

Seventh International

Tamil Film Festival



தமிழ் சினிமா கலாச்சார விழா

NOV

01

2008

Toronto, Canada

தமிழ் சினிமாவுக்கான உலகளாவிய திரைப்பட விழா

Greetings Greetings

Welcome to the 7th International Tamil Film Festival. Seven years on, since our humble yet ambitious beginnings, we can confidently say that we are proud of the past and excited about the future. The quality and quantity of the submissions this year continue on the familiar trend year after year of significant improvement.

Of the many submissions from different corners of the world, our panel of jurors has selected 16 short films to be showcased at this year's festival. In addition, we will be presenting two short films as special presentations and a documentary film. Of the special presentations Block B, by Malaysian born Canadian director Chris Chong Chan Fui, won the award for Best Canadian Short Film at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival. It should be noted that Chris Chong won the same award at the 2007 festival as well for his film 'Kolam'. The other special presentation is the widely acclaimed short film 'Neelam' (Blue) by Indian director Arivumathy, which was screened earlier at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. We believe these films will offer our audience a brief yet important glimpse into world short cinema.

We welcome fellow film lovers and offer you what we consider to be the best Tamil short films made here in Canada and around the world. We welcome filmmakers and offer you a peek into what your peers are up to. We thank you both, for without the filmmakers there won't be any films, and without the film lovers there won't be any film festivals.

Happy viewing and happy filming.

Time	Movie	Director	Country	Duration
10:00	Salanam	Thurai Ravi	Canada	20m
10:30	Neniginela	Venthan-Narayanan	Canada	20m
11:00	Print Error	G. Kannan	India	20m
11:25	Bin Moksh (Without Salvation)	Tagore Almeida	Dubai	15m
11:45	Kanmani	Abhilasha	India	20m
12:10	Lunch Break			
12:45	Blood	Ramesh-Ganeshan	Canada	20m
1:10	IDP*	Ramesh (TVi)	Canada	30m
1:55	Soccer Ball	Patrick Pathmanathan	Canada	1m
2:10	Sopnam	Vinoth	Canada	5m
2:20	Le Sac	V. Gowri Shankar	India	5m
2:30	Beauty	Patrick Pathmanathan	Canada	1m
2:35	Arumpu	KBB. Naveen	India	15m
2:40	Break			
2:50	The Lost Board	Sunthar	India	20m
3:15	Blue**	Arivumathy	India	10m
3:30	Block B***	Chris Chong Chan Fui	Canada	20m
3:55	Mango Tree in my.	Pratheepan	France	10m
4:00	Ceylon	K. Sagadevan	India	5m
4:10	Karnamotcham	Murali Manohar	India	15m
4:30	Mudivilirunthu	Ranjit Joseph	Canada	15m

* Special Presentation

** Screened at Cannes Festival

*** Won Best Canadian Short Film at 2008 Toronto International Film Festival

Committee and Staff

Executive Director	Tam Sivathanan
Programming Director	Rathan
Communications and Media Director	Dushy Gnanapragasam
Host	Tharsiny Varapragasam
Event Director	Kones. S
Screening Director	Arun Sivakumaran
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Category	In Memory of	Sponsored by	Winners	Country
Best Film	Kumar Moorthy Memorial Award	Promar	Nathy	France
Best Film Exile	Not Awarded			
Critic's Choice	Kalaichelvan Memorial Award	Laxmi Kalaichelvan	Vinai	Canada
Best Film Feature Film	S. Sivasothy Memorial Award	Ratha Auto Sales	Mann	U.K
Best Film – Under Five Minutes	Not Awarded			
Technical Awards				
Direction	A.P Chelliah Memorial Award	Chelliah's son Senthil	Nathy	France
Editing	Not Awarded			
Camera	N.Thambipillai Memorial Award	Thabipillai's son Tam Sivathasan	Vizhi	Sri Lanka
Best Concept	S.Sivasothy Memorial award.	Sivasothy's daughter Kaushi Ragu	Mouna Sumaigal	Canada
Script Writing	P.S.Kandiah Memorial Award	Kandiah's son Karu Kandiah	Tholaintha Mugam	India
Best Actor	A.P. Jeyaratnam Memorial Award	Jeyaratnam's son Dilipkumar	Baskar - Nathy	France
Best Actress	Not Awarded			
Special Performance - Jury Award	S.Thinauvukarasu Memorial Award	Promor	Appuvin Cinema (Koucik)	India

TITLE

DIRECTOR

CAMERA

DATE

SCENE

TAKE



K. Balendra



06

Seventh International
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TITLE

DIRECTOR

CAMERA

SCENE

TAKE

'Ahenam' award recipient K. Balendra

K. Balendra is a dramatist par excellence. He is first among the few equals who can be credited with sustaining the dramatic movement of Eelam Tamils. As the founder of 'Tamil Avaikatu Kalai Kazhaham', he has the rare honour of staging plays continuously for more than the past 30 years.

