



PRODUIRE AU SUD
FESTIVAL DES CINÉMAIRES
NANTES

REFUGE

India

2020 Arthouse Produire au Sud Kolkata

MAIN DATA

Original title : Kyab

Genre: Social-political and historical drama

Length : 150'

Language : Tibetan and Hindi

Shooting location : India

Shooting dates : January and June 2021

Expected date of completion : December 2021

PRODUCTION

Budget : 1 000 000 €

Financing in place : 230 000 €

Production company : Gulbadan Talkies PVT LTD

Workshops and platforms attended : None

Current situation : development stage, seeking for partners

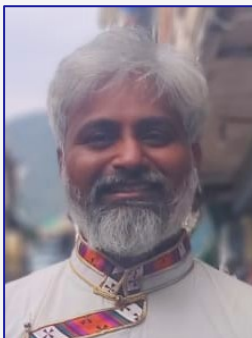
Anusha NANDAKUMAR, producer

Anusha Nandakumar is an independent producer and filmmaker based in Mumbai, India. She is graduate of Direction and Screenplay Writing from Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata. Anusha is one of the founders and Creative Directors of Gulbadan Talkies Pvt Ltd, a Mumbai based Content Creation Company. Anusha's film *The Boxing Ladies* won the prestigious National Film Award in 2010. She has been a two time recipient of a fellowship to pursue film direction and film studies by the French Cultural Embassy in Paris. She has also been a talent at the Berlinale Talent Campus in 2013.



Mohan KUMAR VALASALA, director

Mohan Kumar Valasala is a filmmaker and producer based out of New Delhi, India. He is an alumnus of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI, Kolkata). His short films and documentaries have been shown across film festivals. *Panchabhuta*, his documentary, was selected in International competition under Berlinale Shorts section, 62nd Berlin International Film festival, 2012, Germany. *Barre*, his short fiction film, was selected in International competition at Filmschoolfest Munich 2014, Germany. *Kyab (Refuge)* is his debut feature film under development.



SYNOPSIS

Refuge chronicles the trials and tribulations of each phase of exile life over the course of past six decades, which has left an indelible mark on the personalities of the film's Tibetan protagonists. While trying to grasp six decades of historical events into a film, the focus is to depict the microcosm of Tibetan refugee life by showing the disastrous ruptures they create within the microcosmic world of one family manifested through three women's complex perspectives of shared anguish. *Refuge* is an intimate portrayal of human resilience. This film is an ode to the endurance of three women from the same family, in the times of civilizational strife of a nation that is on the verge of losing its identity. The film portrays different chapters of these three women's lives at different ages. These chapters illustrate episodes of significant cathartic instances in their exile life on the backdrop of historical events.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (excerpt)

« Exile is the shifting sands of hope mingled with the crippling sorrow of estrangement. When hope fades into the distant horizon and only the pangs of displacement remain, exile becomes a hollow existence hanging upon a thin thread of moral courage. [...] It is remarkable how a human being absorbs circumstances, sometimes defies them and in turn carves the history. Sometimes, these individual expressions do not dissolve into history. Assimilated into their consciousness, in certain specific historical conditions that has absorbed the essence of the society in which they live. This film is my attempt to understand six decades of pain and dislocation, longing and desire, grief and resignation, promises and disappointment, hope and surrender.

While listening to the stories of some of my Tibetan friends in India, what struck me is that each generation of exiles has different associations and vantage points to how they connect with their homeland. The most remarkable is the present and third generation of Tibetan exiles in their vicarious attachment to their motherland. Although they have never seen snow-clad mountains of Tibet in the distant Himalayas, their emotional attachment is as intense and robust as the first generation of exiles who were displaced from their homes in 1959. »

CONTACTS

Producer : Anusha Nandakumar - anusha.nandakumar@gmail.com

Director : Mohan Kumar Valasala - mohandock@gmail.com