

Indrani Kopal

Documentary Filmmaker (Director/Editor)



Indrani Kopal is a documentary filmmaker with a background as a video journalist, television producer, and editor. She is a former Senior Lecturer at Taylor's University, Malaysia. Her filmmaking interests focus on biographical films and collaborative storytelling. In 2007 Indrani's first short documentary, *She's My Son*, won the Justin Louis Award at the 2007 Malaysian's Freedom Film Festival. Indrani received a Fulbright Scholarship in 2012 to pursue an MFA in Documentary Film Studies and Production at Hofstra University in New York. Indrani's award-winning short student documentary film, *The Game Changer*, was screened in seventeen film festivals and won three best short documentary awards. The film profiled a choreographer who taught modern dance to incarcerated men at the Woodbourne Correctional Facility in New York. Indrani followed up on the men's lives upon release, navigating old relationships, securing a job, and deciding whether to continue dancing. Indrani's feature debut documentary, *Incarcerated Rhythm*, received the Mira Nair Award for Rising Female Filmmaker at the 2018 Harlem International Film Festival. A glimpse of her work can be viewed at: www.indranikopal.co

IN POST-PRODUCTION

2024	Phos Graphis: Ismail Hashim Director/Editor	Radhikal Films
2023	Uncharted Vision Director/Editor	Taylor's University

WEB DOCUMENTARIES & NEWS FEATURES

2018	Inclusion Equals Love Director/Editor	The Inclusive Outdoor Classroom
2017	Dr Hartini Zainudin I 5-part web doc series Director/Editor	WOMEN:Girls
2017	Teacher, The Tradition Bearer Director/Editor	Far East Documentary
2017	Saving Malaysia Editor	Freedom Film Network
2016	An Artist In Search Director/Camera/Editor	Bunday Production
2016	"Chaos in Motion" Poetry Film Director/Editor	PUSAKA
2012	The Tale of Three Women's Struggle for Justice and Equality Producer/Editor	Malaysiakini.com & Engagemedia
2011	Video: The people's voice Writer/Director/Editor	Malaysiakini.com
2011	A tale of malice or negligence? Director/Editor	Malaysiakini.com
2011	Mek Jah Deris: The Last Mak Yong Prima Donna Director/Editor	Malaysiakini.com
2010	Tumbuk Estate: How long more to wait? Director/Editor	Malaysiakini.com
2010	A step back in time Director/Editor	Malaysiakini.com
2010	Forty One Director/Editor	Malaysiakini.com
2009	Deleted from victors' history: The other freedom fighters Director/Editor	Malaysiakini.com
2009	The last of CPM's Indian communists Director/Editor	Malaysiakini.com
2009	Why we stay here, even when we love home	Malaysiakini.com

	Director/Editor	
2009	Kg Buah Pala- pawn in a political game	Malaysiakini.com
	Writer/Director/Editor	
2009	Love ... in despair	Malaysiakini.com
	Writer/Director/Editor	
2009	Helpless victims of merciless sex predators	Malaysiakini.com
	Director/Editor	
2009	Independence gone with the trees	Malaysiakini.com
	Director/Editor	
2009	Penans will die if jungle is destroyed'	Malaysiakini.com
	Director/Editor	
2009	The plight of Sri Lankan refugees	Malaysiakini.com
	Director/Camera/Editor	
2009	One School System for all? (2-part series)	Malaysiakini.com
	Writer/Director/Editor	
2009	In remembrance of 'Reformasi 1998'	Malaysiakini.com
	Director/Editor	
2008	no25 Behind the revolt	Malaysiakini.com
	Writer/Director/Editor	
2008	Revisiting the '88 Judiciary Crisis	Malaysiakini.com
	Director/Editor	
2008	The Forgotten Malaysians	Malaysiakini.com
	Writer/Director/Editor	
2008	'They stole 11 months from me'	Malaysiakini.com
	Writer/Director/Editor	
2007	Bersih Rally 2007: A Cry for Royal Help	Malaysiakini.com
	Writer/Director/Editor	
2007	Tamil School - Slow Extinction	Malaysiakini.com
	Producer/Editor	
2007	Muslim or Hindu? A family ripped apart	Malaysiakini.com
	Producer/Editor	
2007	Remnants of the past	Malaysiakini.com
	Camera/Editor	
2006	SPECIAL REPORT : Escape from slavery (4-part series)	Malaysiakini.com
	Producer/Editor	
2006	Woes of retrenched estate workers	Malaysiakini.com
	Camera/Editor	
2006	Broken deities and hammered faith	Malaysiakini.com
	Camera/Editor	

TELEVISION

2022	Anthaa Naal Producer	Astro Vaanavil/ Far East Doc Production
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SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