He has staged more than 60 plays all over the world, including in Sri Lanka, England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Australia, and Canada. Of his many memorable plays, *Mazhai*, *Kannadi Vaarpukal*, *Muhamil-laatha Manitharkal*, *Yuga Tharmam*, and *Mannikavum* are notable for the acclaim they received.

Having inspired a generation of Tamil dramatists all over the world, Balendra has now turned his attention to the next generation of Tamils. He is currently running a drama school for children in London, England, where through weekly instructions he is instilling and nurturing the love for dramatic arts in young Tamils. During a recent visit to Toronto, he continued this work by organizing a theatre workshop for children. Through his drama school, he has staged many children's plays including *'Arasanin Puththaadai'*, *'Vedarai Uchchiya Vellai Puraakkal'*, *'Thappi Vantha Aadu'*, *'Nammai Pidiththa Pisaasukal'*, *'Malaikalai Akattiyya Moods Kizhavan'*, *'Ayalaar Theerppu'*, *'Paramartha Kuruvum Seedarkalum'*, *'Ondru Pattaal Undu Vazhvu'*, *'Oru Payanaththin Kathai'*, and *'Pandara Vanniyan'*.

He was recently honoured with the Kalayarasu Sornalingam Award and was bestowed the title of 'Kala Vinothan'. The Independent Arts Film Society is honoured to present this year's Ahenam award to K. Balendra, a man who has dedicated his life to the performing arts.

Arun Sivakumaran – Jury Member

Arun has been writing fiction and non-fiction since 1979 and continues to this day. His writings include poetry, short stories, biographies, and essays. His essay topics cover a wide gamut from society, to politics, to science. He also writes reviews for films, plays, and other events. Arun is also a playwright, lyricist, and screenplay writer. To date, he has two plays to his credit and has contributed lyrics to music albums by Tamil Canadian composers Isaithasan and Eeswaran. His credits as a screenplay and dialogue writer include *Suttum Vizhi Chudare*, *Methuvaga Unnai Thottu*, *Valiba Thesam*, and *Canadian*. His directorial venture *Poosaietra Poovithu* - for which he has also written the screenplay, dialogues, and lyrics - is currently under production. His short film *Ahkam* was screened at this festival last year to wide acclaim.

De.Se. Thamilan – Jury Member

De. Se. is an emerging writer, poet and literary and movie critic whose writings have gained recognition. A collection of his poems titled *Nadattavanin Kuripukal* was published recently. He has also been actively working to promote Tamil language among the next generation of Tamils in Canada. He is a Professional Engineer based in Toronto.

Erick Nettel – Jury Member

Erick graduated with honours from Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico, with a Bachelors degree in Communications, majoring in filmmaking. Upon graduation he joined the Mexican television industry and held several positions eventually rising to the position of Chief Content Supervisor at Cablevision, a media conglomerate. His feature film credits as Production Manager include *Serpientes y Escalares* (Busi Cortés, 1992) and *Don Crímenes* (Roberto Sneider, 1995). Erick received a scholarship through the Government of Canada Awards Programme to attend and graduate from Vancouver Film School. He worked as an Assistant Editor and Translator for the award winning documentary *A Place Called Chiapas* (Nettie Wild, 1998). Eric continues his involvement with filmmaking by working as Director of Photography and Editor for various independent projects in Vancouver and Toronto. He is currently a Producer for the Diversity Department at Rogers.

K. Navam – Critic

Navam is a well known writer and dramatist. He started writing short stories in the 60's and has won many awards and recognitions for them, including a Silver medal from Sri Lankan Sahitya Academy in 1965. His short stories, essays, and plays have been published in many prominent Sri Lankan Tamil dailies, Canadian periodicals, and Web based magazines. He is a trained teacher with a Bachelors degree in Political Science and Masters degree in Agriculture Economics. His short story collection 'Ullum Puramum' (1991) has the distinction of being the first Tamil short story collection published in Canada. It also won the Gold medal at the All Ceylon Creative Writing Contest held by the Government of Sri Lanka. He has also done pioneering work as a playwright and director. His plays consistently won accolades at competitions in Sri Lanka. His play 'Iniyoru Vithi Seivom' (1986) is widely considered to be the first attempt at serious modern Tamil theatre in Canada. Navam is also a publisher whose publishing house Nankavathu Parimanam has published several collections of poems, short stories and essays, among other works.

Karene Nettel – Jury Member

After working for many years in the finance sector, Karene followed her heart and switched careers. She went back to university to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours in Communications – Mass Media and Women Studies, from McMaster University. Her passion for films led her to take up a variety of positions, including those of Production Assistant and Script Supervisor, in various short film productions while still pursuing her degree. Her short film credits include *Drive by Ventriloquist* (2005), *Healing Rani* (2006) and *Fuku* (2007). She is currently working as the language producer for the Spanish language Wal-Mart commercials produced in Toronto. Karene is a former president of McMaster Women Studies Society and continues to be actively involved in matters of social justice. She is also a passionate advocate for women's rights.

