

# The Royal Anthropological Institute

## Film Catalogue

Spring 2020



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The Royal Anthropological Institute's film catalogue specialises in ethnographic and documentary films and it makes them available to educational institutions, libraries, teachers, schools, colleges, museums, NGOs, researchers and the general public the world over.

The full catalogue includes over 550 titles, covering a wide range of topics such as Anthropology, Gender, Migration, Health and much more. It features material from all over the world, from Afghanistan to Yemen.

Films will be of particular interest to those teaching and studying anthropology, social sciences and documentary filmmaking, but they will also interest those wishing to introduce a more global, diverse and varied range of materials into their teaching.

This catalogue lists 4 short and 10 mid-and feature length new films that are now available via our website. Most were selected and screened at the 16<sup>th</sup> RAI Film Festival in 2019, with many winning prizes, awards and commendations.

Themes featured:

- Collaborative, participatory and creative research methods
- South Asia
- Music
- Indigenous film
- HIV/AIDS

**Films are available on DVD and on-demand (VoD). Please see the website for further details.**

**Inquiries: [film@therai.org.uk](mailto:film@therai.org.uk)**

**[www.raifilm.org.uk](http://www.raifilm.org.uk)**

## shorts



### **EVEN ASTEROIDS ARE NOT ALONE**

**Directed by** Jón Bjarki Magnússon

*Iceland / 2018 / 17 min*

DVD; VoD. Winner BEST SHORT RAI-FF 2019

<https://raifilm.org.uk/films/even-asteroids-are-not-alone/>

Eve Online is a computer game in which players mine, trade and fight their way through computer-generated galaxies. Whilst computer game aficionados are often depicted as isolated, this game is deeply social, bringing thousands of people together. Against the backdrop of the virtual gameworld, we hear the experiences of fourteen players from around the globe, told in their own voices.

**KEYWORDS:** Virtual, Games, Internet



### **HORROR IN THE ANDES**

**Directed by** Martha-Cecilia Dietrich

*Peru, UK/ 2019 / 33 min*

DVD; VoD <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/horror-in-the-andes/>

Horror in the Andes is a behind-the-scenes documentary that follows the process of making a horror movie in Ayacucho. It explores how Andean filmmakers use the horror genre as a means to revive stories of a pre-colonial past. Infused with warmth and affection, *Horror in the Andes* pays testament to the craft of filmmaking and its community.

**KEYWORDS:** Filmmaking, Ethnofiction, Indigenous peoples

## shorts



### **PAANI: OF WOMEN AND WATER**

**Directed by Costanza Burstin**

*India / 2018 / 22 min*

DVD; VoD <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/paani-of-women-and-water/>

Against the bleached sky of Rajasthan, we encounter the women of a small Muslim village as they engage in their work. Here, water binds their daily labour rituals: they collect and carry water in massive urns, they clean plates and clothes with it, water their animals, and even maintain their homes with it. A record of the ongoing cycles of women's labour ("we make food, we eat, we sleep, we wake up..."), their sense of humour and resilience, and the ways the community co-operate to deal with scarcity.

**KEYWORDS: Gender, Environment, Labour, Everyday Life**



### **WÁSI**

**Directed by Sebastián Ruíz & Amado Vilafaña Chaparro**

*Colombia / 2017 / 16 min*

DVD; VoD <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/wasi/>

As the sun rises on a village in northern Colombia, we glimpse its inhabitants as they begin their day. A voiceover ruminates on the nature of sight. It is the voice of Arhuaco filmmaker Amado Vilafaña Chaparro. He shares his thoughts on anthropologists like Gerardo Reichel-Dolmatoff and Robert Gardner, and the (mis)representations they produce. Ultimately he, and this film, affirm the power indigenous people can seize by taking up the camera.

