



# FILM ASSOCIATION OF BHUTAN

(Registered CSO under CSOA)

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## FILM ASSOCIATION BHUTAN

### Annual Activity REPORTS

(2017-2018)





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## 1. BACKGROUND

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Bhutan built its first cinema, Lugar Theatre, in 1968, and the people of Thimphu were introduced to foreign films, mostly from India, barely after it began modern economic development. Soon other cinemas came up in all the major towns in the country making films widely available to our people.

Bhutan produced its first feature film *Gasa Lamai Singye* in 1989 but it remained a stand-alone film and no other feature films were produced around that time. Regular filmmaking began only in the early 1990s when the digital filmmaking technology became cheaply available in the market.

Soon thereafter Bhutan had an informal film industry producing films on a regular basis. As it produced more local films, the cinemas discontinued screening foreign films totally. By then television had come in and foreign films were readily available at our homes.

As more and more people got into filmmaking and more and more films were produced, the Motion Pictures Association of Bhutan was established in 1999 to organize and manage the industry. Soon thereafter the National Film Review Board and the National Film Awards were instituted.

## **Royal Command**

The film industry grew rapidly within a short span of time, producing almost thirty films a year by 2010. However, its growth remained quantitative without any improvement in the art and craft of filmmaking. The industry was growing without a vision and a policy.

Foreseeing its certain stagnation and concerned about its future, His Majesty the King expressed royal support and commanded to begin the development of the industry at the earliest. The royal secretariat then immediately commissioned two studies to assess the status of the industry.

The two assessment studies found out that Bhutan had immense potential for film both as an art form and as a business sector and as such made strong recommendations to set up a professional film sector at par with international standards.

These recommendations were discussed with foreign film professionals through Bhutan's development partners. The royal command to develop the film industry had already been conveyed to organizations such as the Danish International Development Agency and Korea International Cooperation Agency.

After thorough consultations among the agencies involved and with foreign film experts, the National Film Policy was formulated to establish a professional film sector capable of contributing to Bhutan's pursuit of Gross National Happiness and competing in the international film markets.

## **Achievements**

- Recipient of Gold Medal from His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo during the 102<sup>nd</sup> National Day. (In appreciation for our huge contribution to the National Goal of GNH).

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- Bhutanese film ranking highest in the Media Impact study 2008 & the foreign media content influence study (42% for Bhutanese film over 38% for Hollywood & Bollywood put together).
- Being able to gain confidence of our local audiences
- Creating more than a 1000 jobs for our Bhutanese youths.
- Creating Platform for the talented Bhutanese youths.

## 2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- Uphold our unique Culture, tradition and language through the medium of film.
- Encourage the growth of professionalism in the motion picture industry.
- Cultivate the usefulness and exert every influence to improve the moral, social, cultural and intellectual standing of all persons connected with the profession of motion picture.
- Cultivate social intercourse and cooperation amongst its members and any other organizations, individuals, or authorities in the interest of the motion picture industry of Bhutan.
- Facilitate, Support, protect and voice for the general interest of the association and act as the bridge between the Industry & the Government.

## 3. ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

### I) FESTIVAL/AWARDS

#### A) National Film Awards

The National Film Awards was established to promote Bhutanese films in 2001.

The award function is one of the main annual events of the Bhutan Film Association. The department of Culture, Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs fully supports the awards function annually. The Awards seek to provide an opportunity for filmmakers to showcase their work and encourage young filmmakers and artists into the film industry. A total of 29 different categories are awarded with certificates and trophies, including cash awards for few selected categories.

