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Tata Institute of Social
Sciences



CENTRE FOR MEDIA AND
CULTURAL STUDIES

CATALOGUE OF FILMS

Centre for Media and Cultural Studies
Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Deonar, Mumbai, 400 088, India
Phone: 91-22-25525667/9,
E-mail: sales.cmcs@tiss.edu
URL: www.cmcs.tiss.edu



Centre for Media and Cultural Studies

The Centre for Media and Cultural Studies, (cmcs.tiss.edu) is an independent centre of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, engaged in media teaching, production, research and dissemination.

A unique feature of the Centre is the close linkage between the technical and academic areas of its work. The work of the Centre straddles both realms, thus facilitating a synergy between research, teaching and production, all of which are informed by a keen sense of connection with local subaltern cultures of resistance and invention.

The CMCS has done pioneering work in critical media education in the country. The two-year Masters degree in Media and Cultural Studies focuses on professional media practice and research within a framework that enables the development of a critical perspective on media, culture and society. It seeks to enable the creation of a lively group of thinking doers and doing thinkers. Besides the MA programme, the CMCS has M.Phil and Ph.D. students in the area of film, media and cultural studies.

Production has been an important component of the Centre's work. It has to its credit, more than 30 awards at national and international film festivals. It anchors a fellowship programme for early career filmmakers and an Artist/Scholar in Residence programme. The Centre also has a Digital Archive of films, video footage and photographs. The collection, with over 2600 films, can be accessed through a customised on-line data base, which is now available within TISS.

How do I buy the films?

Place your orders with Centre for Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Sion Trombay Road, Deonar, Mumbai - 400 088, India. Tel: 91 22 25525667 Fax: 91 22 25525050
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You could also generate an invoice from <http://cmcs.tiss.edu/cmcs/films/film-catalogue>
Payments in favour of Tata Institute of Social Sciences by Bank DD or Pay Order. Please indicate your complete mailing address, e-mail and phone number.

How much do they cost?

	Individual	Institutional
In India:	Rs. 500	Rs. 1000
Overseas:	USD 60	USD 200

Overseas shipping charges not included
20% Discount for institutional purchase of DVDs worth Rs. 5000 and above.
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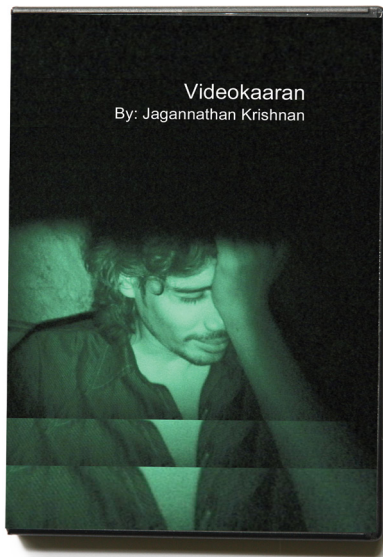
Will the DVDs work universally?

DVDs are in carrier systems PAL (for India and most of Europe) and NTSC (for US and Japan). Please specify your requirement/region

Videokaaran

Directed by Jagannathan Krishnan
2010, 73 Mins. English Subtitles

Cinema can help you better your life, film stars can give you moral and spiritual messages which can uplift you. Sagai believes this. Sagai is a film buff and his idol is South Indian Superstar Rajnikant. He grew up watching films in a semi legal video theater in the Mumbai slums. When he came of age he started working in the same place, as did his father before him. The video theatre now no longer exists. In an eloquent and often politically incorrect streetspeak, Sagai tells us the story of his video theatre alongside his trip with films.

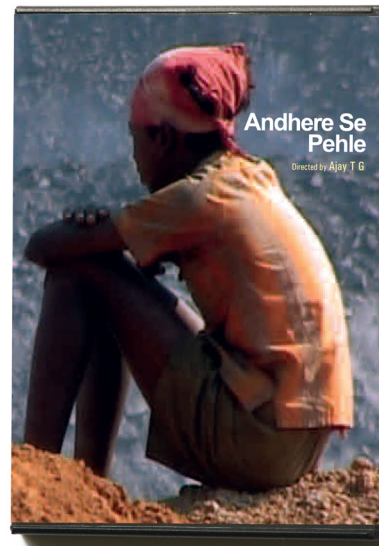


Keywords: Film Industry, Video Theatres, Mumbai, Slums

Andhere Se Pehle Before Dark

Directed by Ajay TG
2010, 33 Mins., Hindi with English Subtitles

This film is dedicated to the struggle for livelihood and human rights. The film depicts the revolt of the people of Raigarh district of Chattisgarh state against Jindal Thermal Power Plant Limited.



