

Press Release: No Embargo

5 November 2009

The Mohamed Amin Foundation's *Polar meets Solar* project delivers another international short film winner

***Salim*, a *Polar meets Solar* 2008 Short Film wins Best Student Film in the 4th edition of the Kenya International Film Festival (KIFF), 2009.**

The student short film, *Salim*, directed by student, Tathagatha Singha of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was selected as the Best Student Film at this year's KIFF.

Salim is a short film product of the *Polar meets Solar* Cultural Exchange and Short Film Workshop. *Polar meets Solar* is a project of The Mohamed Amin Foundation, Nairobi, Kenya (MoFo) in cooperation with the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, India (FTII) and the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland (Metropolia).

Film Synopsis: *Salim*, an only child of a recently widowed mother, is fed up with his constant diet of vegetables. All he longs for is a change of diet. Visitors to their home bring a welcome opportunity for something different.

Salim was filmed on location in Pune, India by a multi cultural team of students from the above three institutes under the guidance of *Polar meets Solar*

- The Script was written by William Opiyo Olale and Adil Rajput, both students of The Mohamed Amin Foundation, from an original story by William Opiyo Olale.
- Director: Tathagatha Singha is an FTII student
- Producer & 1st AD: Francis Ngira Okello is a MoFo student
- Cinematographer: Mikko Suuraho is a Metropolia student
- Editor & Final Mix: Adil Rajput is a MoFo student
- Sound Design, Sound Recordist & Boom Swinger: Lassi Vierriko is a Metropolia student

The Cast were all from Pune, India and were selected by the above students:
Prateek as Salim; Tanushree Das as Asha; Samadarshi Datta as Omar and Sayali Khare as Mina

This is the 2nd time that a *Polar meets Solar* Student Film wins this coveted award. In 2007, *The Chase* directed by Shaddra Passi, also an FTII student, was selected as Best Student Short Film. The crew consisted of Benson Kahiga (MoFo), Stella Njoroge (MoFo), Jukka Saharinen (Stadia – now Metropolia), Anil Radhakrishnan_(FTII), Inari Niemeni (Stadia – now Metropolia)

More...

the directors

tel: +254 20 434 9280 • fax +254 20 434 9280
p o box 45048 • nairobi 00100 • kenya
mofo@iconnect.co.ke • website moforce.com
ngo kenya • reg no. OP.218/051/9956/1453

About Polar meets Solar

Polar meets Solar is an annual 18 day student cultural exchange programme and short film workshop during which short films are made on the digital video format.

Polar meets Solar is co-ordinated by The Mohamed Amin Foundation.

The 2008 programme was between the TV/Film Training Centres of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), The Mohamed Amin Foundation of Kenya (MoFo) and the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (Metropolia)

The Sponsors of Polar meets Solar 2008:

The sponsors are the Finnish Foreign Ministry; the Embassy of Finland, Nairobi, Kenya; the Government of India, the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, India (FTII); The Mohamed Amin Foundation, Nairobi, Kenya (MoFo) and the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland (Metropolia)

About The Mohamed Amin Foundation:

The Foundation was founded in 1998 by Salim Amin, David Johnson and Christel de Wit, to honour the late Mohamed 'Mo' Amin, photo-journalist extraordinaire.

The Foundation runs several projects with MoFORCE Training for Television and Film being the Training Centre that offers a 3-year training programme in all aspects of Television and Film Production. The Training Programme is unique in its outcomes based curriculum and can rightfully claim to be the only Training Centre of its kind on the African Continent. MoFORCE Training has received many National and International Awards for its student films and documentaries. **Polar meets Solar** is an annual project of The Foundation and so is the HATUA TV Talk Show, whose 5th season in 2009 attracted TV viewer ship of over 4 million people. www.MoFORCE.com

The Mohamed Amin Foundation is the Founding coordinator of **Polar meets Solar** and the Global coordinators are Christel de Wit & David Johnson

About the Film and Television Institute of India:

Established in the year 1960 on the erstwhile Prabhat Studio premises at Pune and thereby inheriting a rich legacy in quality Cinema, the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) has truly lived up to its avowed objective in the field of imparting training in film making and television programme production. Today the FTII is considered as a Center of Excellence not only in India but also in Asia and Europe. Films made by the students of the Institute are entered in festivals both in India and abroad. Many of them have won National and International awards.