The annual total no of film production in 2017 & 2018

S/No	Year	Total No of Film Production
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1	2018	14
2	2017	19
	Total	33

## 1. 17<sup>th</sup> BHUTAN NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

Date: 21-23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018

VENUE: Clock Tower, Thimphu

Chief Guest: Honorable Prime Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan

WINNERS OF THE 17TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS 2018			
	Category	Name	Film
1	Best Lead Actor (Male)	Tashi Penjor	Nge Tsawai Lama
2	Best Lead Actor (Female)	Deki Lhamo	Gaki Choelu Ga
3	Best Supporting Actor (Male)	Gyem Dorji	Nge Tsawai Lama
4	Best Supporting Actor (Female)	Aum Zam	Tsedung Chen
5	Best Debut Actor (Male)	Sonam Rinchen Kuenfel	Nge Tsawai Lama
6	Best Debut Actor (Female)	Sonam Lhamo Rinchen	Dhaari Nhaaba
7	Best Actor in Comic Role	Tandin Sonam	Hingtam Bangzoe
8	Best Child Actor	Pema Yogini Yuphel	Ngodrupchen
9	Best Actor in Negative Role	Gyem Dorji	Gaki Choelu ha
10	Best Cinematography	Kinzang Talop Namgyel	Hingtam Bangzoe
11	Best Lighting	Tshering Dorji	Hingtam Bangzoe
12	Visual Editor	Karma(Jery)	Hingtam Bangzoe
13	Animator	nil	nil
14	Visual Effects	Bishnu Kumar	Hingtam Bangzoe
15	Sound Design	Chencho Dorji	Hingtam Bangzoe
16	Director	Talop Wangchuk	Nge Tsawai Lama
17	Screenplay	Gyem Dorji	Nge Tsawai Lama
18	Choreography	Karma(Jery)	Hingtam Bangzoe
19	Art Director	Tseten Wangchuk	Hingtam Bangzoe
20	Debut Director	Kinga Kinley Tshering	Zudha Gyema
21	Youth Film		Dhaari Nhaaba
22	Background Score	Jigme Wangchuk	Hingtam Bangzoe
23	Make Up	Lhachey Seldon	Hingtam Bangzoe
24	Song Composition (Hingtam Bangzoe)	Sonam Dorji	Hingtam Bangzoe
25	Music Composition(Tsahamchu)	Tashi Wangdi	Dhaari Nhaaba
26	Playback Singer(Male)(Song-Tsamchu)	Dr. Jigme Nidup	Dhaari Nhaaba
27	Playback Singer(Female)(Song-HingtamBangzoe)	Ugyen Seldon	Hingtam Bangzoe
28	Best Lyricist(Tsamchu)	Sonam Tenzin	Dhaari Nhaaba
29	Best Dzongkha Promoting Film		Dhaari Nhaaba
30	Best Culture Based Film		Dhaari Nhaaba





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31	Best Film(1st Runners Up)	Dhaari Nhaaba
32	Best Film(2nd Runners Up)	Hingtam Bangzoe
33	Best Film(Winner)	Nge Tsawai Lama

## B) THE SHORT FILM AND DOCUMENTARY AWARDS

The Documentary and Short Film awards were instituted to promote Bhutanese short film and documentary makers in 2014 during the 13<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards in Punakha. It aims to encourage and promote the independent short film and documentary awards. The winners were awarded with the cash prizes and the trophy each.

Department of Information & Media, Ministry of Information & Communication had fully supported BFA to organize this event annually from second Documentary & Short Film Awards.

### 1. Fifth DOCUMENTARY & SHORT FILM AWARDS, 2017

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

Venue: Le Meridina, Thimphu

Chief Guest: Minister, Ministry of Information & Communication

Sl No	Title of the Film	Director	Duration	Remarks
<b>A) ANIMATION</b>				
1	Clean and Beautiful	Sonam Wangdi	4 min 30 sec	
<b>B) DOCUMENTARY</b>				
1	Deltshang	Kinzang Namgyel	43 min 14 sec	
2	Shaw Gay Latsho	Chencho Dorji & Kinley Wangdi	12 min 12 sec	
3	Soelra	Sonam Yangzom	15 min 53 sec	
4	Three Sisters	Sonam Gyeltshen	11:00 minutes	
5	The Next Guardian	Arun Bhattarai	1 hr 11 min	Best Documentary
6	Tiger of the River	Sonam Phuntsho	36 min	Runners up
<b>C) SHORT FILM</b>				
1	A Birthday Gift	Sonam Tenzin	3 mini 35 sec	
2	A Woman of Pure Heart	Kinga Kinley Tshering	31 min	Best Documentary
3	City, A Man with Abilities, no Disabilities	Bumpa	13 min 10 sec	
4	Eclipse	Dawa Norbu & Kerchung Dorji	7 min	
5	Karma-What Goes Around Comes Around	Sonam Dorji	6 min 49 sec	Runners Up

