 4 times. Upon graduation, DK became interested in film and animation, and directed 5 short films before her first feature film, the Oscar-nominated *Loving Vincent*.

**Hugh Welchman** - co-wrote and directed *Loving Vincent* with his wife DK Welchman (formerly Dorota Kobiela). The film grossed \$43 million at the international box office and was nominated at the BAFTAs, Golden Globes, and for an Academy Award. Previously Hugh won an Oscar for Best Short Animation for producing BreakThru Film's *Peter and the Wolf*.





19th Jan, 9:45 pm - 11:30 pm,  
AniMela Theatre

**UNICORN WARS** by Alberto Vázquez  
*France, Spain | 2022 | 92 mins. | English, Spanish*

**Festival Appearances/ Awards**

*Goya Awards 2023 - Best Animated Film (winner)*

*BFI London Film Festival 2022*

*Festival du Nouveau Cinéma 2022*

*Melbourne International Film Festival 2022*

*Unicorn Wars* is a 2022 Spanish-French animated splatter war film written and directed by Alberto Vázquez. The plot is set against the backdrop of a conflict between anthropomorphized teddy bears and unicorns, following two bear siblings deployed in a military mission to a magical forest populated by wild unicorns.



**Alberto Vázquez** is an illustrator, graphic novelist, writer and director. The recipient of two Goya awards, he wrote and directed the animated short films *Birdboy*, *Sangre de Unicornio*, *Decorado* and *Homeless Home*, all selected or awarded at prestigious festivals such as Cannes, and Annecy. He is currently working on a children's series and his self-produced video game, *Microbian*.



# India Collection

Showing the brilliant emerging talent of India, this selection of 19 films has something for everyone! This is a family-friendly special, which you can watch with the whole khandaan! With many of the filmmakers being present at this screening, this one is all about celebrating the new stars of Indian animation!

**19th Jan, 12:30 pm - 2:45 pm, AniMela Theatre**



## This Socks

*Ananya Bashyam | India | 2023 | 2 mins.*

*This Socks* is a stop motion animation short film that experiments with different techniques to illustrate a common everyday annoyance.

## As A Man

*Soumitra Ranade | India | 2022 | 5 mins.*

Across the world, violence against women has been unrelenting since time immemorial. The film addresses men who perpetuate this violence, as it seeks to comprehend what goes on in their minds.



## Hog-Tied Freedom

*Shaheen Sheriff, Sunakshi Puri | India | 2023 | 3 mins.*

As a people's protest erupts and clashes against a tyrannical power that has mandated control of people's vision, a girl attempts to bravely break through their armed forces and destroy their headquarters.

## Moonless

*Adheep Das | India | 2023 | 24 mins.*

A bull flees from his herd. The moon goes missing from the sky. The bull runs across this new moonless world, looking for its limit. Instead, he finds different people and their many endeavors and in them discovers limitlessness.



# India Collection

19th Jan, 12:30 pm - 2:45 pm, AniMela Theatre



## Ai.liminate

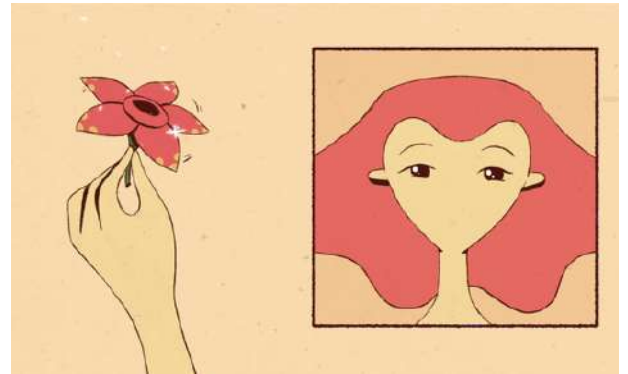
*Himanshu Bheniye | India | 2023 | 3 mins.*

In a world plagued by overpopulation, an artificial intelligence programme called Ai.liminate is created, aimed at regulating the human population. When a compassionate female droid helps a newborn escape from imminent elimination, she becomes the target of a relentless bounty hunter, hell-bent on exterminating the last hope for humanity's survival.

## CCC

*Aishwarya Avinash Chaudhari, Siddharth Modi India | 2023 | 3 mins.*

"C C C" is a surreal music video made for duo Parekh & Singh, that follows the emotional journey of a young couple as they navigate the evolving stages of their relationship. The woman finds herself gradually drifting away, while her partner fervently tries to hold on to what they once had.



## Raavi Paar

*Mark D'Rozario | India | 2023 | 6 mins.*

Adapted from Gulzar's short story *Raavi Paar*, the film is a depiction of a harrowed family and their travails during the Partition.

## Kyaa Hai Yeh Samjhauta?

*Hansa Thapliyal | India | 2023 | 9 mins.*

Commissioned by Nirantar (Delhi), the film explores the word 'Samjhauta' (compromise): *Do you set your terms? Do you come to terms?* The film is executed using everyday materials - scraps of cloth, needle, thread and the timbre of human voices to explore these questions.



# India Collection

19th Jan, 12:30 pm - 2:45 pm, AniMela Theatre



## Spirit of The Forest

*Kal Sanghvi, Nirupa Rao, Nandini Rao | India | 2023 | 7 mins.*

A little girl stumbles into a sacred grove near her village in south India. She disturbs the spirit of the forest, who takes her on an adventure to illuminate the origins of this ancient swampland.

## Tame Keva?

*Jignesh Chavda | India | 2023 | 8 mins.*

This documentary is about the place where the director grew up and the people who live there; all set against the backdrop of the ever-pervasive caste system.



## Barsaat

*Vipin Samuel | India | 2023 | 6 mins.*

A musical about a couple grieving and coming to terms with the death of their son.

## Metamorphosis

*Archit Vaze | India | 2023 | 3 mins.*

A wishing star lands in a quaint forest and thrives, as it forms a symbiotic relationship with its surroundings.



# India Collection

19th Jan, 12:30 pm - 2:45 pm, AniMela Theatre



## The Animated Life of SL Bhatia

*Meera Krishnamurthy | India | 2023 | 8 mins.*

This film brings to life a selection of objects and archives from the SL Bhatia Museum, Library and Archives at St John's Research Institute, Bangalore.

