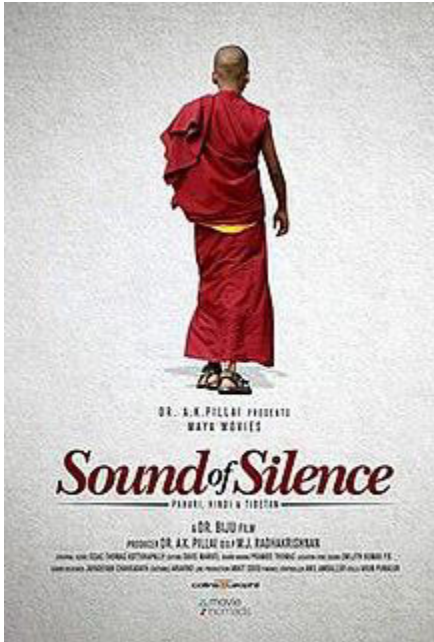


SOUND OF SILENCE/India/2017/90 min./Tibetan with English subtitles/Narrative [Standby & for KATHMANDU]

Director: Dr. Biju Kumar



SYNOPSIS

'Sound Of Silence' is the story of a mute boy's journey through his challenging and abandoned life. When his mother dies while giving birth to him, the father is unable to come to terms with her loss and becomes a drunkard. He sees the boy as the reason for her death and hence denies his love and care for the boy. The boy struggles and works hard to survive in the beautiful Himalayan mountain village where they live. His only comfort is the soothing words of a pious Buddhist monk who teaches him about nature and how man's relationship with nature is forever. During the day the boy herds the cows, the only source of income for the family and during the nights he wanders the streets searching for his father who would be drinking with his friends. When his father sells their cows, he loses his only vocation and the ones whom he shares his love with. Loneliness engulfs him more than ever before. And one day when the boy's father stabs and kills his friend during a brawl and is arrested by the police, the elderly Buddhist monk comes to the boys rescue. He is now trapped in absolute loneliness but his relationship with the Buddhist monk becomes stronger. It's at this point he learns more about Buddhism and about the life in a monastery. When the father disowns the boy the last time they meet, the Buddhist monk gets him inducted to a Buddhist Monastery to become a monk. But he still dreams about his beautiful village, the cows, the house, his father, his faceless mother and also is eager for an answer from his father – if he ever loved him?

SHORT SYNOPSIS/ LOG LINE

Set in a beautiful Himalayan valley, it's a journey of a neglected and abandoned mute boy, who loses his mother at birth and is furiously neglected by his father. When his father goes behind bars, the boy stares at a lonely and deserted life ahead. His relationship with an elderly Buddhist monk helps him to detach from his voiceless suffering and to explore the bond that each creation shares with nature. With nowhere to go, he joins a Buddhist monastery even as he fights an inner battle of unrequited love.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The film was shot in a beautiful Himalayan village in Himachal Pradesh. The shoot was at a remote place inaccessible by road. The film is about the inner conflicts of a boy who could not speak. The film is set in two backdrops. The first part is set in a beautiful rural Himalayan village. And the other is set in a tranquil Buddhist monastery. Most of the characters in the film were selected from the village and they had no prior acting experience. But they will amaze you. The film is like a stream, in a calm meditative mood with stunning magical visuals of beautiful landscapes and haunting sounds of nature and Buddhist chanting.

DIRECTOR PROFILE.

Dr. Biju (Bijukumar Damodaran) is an Indian filmmaker who has won India's top film award, The National Film Award, three times. His films were widely screened at many international film festivals like Cannes, Montreal, Shanghai, Cairo, Eurasia, New York, Telluride, Fajr (Tehran), Jeonju, Kazan etc. He has won more than 20 International film awards from different film festivals across the world. He has also served as jury member for India's National Film Awards 2012, India's Oscar selection jury member 2015, 30th Fajr International Film Festival Tehran, Iran, Pune International Film Festival 2018, International film festival of Kerala 2011 and Kerala State Film Awards 2017.

DIRECTOR PROFILE DETAILED

Dr. Biju also known as Bijukumar Damodaran, is a Director who has won multiple national and international awards. He won India's national film awards three times. He is a Homoeopathic Medical Doctor by

profession and a self-taught filmmaker. His films were widely screened at many international film festivals like Cannes, Montreal, Shanghai, Cairo, New York, Telluride, Tehran, Jeonju etc. He debuted with Saira (2005). It was the opening film in the section Cinema of the World at the Cannes Film Festival 2007. The film also selected to Indian Panorama and was screened at numerous film festivals.

Veettilekkulla Vazhi (The Way Home) (2010), his third film received India's National film award for the best Malayalam regional film. The film also screened at many international film festivals and won many awards.