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6	Namgen Ge Chhab	Tashi Gyelsthen	1 hr 13 min	
7	Row	Karma Lhatrul Dorji	8 min 20 sec	
8	Secret Sacrifices	Jigme Dorji	13 min 39 sec	

## II) NATIONAL EVENTS & PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- 111<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION, Samtse, 2018

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL DAY AT SAMTSE

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FROM THE FILM ASSOCIATION OF BHUTAN FOR THE 111<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION AT SAMTSE, BHUTAN

Sl.No	Name	CID No	Contact No	Remarks
1	Karma Tshering	10101000416	77488123	President
2	Yeshi Dorji	10712002031	17319084	Executive Director. Logistic Coordinator
3	Gyempo Dorji	10802001302	77633282	Comedian
4	Gyem Tshering	11408000089	17606516	Comedian
5	Phurba Thinley	11008000107	17633282	Comedian
6	Tandin Dorji	11410006781	17602245	Music Coordinator
7	Ugyen Dukra	10906002747	17449048	Assistant Logistic coordinator

### PERFORMER (MALE)

Sl No	Name	CID NO	Contact No	Remarks
1	Karma Choechong	11703001523	77188288	Program Coordinator
2	Karma (Jerry)	11410006336	17645445	Choreographer
3	Bumpa	11601002762	17834317	
4	Chencho Dorji	11405000670	17123222	
5	Gyem Dorji	11914002098	77204685	
6	Jigme Wangchuk	11505003750	77239945	
7	Kencho Wanggdi	11006000181	17277777	
8	Karma Tshering	10204000641	77876000	
9	Lhakpa Dhendup	10702000988	77682297	
10	Nidup Dorji	11703001235	17609112	
11	Sonam Tenzin	10101001856	17585427	
12	Sonam Tobgay	11704001315	77390505	
13	Tandin Sonam	10802002301	77455357	
14	Tashi Penjor(P)	11914002106	17367733	
15	Tandin Wngchuk	11005002803	17885071	
16	Tobgyel(Mila)	11410002207	17111500	
17	Tshering Phuntsho	10202000660	17545377	
18	Karma Phuntsho	11514000716	17863011	

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19	Kinley Tshering	11401000165	77611798	
20	Namgay Tenzin	19308002279	17636051	
21	Tashi Dhendup(Yaso)	11302001839	17360586	
22	Dorji Khando(Rapay)	10203000828	17750967	

## PERFORMERS (FEMALE)

SI No	Name	CID NO	Contact No	Remarks
1	Chimi Wangmo	11002000765	17317817	
2	Dechen Pem	11008001228	77257774	
3	Dechen Wangmo	11505005034	17891742	
4	Deki Lhamo	11807000012	17346630	
5	Dorji Wangmo	11410002259	17602271	
6	Karma Dorji Pelden	11508001944	77486850	
7	Jampel Yeshay Payldon	17207081024	17957719	
8	Minzung Lhamo	10211002041	77390550	
9	Pema Deki	11410007811	17536613	
10	Phub Zam	10310000380	17771211	
11	Sonam Choki	11505003063	17603634	
12	Tandin Bidha	10811002220	77235288	
13	Tashi Tshoki Wangmo	11410006638	77364448	
14	Tshering Wngmo	11401000842	77332200	
15	Tshering Zangmo	11204003623	17404161	
16	Tsokye Tsomo Karchung	11410004332	77166166	
17	Tshundu Zangmo	11410008597	17632245	
18	Zam(Angay)	11410006161	17783478	

Total (7+22+18)= 47

Fourty members led by President, Bhutan Film Association had participated with one cultural program during the 111<sup>th</sup> National Day Celebrations at Samtse.