**KEYWORDS: Indigenous peoples, Filmmaking, History of Anthropology**

## Mid- and feature length films



### THE ABSENCE OF APRICOTS

**Directed by Daniel Asadi Faezi**

*Pakistan, Germany / 2018 / 49 min*

DVD; VoD <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/the-absence-of-apricots/>

In the Hunza Valley in the northern Pakistan there is a magnificent turquoise lake. But the lake hasn't been always there: it is the result of a massive landslide that blocked a river, causing massive floods which immersed fields and entire village. Thousands of people got dislocated and had to look for different places where to live. All that remain are memories, passed to the new generation in stories. *The Absence of Apricots* surveys this haunted landscape, sketching everyday life of its inhabitants, as it is interwoven with memory, myth, and loss.

**KEYWORDS: Displacement, Environment**



### ATIENO

**Directed by DreamGirls**

*Kenya / 2018 / 64 min*

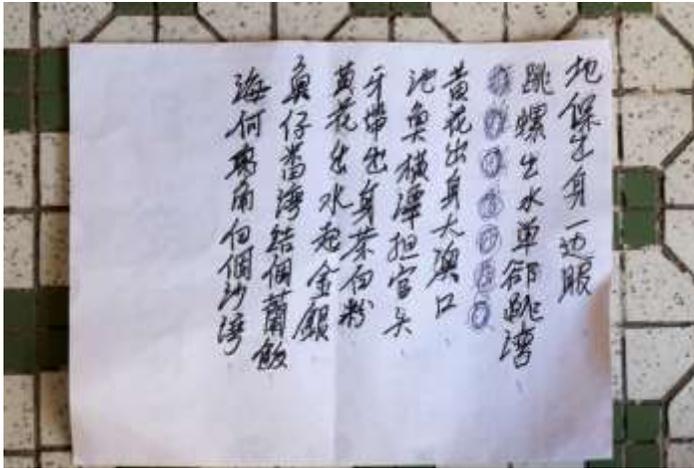
DVD; VoD <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/atieno>

Atieno is a collaborative fiction film scripted, acted and directed by DreamGirls, a group of young Kenyan women. The film tells of Atieno, a 16 year old girl from a sleepy fishing village who moves to Nairobi to work in a bar, where she struggles with harassment. The film is used by the organisation Community Media Trust as an educational outreach tool to facilitate discussions about HIV, transactional sex and entrepreneurship.

FACILITATION GUIDE AVAILABE

**KEYWORDS: Health, HIV, Gender, Ethnofiction**

## Mid- and feature length films



### **BALLAD ON THE SHORE**

**Directed by Chi-hang Ma**

*Hong Kong / 2017 / 98 min*

DVD <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/ballad-on-the-shore/>

On the small isle of Tap Mun, Hong Kong, veteran fishermen sing ballads with pitches and tones that alternate and repeat themselves as if they were synchronising with the ocean waves. But as fewer and fewer know the harsh life at sea, these ballads are being forgotten by new generations. This film documents the fisherman's way of life, and these unique songs - both on the verge of disappearing.

**KEYWORDS:** Music, Ethnomusicology, Fishing



### **A DELICATE WEAVE**

**Directed by Anjali Monteiro & KP Jayasankar**

*India / 2017 / 61 min*

DVD <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/a-delicate-weave/>

A fascinating tapestry of four different musical journeys across Gujarat, India: we meet a group of young men in Bhujodi who meet every night to sing the verses of 15th-century Indian mystic and poet Kabir; feisty women from Lakhpat, who quietly subvert gender roles through their music performances; Noor Mohammad Sodha, who plays and teaches exquisite flute music; and Jiant Khan and his disciples, whose love for the Sufi poet Bhitai is expressed through the ethereal form of Waae singing.