Keywords: Livelihoods, Human Rights, Displacement

Flex 'n Faces

Directed by Shrikant B. Agawane
2009, 20 Mins, Marathi and Hindi with English Subtitles

'Flex 'n Faces' has the city as the backdrop to explore the boom of political banners printed on flex. The film inquires into the explosion of flex banners and the politics of claiming spaces, through the use of interviews, fictional and graphical sequences. In this film, the interviewees appear as 'still faces', like banners and dry two-dimensional banners come alive as they start becoming visual gods and dictate the visual geography of the city.



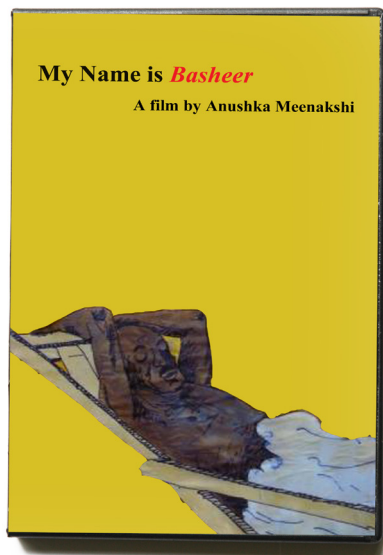
Keywords: Advertisements, Print Industry, Banners, Poster

My Name is Basheer

Directed by Anushka Meenakshi
2009, 66 Mins, Malayalam and English with English Subtitles

In October 2007, a group of people from PERCH, a Chennai based theatre collective, travelled to Kozhikkode, Kerala, to rediscover the world of the Malayalam writer Vaikom Muhammad Basheer.

The people they met, and the sights, smells, tastes, and sounds of Kozhikkode were the source of inspiration for two plays in English based on several of Basheer's stories. Many of Basheer's stories reveal something of the writer himself – his incredible humanity, his experiences of love and poverty, his criticism of politics and war, his eclectic taste in music, his love of nature, and his radical beliefs about the society around him.



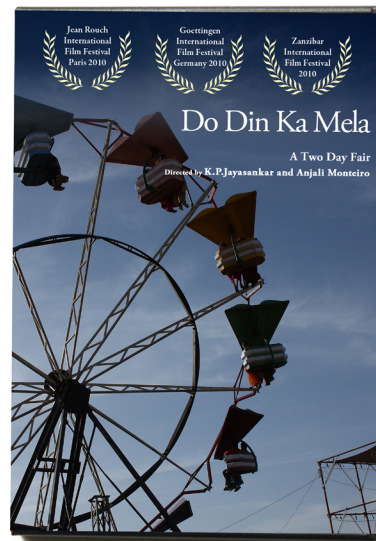
Keywords: Performance, Theatre, Culture, Ethnography

Do Din Ka Mela A Two Day Fair

Directed by K. P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
2009, 60 Mins, Kutchi and Gujarati with English Subtitles
<http://atwodayfair.wordpress.com>

“Nothing in the world will last – it is but a two day fair” sings Mura Lala, drawing inspiration from the Sufi traditions of Sant Kabir and Bhita'i. He is accompanied on the flute by his nephew Kanji. Mura and Kanji are Meghwals, a pastoral Dalit community that lives on the edge of the Great Rann of Kachchh, in the Western Indian state of Gujarat. They are both daily wage labourers in an arid zone. The film is a two day journey into the music and everyday life of this uncle-nephew duo, set against the backdrop of the Rann.