## The Heart of Akhnar

*Debayan Paul | India | 2023 | 9 mins.*

When Leena loses a team member on her first mission as captain, she risks the whole team's lives to go on a dangerous mission and bring them back, in order to deal with her own insecurity that ends up paying a heavy price in the end.



## This Is TMI

*Subarna Dash, Vidushi Gupta | India | 2023 | 6 mins.*

Big boobs vs. small boobs? A group of women discuss who has it worse.



## Arana Puranam

*Adhiti Krishnadas | India | 2023 | 4 mins.*

Mr. P.N.K Panicker's animated avatar reveals how Arana, the humble red-tailed skink, acquired a famous trait.



# India Collection

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19th Jan, 12:30 pm - 2:45 pm, AniMela Theatre



## Hocchey Ta Ki?

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*Sneha Das | India | 2021 | 3 mins.*

An old man loses his specs and overturns the house looking for them.

# What a 'Lucky Dog!': World Premiere with Q&A

Ujwal Nair | India | 2024 | 21 mins.

19th Jan, 3:00pm - 3:45pm, AniMela Theatre



An Indian dog dreams of immigrating to Canada to be reunited with his owner. But first, he needs a visa. 'Lucky Dog' is an animated musical satire about immigration and privilege. This is the World Premiere of the film: the director Ujwal Nair and producer Indou Theagrajan will present the film and engage in a post-screening Q&A. Don't miss out!



*Ujwal Nair is a self-taught animation filmmaker based out of Chennai, India. Ujwal worked as a storyboard artist for animation studios Graphic India and Thought Cloud. His previous film KPL won the runner up award at TASI Anifest 2019 and was featured in AWN, Animation Xpress and Skwigly Animation.*

# Best of Annecy

The Annecy International Animation Film Festival has travelled far and wide with this programme of 8 award-winning short films from the 2023 edition. Being the world's biggest animation festival means these selected films transgress norms, style and structure at every level, and feature a range of colourful characters from all over the world!

***19th Jan, 8:00pm - 9:30pm, Knowledge Centre***



## Mano

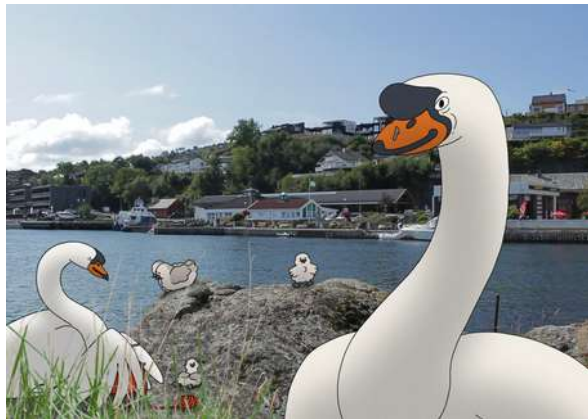
*Toke Ringmann Madsen | Denmark | 2023 | 7 mins.*

Trapped in a neglectful family situation, a protective brother takes care of his younger sibling and confronts his absent mother, which leads to a rash decision.

## Drijf

*Levi Stoops | Belgium | 2023 | 15 mins.*

Two people adrift at sea are fighting a bloody battle for both their survival and their relationship.



## Havnesjefen: The Harbourmaster

*Mia L. Henriksen, Konrad Hjeml | Norway | 2022 | 7 mins.*

The film tells the true story of its titular swan and of how he went from a beloved small town icon to a wanted criminal.

## 27

*Flóra Anna BUDA | France, Hungary | 2023 | 11 mins.*

Alice is 27 years old today. Although she feels oppressed because she still lives with her parents, she spends her time daydreaming to escape her dreary everyday life.



# Best of Annecy

19th Jan, 8:00pm - 9:30pm, Knowledge Centre



## La Notte: The Night

*Martina Genarali, Simone Pratola, Francesca Sofia Rosso  
Italy | 2023 | 7 mins.*

Based on the concert 'La Notte' by A. Vivaldi. Carnival in Venice: Pulcinella attempts to slip into a VIP party, without too much success. His dream to be with the rich and famous will soon turn into a nightmare.

## La saison pourpre

*Clémence Bouchereau | France | 2023 | 9 mins.*

On the edge of a mangrove, a group of girls lives to the rhythm of the climate and the wild geese around them. They see each other live and grow up at different ages. As time passes, tensions arise and rivalries develop.



## Nun or Never!

*Heta Jäälinoja | Finland | 2023 | 10 mins.*

A nun digs a man out of the ground and loses her grip on everyday life. Can secrets and harmony coexist?

## Our Uniform

*Yegane Moghaddam | Iran | 2023 | 7 mins.*

An Iranian girl unfolds her school memories through the wrinkles and fabrics of her old uniform. She admits that she's nothing but a "female" and explores the roots of this idea in her school years.





# International Collection

Showing some of the most avant-garde films from around the world, this acclaimed collection will introduce you to the international film festival favorites! From 2024 Oscar shortlisted 'Wild Summon', to Dok Leipzig's Rosemary A.D., this selection promises to show you an enthralling time.

**19th Jan, 7:30pm - 9:30pm, Amphitheatre**



## Colocation Sauvage

*Armelle Mercat | France | 2023 | 15 mins.*

A starry-eyed goat decides to build a cabin in the jungle to live there, but this means she'll be sharing with some dangerous neighbours. The goat manages to make new friends, but it comes at a heavy price.

## Algodreams

*Vladimir Todorovic | Australia | 2023 | 12 mins.*

Algodreams are created by prompting AI systems to dream about the future of life on planet Earth. Their stories, animations and sounds are shaped by numbers, predictions and mathematical models



## Wild Summon

*Saul Freed, Karni Arieli | United Kingdom | 2022 | 14 mins.*

A natural history fantasy film, following the dramatic life cycle of the wild salmon in human form.



## The Day I Became a Bird

*Andrew Ruhemann | United Kingdom | 2023 | 15 mins.*

A boy falls in love with a girl who only has eyes for birds. To get her attention, he comes up with a rather unusual plan.



# International Collection

19th Jan, 7:30pm - 9:30pm, Amphitheatre



## Armat

*Élodie Dermange | Switzerland | 2022 | 11 mins.*

Élodie tries to find out more about her family's Armenian origins. She interviews her father, her uncle, her great aunt and discovers a harsh history where violence and the inability to express love are passed down from generation to generation.