The alumni of the FTII have penetrated all corners of the Indian Film and Television industry and have excelled in all its fields. For example Subhash Ghai, Mani Kaul, Nasiruddin Shah, Jaya Bhaduri, Raza Murad, Shatrughan Sinha, Mithun Chakraborty, Tom Alter, Kanwarjit Paintal, Adoor Gopal Krishnan, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Raj Kumar Hirani, Vidhu Vinod Chopra are alumniees of this Institute.

The FTII is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India. Its policies are determined by a Governing Council. The latter appoints the director of the institute. The current director of the institute is Mr. Pankaj Rag, IAS

The FTII is a member of CILECT an international association of film schools.

www.ftiindia.com

The relationship with the Mohamed Amin Foundation through the **Polar meets Solar** cultural exchange and short film workshop was established in 2003. The faculty coordinator responsible for this exchange is Mr Ravindra Jahagirdar.

About Metropolia University of Applied Sciences:

EVTEK University of Applied Sciences and Helsinki Polytechnic Stadia merged into Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, which began operations on 1 August 2008.

Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences has four fields of study: culture, health care and social services, business and administration, and technology and transport, all of which provide teaching also in English.

The Degree Programme in Film and Television trains students for design, implementation, development and supervisor duties and as entrepreneurs. Students choose a specialisation in image, sound, production, scriptwriting or TV and radio work. www.metropolia.fi/en/

The relationship with The Mohamed Amin Foundation through *Polar meets Solar* was established in 1999. The Faculty coordinators responsible for this exchange is Ms Annakaisa Sukura and Mr Patrick Boullenger.

About Mohamed 'Mo' Amin:

In a career spanning more than 30 years, Mo covered every major event in Africa and beyond, braving torture, surviving bombs and bullets, overcoming disability to return to camera work within six months of losing his arm, to emerge as the most decorated news cameraman of all time. But his frenetic life was cut tragically short when, in November 1996, hijackers took over an Ethiopian airliner forcing it to ditch in the Indian Ocean killing 123 passengers and crew. Mo died on his feet still negotiating with the terrorists. He was the most famous photojournalist in the world, making news as often as he covered it. His coverage of the 1984 Ethiopia famine proved so compelling that it inspired a collective global conscience and became the catalyst for the greatest ever act of giving. Unquestionably, it also saved the lives of millions of men, women and children.

The concerts of Band Aid & Live Aid and songs "We are the World" & "Do they know it is Christmas" were a direct result of Mo Amin's moving television images. Mo Amin trained his unwavering lens on every aspect of African life, never shying from the tragedy, never failing to exult the success. He was born into an Africa at the high noon of colonial decline and by his early teens was already documenting events that were soon to dominate world news

By any standards, Mo's life was truly remarkable; action-packed, full of pain and passion and inseparable from the troubled chronicle of emergent Africa.

Contact

Christel de Wit

Director: The Mohamed Amin Foundation

Global Co-ordinator *Polar meets Solar*

MoFORCE Training for Television and Film (Full-time Film & TV Training)

Short Course Training: The Mohamed Amin Foundation (Short Courses)

HATUA TV Talk Show (Human Rights)

Polar meets Solar (Cultural Exchange & Short Film workshop) Helsinki 2009

P O Box 45048

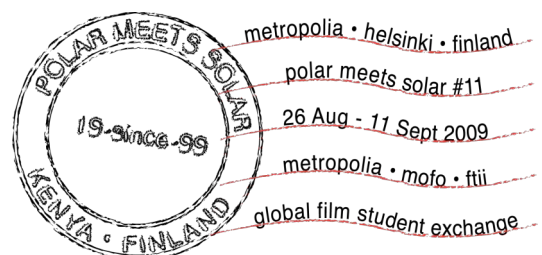
Nairobi 00100

Kenya

Tel/Fax: +254-20-4349280

email: mofo@iconnect.co.ke

website: www.moforce.com



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