IDPA Gold for Best Script 2009
IDPA Certificate of Merit, Best Documentary 2009
Commendation, RAI Festival of Ethnographic Film 2011



Keywords: Kutch, Music, Performing Artist, Culture

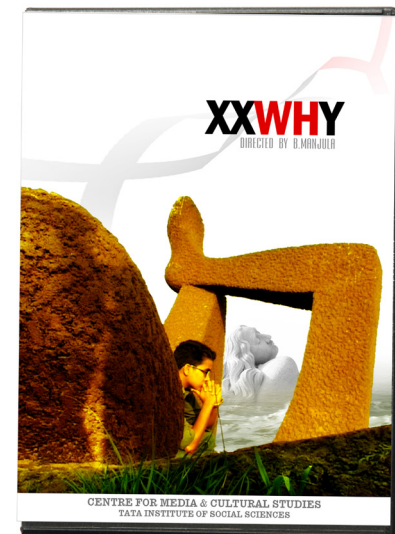
XXWHY

Directed by B. Manjula
2008, 48 Mins., Malayalam with English Subtitles

Is transgender born, gendered or choice by freedom? How good an F2M can root self identity in a male – female society? What is the sexuality of an F2M while in sex with a woman? What does it mean to be labeled a lesbian, when you are an F2M transgender ?

Suffering and redemption, destruction and self destruction, love and hatred, pain and joy all go entwined and entangled in Sree Nandu, while the under current is accumulating trauma and the determination to survive. Quite strange in a social milieu where transgenders are still invisible and inaudible.

Best Documentary Award, 3rd SOMS Film Festival, Kerala.
Screened at 'Inside Out' LGBT festival, Toronto.



Keywords: Gender Identity, Gender Conflict, Transgender

Our Family

Directed by K. P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
2007, 56 Mins., Tamil with English subtitles

What does it mean to cross that line which sharply divides us on the basis of gender? To free oneself of the socially constructed onus of being male? Is there life beyond a hetero-normative family? Set in Tamilnadu, India, 'Our Family' brings together excerpts from Nirvanam, a one person performance, by Pritham K. Chakravarthy and a family of three generations of trans-gendered female subjects, Aasha, Seetha and Dhana, who are bound together by ties of adoption. They all belong to the trans-gendered community called Aravanis (aka Hijras, in some parts of India).

Indian Documentary Producers Association (IDPA)

Gold for Best Script

IDPA Gold for Best Sound Design

IDPA Certificate of Merit for the Best Documentary



Keywords: LGBT, Gender Conflict, Transgender

Reimagining Futures

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
2011, 20 Mins, English

Tata Institute of Social Sciences was born in 1936, the first initiative of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. It became a deemed university in 1964 and has always been an educational institution with a difference. Social responsiveness and commitment to the rights of the marginalized have been at the core of its work. As it enters its 75th year, in 2011, it is once again a time for reflection and renewal, for imagining futures in response to changing realities. This film presents the new programme and initiatives that TISS envisages, as it responds to a rapidly changing global order.



Keywords: TISS, Education, Institution, Social Work

Unheard Voices

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
2006, 30 Mins, English

Drawing on the testimonies of individuals who have been infected nosocomially with HIV/AIDS, the film aims to sensitise various groups to the risks involved in transmission of HIV through blood exposures, in the Indian context. This risk has been systematically underestimated. The film critically examines various unsafe health care and cosmetic practices. It questions the low perception of risks associated with unsafe blood exposures, among health care professionals and others, which is due to the misinformation about survival of the HIV virus outside the human body. There is also misinformation about the importance of the sexual route, based on unreliable data, myths about sexual transmission and morality. But the fact is that we do not know how much HIV is being spread through sex and how much through blood. Given this scenario, the film also attempts to create awareness about safe practices.