## Rosemary AD

*Ethan Barrett | USA | 2021 | 10 mins.*

Would my daughter be better off without me? The question swims around a father's mind as he cradles his newborn.



## Navozande, the Musician

*Reza Riahi | France, Iran | 2021 | 15 mins.*

During a vicious attack, a young musician and the love of his life are brutally separated from one another. Fifty years later, the musician is summoned to play at the Mongol castle where his beloved has been held.



# Dreaming Utopia: The Making of *Sultana's Dream*

**Sekhar Mukherjee in conversation with Diego Herguera, Gianmarco Serra, Isabel Herguera, and Upamanyu Bhattacharya**

What does it take to make a feature film that is inspired by a feminist story over a hundred years old? To work with a team from across continents, collaborate with local artisans and artists and ultimately create a piece of work that has been celebrated around the world. The award-winning team of *Sultana's Dream* will take you through their creative process, answer questions and screen a short film compiled from their workshops in India during the process of filming. Hear from the director herself, at her first appearance in an Indian screening of the film!

**19th Jan, 10:30am - 12:00pm, Knowledge Centre**



**Gianmarco Serra**

**PANELIST**

Gianmarco Serra graduated with a law degree from Pisa University and has extensive experience with documentary filmmaking. He began working with animation in 2015, as scriptwriter for the short film *Amore d'Inverno*

**PANELIST**

**Isabel Herguera**

Isabel Herguera discovered animation thanks to a friend who showed her how to use a Bolex camera and gave her his animation equipment. Since then, her films have won over fifty international awards, including a Goya Award nomination in 2006. She also actively teaches at institutes around the world.



**Upamanyu Bhattacharyya**

**PANELIST**

Upamanyu is a Kolkata based, award-winning animation director and illustrator. He has co-directed the acclaimed animated short film - *Wade*, and is now directing his first animated feature film - *Heirloom*. He is currently a partner at Otter Studios.

**PANELIST**

**Diego Herguera**

After graduating in Architecture from ETSA Barcelona, Diego worked for several years at the Mies van der Rohe Foundation (Barcelona) before founding the studio El Palmeral.



**Sekhar Mukherjee**

**MODERATOR**

Sekhar is an NID Animation Alumni & founder of the iconic *Chitrakatha Design Story festival* since 2007. He is a mentor to many young design students & shaped NIDAP as founding director from 2018 to 2023. His blood group is B+!

SESSIONS

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# Jugalbandi: A Deep Dive into Character Design

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## Venkataramanan Koteeshwaran (Venky) and Michael Joseph

Collaboration is not just a functional necessity of needing different types of expertise working together on a creative task. There are other dimensions to it - during this workshop, you'll get a hands-on experience of the collaborative spirit as an artistic process. Two artists, converse with each other, one narratively, the other visually, creating a dynamic give-and-take, interjecting ideas to create a unique visualisation of a story that comes from both, yet this confluence has a uniqueness which is also somehow different from them both - almost a third entity.

**19th Jan, 10:30am - 12:00pm, Amphitheatre**

### EXPERT

#### Michael Joseph

A film direction alumnus of from the Film & Television Institute of India, Pune, Michael Joseph presently heads the Datsi School for Storytellers. In the early 2000's he initiated the film course at Srishti and was Head, Department of Independent Media for many years. As a freelance filmmaker, Michael has made a number of short fiction, screen dance, product, training, corporate, advertisement and documentary films.



### EXPERT

#### Venkataramanan Koteeshwaran (Venky)

An art director, Venky's reputation for quality and unconventional style gets him into the high society of Hollywood's brightest. His credits include *Penguins of Madagascar*, *Avengers 4D*, *Lego Scooby Doo*, *Lego Hidden side*, and many more. He currently runs Zebu as Co-Founder and Art Director, leading many upcoming high profile projects, including the hit new series, *Lego Dreamzzz*.

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# Inside Star Wars: Vision-Crafting 'The Bandits of Golak' with 88 Pictures

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Milind D. Shinde



**19th Jan, 12:30 pm - 1:30pm, Knowledge Centre**

The Bandits of Golak is a Star Wars story but with a twist; the characters and the settings are all inspired by Indian culture. Part of the new animated anthology series Star Wars: Visions, The Bandits of Golak was created by Indian animation studio 88 Pictures, helmed by Milind Shinde. Who better than him to reveal exclusive visuals, take us behind the scenes and tell the origin story of this Indian masterpiece?