2018	Incarcerated Rhythm (US, 80-min) Producer/Director/Editor	Harlem International Film Festival 2018 (<i>Premiere</i> , Mira Nair Award for Rising Female Filmmaker), Winner of Mira Nair's Rising Female Filmmaker award); REEL DOCS: A Documentary Film Series, Mexico, 2020; Bucharest Film Awards 2018; Dumbo Film Festival 2019; Edmonton International Film Festival 2018, Canada; Portland Film Festival 2018; The Courage Film Festival 2018, Berlin, Germany
2016	Before The Trees Was Strange (US/Bahamas, 80min) Editor	Premiered at the 13th Bahamas International Film Festival 2016; Harlem International Film Festival 2017; Flathead Lake International Cinemafest 2017; San Diego Black Film Festival 2017; The Caribbean Tales International Film Festival 2017; New Zealand Film Awards 2017; REEL DOCS: Documentary Film Series 2017 at San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
2014	The Game Changer (US, 17-min) Director/Editor	The Portland Film Festival 2014; Northeast Film Festival (2014, Best Short Doc Award); Harlem International Film Festival (2014, Best Short Doc Award); Sun and Sand, the Mississippi Film and Music Festival 2015; NewFilmmakers New York Fall Series 2014; The 15th Annual Woodstock Film Festival 2014; The Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival 2014; The 23rd

		Annual Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival 2014; Mosaic Film Festival 2014; Red Hook "Harvest Shorts" Film Festival 2014; Peace on Earth Film Festival 2015; "We Speak Here" Culture Unplugged 2014; The American Pavilion's Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at Cannes Film Festival (2015, Best Student Doc Award), Cannes Court Métrage 2015; Wonder of Women (WOW) Film Festival 2015; Windrider International Student Film Festival 2016, <i>Finalist</i> ; Kota Kinabalu International Film Festival 2016
2012	Living Jazz with Bill Saxton (USA, 10-min) Director/Editor	10th Annual Langston Hughes African American Film Festival 2013; Harlem International Film Festival 2014
2010	I Only Dance for You (USA, 10-min) Director/Editor	Outrate Online Short Film Festival 2010; OUTtv's Hot Pink Shorts 2010
2010	Oily Hair (USA, 5-min) Director/Editor	Freedom Film Festival Malaysia 2011; Culture unplugged Online Film Festival
2007	She's My Son (Malaysia, 13-min) Director/Editor	The Justin Louis Award, Freedom Film Festival 2007

EXPERIENCES

2021–Now	(P/T) Film Lecturer	SAE Creative Media Institute, Sydney
2016–Now	Executive Producer	Far East Documentary Centre, Malaysia
2018–21	Senior Lecturer	Taylor's University, Malaysia
2015–16	Documentary Editor	Bunday Production, The Bahamas
2014–15	Production Assistant	Austin Street Productions, Inc. New York
2012–14	MFA Graduate Assistant	Hofstra University, New York
2006–12	Video Journalist	Malaysiakini.com, Malaysia
2005–06	TV Producer	Varnam/ MiTV Corp, Malaysia
2001–05	Film and TV Lab Technician	Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Malaysia

FESTIVAL JURY

2021	International Documentary Association's (IDA) David L. Wolper Student Documentary Award Jury
2021	G-Short Film Competition (Georgetown Festival)
2021	Bank Negara Malaysia MYDUTSTORY Competition
2021	Harlem International Film Festival - Mira Nair Award Jury, USA
2019	BMW Shorties Film Festival
2018	New Hope for Malaysia Video Contest (IACT Student Film Festival)
2018	Freedom Film Festival
2017	Pesta Filem Kita
2016	Freedom Film Festival
2016	Agni Film Award
2014	Hofstra Student Film Festival

AWARDS

2019	Asia Tatler's Generation T, Malaysian honouree
2018	Mira Nair Award for Rising Female Filmmaker for "Incarcerated Rhythm".
2016	AGNI Youth Icon Award.
2015	Kalai Payanam Award, Certificate for International Achievement.
2015	Great Women of Our Time Award for "Arts & Media" by The Malaysian Women's Weekly Magazine.
2015	Best Student Documentary Award at The American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at Cannes, France.
2014	Bustle's Annual Upstart Award.
2014	Best Short Documentary at 9th Annual Harlem International Film Festival
2012-14	Fulbright Malaysian Graduate Study and Research Scholarship Award.
2010	George Washington University 2010 International Emerging Documentary Filmmakers Fellowship.
2008	Outstanding Asian Youth Ambassador (AYA) Award
2007	Justin Louis Award in Freedom Film Festival, Film 'She's My Son.'

QUALIFICATION

2015	Master of Fine Arts with Distinction in Documentary Studies and Production, Hofstra University, New York, USA
2011	Bachelor of Multimedia Communications (Hons.), Web Broadcasting, Open University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia