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October 24-28
at the
**Lobero Theatre &
Hatch Hall, Direct Relief
International Headquarters**

SCHEDULE OF FILMS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 4:30 pm | Direct Relief, Goleta (Free - No Tickets Required)

Pieta: Sri Lanka (Short - Fiction) Running Time: 20 min *Director: Ravindu Fernando*

A state security officer aggressively interrogates a woman who is suspected of having planned the 2019 Easter Sunday suicide bombings in Sri Lanka. However, she counters his brutality in a remarkable way. As the director states, "This film tries to motivate us to review the crimes we have committed ... to help us make this country a better place."

Rename: China (Short - Fiction) Running Time: 15 min *Director: Li Weilong*

The college entrance examination is coming, and Xu Zhaodi wants to leave her hometown and change her name and appearance. Relaxation of China's second child policy complicates her plans. The film is grounded in the director's philosophy, "Realism is power, feminism is heroism."

Interview with a Monk: United States (Short - Documentary) Running Time: 25 min

Directors: Shekar Daryl, Chatura De Siliva.

Director Chatura De Silva interviews Venerable Master Shantha Shobana, a Buddhist monk with over 30 years of experience in mindfulness practices. Through engaging conversations, they explore a wide range of topics related to spirituality, purpose and personal growth. The audience is invited on a journey of self-discovery. **Followed by Panel Discussion.**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 4:30 pm | Direct Relief, Goleta (Free - No Tickets Required)

The Source: United States (Short - Animation) Running Time: 7 min *Director: Ivy Luxen*

A saturation diver discovers an old sea chest at the bottom of an underwater oil rig in the southern Caribbean Sea and carries the chest away with her. To her surprise, the chest brings unforeseeable trouble for her captain.

Why Did the Giraffe's Flower Fade: Iran (Short - Animation) Running Time: 9 min *Director: Kaveh Kanani*

Giraffe loves flowers. She keeps her flower in a jar to save it from wind and rain, but it withered; she is very sad and doesn't know why it happened.

The Long Rain: France (Short - Animation) Running Time: 5 min *Director: Cassandre Leonard*

A continual rain falls on the jungle of mold in which Mérove has crashed. In search of a shelter, waterspouts and increasingly intrusive mushrooms will put the endurance of the astronaut to the test.

A Year to Life: United States (Short - Fiction) Running Time: 11 min *Director: Nikki Hevesy*

A neighborhood influencer makes a life-altering choice for a pre-teen boy on the anniversary of his mother's death. The film pays homage to the street soldiers who battle to break the school to prison pipeline.

Me and Myself: Portugal (Short - Fiction) Running Time: 10 min *Director: Passos Zamith*

A young man seeks an inhospitable and remote place to put an end to his life. He receives a call from himself 20 years in the future asking him to reconsider.

Latir Amergo: Spain (Short - Fiction) Running Time: 17 min *Director: Yolanda Belvis*

Maria and her son Jan are about to start a new life with Tomas and his daughter Sonia but a dire circumstance will change their lives forever.

Nibba Was Come and More Quickly: Sri Lanka (Short - Fiction) Running Time: 10 min *Director: Damith Aluthgama*

"Nibba" is a story of a childhood lost to the little monks.

Happy Land: Syria (Short - Fiction) Running Time: 24 min *Director Nour Khair Alanam*

During the summer of 2022 in Damascus, the lives of three people (father, alcoholic and transport worker) intersect during one ordinary day due to a small incident. But, all of them must struggle to survive the day with the least possible losses, their fates changed irrevocably.

Metropolis: Tunisia (Short - Fiction) Running Time: 18 min *Directed by Noomen Noomen*

Alexander moved from his rural town to the capital, Tunis, where the city's problems were reflected in his body and soul. He migrates, seeking refuge outside the city center to create a space that better reflects his cosmic nature. The filmmaker draws from his background in urban planning and inspiration from modern art.

Favorite Son: United States (Short - Fiction) Running Time: 13 min *Director: Dustin Clingan*

The lives of long-estranged twins reconnect in a web of deception and murder.