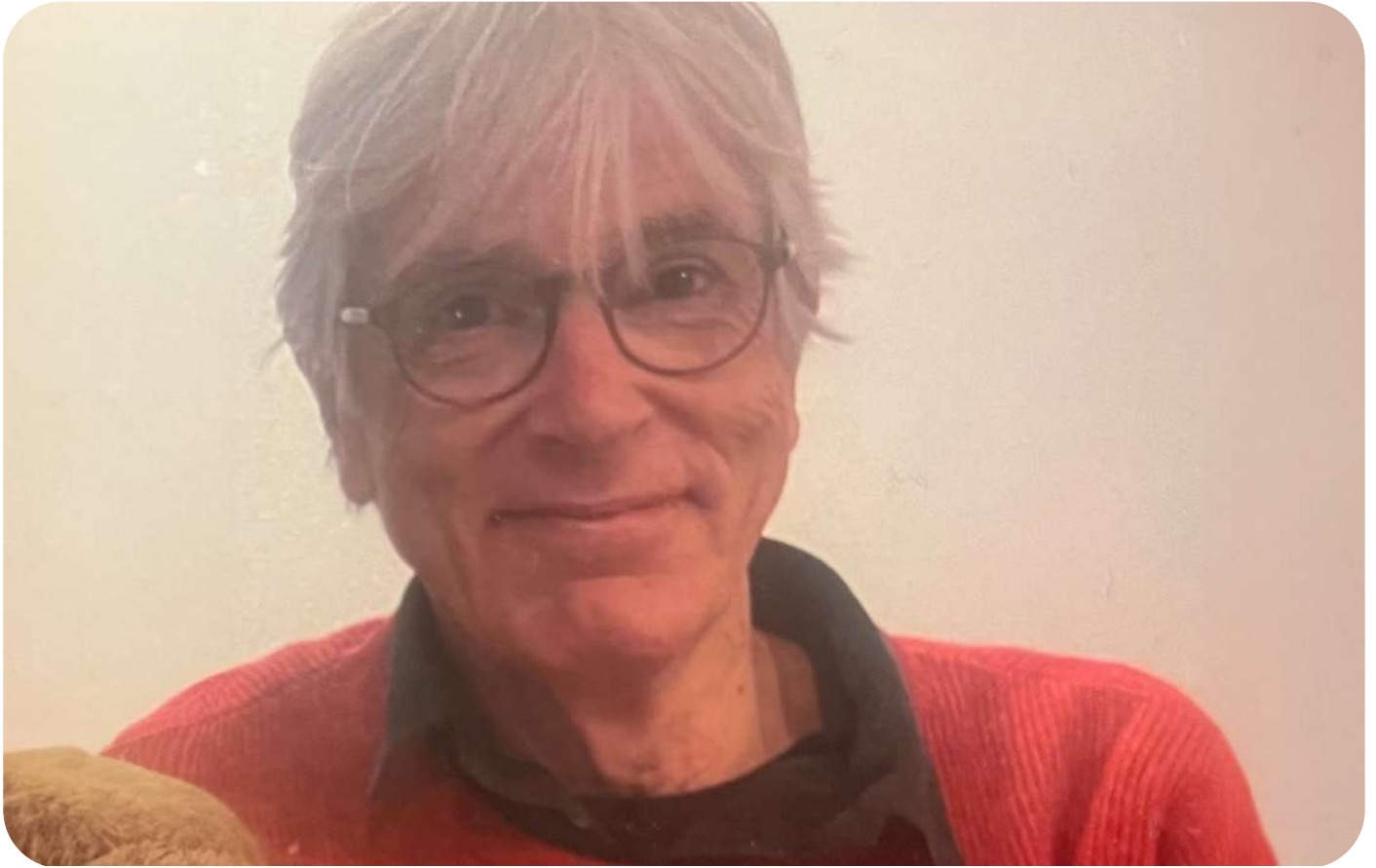
*Milind D. Shinde is a stalwart in animation with nearly two decades of diverse experience, playing a pivotal role in establishing DreamWorks Animation Studios in India. He has worked on major projects like Puss in Boots and Kung Fu Panda 3. His astute management propelled 88 Pictures to serve major clients including Dreamworks, Warner Bros, Nickelodeon and Netflix.*

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# Showrunner's Workshop: Creating a TV Series in 30 Minutes

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Ted Sieger



***19th Jan, 12:30 pm - 1:30pm, Amphitheatre***

Veteran illustrator, director, writer and producer *Ted Sieger* gives a quick crash course on how to begin developing your own series, starting from the basics of storytelling: worldbuilding, characters and narrative arcs.

*Ted Sieger* grew up in Chile, Peru, Australia and Switzerland. It took him a long time to find out what he really wanted to do. He traveled all over, tried music, painting, writing and working in an egg factory, when he wasn't in a freight ship. Finally he found his love and passion in animation. He creates and co-directs and sometimes co-produces shorts, TV series specials and feature films.

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# Mastering the Magic: A Deep Dive into the VFX of RRR and Baahubali

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**Shobu Yarlagadda and Srinivas Mohan**

When *Baahubali: The Beginning* was released, people couldn't quite believe the level of visual effects they were experiencing in an Indian film. Now, get a chance to speak to the two people behind that feat, their journeys, how they visualised and executed the magnum opus, and the highs and lows they faced along the way. With both *Baahubali* and *RRR* becoming among the highest-grossing films in Indian cinema, this is a must-attend session on how to reach the global standard of production and VFX!

**9th Jan, 2:00pm - 3:00pm, Knowledge Centre**



**Srinivas Mohan** is an Indian visual effects supervisor with 25 years of experience. He has received several awards for his work, including four National Film Awards for Best Special Effects. His notable works include *RRR*, *2.0*, *Baahubali The Beginning* and *Endhiran The Robot*

**Shobu Yarlagadda** is the CEO and co-founder of Arka Mediaworks, a leading production house in India that has produced several successful and critically acclaimed films, including *Vedam*, *Maryada Ramanna* and *Baahubali*. Shobu has been instrumental in expanding the *Baahubali* brand beyond films, making it India's largest tent-pole franchise.



# Passion-Education-Employment: An Ask-Me-Anything Session

**Nina Sabnani in conversation with Ninad Chhaya, Preeti Vyas and Veerendra Patil**

Do you want to work with comics and don't know where to start? Are you passionate about animation but too afraid it won't be a viable career? Join a candid chat with industry experts about working in this field and get a glimpse into a career in gaming, comics or animation!

**19th Jan, 2:30pm - 4:00pm, Amphitheatre**



**Ninad Chhaya**

**PANELIST**

A serial entrepreneur and an avid gamer at heart, Ninad has over 25 years of experience in gaming and the interactive media space. He co-founded India's first gaming company, Indiagames, in the late 90s and currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Reliance Games.

**PANELIST**

**Preeti Vyas**

Preeti Vyas is the President and CEO of Amar Chitra Katha Private Limited, publishers of the iconic Amar Chitra Katha comics and Tinkle magazine. In addition, Preeti is the Founder of FunOKPlease Publishing that creates contemporary Indian content for children. She is also a jury member of the Advertising Standards Council of India and Governing member of the Media Entertainment Skills Council of India.



**Veerendra Patil**

**PANELIST**

A veteran of the Indian animation industry, boasting an extensive portfolio that spans more than 2000 hours of television, feature films, gaming, and ride films, Veerendra is the co-founder of both Paprikaas Animation Studios (now Technicolor India) and Xentrix Studios. Presently, he spearheads Zebu Animation Studios as its Founder and Creative Director and is deeply committed to education with the Datsi Foundation.

**MODERATOR**

**Nina Sabnani**

Nina Sabnani is an artist and storyteller interested in exploring the dynamics between words and images in animated films and book illustrations. Her animated films are often rich collaborations with artists and folk fablers and have earned critical acclaim. Her film 'Hum Chitra Banate Hain' won the National Award in 2016.





