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## 2012 Mumbai Mantra | Sundance Institute Screenwriters Lab Fellows and Projects:



**Charudutt Acharya** (writer/director) / **Sonali Cable** (India): Set in the cable internet turf war of Mumbai, SONALI CABLE is the story of a ghetto girl SONALI and her 'internet boys', who take on a greedy conglomerate that's out to decimate their spirit of enterprise.

Charudutt Acharya is an award-winning writer of Indian TV drama shows like *Haqeeqat*, *Kagaar*, *Jassi Jaise koi Nahin*, *Siddhanth*, *Rajuben* & *Crime Patrol*. He has also co-written Hindi feature films *Dum Maro Dum* & *Vaastushastra*. He has directed short fiction films and is working towards making '*Sonali Cable*' his first feature as writer-director. Charudutt is a graduate of FTII, Pune and Royal Holloway, London.



**Shonali Bose** (co-writer/director) and **Nilesh Maniyar** (co-writer), ***Margarita. With a Straw.*** (India/U.S.A.): A brilliant and funny mind trapped in a disobedient body, Laila falls repeatedly in love, yearns to have sex and wants to be a Bollywood songwriter.

Shonali Bose did an MA in Political Science at Columbia University followed by an MFA in Directing from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. Her first film, *Amu*, was based on the 1984 genocide against Sikhs and won two National Awards (Best Film, Best Director) and the FIPRESCI Critics Award as well as ten international awards. Bose co-wrote *Chittagong*, slated to release this year, with her NASA scientist turned filmmaker husband Bedabrata Pain. She is the first Indian to receive the Sundance-Mahindra Global filmmaking award, for her script *Margarita. With a Straw*.



**Nilesh Maniyar** did his engineering from MIT, Pune (India). Thereafter he worked on Feature Projects with Studios like UTV, STUDIO 18, WALT DISNEY, WARNER BROS, in different capacities such as Assistant Director and Associate Casting Director. He has been part of projects like *Shaurya*, *Havai Dada*, *Kaminey*, *Saat Khoon Maaf* and *Chittagong*. His most recent work was as the 1<sup>st</sup> AD on an Anurag Kashyap Productions and Studio 18 collaboration feature project titled *Aiyya*.



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**Vikas Chandra** (writer/director) / ***Toothache*** (India): *Toothache* is a bitter-sweet tale of a North Korean expat wife named Kim who lives in Delhi during the Emergency of 1976 with her husband - the couple yearns to be back in North Korea, but struggles to find a new and different idea of home in Delhi. *Toothache* celebrates of the tenacity of the human spirit, and re-affirms that the dawn approaches only after you have lived the darkest hour.

Vikas Chandra is the brain behind the recent international collaborative short film PROJECT 11. The 11 odd minutes long film was shot in 11 cities with 11 directors co-directing one story. He regularly writes for Indian films and television. He is obsessive about not losing the one trait that brought him into this career – the joy of watching movies.



**Ajitpal Singh Dhaliwal** (writer/director) / ***Manjhi*** (India): A troubled soul's battle to find dignity and love.

Ajitpal Singh Dhaliwal has made several short films, including *Empty in Me*, which was selected for Talent Campus 2007, New Delhi. It is one of the most popular experimental short films on the online film festival website, *Culture Unplugged*. He was selected by the Goethe Institute to explore co-production possibilities with Germany at the Munich Film Festival. In 2010 he was part of DW Academy's Film Festival Management Program.



**Rajnesh Domalpalli** (writer/director) / ***Avani*** (India): Told as a rural fable, and set during a time when the monsoons have failed, *Avani* relates the story of eight year old Mangi, who learns a new respect for life on earth while bringing her family together.

Rajnesh Domalpalli comes from Hyderabad and is a graduate of IIT Bombay, SUNY-SB and Columbia University. His first feature, VANAJA, garnered 32 International Awards including the Best First Feature at the 2007 Berlin Film Festival. Roger Ebert, America's Pulitzer Prize winning Film Critic, placed the film in the Top 5 Foreign Films of 2007. Written as an environmental fable set in rural South India, AVANI is his second feature.



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**Prashant Nair** (writer/director) / **Umrica** (India): When Udai bhai abandons his native Jitvapur for a bigger and better life in the United States of Umrica, young Ramkant must follow in his footsteps to find out what truly happened to his brother.

Prashant Nair is an Indian/French writer and director, residing between Berlin, Mumbai and Prague. A former social media entrepreneur, his writing and directing credits include the short films “Max & Helena” and “Yes” as well as the feature film “Delhi In A Day”.



**Anusha Rizvi** (co-writer/director) and **Mahmood Farooqui** (co-writer) / **Opium** (India/Mauritius): Opium is an adventure thriller set against the backdrop of the Opium trade and the migration of the Coolies to the islands of the Indian Ocean. It is a love story, a revenge saga, an adventure romance and an action drama set at sea.

Anusha Rizvi is a Delhi based writer and filmmaker. As an independent documentary filmmaker she has worked on a number of commissioned and independent films. Over the last five years she has helped revive *Dastangoi*, the lost art of storytelling in Urdu and produced its New York shows in June, '09. PEEPLI LIVE (2010) was her first essay as a feature writer and director.



Mahmood Farooqui is a Delhi based performer and writer. His first book, *Besieged: Voices from Delhi, 1857* (Penguin, 2010) achieved great critical and popular acclaim and is due out as a paperback this year. He was the co-Director and casting director of PEEPLI LIVE. Over the last ten years he has effected a major revival of *Dastangoi*, the lost art of Urdu storytelling. ([www.dastangoi.blogspot.com](http://www.dastangoi.blogspot.com))



**Kartik Singh** (writer/director) / **Public School** (France): Things will never be the same for Ravi Malhotra, a high school student in Paris, when he is told that he must remove his Sikh turban if he wishes to continue attending Public School.

Paris-based Kartik Singh loves telling stories about outsiders and underdogs. His best known film, *Saving Mom and Dad*, is based on his experiences growing up Sikh in Middle America. In a similar vein, *Public School* examines the ways people of different backgrounds overcome the many obstacles to getting along.