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World

Posted at: May 24 2019 5:11PM

**Two Indian film projects to receive Rotterdam festival's development fund****INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM**

Cannes, May 24 (UNI) Two young independent filmmakers from India have been selected for the Rotterdam International Film Festival (IFFR)'s Hubert Bals Fund (HBF) for script and project development.

Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune alumnus Payal Kapadia and Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata former student Dominic Sangma won

the HBF development grants worth 9,000 euros (approximately 7 lakh rupees) each.

The Mumbai-based Kapadia and Sangma, who is from Meghalaya, are among ten filmmakers from around the world selected for the Bright Future Script and Project Development grant of the Hubert Bals Fund. This is the first time two film projects from India have been selected for the prestigious European film fund. The selected projects also include two from China.

The announcement was made during the Cannes film festival this week. "This year's selection shows the Hubert Bals Fund's strong commitment to supporting new talent," says HBF manager Fay Breeman.

Part of the Rotterdam film festival, HBF's Script and Project Development scheme is divided into two sections: HBF Bright Future for feature films by debut and second-time filmmakers, and HBF Voices for feature films by filmmakers more advanced in their careers. All projects receive a 9,000-euro grant.

Kapadia, the first FTII graduate to be selected by the Cannes film festival's Cinefondation programme for films schools in 2017, receives the HBF grant for her debut feature film, 'All We Imagine As Light'. An India-France co-production, the film tells the story of two migrant nurses in Mumbai embarking on a road trip.

"It is a great initial support for the project which will help me a lot as an independent filmmaker," says Kapadia. "It is a very prestigious fund that would help in giving the project the opportunity to raise more funds in the future," adds Kapadia, whose short film 'Afternoon Clouds' was the only Indian film in official selection at the Cannes festival in 2017.

Sangma, who lives in Nongthymmai Garo village of Meghalaya, receives the HBF grant for his second feature film. An India-China co-production, Sangma's Garo language film, 'Rapture' (Rimdogittanga), revolves around the disappearance of a ten-year-old boy from a village. Sangma's first feature film, 'Ma'ama', also in Garo language, had its world premiered at the Mumbai film festival last year.

"It means a lot to me and my producer (from China) Xu Jianshang," says Sangma, who was among ten filmmakers from across the world selected to the La Fabrique programme for film projects mentored by celebrated director Mira Nair this year. "We have worked so hard and gone through very uncertain times since my previous film, but winning HBF gives us the strength to believe in our work and go on making films we believe in," says Sangma, who studied scriptwriting and direction at SRFTI, Kolkata.

Another Indian film, 'Nasir' had previously won the HBF grant in 2017. 'Set in Coimbatore, 'Nasir', directed by Arun Karthick, has been completed and ready for festival run.

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JERUSALEM, June 2, 2019 (Xinhua) -- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (2nd R) attends the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, June 2, 2019. The Israeli parliament, known as

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“IFFR is a champion in supporting original ideas and stories,” says Samir Sarkar, a Pondicherry-based producer, who has since come on board as the Indian producer for Sangma’s ‘Rapture’.

“There are a lot of interesting stories from independent filmmakers from India that are incredibly original,” says Sarkar, whose production house Magic Hour Films also produced ‘Jonaki’.

“Once again we’ve had to carefully curate from a large pool of very strong applications,” says Marit van den Elshout, head of IFFR Pro. “All of the selected projects offer something new and exciting and push the boundaries of cinema in form or content, whether they are debut features by new talents or new works by already acclaimed filmmakers. We look forward to seeing the end results.”

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