# Publishing Panels: Kickstarting Your Comics Career

Vivek Nag in conversation with Abhijit Kini, Anand RK and Bharath Murthi

This panel discussion, three comic artists will share their journeys and experiences in publishing their comic books. Each accomplished panelist has found a different route: one is a self-published artist, another an artist who has published through crowdfunding, and the third is associated with a renowned publishing house. With moderator Vivek Nag in conversation with them, this one is a must-attend for young artists who are figuring out how to embark and navigate on the comic world themselves.

**19th Jan, 4:30pm - 6:00pm, Amphitheatre**



**Bharath Murthi**

**PANELIST**

Bharath Murthi studied painting at the M.S. University of Baroda and film direction at Satyajit Ray Film & TV Institute, Kolkata. He has made documentaries, comics and animation, besides teaching at FTII in Pune and Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore. 'The Vanished Path' a Graphic Travelogue is his first book-length comic. He also edits and publishes comics in India under the *Comix India* label.

**PANELIST**

**Anand RK**

Anand RK is an Eisner award winning illustrator and comic book artist residing in Mumbai, India. He has co-created two graphic novels: 'Graffiti's Wall' (2018) and 'Blue in Green' (2020) besides having produced covers for numerous publishers.



**Abhijeet Kini**

**PANELIST**

Abhijeet Kini is a Mumbai based illustrator, animator and independent comics publisher, known for his comic series and IPs: 'Angry Maushi', 'Bombay Rhymes' and 'Fanboys'. Abhijeet conducts workshops across all age groups on ideation, creative writing, drawing and comic making and is also a visiting faculty at leading colleges.



**MODERATOR**

**Vivek Nag**

Vivek Nag is the HOD of Animation at Whistling Woods International. With a career as a concept artist for animation and games and an illustrator for comics, Vivek has been a part of M&E education for the past 7 years. He has propelled students towards creating content across varied mediums and is currently writing academic papers with animation and culture as his core points of interest.



## Sketch to Screen: Animation Masterclass

### Reza Riahi

For animators young and old, this Masterclass is an unique opportunity to learn from a multi-faceted talent who wears many hats: art director, animator, teacher and mentor. Join Reza as he takes you behind the scenes of films featuring his work: Nora Twomey's Academy Award nominated film *The Breadwinner* and his own award-winning directorial short *Navozande*.

**19th Jan, 4:00pm to 4:45pm**  
**Knowledge Centre**

Born in Tehran, Iran, **Reza Riahi** is an animation filmmaker and art director. He is known for his work on award-winning animated shorts, including *Entre Chien et Loup* and *The Breadwinner*. His short film *The Musician* achieved global recognition and was shortlisted for the Oscars in 2022.



## Script to Screen: Animation Writing Masterclass

### Johanna Goldschmidt

From creating characters to navigating the Hero's Journey, discover the essentials of crafting compelling narratives. With a focus on writing for animation, of which Johanna Goldschmidt is an expert, learn new ways to visualise and tell your stories!

**19th Jan, 5:00pm to 5:45pm**  
**Knowledge Centre**

**Johanna Goldschmidt** has written for a diverse range of commissioned animation series, including *Tib & Tumtum*, *Pirates Next Door*, *Zip-Zip*, *Splat & Seymour* and *Runes*. She is also the co-creator and writer of the animated short film *Mussels & Fries* and the live-action feature-length drama *Owning It*.



# Embracing AI: Job Security in the GenAI Era with Nvidia

**Sasikumar R and Sunil Patel**

Are you a content creator worried about the advent of AI? Learn how to use generative AI as a powerful tool to your advantage in this talk led by experts in the field. They will talk about how new GenAI technology revolutionizes content and what tools NVIDIA offers to help creators start their AI journey.

**19th Jan, 6.15pm - 7:15pm, Amphitheatre**

## PANELIST

### Sunil Patel

Sunil has 8 years of experience in deep learning and is currently working on optimizing computer vision algorithms on the GPU. He has contributed to Nvidia TensorRT and Nvidia Deepstream SDKs, used by millions of developers worldwide. He also works on training and optimizing Generative AI models like Stable diffusion and holds four patents in the area of deep learning.



## PANELIST

### Sasikumar R

Sasikumar has over 25 years of experience in the field of visual computing. He has worked for many industry leaders and is currently working as a Senior Solutions Architect for Nvidia Graphics, helping partners and customers understand the NVIDIA platform better. His focus areas include Accelerated Compute Infrastructure, High Performance Computing, Professional Visualization and Graphics Virtualization. He is passionate about emerging technologies and is an AI and Accelerated computing evangelist.

