



SEASON OF DRAGONFLIES

Nepal

2019 Nantes Produire au Sud

MAIN DATA

Category: Social Drama

Length : 90'

Language : Nepali, Newari

Shooting location : Nepal

Shooting dates : September 2021

Expected date of completion : April 2022

PRODUCTION

Budget : 400 000 €

Financing in place : 70 000 €

Production company : Underground Talkies, Icefall Productions

Workshops and platforms attended : EAVE, Busan Asian Film School AFiS, Locarno Open Doors, NFDC Film Bazaar

Current situation : development stage, seeking for partners

Ram Krishna POKHAREL, producer

After working for almost a decade in the sector of the Himalayan expedition, Ram Krishna Pokharel graduated from Film School as one of the first batches within Nepal. He has produced various shorts and features screened at many festivals and he is the first Nepali Producer participating in EAVE Producer's Workshop with scholarship received from CNC in 2017. He has worked as producer, line producer and fixer in various international films, documentaries, and commercials that are shot in Nepal. He has recently produced a Bhutanese feature film that has been selected in Berlinale, Busan IFF and nominated for the Asia Pacific Screen Awards. He also won the Emmy Award for the film 'A Mountain To Climb' under the category 'Outstanding Short Sports Documentary'.



Anup POUDEL, producer

Anup Poudel is a film producer and founding member of Ekadeshma International Short Film Festival. An alumnus of Oscar College of Film Studies (2012) and Busan Asian Film School (2019), he has produced *I am Happy* (Busan IFF 2011), *The Flute* (Venice IFF 2012), and *The Moon Is Bright Tonight* (Busan IFF 2018). He has just completed another short film, *Kirtimukha*. He is now preparing for his first feature film, *Season of Dragonflies*.



Abinash Bikram SHAH, director

Born in Nepal, Abinash Bikram Shah is a freelance writer/director based in Kathmandu. An alumnus of Locarno Filmmakers Academy 2019, Berlinale Talents 2010, Asian Film Academy 2008, Abinash Bikram Shah has written, directed and produced short films that have been selected and awarded at many International Film Festivals. He has also written several feature films that premiered in Berlin International Film Festival (2012) and Venice International Film Festival (2015), and which were also Nepal's Official Entry for Academy Awards in Best Foreign Language Film Section. He is currently preparing for his directorial debut film, *Season Of Dragonflies*.



SYNOPSIS

Following a devastating earthquake, Rudraawati (40), a feisty breast cancer survivor who lives in a make-shift shelter amidst the rubble, is torn between using her money to rebuild her house, which her family desperately needs, or re-building her breast to reclaim her womanhood and win back her estranged husband. While everyone in her family is busy preparing for the rituals to make Rudraawati's daughter a *Kumari* (the Living Goddess as in *Newari* culture), Rudraawati decides without telling anyone to use the money to reclaim her womanhood. But the consequences of her decision catch up with her and she finds herself isolated, abandoned by the very people that she struggled so hard to hold together. She realises what is truly important to her. Now, she has to learn to take a stand and let go of false constraints. This might be her last chance to find hope and happiness again.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

« *Season of Dragonflies* comes from extremely personal experience. My cousin, with whom I had spent all my childhood, passed away because of breast cancer. I got to know later about her husband's affair. I doubted that maybe the reason she never told us or blamed him for all of this was because she thought her mastectomy to be the actual cause. What if she had decided to reconstruct her breast? Would that mend her relationship? I then decided to write this story about this woman called Rudraawati, who wants to make decision for herself, and break the barriers; unlike many such Nepali women who rarely get an opportunity to explore or make choice for herself. »

CONTACTS

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