Akashathinte Niram (Color of the Sky) his fourth feature was world premiered at Shanghai Film Festival 2012 in official competition. The film also selected to Indian Panorama. The film screened at many international film festivals. Perariyathavar (Names Unknown) (2013), his fifth film won two of India's national film awards for the year 2013, for the Best actor and for the best film on Environment preservation. The film world premiered at Montreal Film festival in 2014 and later screened at many international film festivals. The film won best actor award at Fajr Film Festival Tehran Iran 2015 and best cinematography at Kazan international film festival Russia 2015.

His sixth film Valiya Chirakulla Pakshikal (Birds With Large Wings) (2015) received India's national film award for best environment film and has been selected to Indian Panorama at International film festival of India 2015 and was nominated to the competition for UNESCO award. The film specially invited to screening at United Nations, Geneva in association with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) on November 10th 2015. His seventh film Kaadu Pookkunna Neram (2016) premiered at Montreal film festival. The film received India's National film award for best sound design and has been selected to Indian Panorama at international film festival of India 2016. The film screened at many international film festivals. His eighth film "Sound Of Silence" (2017) is his first Non-Malayalam language film. The film is in Pahari, Tibetan and Hindi Language. The film premiered at Eurasia International Film Festival, Kazakhstan in main competition section. The film got best director award at Kolkata International Film Festival 2018 and screened at various film festivals across the world.

Dr. Biju's films have been sent to several film festivals and have won many awards.

He also served as jury member for India's National film awards 2012, India's Oscar selection jury member 2015, 30th Fajr International film festival, Tehran, Iran 2012 and International Film Festival of Kerala 2011, Pune International Film Festival 2018, Kerala Government state film award 2018 etc

He is now on the pre production work of two films. "Painting Life" is his first English language film and will be completed by April 2018. His next Malayalam film titled "Veyil Marangal" is now on shoot and will be complete by January 2019.

Sound Of Silence

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Title of film - Sound Of Silence

Language - Pahari/ Hindi/ Tibetan

Subtitles - English and Malayalam

Duration - 89 Minutes

Country - India, USA

Production Year- April/ 2017

Produced by - Dr.A.K.Pillai

Written & Directed by - Dr.BijukumarDamodaran

Cinematography - M.J.Radhakrishnan

Editing - Davis P Manuel

Sound Mixing - Pramod Thomas

Location Sync Sound Recording -Smijith Kumar P.B

Sound Designer - JayadevanChakkadath

Original Music - Issac Thomas Kottukappilli

Costume Design - Aravind

CAST

Master Govardhan - As Boy

Uday Chandra - As Monk

Bhushan - As Father

SOUND OF SILENCE

AWARDS/ FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

AWARDS

Winner Best Director at 23rd Kolkata International Film Festival India 2017, in Indian Competition Section

Winner Best Cinematography award at India International Film Festival Queensland, Brisbane, Australia 2017

Winner Best Music Director award at Aurangabad International Film Festival , India 2018 , In Indian Film Competition section

Winner Best Film award at Indian Film Festival Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, 2018

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

1. 41st Montreal World Film Festival, Canada . World Greats Section
2. 13th Eurasia International Film Festival, Kazakhstan . Main Competition
3. Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival. Main Competition

4. Asia Pacific Screen Awards, Australia. In Competition
5. 20th Religion Today Film Festival, Italy. Main Competition
6. 28th Cinemagic Belfast Film festival, Northern Ireland. Main Competition
7. 11th Great Lake International Film Festival, USA In Competition
8. 16th Dhaka International Film Festival, Bangladesh . In Competition
9. 23rd Kolkata International Film Festival, Indian Competition
10. Third Eye Asian International Film Festival, India 2017
11. All Lights India International Film Festival, India 2017
12. 12th JOGJA NETPAC Asian Film Festival, Indonesia, Asian Perspective Section
13. 6th Kolhapur International Film Festival, India 2017
14. 5th Aurangabad International Film Festival, India 2018. Indian Competition Section
15. India International Film Festival Queensland, Brisbane, Australia 2017
16. Assam International Film Festival , India 2017
17. Pune International Film Festival, India. January 2018
18. Bangalore International Film Festival, India . February 2018
19. Cambodia International Film Festival, March 2018
20. Toulouse Indian Film Festival, Paris, France. April 2018
21. This Buddhist Film Festival , Singapore. September 2018
22. Habitat Film Festival , New Delhi . April 2018
23. Imagine India International Film Festival , Madrid, Spain . July 2018
24. BFFE- 'Buddhist Film Festival Europe' , Amsterdam , September 2018. As Closing Film
25. Asian Film Festival Barcelona , Spain . November 2018
26. Indian Film Festival Melbourne, Australia, August 2018
27. Indian Film Festival of Cincinnati , USA , Ohio. , September 2018
28. FFSI National Film Festival Kolkata, September 2018
29. 20th Bardhaman International Film Festival, India , December 2018
30. 11th International Guwahati Film Festival 2018, India, December 2018
31. Buddhist International Film Festival Dikshabhumi , Nagpur, January 2019
32. 4th Alpin Film Festival, Romania, 2019 February 26 and March 3..