



CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 13
22-25 MARCH 2023
WIDESPREAD IN VENICE

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SHORT *meets* WHISTLING WOODS INTERNATIONAL

The special program dedicated to Indian cinema, curated by Cecilia Cossio, is returning to the **Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival**. This year Cecilia Cossio presents **Whistling Woods International**, the most important cinema school in India, based in Mumbai. Three graduation short films will be shown by its former students for the occasion, which have already been screened and awarded at numerous national and international festivals.

Mumbai's **Whistling Woods International** (WWI) cinema school was founded in 2006 by Subhash Ghai, a legendary figure in Indian cinema who graduated from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune and went on to become a successful actor, director, and producer. Flanked by his daughter Meghna, he founded an international cinema school that achieved immediate success, so much so that it was ranked among the ten best in the world by the American magazine "Hollywood Reporter" in 2010. WWI is now affiliated with important Indian institutions and has about 1300 students and over 2900 graduates.

The three directors featured in the program are **Abhimanyu Kanoia**, an award-winning screenwriter and director with eight films under his belt, numerous collaborations, and a web series for Dice Media; **Shashwat Gandhi**, who has managed the Boathouse Media production company since 2017 and is currently working on his first fictional feature film after directing various shorts; and **Shiva Katyal**, who has directed films and taken an interest in film editing, photography, sound, and scriptwriting, and has worked as a director's assistant on feature films, shorts, advertising, and web series.

PROGRAMME OF THE SELECTED WORKS:

KATHAKAAR (The storyteller) by Abhimanyu KANODIA (India, 2016, 10'37 ")

An elderly projectionist is fired to make room for new technologies and younger staff. Depressed, he returns to his village, where surprisingly, he discovers a new life.

500 RUPEES by Shashwat GANDHI (India, 2017, 15'48 ")

Inspired by the novel Das Rupye (Ten Rupees) by the writer S.H. Manto, the film recounts the story of a very young prostitute, 'rented' by three customers, with an unexpected result.

THE NIGHTINGALE by Shiva KATYAL (India, 2019, 17'09 ")

Set in Kashmir, a region devastated by the war, the short focuses on the love story between a Hindu soldier and a Muslim girl. The story becomes a powerful reflection on war and religious differences.