## International MIFA Campus Pitch

With Mentors from Anancy Festival

19th Jan, 6:15 pm - 7:45pm, Knowledge Centre



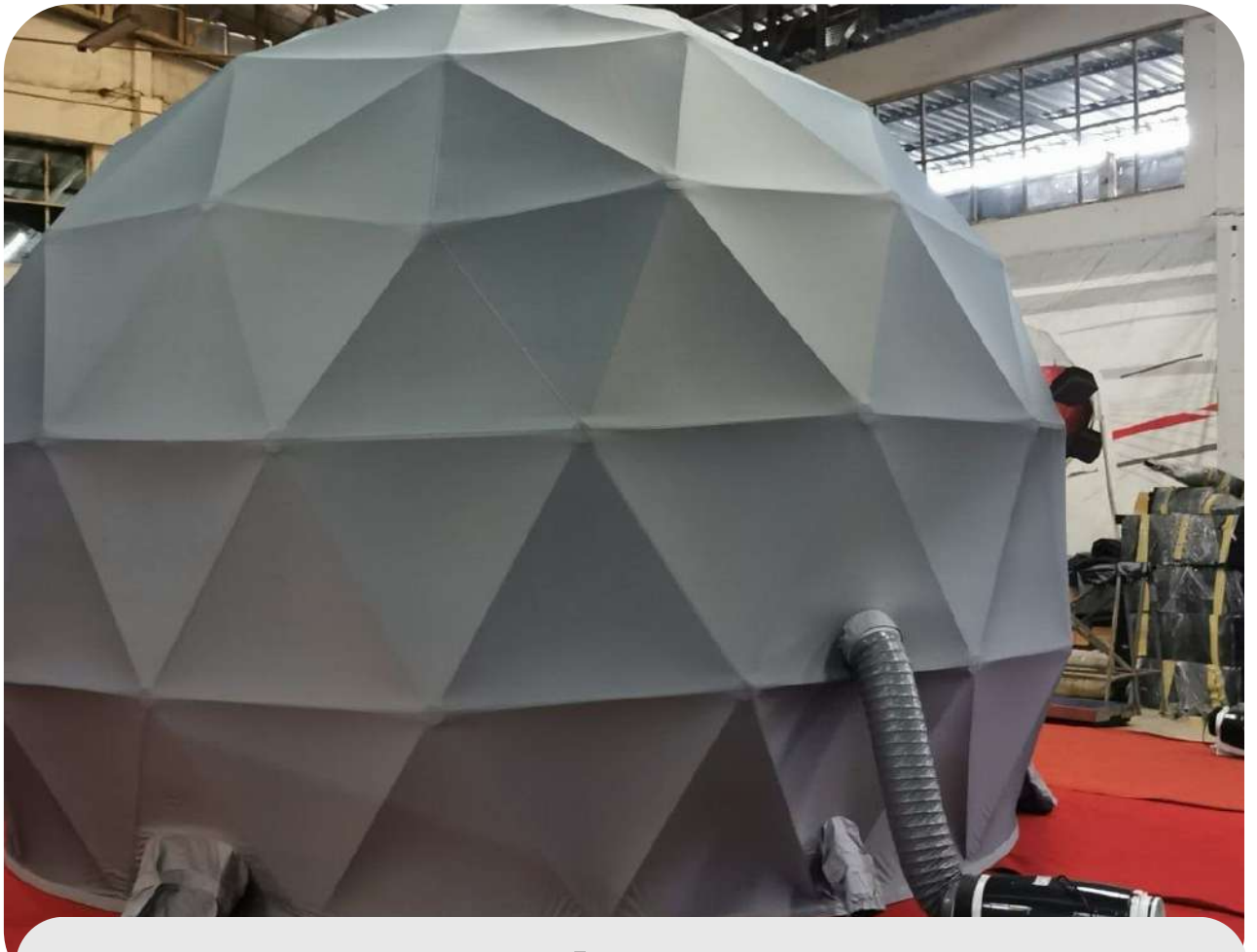
For the very first time, AniMela is bringing Anancy Festival's **International MIFA Campus** to India! Five projects created by incredibly talented Indian animation filmmakers were selected among 60 entries. These filmmakers will get mentored in a 4-day intensive workshop with International mentors from Anancy. Subsequently, they will get an opportunity to present their projects at the AniMela- IMC Pitch event to a distinguished jury comprising of Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, Ashutosh Gowariker and others. The winner of the pitch gets to pitch their project at MIFA, France in June! This is a unique, first-time opportunity to get a glimpse of these five incredible projects and learn what it takes to create a world-class Pitch.

### Supported by:



Consilio





## 360° Dome Theatre

Experience the 360° Dome where you will be able to watch a film in 360 degrees, travel on a spaceship into the vast expanses of space, cross all the planes of the universe and visit fantastic underwater worlds! Made for the whole family, Fulldome 360 cinema technology is a content presentation and viewing format that transforms stories and ideas into an immersive 360-degree virtual reality for a truly engaging and collaborative social experience.

*19-21 Jan. All Day, Experiential Zone*



Indie  
Comix  
Fest

## Indie Comix Fest x AniMela

A showcase of Indian Indie comics, along with interactions with their creators who will be present at AniMela. Meet the talented artists, buy truly indie, often self-published comics, and engage in conversations that may become future collaborations! This section is curated by Indie Comix Fest, who have also put together workshops conducted by the artists. Do not miss the chance to meet India's next Comic superstars!

*19-21 Jan. All Day, Experiential Zone*



## PlayStation Booth

### By PlayStation

Feel like taking a break from the workshops and films? Want to play some video games? Head over to the PlayStation Booth, where you can experience the best of PlayStation titles and games! To take it a step further and take a piece of AniMela back home, grab exclusive discounts on the PS5 Console, accessories & games!

