

Hors cadre image presents

# The night is still young

a film by Indika Udugampola

| Pascaline Bellegarde | Anna Lemonaki | Lakshan Abenayake |



| *Written & directed by* Indika Udugampola | *DOP* Channa Deshapriya |  
| *Edit* Shailesh Macwan | *Music* Nadeeka Guruge | *Sound* Pierre-emmanuel Martinet |  
| *Producer* Indika Udugampola |

## Logline:

Fairy tales do not always have a happy ending!

## Short synopsis:

An exiled woman who dreams of becoming a classical singer,  
A lesbian butcher with a mysterious curse,  
A garbage collector who naively stumbles into treacherous territory.

## Synopsis:

Once upon a time, a fallen princess, who dreamed of becoming a classical singer, was lost in a dark forest, where wolves and bears prowled. Her fear was so great that she ran as far as her legs could carry her. Suddenly, she came upon a beautiful house near a mysterious graveyard. She knocked on the door and a butcheress, struck by a curse and awaiting the love of a princess, opened the door. The princess begged her for food and refuge. In return, the butcheress demanded her friendship in order to free herself from her curse. In desperation, the princess nodded and said, "yes" to sharing her life. Henceforth, they made a habit of cutting meat while praying at sunrise and of humming a love song while riding a tandem at nightfall.

One day a lost knight, a trash collector by profession, came upon this treacherous kingdom and began to sound his horn.

Thus, seduction, betrayal, jealousy and intrigue intertwine in an atmosphere of barely contained madness, finally proving that fairy tales do not always have a happy ending.

## Director's note: note

Every moment of our lives, we have one foot in the charming fairy tale and the other in harsh reality. Harsh reality serves as a guide to wisdom, which will pave the way towards spiritual relief. The fairy tale/fantasy helps to escape from the harshness of reality, while raising hope for a better tomorrow. Hence the space between reality and fantasy is what we call LIFE. So life becomes a struggle against reality, while dreaming to achieve ecstasy.

The reality of life seen through a Lens and fantasized by a variety of elements (sound, image, frame, texture, language) in order to achieve a desired effect, is the essence of CINEMA. Hence, CINEMA becomes a mode of reflection of LIFE.

As a filmmaker, my passion is seeing the mysteriousness of life through a Lens, and transforming it into an art form, which would pave the way towards wisdom. For me, cinema is the most engaging medium of expression of my deep seated and bottled up emotions.

### From Samsara to The night is still young

Saṃsāra is a Buddhist term that literally means "continuous movement" and is commonly translated as, "cycle of existence". In Buddhism, Samsara is defined as the continual repetitive cycle of birth and death that arises from ordinary beings grasping and fixating on a self and experiences. Specifically, samsara refers to the process of cycling through one rebirth after another within the six realms of existence, where each realm can be understood as either a physical or psychological state characterized by a particular type of suffering. Samsara arises out of Avidya (ignorance) and is characterized by Dukkha (suffering, anxiety, dissatisfaction).

The Night is Still Young is a portrait of continual repetitive "cycle of existence" conditioned by ignorance, attachment, suffering, anxiety and dissatisfaction.

## **Indika Udugampola - Screenwriter & Director**



Indika Udugampola is a Sri Lankan filmmaker, who has been living in France since 2008.

He started his professional career as a journalist, serving as the Sri Lankan coordinator of Radio Veritas Asia. He directed his first Tele-feature-series "Kokila Sandwaniya" (Symphony of Cuckoos) in 2003, inspired by the French novel "La Symphonie Pastorale" by Andre Gide. He then directed a short film series for television "Rathi Virathi" (Black & Black), inspired by the short stories of Italian writer, Alberto Moravia. He has written and directed fourteen short films and six documentaries, most of which have been selected at numerous film festivals. He also won the award for the Best Film Critic in SIGNIS Film Festival in 2003.

In 2007, he was selected for an artist residential program on cinema offered by Cultural section of the UNESCO organization and accordingly awarded a scholarship at McColl Center in North Carolina, USA.

After earning a Masters Degree in Fine Arts in Film Directing, he obtained the French Proficiency Advanced Diploma in 2013. Indika founded the Hors Cadre Image to initiate making independent films.