Nivedha – Jury member

Nivedha is an emerging writer and poet whose works have been published in recognized periodicals including *Vaikarai*, *Sarinihar*, *Kalam* and *Puthiya Samatharmam*. She is passionate about films and live theatre and has worked as a script writer and assistant director for short films. Her credits include *The diamond Ring*.

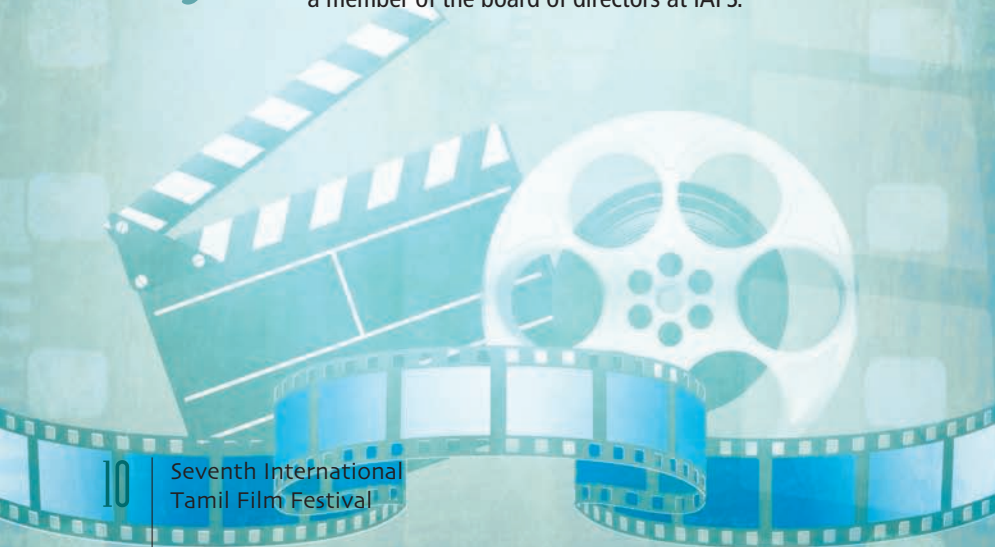
Profile

P. Wickneswaran – Jury Member

Wickneswaran is a motivational force for Tamil broadcasting in Canada and around the world. Having been a broadcaster for over 38 years, he continues to inspire and mentor a younger generation of Tamil broadcasters and producers. He is a well known and respected news anchor, producer, and director who began his career on radio with Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation. He later branched in to Television and was appointed the Executive Director for Tamil language programming at Sri Lanka's national television – Rupavahini Corporation. His pioneering efforts as a Television producer gained him the honour of being the producer and director of the first ever television drama serial in Tamil. He is also widely recognized as a master of modern live theatre. He is the founder and president of 'Murasam', a media study circle to promote alternative cinema, effective news production, and arts criticism. Wickneswaran is currently the senior executive producer with Tamil Vision Inc. and Canadian Multicultural Radio. He is also the recipient of the 'Ahenam' award for 2007.

Tam Sivathanan – Critic

Tam Sivathanan is a well known political columnist and commentator contributing regularly to print media, radio, and television. He is also a publisher and heads the Marumoli Media Network. He has a Degree in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering and is the owner of the real estate brokerage firm Veedu Realty Inc. He is a strong supporter of the arts in the Tamil Canadian community and is the Executive Director of Toronto's annual International Tamil Film Festival. He is a member of the board of directors at IAFS.



Acknowledgements

There are many who gave of their valuable time and talents to ensure that the 7th International Tamil Film Festival is a resounding success. To those individuals and organizations, The Independent Art Film Society offers heartfelt gratitude.

Dr. Raymond Cho, Councilor for Scarborough-Rouge River, is one of the best friends this festival has had over the years. Once again this year, he came to our aid in securing a venue for the festival. 'Kalam' Selvam and Babu Paratharajah are another pair of such friends who helped organize the refreshments and meals for the special guests and volunteers attending this festival.

We would also like to thank the members of the jury who spent a considerable amount of time viewing and reviewing the submissions for this year's festival. They had the unenviable task of selecting a few and rejecting many worthy films. Our critics too had the delicate task of critiquing without criticizing. We thank them as well for a job well done. We also thank our vivacious and eloquent host Tharsiny Varapragasam.

The festival will not be possible without our many sponsors. Another group of people this festival cannot do without is our team of volunteers. We thank every one of them sincerely. A special note of thanks goes out to our TVI-CTR-CMR, Vlam-baram Media Group, Babu Paratharajah, Yoga of VIP Vedio, Editor of Nizhal Magazine Mr. Thirunavukarasu, and Senior Sub Editor of Kungumam and Film Director Mr. ArulElilizhan.

Finally, a hearty thank you to you, our patrons. It is you who make this festival tick. Thanks for coming.

நாமார்க்கும் குடியல்லோம்



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