- **110<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION, Haa, 2017**

Fifty members led by President, Bhutan Film Association had participated with one cultural program during the 110<sup>th</sup> National Day Celebrations at Haa.

- **FIRST BHUTANESE FILM FESTIVAL IN SIKKIM**

### Participants for Bhutan Film Festival in Sikkim

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SL.No.	Name	Contact No.
1	Pema Yuden	17125799
2	Jigme Ring	77239945
3	Tashi Wangdi	17115110
4	Karma Lhatrul Dorji	77345656
5	Ugyen Choden	17558986
6	Sonam Tshewang( Trongsab)	77754795
7	Pema Deki	17536613
8	Hemlel Dorjee	77107100
9	Ugyen Lham	17451302
10	Zam	17749068
11	Tashi Pelzom	17360380
12	Kesang Wangmo	17398258
13	Sonam Tenzin	77384832
14	Karma	77411722
15	Pema Tshering	17608471
16	Kinzang Namgay	17110868
17	Loday Chopel	17277838
18	Tandin Dorji	17602245
19	Damchoe Tenzin	17798320
20	Tshering Dorji	17110506
21	Kinley Tshering	77611798
22	Kezang Dorji	17631550
23	Sangay Pemo	77201183
24	Chimi Wangmo	17830722
25	Singye Wangchuk	77729994
26	Jigme Norbu	77602121
27	Tshewang Loday	17448955
28	Yangzom	17606521
29	Samten Wangchuk	17685551
30	Ngawang Jigme	17129820
31	Karma Tshering	77488123
32	Jamyang Sangay	17912304
33	Tashi Penjor	17367733
34	Sonam Tenzin	17585427
35	Lhakpa Dhendup	77682297
36	Kuenzang Norbu	17273760
37	Tshering Wangmo	77332200



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38	Choden	17782381
39	Tashi Pelzom	17360380
40	Karma Samdrup Tshering	17709522
41	Pelden Dorji	17973470
42	Karma	77411722

- BHUTAN WEEK IN DELHI, INDIA**

**List of Participants for the Delhi Film Screening from 20 September 2018 to 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018.**

Sl.No	Name	Profession	CID No.	Contact No
1	Mr.Nidup Dorji	VP/ Coordinator	11703001235	17609112
2	Mr.Rinzang	Director	11509002788	77492849
3	Ms.Deki Lhamo	Actress	11807000012	17346630
4	Mrs.Dorji Wangmo	Actress	11410002259	17602271
5.	Mrs.Namkha Lhamo	Actress	11410008182	17607344
6	Ms. Sangay Wongzom	Singer	10905000397	77794324
7	Mr. Yeshi Tenzin	Singer	10210000561	17380068
8	Mr. Tshering Penjor	Singer	10806002391	17474606
9	Mrs. Tshering Dolkar	Singer	10601004171	17607293
10	Mr. Dechen Dorji	Actor	11510000727	77314046
11	Mr. Druksel Dorji	Director/Producer	11410008327	17123124
12	Mr. Jamyang Jamtsho Wangchuk	Actor/Director	11703000995	17175956
13	Mr.Ugyen Dorji	Actor	11102008030	17631195
14	Ms. Nima Zangmo	Finance Officer	11315002688	17315244

**Five feature films have been screened**

- FILM ACCOMPANYING HIS MAJESTY'S TOUR**

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1. Highlanders festivals- Laya
2. His Majesty's tour-Samtse

### III) HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Film Commission Board member training in Korean

S/No	Name	Designation	Remarks
1	Mr. Karma Tshering	President	
2	Mr. Kiney Tshering	Trustee	

### V) BOARD MEETING/AGM/OTHER MEETINGS

- Conducted four regular board meetings annually
- Many other special and ad hoc meetings as and when required

## B) INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (2017-18)

## C) ONGOING PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

### I) FILM COMMISSION

The Board Member of the film commission is instituted

### II) FILM STUDIO COMPLEX

As the film industry does not have any facility/infrastructure for quality filmmaking, His Majesty the King commanded to build a film studio in Thimphu to cater to all production needs. Accordingly, the royal secretariat in consultation with the Film Association of Bhutan identified for a suitable plot.