*19th Jan, All Day, Experiential Zone*



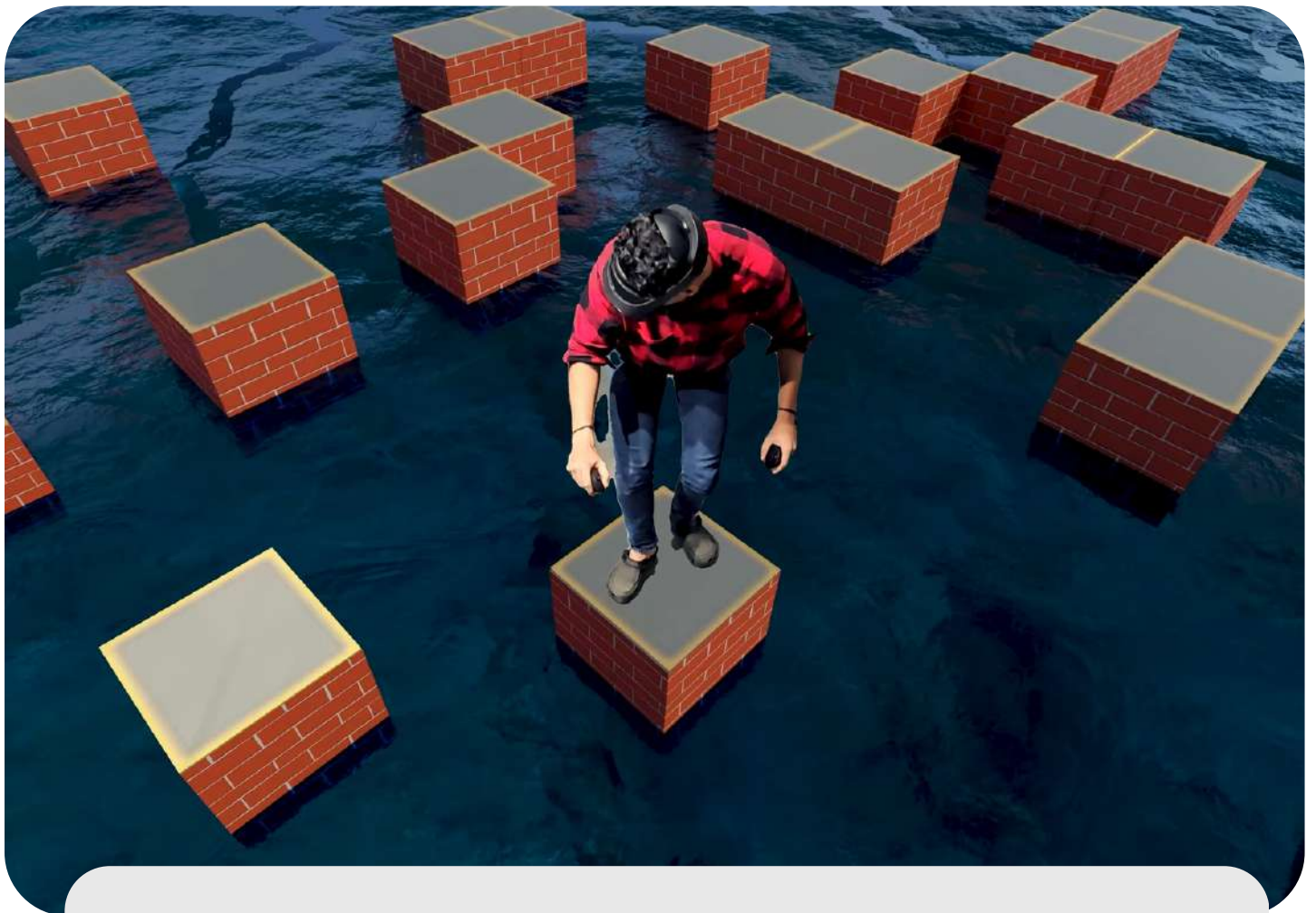
## **VR Aircraft Simulator**

**By Parallax Labs**

Did you ever want to be a fighter pilot? This is your Top Gun moment! Experience this immersive aircraft simulator that delivers the most realistic flight experience, with customizable weather conditions, terrains, and time of day. It also accurately replicates aerodynamics and flight control mechanisms, so you can get a feel of the real deal. The product is currently developed for, but not limited to HAL Cheetah, Chetak, ALH MK III, and Boeing CH-47 Chinook and is used by the Civil Aviation Training Center in Nashik!

*19-21 Jan. All Day, Experiential Zone*



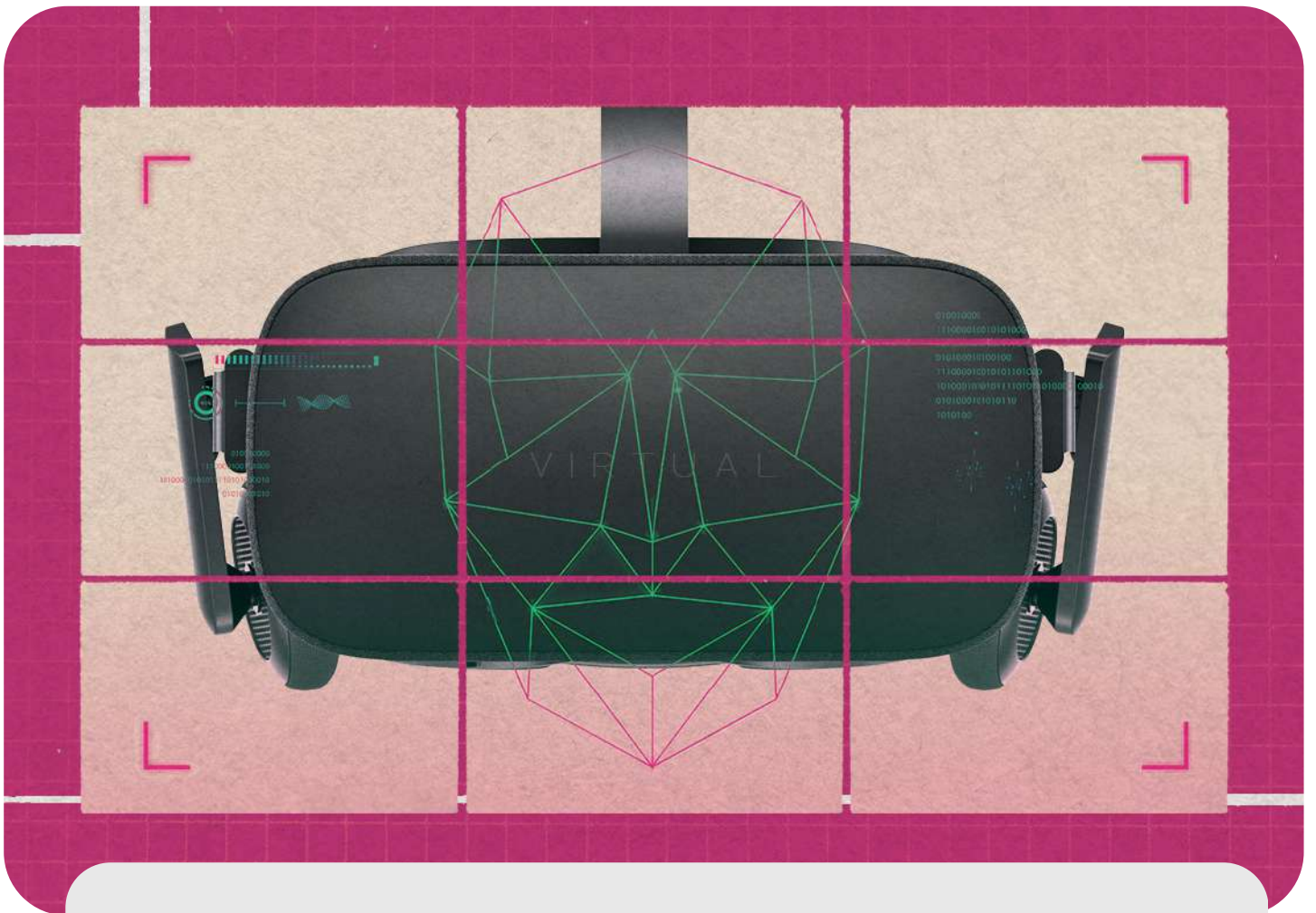


## **Tidal Tactics-Mixed Reality Game**

**By Parallax Labs**

Get ready to embark on an adrenaline-fueled journey into the heart of naval warfare! In this immersive and action-packed game, you'll experience the thrill of commanding your own fleet, strategically positioning your ships, and unleashing devastating firepower upon your enemies!