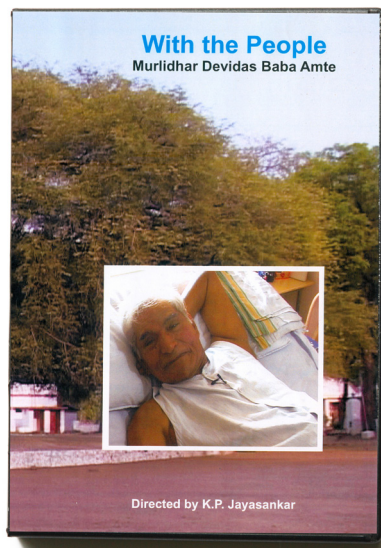
Keywords: HIV/AIDS, Health Care, Health Awareness

With the People

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar
2006, 5 Mins, English

A moving statement from Baba Amte upon the conferment of Doctor of Literature, honoris causa by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. In a remarkable life spanning 92 years, Baba Amte has fought for forgotten causes, given voice to the voiceless and brought hope to thousands...

“Work with the people and not for the people” - Baba Amte



Keywords: Baba Amte, Social Work, Anandwan

SheWrite

Directed by Anjali Monteiro and K.P. Jayasankar
2005, 55 Mins, English and Tamil versions

SheWrite weaves together the narratives and work of four Tamil women poets, traversing diverse modes of resistance. Salma negotiates subversive expression within the circumscribed space allotted to a woman in a small town. For Kuttirevathi, solitude is a crucial creative space from where her work resonates. Her anthology entitled Breasts (2003) elicited hate mail, obscene calls and threats. Malathy Maitri's poems explore feminine power and spaces. Sukirtharani writes of desire and longing, celebrating the body and feminine empowerment.

Best documentary Prize, IV Three Continents International Documentary Festival, Venezuela 2005
IDPA Gold for Sound Design and Silver for Cinematography 2005



Keywords: Women Writers, Culture, Gender, Feminism

Katha Panyachi Vadgaon Lakhchi

Directed by Mukund Sawant
2004, 27 Min, Marathi,

This video traces different aspects - technical, social and economic- of a successfully completed watershed programme in Vadgaon Village in Osmanabad district, Maharashtra. This programme was implemented by the Rural campus of TISS with assistance from NABARD. The video documents the possibility of community involvement (including the participation of marginalized groups such as women) and demonstrates the transformation that take place through this programme.

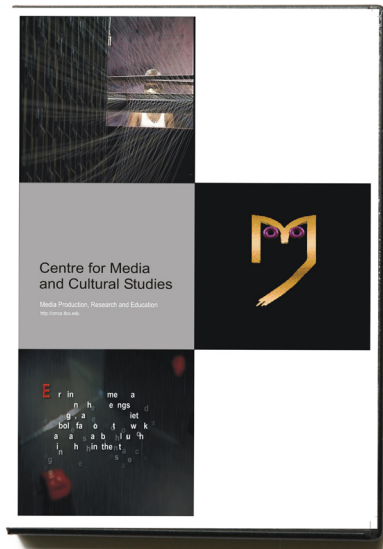


Keywords: Watershed Management, Marginalised Communities

SpectActor: Theatre for Development

Directed by B. Manjula
2004, 17 Min, Marathi with English subtitles

A video document of a theatre workshop, organised by Rural Campus and Unit for Media and Communications, TISS for a range of stakeholders involved in rural development work. The facilitative role of theatre in making people responsive and critically conscious and the potential of the medium in transforming them from spectators to spectActors is depicted in this video.

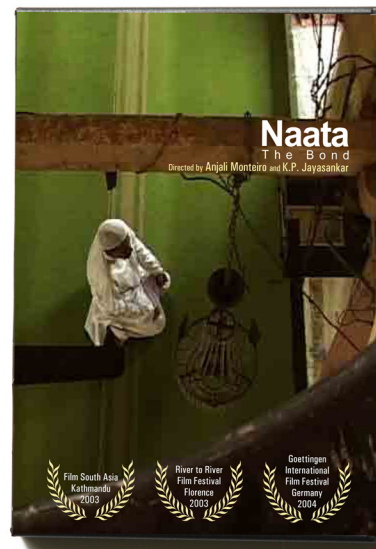


Keywords: Theatre, Performing Artist, Community Development

Naata (The Bond)

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
2003, 45 Mins., English and Hindi versions

Friends and activists, Bhau Korde and Waqar Khan, work with neighborhood peace committees in Dharavi, Mumbai to promote conflict resolution through the collective production and use of visual media. Korde and Khan are both residents of Dharavi. As Asia's largest slum, with a population of 800,000, Dharavi has often been represented as a breeding ground for filth and vice, full of immigrants whose right to live in the city is often questioned by right-wing groups. When the deadly riots of 1992-93 tore the city and their community apart, Korde and Khan were moved to act, working to change both the negative perception of Dharavi and erase religious and ethnic divisions. Naata follows these remarkable men as they work on their film, Ekta Sandesh - their work paralleling that of Naata's own filmmakers, another filmmaking pair. The two pairs of filmmakers join forces in this documentary to spread their important message even further.

