Annexure B

Training Schedule: A simple thematic / day-wise schedule

Name: The Art of Documentary Filmmaking and Global Co-production Strategies

Duration: 3 weeks
Start Date: November 30, 2026 (Monday). Participants need to reach the SRFTI campus Guest House on November 29, 2026 (Sunday).
End Date: December 18,2026 (Friday). Participants will leave the Guest House on December 19,2026 (Saturday).
Location: Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata (www.srfti.ac.in)
Accommodation: Guest house inside the campus on a single occupancy basis.
Maximum number of participants: 12
Minimum number of participants: 12
Eligibility: Interest in Documentary Cinema. Basic English communication skills.
Age: Age No Bar
Geographical Coverage: Worldwide
Class Schedule: Monday to Friday 1000 IST to 1700 IST with one-hour lunch break in between (except holidays).

Programme Overview

Documentary Film Aesthetics and Coproduction is an intensive, practice-oriented programme designed to immerse participants in the artistic, philosophical, technical, and industrial dimensions of contemporary documentary filmmaking. The course bridges documentary history and aesthetics with international production strategies, equipping filmmakers with the creative and professional tools necessary to conceive, develop, finance, and pitch compelling documentary projects in a global marketplace.

The programme unfolds in three integrated movements:

1. **Understanding Documentary Language and Aesthetics**

2. **Developing Story, Form, and Production Strategy**

3. **Financing, Coproduction, and International Pitching**

Week I: Discovering the Art of Documentary Storytelling

The programme begins with a deep engagement with documentary history and its aesthetic evolution — from early ethnographic works and propaganda films to observational cinema and hybrid forms.

Special focus is given to Vérité and Direct Cinema, tracing their historical and philosophical foundations through examples of various filmmakers.

Curated screenings contextualize theoretical discussions through short and feature-length documentaries, encouraging analytical discourse on:

- Documentary genres and their conventions
- Observational vs. participatory modes
- The role of directorial voice
- Cinema as critical reflection on society

This phase establishes documentary not merely as reportage, but as a cinematic art form grounded in aesthetics and ethics.

Week II: Developing Form, Voice, and Meaning

This segment moves from theory to project development.
Concept Development

Participants learn how to:

- Find compelling subjects
- Transform initial ideas into structured concepts
- Write powerful loglines and synopses
- Draft director's statements and treatments

Emphasis is placed on:

- Character exploration and narrative arcs
- Refining themes into coherent proposals
- Ethical positioning of the filmmaker

Sonic and Visual Aesthetics

- Treatment of sonic reality
- Sound as narrative and emotional architecture
- Cinematography as an expression of emotional truth

Participants critically examine how editing constructs meaning — understanding montage not merely as assembly, but as interpretation.

Producing and Coproduction

The programme transitions into documentary production strategy, covering:

- Producing methodologies
- Budget structures
- International coproduction frameworks
- Engaging broadcasters, funds, and institutional partners

Through visual sample analysis and successful financing case studies, participants understand how documentaries move from idea to market.
Pitch trailer development sessions introduce the craft of audiovisual persuasion — condensing theme, character, and tone into compelling preview materials.

Week III: International Markets and Pitching

The final phase focuses on professional positioning in global documentary ecosystems.

Participants prepare:

- Comprehensive pitch decks
- Visual mood references
- Budget outlines
- Coproduction strategies
- Financing pathways

Sessions address:

- Documentary markets and forums
- International coproduction models
- Negotiation and partnership building

PITCH DECK

The programme culminates in formal pitch deck presentations and simulated market pitching sessions, where participants present their projects to a panel. Constructive feedback refines both creative articulation and industry positioning.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the programme, participants will:

- Understand documentary aesthetics within historical and philosophical contexts
- Develop original documentary concepts with artistic clarity
- Translate ideas into professional proposals and pitch decks
- Integrate sound, cinematography, and editing into cohesive narrative structures
- Navigate international coproduction frameworks
- Confidently pitch projects in global documentary markets