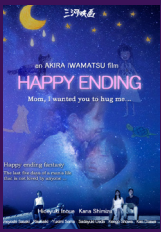
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2:00 pm | Direct Relief, Goleta (Free - No Tickets Required)



Happy Ending: Japan (Feature - Fiction) Running Time: 113 min Director: Akira Iwamatsu

Picture book writer Kirihara had a brilliant past in which his debut work became a bestseller. After a series of misfortunes including divorce and accusations of plagiarism, he jumps from the roof of a building but a strange girl appears and helps him. In a magic realist turn, his identify morphs with the girl and, over five days, he evaluates his unhappiness and the choice of suicide, a pressing social issue. As the director states, "the number of suicides in Japan exceeds 30,000 every year and they are mostly middle-aged people."

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 4:30 pm | Direct Relief, Goleta (Free - No Tickets Required)

Irako: Iran (Short - Documentary) Running Time: 30 min Director: Hashem Karimi

A teacher enters a completely unknown village and records the plight of its children. A documentary team follows, facing numerous dangers on its way to tell the story. The director states, this is "a film that will help you to understand the real pain and hardships of our people."

The Sound of Tibetan: China (Short - Documentary) Running Time: 27 min Director: Zhao Fengyi

In the hinterland of the Tibetan plateau, herdsman live by water and grass with yaks as companions in the summer. A sudden snowfall blocks their mountain passage before winter supplies are replenished, leaving them stranded.

Hidden Pockets: United States (Short - Documentary) Running Time: 30 min Director: Patrick Rutnam

Connecting with his roots, Patrick Rutnam, a Sri Lankan-American actor living in LA, highlights sights unseen in this Sri Lankan travel documentary. "All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware." - Martin Buber **Followed by Panel Discussion.**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 4:30 pm | Direct Relief, Goleta (Free - No Tickets Required)

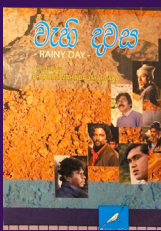


Seeds: Sri Lanka (Feature - Fiction) Running Time: 111 min Director: Sanjaya Nirmal

Seeds is a rich period drama that tells the story of two Priests who answered the call from God to carry out their missionary work in 16th century Ceylon. Friar Lizano, an Indian Jesuit Priest who witnessed the bloody Minnar Massacre of 700 converts in 1544, had maintained a journal which he gifts to Friar Melchior a Portuguese Franciscan Priest. The journal became essential during Melchior's trials in Ceylon in 1560. Directly relevant to Sri Lanka today as well as other parts of the world, the film is an "allegory of the victims of weaponized religious and cultural extremism for the benefit of power."

Followed by Panel Discussion.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1:30 pm | Lobero Theater (Buy Tickets at ceyiff.com)



The Rainy Day: Sri Lanka (Feature - Fiction) Running Time: 70 min Director: Bhadraraj Jayathilaka

A social drama set in the cool upcountry, Rainy Day ('Wehi Dawasa') tells the intertwining story of impoverished Elisa and Theja, who go to a hospital to get desperately needed medicine, and a team of dramatists from Colombo traveling to perform their final show. In the meantime, the wife of the hospital's Chief Medical Officer is busy getting ready to meet her heartthrob who happens to be main star in the drama. As the story unfolds, their paths collide upending their fates. Based on his novel, the director's states, "This is a film with an artistic flavour, something like what Satyajit Ray has done."

Wawel Dragon: England (Short - Animation) Running Time: 6 min Directed by Cameron Carr

An award winning adaptation of a classic Polish folktale, Wawel Dragon is rich in history and magic, told with an epic cinematic lens and animation puppetry. The director, Cameron Carr is an autistic artist currently studying at the National Film and Television School in Britain.

Ezhuthalar: India (Short - Fiction) Running Time: 14 min Director: J Jegadeeshwaran

A relatable story about a writer who is trying to achieve his long term dream by tackling the everyday obstacles in his way.

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Locations for Screenings

The Lobero Theatre
33 East Canon Perdido
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
Box Office: 805.963.0761

Direct Relief International
Headquarters, Hatch Hall
6100 Wallace Becknell Rd
Santa Barbara, CA 93117

Tickets & Passes

Lobero Theater
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