

मुँगाफलीवाला

The Peanut Seller

MOHAMMED FAIZAL

AMIT VASHISHT

SHUBHAM SRIVASTAN

A SHORT
FILM BY ETIENNE SIEVERS

DOES THE PAST DEFINE YOUR FUTURE?

Moongfali Wala (The Peanut Seller)

Directed by Etienne Sievers

2017. Germany/India. 18 minutes. Hindi (with English subtitles), 4K (Digital)

WINNER: Satyajit Ray Short Film Award at the London Indian Film Festival 2018

WINNER: Audience Award Best Short Film South Asian Film Festival Florida 2018

WINNER: Best Short at Manhattan Short India 2018

Nominated: German Star of India Award at Stuttgart Indian Film Festival 2018

Opening Short Film South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2018

Official Selection New York Indian Film Festival 2018

Official Selection IFFSA Toronto 2018

Official Selection Florida South Asian Film Festival 2018

Official Selection Imagine India International Film Festival Madrid 2018

Official Selection Indian Film Festival Cincinnati 2018

Official Selection Birmingham Indian Film Festival 2018

Official Selection Manchester Indian Film Festival 2018

Official Selection GemArts Masala Festival: Awake 2018

Official Selection Delhi International Film Festival 2018

Short Film Corner Festival de Cannes 2018

“Stellar... Will open your eyes...” -Cameron Meier, Orlando Weekly, Sept. 26, 2018

Distributed by: Shorts.tv, Gonella Productions, PocketFilms

Logline

An orphaned young ragpicker battling isolation and poverty in the streets of New Delhi tries to locate the one man capable of helping him find his mother.

Synopsis

Orphaned young ragpicker SHAKEEL survives in the busy streets of New Delhi (India) by selling scrap newspapers. When a chance encounter leads him to briefly recognize MOHAN, a man from the train on which he once lost his mother, Shakeel engages the services of a local detective to determine Mohan's whereabouts. But Shakeel's limited financial resources and his isolated position in society reduce his chances of success. Growing increasingly frustrated, Shakeel's rowdy behavior and subjugating attitude towards women take a toll on his friendship with the cheerful maid NEELA. When Shakeel eventually manages to locate, confront and question Mohan, the ensuing confrontation with his past ultimately shatters his world view and leads him to make amends with the girl he likes.

Cast

Mohammed Faizal	–	Shakeel
Moon Moon Singh	–	Mother
Amit Vashisht	–	Mohan
Shubham Srivastan	–	Neela
V.K. Sharma	–	Street Writer

Crew

Written, Directed & Produced by	Etienne Sievers
Executive Producer & Casting by	Shoaib Lokhandwala
Cinematography & Editing by	Etienne Sievers
Assistant Director & Dialogue Translator	Neel Mani Kant
Sound Recordist	Christopher Burchell
Production Manager	Mohammad Arshad

Director's Biography



Born in Germany, Etienne grew up predominantly in India. After his undergrad in Berlin, he studied Filmmaking in the UK with a prestigious DAAD scholarship (German Academic Exchange Service). Etienne's award-winning short films were screened at numerous international film festivals and favourably reviewed by the press. His short film "The Peanut Seller" recently won the Satyajit Ray Short Film Award at the London Indian Film Festival 2018, where the jury praised it for its "superb execution and poignant narrative". Etienne's feature film screenplay "Tin Can Buffaloes" advanced to the top 5% of the Academy Nicholl Fellowships screenwriting competition and is currently in pre-production. Etienne has also recently completed a new feature film screenplay about a German conservationist in Africa.

Lead Actor's Biography



Originally from rural Bihar (India), Mohammed Faizal spent two years roaming the streets of New Delhi as an orphan before being taken in by Mira Nair's philanthropic NGO, the Salaam Baalak Trust. In 2009, director Dev Benegal ("English, August") discovered and cast Faizal for his film "Road, Movie", which premiered at the 2010 Berlin International Film Festival. Faizal went on to appear in several local theatre and film productions, as well as in Etienne Sievers' short film "Dilli Dreams" (2012). Faizal, who is also interested in directing, most recently completed a documentary about refugees in India and has worked as an Assistant Director in Dipesh Jain's "In the Shadows" starring Manoj Bajpayee.

Director's Statement

With approximately 20 million children or about 4% of the country's population, India is home to more orphans than any other country in the world. Only a fraction of these cases relate to the death of a parent – the majority of children have been orphaned through accidental or deliberate abandonment.

I came into close contact with the faces behind these statistics when shooting my short film "Dilli Dreams" in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh in 2011. While casting actors for my film at Mira Nair's orphanage programme, the Salaam Baalak Trust, I got to know many of the individual fates of the children there. I began to sense a need and responsibility to tell their stories but I wanted to do so without sentimentalizing the issue.

Roughly during the same time a string of assaults on women in India gained worldwide media attention. "The Peanut Seller" addresses both these topics and explores what effects the hard life of an orphan can have on his socio-political compass and his way of conduct in life. At the heart of "The Peanut Seller" therefore lies not only the search of a boy for his mother but also his journey of finding his true vocation, of casting off the shackles of his past and of re-calibrating his attitude towards the female gender.

Director's Filmography

Untitled Biopic on German Conservationist	Details TBA. (script stage)	
Tin Can Buffaloes (PP)	Writer/Director 2015 Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting Quarterfinalist	Fiction, 110 mins., IN/DE
The Peanut Seller (2017)	Writer/Dir./Cin./Editor WINNER: Best Short at London Indian Film Festival 2018 WINNER: Audience Award Best Short Film South Asian Film Fest. Florida 2018 WINNER: Best Short at Manhattan Short India 2018 Nominated: Best Short at Stuttgart Indian Film Festival 2018 Opening Short Film South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2018 <i>See more above...</i>	Fiction, 18 mins., IN/DE
Carlos Bica & Azul (2015)	Director/Editor	Doc., 19 mins., DE
The Way Up (2014)	Writer/Director/Composer Festival De Cannes Short Film Corner 2014 Official Selection Bangalore International Film Festival 2014 Official Selection Kalpanirjhar Film Festival, Calcutta 2014 Official Competition No Time Left Film Festival, Paris 2014 Official Selection Cosmo Fest Tokyo 2015 Official Selection Dingle International Film Festival 2015	Fiction, 13 min., UK
Made in Brizzle (2013)	Cinematographer Official Selection Jump Cut Film Festival 2013, Bristol	Doc., 3 min., UK
Left Behind (2013)	Director	Fiction, 3 min., UK
Two Lives at Uni. (2012)	Director/Cinemat./Editor	Doc., 3 min., UK
Dilli Dreams (2012)	Writer/Director/ Cin./Editor Nominated for Best Short at New York Indian Film Festival 2012 Nominated for IMDB New Filmmaker Award 2012 Nominated for Cinema Prize at No Time Left Festival 2013 Short Film Corner Festival De Cannes 2013 Official Selection Raindance Film Festival London 2012 Official Selection CAAM Fest (San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival) 2013 Official Selection Bath Film Festival 2012 Official Selection Raindance Roma 2013 Official Selection Festival International Signes de Nuit, Paris 2013 Official Selection Kalpanirjhar International Short Fiction Film Festival, Calcutta 2013 Official Selection Human Rights Festival Barcelona 2014 Official Selection SAFF Montréal 2016 Released on VOD, in cinemas across France & on local TV.	Fiction, 9 min., DE/IN
Gewinner (2009)	Writer/Director/Cin./Editor	Fiction, 5 min., DE