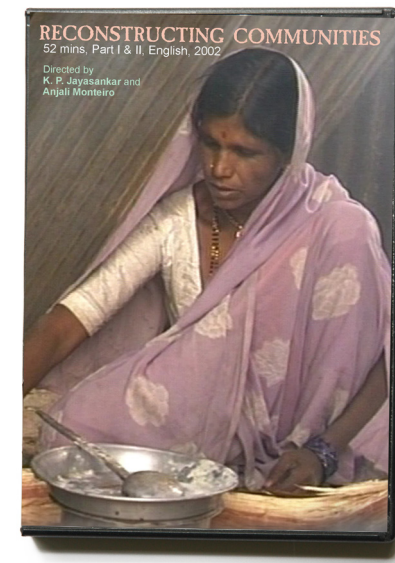


Keywords: Mumbai, Culture, Conflict Resolution, Peace

Reconstructing Communities

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
2002, 52 Mins, Part I &II, English

On September 30, 1993, an earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale devastated 67 villages in the Latur and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra, India. The death toll exceeded 8000 and over 16,000 were injured. This video critically explores the possibilities and limitations of community participation, in the 52 villages that were relocated, under the aegis of the Maharashtra Earthquake Emergency Rehabilitation Programme (MEERP). Tata Institute of Social Sciences was the community participation consultant, for the villages to be relocated. Through case studies of selected villages, the video examines the processes and dynamics of community participation in a pre-determined, target-driven project, for post-disaster rehabilitation.



Keywords: Earthquake, Post-disaster Rehabilitation, Latur

Saacha (The Loom)

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
2001, 49 Mins, English and Marathi versions

Saacha is about a poet, a painter and a city. The poet is Narayan Surve, and the painter Sudhir Patwardhan. The city is the city of Mumbai (a.k.a. Bombay), the birth place of the Indian textile industry and the industrial working class. Both the protagonists have been a part of the left cultural movement in the city. Weaving together poetry and paintings with accounts of the artists and memories of the city, the film explores the modes and politics of representation, the relevance of art in the contemporary social milieu, the decline of the urban working class in an age of structural adjustment, the dilemmas of the left and the trade union movement and the changing face of a huge metropolis.

Second Prize, New Delhi Video Forum, 2001.



Keywords: Culture, Artist, Mumbai, Labour, Globalisation

Breaking the Barriers

Directed by Sushma Narain
1999, 60 Mins, English Subtitles

Domestic violence is one of the gravest and the most pervasive of human right violations. Yet, there is very little by way of response from the community or the state. For this crime is looked upon as a personal matter, not withstanding the fact that for large number of women this personal matter translates into a life along “adjustment” with torture, both mental and physical. For many, this adjustments end only with the loss of their lives. There have been attempts to mainstream the issue of domestic violence both by the State and the civil society. This film looks at some of these initiatives of the community and the State aimed at breaking the barriers that divide lives into personal and public.

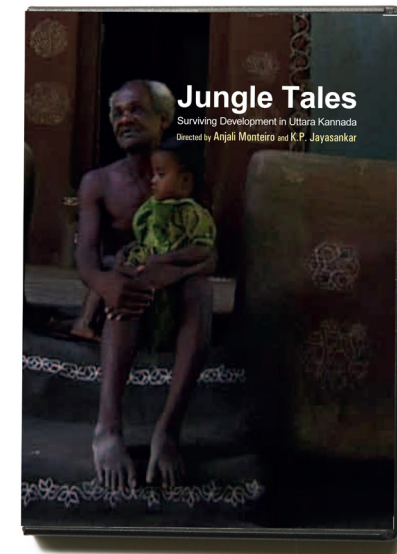


Keywords: Domestic Violence, Human Rights, Women

Jungle Tales

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
1999, 52 Mins., English and Hindi versions

Uttara Kannada in Karnataka is one of the most densely forested districts in India. Development projects in the district have displaced one out of every ten inhabitants. The film examines livelihood and survival issues of forest dependent communities against the backdrop of this destruction of a fragile and versatile ecosystem in the Western Ghats region, and State interventions towards Joint Forest Management, funded by multi-lateral aid agencies.