The Night is Still Young (La nuit est encore jeune) is his first feature film.



**Pascaline Bellegarde**

Pascaline Bellegarde is a French / American actress, who has been living in France since 2003. She has performed in some of the top theaters in the United States (Actors' Theater of Louisville, Mark Taper Forum, Lee Strasberg Institute). Pascaline's extensive training includes master classes with Susan Batson (Acting Coach of Nicole Kidman & Juliette Binoche), and at David Mamet's "Atlantic Theatre" in New York City. She holds a Masters in Fine Arts – Acting degree from California Institute of the Arts (CALARTS) in Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Arts – Acting degree from Washington University in Saint Louis where she earned the "Best Actor of the Year" award and completed "The Actor's Studio of New York" University Program.

Pascaline was awarded Best Actress (Festival St. Maur), for her portrayal of a "murderess" in a remake of a Hitchcock short film, LAMB TO THE SLAUGHTER.



**Anna Lemonaki**

Anna Lemonaki is a Greek actress who now lives in Switzerland. She studied in the Professional Theatre School "Serge Martin" in Geneva and with Susan Batson at the Interkunst Studio in Berlin.

In 2013, she played in "Les aventures de Nathalie Nicole Nicole" by Marion Aubert, staged in the Grutli Theatre in Geneva by director Camille Jacobino. She is an active member of the theatre company "Dans L'escalier", with which she is preparing a collective creation, to be staged in Théâtricul, Geneva in 2015. During her theatre studies, Anna performed in numerous productions, which were staged in Geneva. Anna also acted in several short films. The Night is Still Young is her debut appearance in a feature film.



**Lakshan Abenayake**

Lakshan Abenayake is a Sri Lankan born actor who resides in France. He started his professional career in 2000, while acting in the popular French television series, Les vacances de l'amour. In 2005, he acted in the feature film Chok Dee, directed by Xavier Durringer; which was well-received by critics and a landmark in Lakshan's acting career. He has acted in 12 feature films, notably Man to Man by Régis Warnier, One Dollar Curry by Vijay Singh, and Grand école by Robert Salis. He also acted in several French TV series and TV films, including La faux, Le groupe, Notable donc coupable, Milady, Aicha, Les mystères de l'amour, Les secrets du volcan, Les bleus: premiers pas dans la police, Docteur Dassin, generalist, Baie des flamboyant, and Imperium: Saint Peter.

### **Channa Deshapriya – *Director of Photography***

Channa Deshapriya is a Sri Lankan Cinematographer. He is probably the most awarded and internationally acclaimed cinematographer of Sri Lanka. Recently, he received Best Cinematographer Award at the Dubai Film Festival for "Fallen From the Sky: (Ahasin watei)". He is also the Director of Photography of "Forsaken Land" Camera d'Or winner at the Cannes Film Festival 2005. He has contributed as a director of photography for 16 feature films, which are appreciated in international film festivals, such as Cannes, Venice, Toronto, San Sebastian and London.

### **Shailesh Macwan – *Editor***

Shailesh Macwan is an Indian / French Freelance Film Professional and Postproductions Instructor who resides in France. After earning a Masters of Arts Degree in Film Directing and Production in Paris, Shailesh opened a company for Production, Post Production and Training. He worked as a multi-media professional in India for 5 years, has written and directed short films, and continues post production on various projects. He is also an instructor and works with several films schools.

### **Nadeeka Guruge - *Composer***

Nadeeka Guruge is one of the most influential Sri Lankan composers. He started as a young Music Researcher in 1999. His first serious musical work was "Sanyugma"; a folk and applied music production with Marcello Titto Li, (a Bolivian Folk Musician). Since, he has worked in movies, Tele dramas, stage dramas, songs and advertising. He composed music for 11 feature films, most of which have been appreciated at international film festivals.

### **Pierre- emmanuel Martinet – *Sound engineer***

Pierre-Emmanuel Martinet is a French Sound Engineer. After earning a Masters Degree in Sound and Image in 2008, he has worked as a sound engineer, sound recordist, sound editor and sound mixer. He has contributed to many web series, advertisements, television programs, Tele series, Tele films, institutional films, documentaries, short films and feature films.





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