**KEYWORDS:** Music, Ethnomusicology

## Mid- and feature length films



### IT WAS TOMORROW

**Directed by Alexandra D'onofrio**

*Italy, UK / 2018 / 53 min*

DVD; VoD <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/it-was-tomorrow/>

After living in Italy for almost ten years without documents, three Egyptian men - Ali, Mahmoud and Mohamed - are suddenly awarded legal residence. As a whole new world of opportunities opens up to them, they revisit the ports where they arrived in Italy as teenagers after hazardous journeys across the Mediterranean. Here, difficult memories are intertwined with fantasies about what could be, or could have been, and their possible new lives. Through creative collaborative filmmaking that weaves animation, theatre and storytelling with documentary images, we are able to delve deep into the memories and imaginations of these young men.

**KEYWORDS: Migration, Participatory & Collaborative methods**



### KALÈS

**Directed by Laurent Van Lancker**

*Belgium / 2017 / 63 min*

DVD; VoD <https://raifilm.org.uk/admin-films/kales>

*A film of wind and despair, of fire and solidarity, of hope and hell.*  
An intimate and inside perspective of the 'jungle' of Calais, evoked through a polyphony of bodies, tales, and atmospheres. So familiar to us from news reports, Van Lancker helps us see the "jungle" anew, providing an immersive, sensory journey through the social life and survival strategies of migrants. Shot on numerous visits during the entire duration of the 'jungle's' existence, and often using a collaborative methodology, *Kalès* is a film that is both poetic and political; it is a visceral document to the everyday life of migrants.

**KEYWORDS: Migration, Participatory & Collaborative methods**

## Mid- and feature length films



### TARA'S FOOTPRINT

**Directed by Georgina Barreiro**

*Argentina / 2018 / 70 min*

DVD; VoD <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/taras-footprint/>

*Tara's Footprint* skilfully conjures the atmosphere of Khechuperi, a sacred village in the Himalayas in north eastern India. We meet inhabitants in snatched vignettes and tableaux, gradually piecing together relationships and values that structure it. Creative expression emerges as central to daily life; here traditional Buddhist music interweaves with Bollywood movies to create a wonderfully hybrid artistic space. The younger generation receive our particular attention. Beautifully shot, *Tara's Footprint* leads its audience with the patience of an ethnographer towards understanding a community.

**KEYWORDS:** Young people, Everyday Life, Music



### THIS IS MY FACE

**Directed by Angélica Cabezas Pino**

*Chile / 2018 / 57 min*

DVD; VoD <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/this-is-my-face/>

*This is My Face* explores what happens when a range of Chilean men living with HIV open up about the illness that changed their life trajectories. It follows a creative process whereby they produce photographic portraits that represent their memories and feelings, a process which helps them challenge years of silence, shame, and misrepresentation. A lesson in the power of collaborative storytelling.

**KEYWORDS:** Health, Memory, Participatory & Collaborative methods, LGBTQ+, Photography

## Mid- and feature length films



### UP DOWN & SIDEWAYS

Directed by Anushka Meenakshi & Iswar Srikumar

India / 2017 / 83 min

DVD <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/up-down-sideways/>

Almost all of the 5000 inhabitants of the village of Phek in Nagaland cultivate rice for their own consumption. As they work in cooperative groups, the rice cultivators of Phek sing. The seasons change, and so does the music, transforming the mundane into the hypnotic. *Up, Down & Sideways* is a musical portrait of a community of rice cultivators and their memories of love and loss, created from working together on the fields.

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY FILM AWARD, RAI-FF 2019

**KEYWORDS:** Music, Ethnomusicology, Labour, Farming



### WIVES

Directed by Lisbet Holtedahl

Norway / 2017 / 85 min

DVD; VoD <https://raifilm.org.uk/films/wives/>

Alhajji Ibrahim is an Islamic scholar who has served as judge at the Sultanate of Ngaoundéré in Northern Cameroon for 46 years. The film follows Alhajji during the last years of his life, focusing on the relationships in a polygamous family. Shot over several years, *Wives* provides rare, intimate glimpses into the dynamics of a West African polygamous Muslim family, and the challenges faced by an older generation whose norms and values are losing legitimacy in a rapidly changing environment.

**KEYWORDS:** Gender, Polygamy, Marriage, Family, Everyday Life