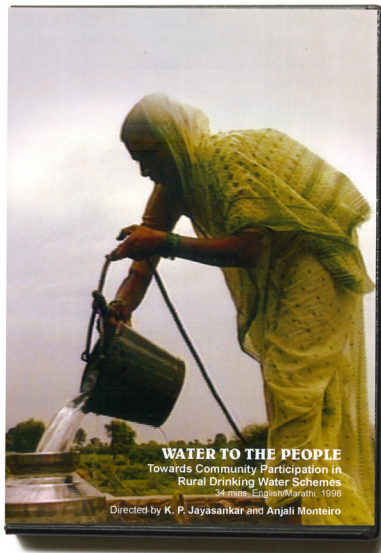


Keywords: Livelihood, Forest & Forest Management

Water to the People

**Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
1998, 34 Mins., English and Marathi versions**

This film is a case study of the drinking water schemes in the districts of Jalgaon and Nashik in Northern Maharashtra. It documents the processes and structures which have enabled the institutionalisation of community centred strategies, facilitated at various levels, by the Women's Studies Unit of TISS, Community Participation Consultant to the project. These include aspects such as training of government functionaries, formation of village water committees and the mechanisms for sustainable local participation.



Keywords: Community Participation, Water Resources

YCP 1997

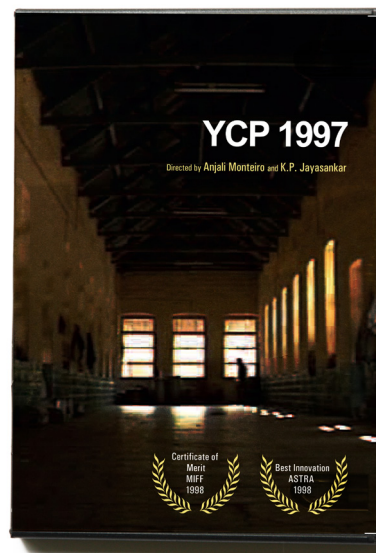
**Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
1997, 43 Mins., English**

Built between 1865 and 1876, Yerwada Central Prison (YCP), Pune, is one of the oldest prisons in India, with over 2500 inmates. In this video, six poets and artistes of the YCP share their work, their lives...

Through their poems and musings, the film explores the modes in which they creatively cope with the pain and stigma of incarceration, in the process questioning their selfhood and the socially constructed divides between 'us' and 'them', between the 'normal' and the 'deviant'.

Certificate of Merit, Mumbai International Film Festival, 1998

Jury's Award for Best Innovation, Astra Festival of Anthropological Documentary Film, Romania, 1998.

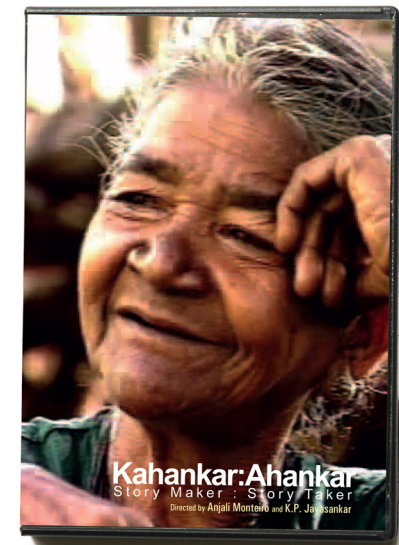


Keywords: Prison, Culture, Poetry, Artist, Social Stigma

Kahankar: Ahankar (Story Maker: Story Taker)

**Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
1995, 38 Mins., English and Marathi versions**

This is an attempt at bringing together a selection of the stories and paintings of the Warlis, and some of the writings about 'them'. To the Warlis, a community of Adivasis (indigenous peoples), who live close to Bombay, these stories represent their 'history', their world-view. All the outsiders, the Portuguese, the Marathas, the British, the 'native' settlers... they all tried obliterating this history and wisdom. The work of the outsiders who wrote about 'the Warli' represents this process of creating new mythologies. By bringing together these disparate discourses, this video aspires to critique these mythologies... To read between the lines, as the stories themselves do.