The land measuring 18.96 decimal next to the City Mall at Chubachu was found to be suitable. The plot was further verified with the National Land Commission Secretariat and found to be free of any issue. As such, an architectural drawing for the film studio work is awarded to the local consultancy firm.

The ground floor will house a post-production studio for colour grading/ mixing and a sound studio for sound recording/ sound design. The first floor will have a film equipment rental warehouse and spaces for commercial activities related to film.

The second floor is designed as the office space for the association, classrooms for trainings, and a hall for production meetings and rehearsals. The entire third floor will be an indoor filming studio for interior scenes such as the inside of the Dzongs and monasteries, and for green screen shooting.

The construction of the film studio will be funded and coordinated by the Ministry of Information and Communications. The salang tendrel





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was conducted on December 9, 2016. The construction is expected to complete in about nineteen months.

The detailed project Report of the Film Studio was submitted to the Department of Information & Media, MOIC.

The Department of Information and Media, MOIC had handed over the contraction of the Film Studio to the Construction Development Corporation limited. The construction will complete in 2020 and will be formally handed over to the Film Association of Bhutan.

### III) CINEMA THEATRES

The biggest obstacle to film business, today, is the lack of screening venues. Except in few major towns, there are no cinema theatres in rest of the country. His Majesty the King, therefore, commanded to provide lands to construct cinema theatres in all the twenty Dzongkhags.

As the Bhutan Film Association had no funds to construct the cinema theatres, it approached the business communities in different Dzongkhags with the proposal to construct and operate the cinema theatres in their towns but no one was confident enough to invest in film business.

The association then explored the possibility of obtaining loans from the financial institutions but as an association it was not eligible for any financial loan from any of the financial institutions. Also it could not mortgage the government lands.

With no other option left, the association approached the Hon'ble Prime Minister. As the vision to develop the film sector had come from His Majesty the King, the Hon'ble Prime Minister said that the government would provide some funds and that it would help implement the royal command in different phases.

The Bhutan Film Association in consultation with the royal secretariat identified Rangjung in Tashigang, Chamkhar in Bumthang, Mongar, and Wangdiphodrang for the first phase.

The construction of the film studio will be funded and coordinated by the Ministry of Information and Communications. The construction is expected to complete in about nineteen months.

The detailed project Report of the Film Studio shall be submitted to the Department of Information & Media and further changes were incorporated and the construction will soon begin within the 12<sup>th</sup> five-year plan.

The Cinema halls shall handed over to the Film Association of Bhutan after completion of the construction in each identified districts.

## D) WAY FORWARD

### 1. Establishment of Film Commission

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The Ministry of Information and Communications had instituted the five members for the Film Commission. The fully-fledged Film Commission secretariat shall be established soon for the growth and development of the film industry at large.

Mr. Karma Tshering, President of the film Association of Bhutan and Mr. Kinley Tshering is the Board member to the film Commission. Mr. Karma Tshering is the Chairman of the Film commission and will be serving for five years.

The three years capacity development training for the filmmakers through KOICA's country focused program has been started. Ten members including two from film association of Bhutan and seven from Ministry of information and Communications has already sent to Korea last year.

## 2. Film Studio

The film studio will be fully operated by the Film Association of Bhutan guided by its Operational and Sustainable Plan.

## 3. Cinema Hall

The film studio will be fully operated by the Film Association of Bhutan guided by its Operational and Sustainable Plan.

## 4. HRD Development

The secretariat had submitted the trainings requirement both short term and long-term trainings for the filmmakers.

The FAB also submitted the list to peruse bachelors degree in relevant filming after completion of class twelve

The comprehensive HRD requirement shall be submitted through film commission once the secretariat of the film commission is established.

