



CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 12

4-7 MAY 2022

WIDESPREAD IN VENICE

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Short meets ASHISH PANDEY

Also in this edition of the **Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival**, the special program dedicated to Indian cinema curated by **Cecilia Cossio** is back, during which three award-winning short films by director **Ashish Pandey** will be presented, all three designed to give voice to marginal figures.

During his studies at the Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI), a prestigious school in Calcutta, **Ashish Pandey**, meets Subrata Mitra, one of the greatest directors of photography of Indian cinema, who will mentor him and introduce him to a vision of cinema that will characterize many of his films. After founding the independent production company Sophia Films in 2006, he made *The Cabin Man* (2007), his first short film, which will be dedicated to his teacher. Like the subsequent *Khule DarwaaZe* (2010), both are a reflection on loneliness, particularly hard in the traditional Indian world, where the individual draws meaning from the relationship with others. The fleeting glances at their lives also reflect the passage of time, that time that leaves behind those who cannot keep up with the movement of the world. While in these two works, the theme is individual marginality, in *Nooreh* (2018) there is a collective marginality. For many years Kashmir has been devastated by bloody clashes between India and Pakistan and the long peaceful coexistence between communities has been compromised by the victims and the oppressive presence of the Indian army.

PROGRAMME OF THE SELECTED WORKS:

THE CABIN MAN (India, 2007, 8')

The loneliness of an elderly abandoned railway cabin keeper seems to find a moment of respite only when a train passes, without stopping. A meditation on the race against the time that is life, where everyone struggles to reach a destination that is not known.

KHULE DARWAAZE – OPEN DOORS (India, 2010, 15')

An elderly woman, Tara, lives in a widows' home, with no contact with the outside world. There is an open door in the house that leads to nowhere.

NOOREH (India, 2018, 22')

In a village in Kashmir, on the Indo-Pakistani border, the scene of the clashes between the two countries, lives Nooreh, eight years old, who makes an extraordinary discovery: clashes rage when he sleeps and ceases when she keeps her eyes open.