Keywords: Warli Painting, Indigenous Groups, Culture

Punarvasan

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
1995, 58 mins., English, Parts I & II

This film, shot during the period between October 1993 and December 1994, critically examines various aspects of the reconstruction programme in the Latur and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra, following the earthquake of September 30, 1993. Part I traces the first stage of the reconstruction programme, where donor-sponsored housing relocation schemes were undertaken. The second part looks at the notion of people's participation in the reconstruction programme. It presents various experiments involving the use of low-cost indigenous materials, local participation in settlement design, training of local artisans, demonstration of retrofitting techniques, information-education campaigns and so on.



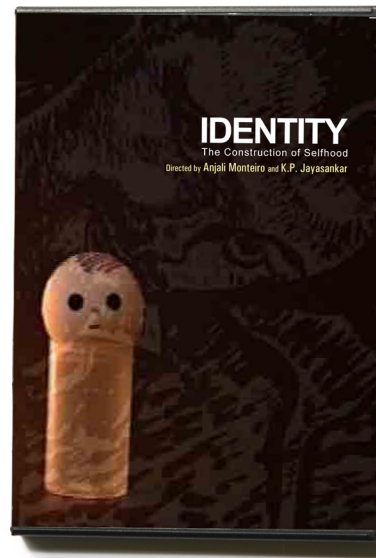
Keywords: Earthquake, Post Disaster Rehabilitation

Identity: The Construction of Selfhood

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
1994, 20 mins., English and Hindi versions

Questioning the notion of the self as a pre-given, primordial and purposive entity, this video explores the gamut of modes in which identities are produced, circulated and consumed within our culture. Identity is both difference and relationship; identity is enmeshed in relations of power, be they of gender, race or religion. Traversing a multi-cultural terrain inhabited by Paul Klee and the Indo-Anglian poet A.K. Ramanujan, by popular commercials and the writings of riot-affected children, Michel Foucault and Sant Kabir, the medieval Sufi poet, the video is an invitation to examine anew our praxis of identity as an eternally negotiated site of change and resistance.

Prix Futura Berlin 1995
2nd Prize, International Video Festival,
Thiruvananthapuram, 1995.



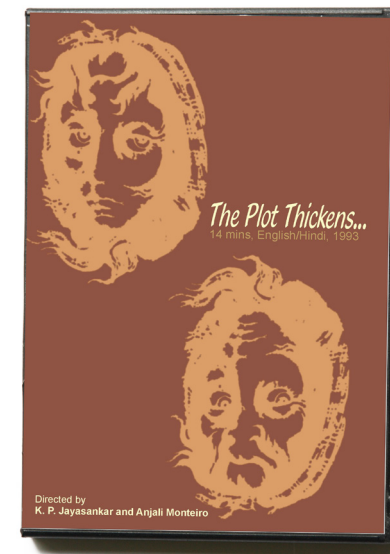
Keywords: Identity, Gender, Culture, Media Education

The Plot Thickens...

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
1993, 14 mins., English and Hindi versions

This series of shorts is dedicated to the critical spirit in all of us. Whether it is a questioning of the notion of an objective reality (in 'Dialogue') and an instrumental language (in 'Table, table and ...') or an appreciation of how the media reproduce dominant relations of power in our culture, the attempt is to facilitate a rethinking of our relationship to the world around us. 'Ideological Baggage' explores the construction of gender in a television commercial while 'Packaged Desire' examines the modus operandi of advertising. 'The Phantom Country', 'The Myth of Columbus' and 'A Taste of Fascism' deal with various aspects of racism in the media.