*19-21 Jan. All Day, Experiential Zone*

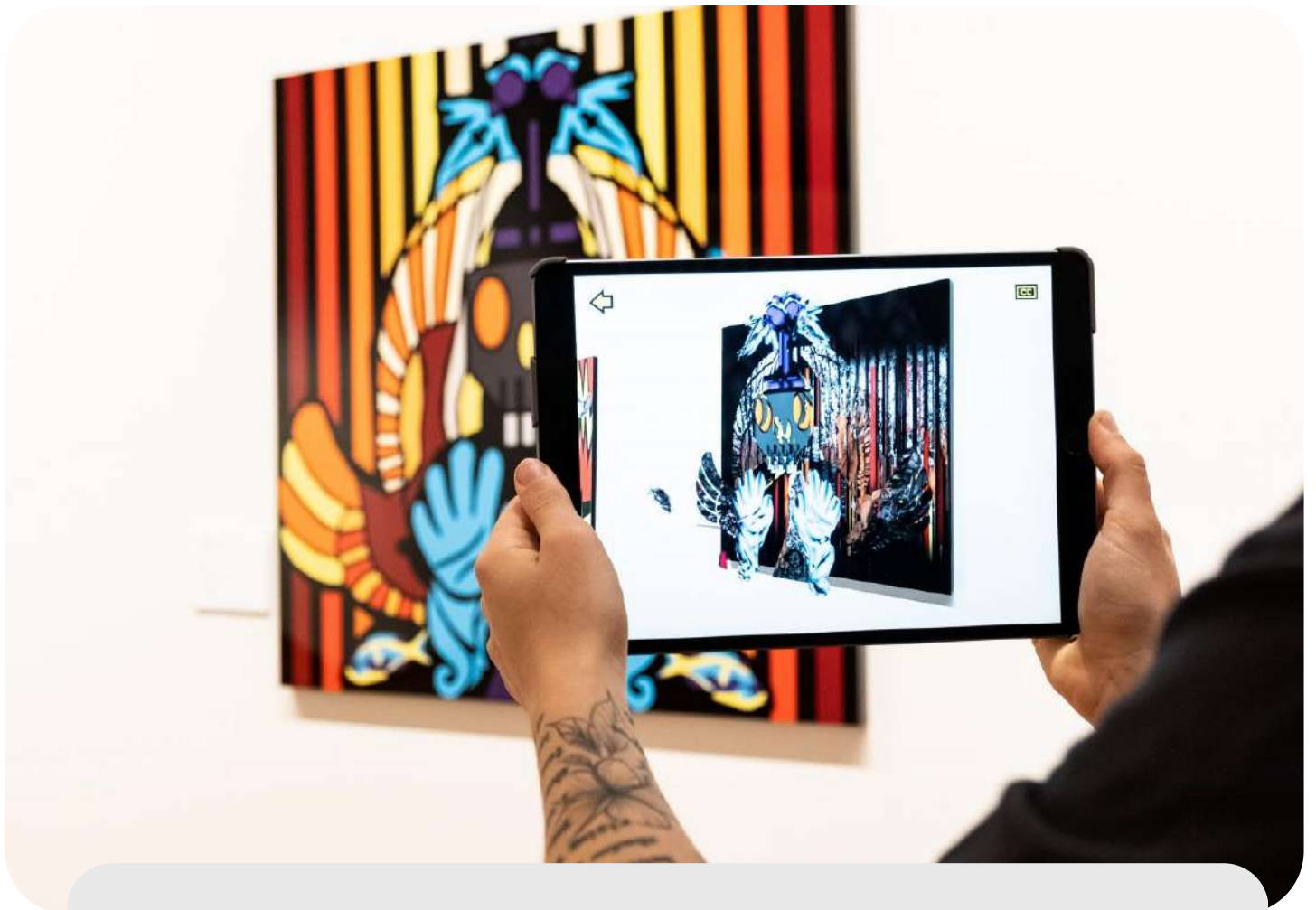


## **Journey of Visual Images Exhibit**

**By Whistling Woods International**

Whistling Woods International (WWI) is India's premier Film, Communication & Creative Arts Institute. Since its inception in 2006, WWI has successfully delivered world-class education in all creative and technical aspects of filmmaking. Located inside Mumbai's Filmcity Complex, students receive hands-on instructions in the discipline they want to pursue. Journey of Visual Images is a student designed showcase of visual media through VR.

*19-21 Jan. All Day, Experiential Zone*



## AR Experience

**By Parallax Labs**

An immersive AR experience crafted specifically for Animela. You can delve into captivating video showcases from top Indian studios and witness their contributions. Explore the evolution of the AVGC-XR Industry over the years, from innovative animations to cutting-edge extended reality experiences. This experience is a dynamic tribute to our industry's growth, providing an engaging and educational journey for you to discover the exceptional works by Indian studios that have shaped India's AVGC-XR landscape.

*19-21 Jan. All Day, Experiential Zone*



## Education Institute Booths

**By Frameboxx, Whistling Woods, MESC, Datsi, School of Visual Arts and more**

Are you considering a career in animation or game design? Drop by the Education Institute booths where you can speak to representatives from top schools around the world and get the information you need! Some of the names you can expect to see are: Frameboxx, Whistling Woods, MESC (Media and Entertainment Skill council), Datsi School of Storytellers, and The School of Visual Arts New York City!

*19th Jan, All Day, Experiential Zone*

All you're gonna need-

-are your eyes,

Your Mouse,

Your Mind.

## 'There is Music in my Head, 24x7: An Immersive VR Experience

By Anshuman Uchil

'There is Music in my Head, 24x7' is an interactive short story that tells the story of a character that has music in their head 24x7. Spawning out of research into VR/XR, it actually attempts to stray away from screens while retaining the immersive aspects of these technologies. Tmh24x7 is played on a PC using a player's mouse clicks, and their eye blinks (tracked with the webcam) to create a unique form of immersion that is not only on screen, but also inside the player's head! Anshuman is an artist and storyteller from New York, Mumbai and Dubai.

*19th Jan, All Day, Experiential Zone*

# SEE YOU THERE!

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