First Prize and the Award for Individual Technical Excellence in Editing, Sixth UGC Country-wide Classroom Video Festival 1993, Calcutta

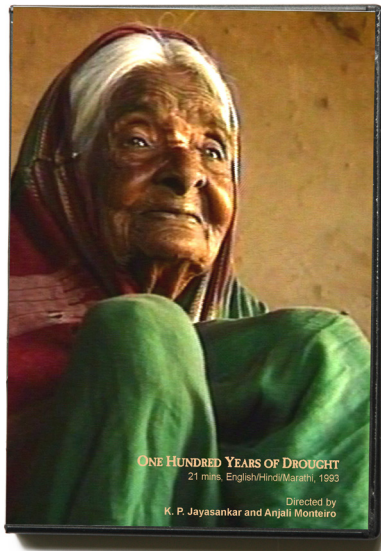


Keywords: Culture, Media Education

One Hundred Years of Drought

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
1993, 21 mins. English, Hindi and Marathi versions

The video examines the causes of recurrent drought in Maharashtra, attempting to demonstrate the extent to which drought is a socially created phenomenon, a fall out of ecologically unsound policies and practices, both at micro and macro levels. It includes a brief review of the impact of colonial role and famine policy, as well as the post- independence path of development, premised on the growth of heavy industry, large dams and modernisation of agriculture. This has resulted in deforestation, soil erosion and depletion of ground water reserves, calling for alternative approaches involving people's participation in integrated watershed management, based on the principles of sustainable development, self-reliance and equity.



Keywords: Ecology, Environment, Famine, Globalisation

Pramila and Parvati

Directed by Shilpa Ranade
1993, 35 mins, English

The video explores, in depth, the perceptions of two visually challenged women, who speak of their experience of childhood, getting an education, finding employment, marriage and child rearing. In a candid account, the friends discuss the trials they face everyday in meeting the challenge of parenting their sighted children. Their children's perception of visual disability and their aspirations for the future are also presented.



Keywords: Women, Visually Challenged, Parenting

Odhni: A Collective Exploration Of Ourselves, Our Bodies

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
1993, 23 mins., English and Hindi versions

Based on a workshop with a group of women on the theme of self-image and sexuality, this video expresses women's perceptions of the relationships of power that impinge on women's bodies and their selves. Through a process of sharing and exploration, the group attempts a critique of the dominant modes of power that are immediate to their lives.

2nd prize, Health and Population category, International Video Festival, Thiruvananthapuram, 1995.



Keywords: Women issues, Gender, Sexuality

Sudha Police Station Gayi Thi

On the Demystification of Police Procedures for Women

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
1992, 16 mins., Hindi

Sudha, a woman facing domestic violence, approaches a police station for help. Her experience there leaves her wondering whether the police can be of any help in such situations. She meets Anita, an activist, who familiarises her with the basic procedures and police personnel involved in registering cognisable and non-cognisable complaints. In the process, Sudha begins to appreciate the possibilities and limitations of police intervention.



Keywords: Women, Domestic Violence, Police Personnel

From the Diary of a Genetic Counsellor

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
1991, 21 mins, English

The programme takes up two cases of Down's syndrome, with different genetic profiles (Trisomy 21 and Translocation 14- 21) and traces the counselling process involved in each case. The aim is to highlight the counselling strategies that could be adopted to help clients to come to terms and deal with the genetic disorder. This programme would be of use to medical practitioners as well as other professionals and paraprofessionals involved in work with the mentally challenged.



Keywords: Down's Syndrome, Counselling, Mentally Challenged

Magra Mewar Vikas Sanstha

Directed by K.P. Jayasankar and Anjali Monteiro
Part I & II, 68 mins., English, 1991

MMVS, based in Ajmer and Bhilwara districts of Rajasthan, is a co-ordinating voluntary agency of village committees that have taken up sustainable development of their common property resources based on the principles of contributory voluntary labour and equitable distribution of produce. The video evaluates these efforts in the context of the on-going ecological degradation of the Central Aravallis and governmental initiatives to remedy the situation.



Keywords: Sustainable Development, Ecology, Forests